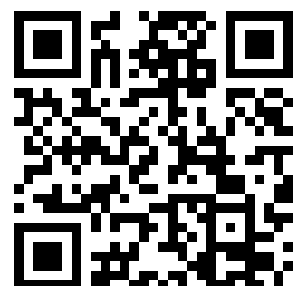

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 1922.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Inevitable Side-Show.

The Near Eastern question still remains a side-issue for the Entente Governments. At Cannes the Supreme Council will momentarily divert its attention from the local delights of that attractive holiday resort to consider submarines and the financial rehabilitation of Europe. Both are matters of prime importance, but neither offers a problem which, as in the case of the Turkish settlement, is capable of a final decision, leaving the field clear for other subjects that have not been on the agenda paper for over three years. The discussion of Near Eastern affairs is relegated to the trio of Foreign Ministers, who, if they should arrive at a common understanding, would require a further session of the Supreme Council to give sanction to their decisions. It is, perhaps, symptomatic of the optimism with which the Governments make this fresh attempt to frame a workable settlement that they have entrusted the spade-work to their Foreign Ministers.

A New Shibboleth.

There is some danger of the Foreign Ministers being encouraged to stultify the new Turkish treaty by an attempt to compromise on the subject of safeguards. In other words the parade of confidence in the Turks which will be the basis of the fresh treaty will be offset by measures for the protection of minorities calculated to satisfy any misgivings entertained anywhere on the subject. If as a concession to Greek feeling these safeguards are to be in any shape or form Greek, it is certain that they will defeat their own object. There are only two ways of dealing with the Turks at this juncture: they must either be "hammered" or put upon their good behaviour. The Allies are not in a position or refuse to hammer them, and the Turks will not behave themselves so long as Greek jurisdiction remains established on what the Turks regard as indubitably Turkish territory. No quibbling at any conference or in any draft treaty will eliminate this fact, and the Foreign Ministers will do well to reckon with it, if they are aiming at a practical settlement.

The Problem of Safeguards.

It is difficult to see what practical safeguards for the protection of minorities are offered by partial military occupation. A number of Greeks were executed in the Pontus district at the moment when the Greek army was occupying the maximum extent of Turkish territory.

If the Turks are minded to kill isolated bodies of non-Moslems, they will do so, however many Greeks or Allied troops there may be at Smyrna. The best protection for the minorities is to prevent the Turks from being so minded, and this can be done either by removing the objects for which these excesses are committed (the objects vary, but, generally speaking, can be grouped under the single condition of the Turk with his back to the wall fighting a hostile Europe), or by convincing the Turks that they will be summarily and effectually chastised. Europe never having been united on the subject, and now, in the case of the Entente, one or more Powers playing a lone hand, the Turks have never been convinced on this point, and are not likely to be particularly convinced just now. Thus *faute de mieux*, we are reduced for a workable settlement to the non-heroic, possibly humiliating course of putting the Turk on his good behaviour. For the British Government the position may appear awkward, owing to the protests made against France's action in adopting this course in Cilicia. But France's mistake has been to expect good behaviour on the part of the Turks while the Greek army is still in the field against them. There can be no piecemeal settlement, and the head and front of French offending is the attempt to introduce one.

Political Changes in Albania.

A series of Ministerial crises within the space of a few weeks suggests that Albania is to find the course of political development as stormy as most of her Balkan neighbours have found it before her. It was inevitable, however, that Serbian aggression should arouse an echo in the country, and there is no reason for surprise that a movement should have been started to turn the tables on Yugoslavia. The appointment of Hassan Prishtina as Prime Minister would seem to have been connected with some irredentist design on Kossovo, which it was hoped might be brought to success on the strength of the Prime Minister's connexions with Italy. Wiser counsels prevailed; Hassan Prishtina was removed from power, an interim Cabinet took office, in order that Parliament should be convoked in extraordinary session, and, when it resigned, a new Government was formed with the avowed policy of accepting the *status quo*, and of living at peace with Albania's neighbours. The appointment of Hassan Prishtina seems to have brought about the downfall of the High Council or Council of Regents. Two of the four members resigned in protest, and Parliament deposed the others. A new Council

has been elected, again representative of the three religious divisions in the country, Moslem, Orthodox and Catholic.

The New Roumanian Cabinet.

As was anticipated, M. Take Jonescu, Roumania's new Prime Minister, has not been able to form a Coalition Cabinet in the party sense, but he has rallied to his support a number of business men or specialists, and the new Ministry, in spite of parliamentary isolation, may yet render a good account of itself. It is understood that the fiscal reforms introduced by the former Cabinet, which contributed to the fall of General Averescu's Government, will be modified in the light of the experience already gained. As there is nothing in the international situation to cause Roumania uneasiness, the whole attention of the Cabinet can be concentrated upon the question of economic reconstruction, and it is noticeable that M. Take Jonescu has relinquished the portfolio of Foreign Minister for that of Finance. With an interval of some weeks before Parliament meets, there should be time for the Government to settle itself in the saddle and to elaborate a programme which may encourage the hitherto warring parties to cooperate in a genuine attempt to place the country on a sound economic footing.

Yer-golem and Yer-maluk.

Whether the view of the University of Sofia that the Bulgarian Government has no business to interfere with the Bulgarian alphabet be right or wrong, there can be no doubt that the matter is outside the province of the foreigner. It may be, however, that the foreign point of view will prove of some interest to the controversialists in Sofia. The Bulgarian language happens to be at once the most ancient and the most modern of the languages constituting the Slavonic group. It is the nearest approach to the old ecclesiastical Slavonic, but it reflects the vitality and forcefulness of the nation that speaks it in having undergone constant modification in keeping with the people's progress. It has become simplified and has borrowed freely from foreign languages. The purpose of the Government in passing last June a law abolishing three letters of the alphabet, two of which, written at the end of words, have in a course of time disappeared in pronunciation, was undoubtedly to continue the process of simplification. There is much to be said for the step, although a protest from the University is natural, if it had not been first consulted. The point at issue in Bulgaria's case is not a purely literary or academic one; for no nation lives to itself these days, and there is no reason why it should regard its alphabet and language as existing solely for itself. The greater its belief in its own future, the keener must be its desire to make its language the simpler and the more easily learned, in order that it may be a channel for the spread of what is good in the Bulgarian character or in Bulgarian literature and of whatever Bulgaria may contribute to the world's general improvement. Nor can what is happening in the neighbouring Slav State of Yugoslavia be overlooked. It can only be a matter of time there before the Cyrillic script gives place entirely to the Roman, and it will be very problematical whether Bulgaria will then have anything to gain by clinging to the old writing. The initial step taken by the Sofia Government last June led many to suppose that Bulgaria, true to her character, was boldly going to take the lead in this obvious reform. This may yet be; but we trust

that when the step is taken, it will be with full agreement between the Sofia University, the Government, and the Bulgarian people.

Another Adriatic Incident.

Following hard upon the Italo-Yugoslav incident at Spalato, to which reference was made in these Notes a fortnight ago, comes news of another, at Sebenico, of much the same character. On Christmas Day, it seems, some Italian sailors from the warship 'Ajaccio' came to blows with the Yugoslavs, and were forced to retreat to their ship in some disorder. According to some versions of the story, the Italians then opened fire with machine guns on a crowd of Yugoslavs on the quay, and many of the landsmen were killed and wounded. In all probability this portion of the incident has been greatly exaggerated, and we shall find eventually that the sailors, if they fired at all, fired only a few shots over the heads of the crowd. But even so, the whole affair was extremely dangerous and deplorable. Both sides have lodged complaints, the Italians against the mobbing of their bluejackets, and the Yugoslav Government against the presence of Italian warships in Yugoslav waters. The withdrawal of the warships would undoubtedly appear to be the simplest and speediest way of terminating a potentially dangerous situation. Unfortunately the Italian Government has ordered more vessels to the scene; and as a result the Yugoslav Government is reported to have posted troops at various points of vantage along the coast. There, surely, we have the materials for a dangerous conflagration.

The Effervescence in Egypt.

The situation in Egypt brought about by the failure of the London negotiations and the subsequent resignation of the Adly Cabinet is dealt with in our leading article. We may here note some of the events that have taken place in Cairo and elsewhere as a result of the arrest and deportation of Zaghloul Pasha and of the causes that led up to it. Zaghloul himself is reported to have taken his captivity at Suez very well, and, with his fellow deportees, to have passed the time there in friendly fashion with the British officers. It would not be altogether surprising, perhaps, if the popular leader felt a certain relief at being freed from the strain of a dangerous and somewhat exacting situation. But his followers have been less ready to adapt themselves to the new position. In the first place, seven of his dissentient lieutenants have rejoined the Zaghloulist delegation; while the wife of the Pasha has announced her intention of filling the gap left by his deportation to the best of her ability. Apparently she aims at achieving her purpose by stirring up further ill-will against the British. The women teachers of Alexandria also are taking a hand in the proceedings, having 'demonstrated' in Alexandria. There have, of course, been numerous demonstrations elsewhere, including one at Foua, near Damanhour, where the Egyptian troops were forced to fire on the mob. Possibly, the most regrettable indication of the mob's feeling was afforded by attacks on girls' schools, which were of a very offensive character. Happily, the latest reports available show that the authorities have the situation well in hand, and already Moderate opinion is making itself felt, if not very strongly.

Trouble in Kurdistan.

A spirit of restlessness is abroad among the Kurds. We have already referred to the operations of Simko in

the Urumiah district, where he has flouted the Persian Government and insulted American subjects. According to an agency report, an autonomous Kurdish Government has been set up "in the neighbourhood of Tabriz," and Persian troops are reported to have lost a thousand killed in an engagement with the Kurds. We mistrust these "round figures" reports, but it would not be surprising if it turned out that Sinko had actually set up a "government" of his own. Meanwhile there has been a fresh disturbance on the other side of the border, where the Surchi Kurds, in the Rowandiz district, have been making trouble, apparently with Turkish help. A column of local levies and police on the way to Rowandiz was compelled to return to Erbil; and it became necessary to despatch a force of a thousand rifles, led by British officers, to cope with the trouble. The latest news is that the Turks and Kurds have been forced to retire on Rowandiz. But there are signs that the trouble is not by any means done with yet.

The Prince's Tour in India.

The outstanding events in India since we last wrote have been the visit of the Prince of Wales to Calcutta, the meetings of the Extremist organisations at Ahmedabad, and the Viceroy's refusal to entertain the proposal for a round table conference. The cabled accounts of the Prince's reception contain some noticeable discrepancies, but the conclusion is apparently justified that, while the effects of the campaign of intimidation were manifest, the campaign itself was arrested, and, as the days passed without disturbance, the ordinary city crowd regained its liberty of expression, and indulged freely in its favourite pastime of sight-seeing. The Prince has now left India for Burma, where he will come in contact with a somewhat different, but unfortunately not a harmonious, political situation, and, while everyone must regret that his welcome to the East should not be unanimous, it may be well to insist that, as he has said more than once, his object is to acquire knowledge of the Empire, which implies a knowledge of the cleavages of opinion by which the various portions of the Empire are distressed. Standing, as he does, above politics, he can do nothing directly to harmonise the discord, but for all that we are confident that his presence is having, and will continue to have, a good effect.

Extremists in Conference

The meetings of the Extremist organisations, the "National" Congress and the "Moslem" League, have been marked by a display of the fissiparous tendencies which experienced observers have learned to expect. It has been known for some time that sections of both bodies were dissatisfied with Mr. Gandhi's moderation, such as it is, and on this occasion they came into the open with a programme of complete independence outside the British Empire. In both organisations they have met with an initial defeat, but we take it that the internal struggle is not yet over. Meanwhile Mr. Gandhi has been given full authority to use the Congress machinery for an intensive, though of course a non-violent, campaign against the Government, and he is to concentrate all activities on the programme of civil disobedience, which he momentarily abandoned a few weeks ago. The challenge is made in a form in which it must be taken up by the authorities, and we fear that there are troublous times ahead, during which the new Constitution will be subjected to strains which it was not designed to bear.

The Attempt at Compromise.

It is not easy at this distance to estimate the strength of the movement which resulted in the proposal for a round table conference, but most of the names mentioned in connection with it fall into two classes, men who are living in the past, and men who desire to avoid commitments in the present. The case of the former class is hard. They have become accustomed to the unanimity of the old days, when no Indian bore any political responsibility, and when it was always possible to hit on a phrase to which everyone could assent: they have not realised that responsibility is the end of unanimity, and they hope that a phrase will still suffice to cure all discords. The second class represents the still older tendency to stand aside while a fight is in progress, and then adhere to the victor: they are not at the moment either Moderates or Extremists, but they are prepared to be either at short notice. Their numbers would make them valuable allies to either side, but we do not think a conference would be the right way to win them, and on the whole we are not sorry that Lord Reading found it inadvisable to accede to their request.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

New Year Resolutions.

The week after Christmas is usually the quietest in the year. Last week was no exception. A brutal murder mystery at Bournemouth excited the public; the infantile section of the community was recovering from Christmas orgies; their elders were engaged in making those new year resolutions which are, no doubt, already in process of being broken. So little news, indeed, was there that some of the papers were driven to fill up space by predictions of a general election in February.

This is a stunt, pure and simple. If it is wrong, it will be forgotten long before the time comes; while if it should by any chance happen to be right, the political correspondents will be able to point to it as a proof of prescience. The real argument against a February election is that the Government has to introduce the Irish Bill in that month, and to decide its policy on national economy; while the Conservatives swear that the House of Lords must be reformed in 1922, if at all. The Conservative attitude is dictated, of course, by the fear of a Labour Government—which is not a very likely occurrence.

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France, America, and Submarines.

But home politics have taken a back seat at the moment. The interest has shifted to France, and that not because the British Cabinet has assembled at Cannes, but because of the action of France at Washington. The best friends of France—and she has very many in this country—have been puzzled by her methods. We all understood her demand for a land army, and recognised its reasonableness. But it is difficult to see her point of view with regard to submarines, unless they are built to attack the only naval power in Europe—which happens to be ourselves.

The French suggestion that a great submarine fleet is necessary to convey her black troops to Europe in the event of war is not taken very seriously. In the first place, the submarine is not a good transport ship. In the second, to employ black troops in Europe again—not in an unexpected emergency, as in the last war, but as a measure of settled policy—would outrage public opinion, and further, would be in itself a confession of French weakness.

I am afraid the conviction is slowly gaining ground here that militarism has shifted from Berlin to Paris; it is no longer possible to banish the misgivings which recent French policy has given rise to in this country. Numbers of people here are rather vague about Angora and French policy in the Near East, but there is no room for misunderstanding about the trend of French policy in Europe. One may ignore the Paris Press as much as one chooses, but the acts of the French Government are not so easy to overlook.

Apparently the same disquiet, coupled with rather more disillusionment, is felt at Washington. The Conference has limited the number of capital ships to be constructed, and has constituted a Pacific Pact; so far, good. But any idea that it would be the beginning of a reign of peace has vanished; indeed, national rivalries and militaristic ambitions have become more clearly visible. This will tend to confirm American opinion of the wisdom of isolation, and it may have a somewhat similar reaction here. The entente between Great Britain and France is giving way to a friendly understanding between Great Britain and America.

Trade in 1922.

The general attitude towards the New Year is one of chastened optimism. It cannot well be worse than the last, and we may reasonably hope that it will be better. Capital and Labour, after the great coal struggle, are now in a more tolerant frame of mind, and trade is certainly improving. It will take several months to absorb the unemployed—there are well over a million registered—but the tendency is for the numbers to fall slowly week by week. A great slump in prices has been predicted early in the year; if it comes, it will be due to the retailers at last deciding to cut their losses, and getting rid of the stocks purchased at high prices, which are now unsaleable. There is still room for reduction of prices in the cost of living, but as food goes down, rates seem to go up; so that the gain is not as great as it appears at first sight.

A Heresy Hunt.

It looked last week as though we were to have a heresy hunt of the old kind—an amusement now sadly out of fashion. Canon Greene, of Oxford, accused the Head of Ripon Hall, who is well known as a Broad Church leader, of unorthodoxy in his view of the Resurrection; but it appears that he has been misinterpreted, and the Canon has now disclaimed any desire to fire. As these controversies never do any particular good, and often do harm, it is to be hoped that nothing more will be heard of the trouble. But there are signs that some at least of the High Churchmen are only biding their time to attack those whom they stigmatise as “modernist minimisers.”

Christmas Theatres.

The pantomime is another form of entertainment that seems to be going out of fashion. Drury Lane, which is being rebuilt, has no “panto” this year; at the other theatres, I gather—for I have avoided them myself—it is frankly a play for adults, who can still

tolerate the harlequin and other absurdities. Children have their own plays—“Peter Pan,” “Where the Rainbow Ends,” and others that have almost become classics. I suppose in ten years’ time only grandfathers will go to the pantomime, and in twenty years the panto, like the grandfathers, will be dead.

Hodge on Strike.

There is a strike of agricultural labourers in Norfolk. The minimum wage having gone, the farmers have cut down their rates heavily, and Hodge refuses to work. At this time of year I suppose it does not matter very much. But Hodge is looking to the Labour Party for help, and Labour, which is essentially a town party, does not know quite what to make of it all. Labour in the towns believes in cheap food, and it is by no means certain that high wages on the farm mean cheap food in the cities. On the other hand, if the farm labourer wants to vote Labour, it would be folly to throw his vote away. But the average Labour candidate, again, is a townsman, who has no idea of the country, and rather a contempt for the countryman.

The Japanese in London.

A delegation of Japanese merchants has been visiting London, and has been suitably impressed. The Tubes appear to have struck them most, and they are loud in their praise of these crowded conveniences. Indeed, they have expressed a desire to have Tubes of their own, and have put some questions to our engineers as to the possibilities of Tubes in a country of earthquakes. I fear that the problem is insoluble.

“The Truth About Blayds.”

London has at last got a play worth going to. “The Truth About Blayds” is by Mr. A. A. Milne, who used to be one of the funny men on *Punch*, and who is now becoming much more than a funny man. Blayds is a famous poet; he is also a nonagenarian, and his greatness oppresses his family, who are merely satellites to his fame. Just before he dies he confesses to his daughter that he has never really written a line in his life; he stole the lyrics—and the cash and credit too—from a writer unknown to fame. The question is, what shall the family do? The predicament is all the worse, because the son-in-law has devoted the last few years to writing the “Life and Letters” of the genius. The only weak point is the discovery of a will which rather puts things right—a threadbare device. The upshot is that the public are never told the truth about Blayds—an Ibsenish conclusion.

The Week's Books.

Those who are frightened of the Einstein theory need not avoid “Einstein the Searcher” (Methuen), by Alexander Moszkowski. It is practically a biography without tears—by which I mean that it eschews mathematics. It appears that Einstein was born at Ulm, and received a Catholic education there and at Munich; he disliked the German educational system. His favourite recreation, as “Who’s who” would say, is improvising on the piano; his three heroes are Newton, Faraday, and Maxwell.

“Chemical Warfare” (McGran-Hill Book Co.), by General Amos A. Fries, and Major C. J. West is a frank and authoritative discussion by two American experts of the part played by chemistry in the late war, and the part it may be expected to play in the next. I quote two paragraphs of profound significance: “There is no field in which the future possibilities are greater than in chemical warfare, and no field in which neglect to keep abreast of the times in research and training would be more disastrous. Poison gas in the world war proved to be one of the most powerful of all weapons of war. For that reason alone it will never be abandoned. It cannot be stopped by agreement.” In other words, as the Washington Conference has taught us in regard to battleships and submarines, the world is willing to give up war weapons which are obsolete or obsolescent, but war weapons which are effective it finds excellent reasons, some of them tricked out in the guise of morality, for retaining on its list.

OCELLUS

THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

(From Our Own Correspondents).

EGYPT.

Cairo, December 15.

Postal Shortcomings.

Somewhere between Egypt and England recently something has happened to the postal service, resulting in a 70 per cent. deterioration. Complaints have reached business men here, from their principals or agents in London, to the effect that the letters sent, though bearing date-stamps extending over seven or eight different days, have arrived together. I can testify that the same sort of thing has been happening at this end. The whole community would be deeply grateful if the dislocation were adjusted forthwith.

Cabinet Troubles.

As far as political developments are concerned, there is little to report since my last letter. The resignation of the Adly Cabinet not having been formally accepted, the Ministry continues nominally in office, though its responsibilities begin and end with the formal signature of essential documents. Strict secrecy concerning the efforts being made to form another Cabinet is being attempted; but as nothing ever remains secret in Egypt, it is known that pressure is being brought to bear upon Sarwat Pasha to induce him to take over the reins of Government. It is also understood that he has agreed in principle, subject to the recognition of a certain unknown programme. It is stated that his programme is to secure the formal abolition of the Protectorate and the cessation of such other restrictions as did not apply to Egypt before the war. It is also stated—but I have no knowledge of the accuracy of the statement—that he demands from the British Government a promise to withdraw the recent declaration of policy.

While these are nothing more than rumours, it is conceivable that they have a foundation in fact. In any case, the position will have developed before this letter gets into print. But whatever change has occurred in the situation, it is safe to assume that, fundamentally, it will be the same: *i.e.*, that the English and Egyptian points of view will still be divergent. Some British subjects of long experience in the country think that irrespective of the nature of the offer to Egypt, the fact that that offer has been made should be the guiding star for the future. It is true that the offer was not couched in conciliatory language; and it is thought in some quarters that it was too limited. But, regardless of its defects, it can be useful only if it is applied. If, in face of the uncompromising tone of the Explanatory Note, the terms are modified, the Egyptians will be convinced that unyielding opposition will be rewarded by a succession of concessions.

The Official Delegation's Note.

Two days ago the Note of the Egyptian Official Delegation on the recent negotiations, having been presented to the Sultan, was published. It revealed nothing new; but it did show that the members of the Delegation, at least, were convinced that the last word on the matter had not been said. In fact, Adly Pasha, in the concluding paragraphs, "noted with satisfaction" the tone of the Liberal Press. If one read between the lines, it was apparent that what he meant was: "A section of the British Government has over-ruled us; but we have our supporters in London, and if we continue the struggle we shall soon gain the victory." This impression will be strengthened, and, indeed, made general, if the recently-declared policy is modified. The Egyptians seem to be under the impression that the British Government is a free agent in the matter, and even the report of the Military Commission of Enquiry that conducted an examination into the causes of the riots in Alexandria last May, which stated that the French and Italian representatives had deposed that their colonies would not consent to accept the sole pro-

tection of an Egyptian force, has been brushed aside as an immaterial issue.

The Egyptians' Temper.

The difficulty, at the moment, is the formation of a Cabinet, and it is doubtful whether that difficulty has been properly understood. It is quite possible, in the circumstances which exist at the present juncture, that the formation of a Cabinet may very well prove to be the worst thing that could happen. There is a strong feeling among the leaders of the Egyptians that acceptance of Ministerial office means, *per se*, acceptance of the British policy. Naturally, British policy towards Egypt, as recently enunciated, has not met with the approval of the articulate classes. If, on the one hand, a strong personality could secure British agreement to a programme which held out hope of the ultimate realisation of the Nationalist aspirations, it would be accepted by the majority—but that would mean that the recent declaration of British policy was not as determined as it seemed; and if, on the other hand, any body of Egyptians agree to form a Ministry without handing a sop to outraged Nationalist feeling, the sequel must be an embarrassing—if not an actively troublesome—opposition within the country itself. The temper of the Egyptians has changed from "suspicious and uncertain" to deep resentment. But the resentment will die down with time.

Sunday next is December 18, the anniversary of the declaration of the Protectorate over Egypt. It is recognised that the occasion may produce Nationalist demonstrations; though there is no evidence that the manifestation of feeling will result in any unpleasantness. Nevertheless, the manner in which the day is observed will give us an indication of the feeling which, though quiescent at present, is not altogether unruffled. There was a strong feeling that trouble was hovering over the country when the news of the rupture of the negotiations came through, but the subsequent calmness infers that the general appeal to the crowds to abstain from any violation of the law has had a salutary effect. The most urgent thing has been to maintain the peace, and the fact that the late delicate stages have been negotiated in tranquillity is the best assurance that can be offered to those people who intend to pay a visit to Egypt during the next few months. The seasonal gaiety is being shared by a large number of visitors, who are declaring that they have been agreeably surprised by the nature of the entertainment, accommodation, and transport facilities offered to them.

The dreary delay in the settlement of the political problems has dulled public interest in them, and thoughts are now turning towards the festive season. A "Christmas-y" air pervades the cities, where shops are doing a brisk trade; the hotels and clubs have prepared special frivolities; tourist agencies have planned special excursions; and, altogether, Christmas promises to excel all previous seasons, by reason of the more optimistic air prevailing among all local foreign circles.

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Cairo, December 24.

Outbreak of Disorder.

Yesterday morning seasonable greetings were being exchanged in Cairo generally and with the sincere hope that they would bear fruit. This morning the citizens are commiserating with one another over the calamity that has befallen Cairo. The mystery surrounding the formation of the Cabinet has become a drab serial story, with neither thrills nor finality in sight. But in place of the interest which has lately invested the various intrigues assumed to be going on in high places, there has come the sensation of an attempt at rioting in Cairo. A new position has arisen, and the outcome is not apparent. The only thing realised is that the test of strength has been forced. Either the English or the Egyptians must come out on top.

The first few days after my last letter had been written were fairly quiet. Commercial circles were getting busier, and it seemed as if the Christmas season was going to make amends for the late slackness. Last Monday, however, an inkling of the British strong policy was given when Saad Pasha Zaghloul was advised that, by order of the military authorities and in the interests of public order, the public meeting which he had called for the following Friday was prohibited. Zaghloul replied with an impudent letter, which he characterised as a protest. The next day his envoy to London, Professor William Makram Obeid, lately a teacher in the Government School of Law, but dismissed from his post at the height of his notoriety in England, came back to Cairo; and an organised reception was accorded him by, it is alleged, hired riff-raff and effendi school-boys.

The next night, following upon some inflammatory oratory on the part of some Zaghloulists, two British soldiers were shot in a side-street adjacent to the Cairo station. According to the story of the surviving men they noticed, when passing a dark street, a few men lurking at the entrance. The privates—one belonging to the East Surreys and the other to the King's Regiment—walked by, when a shot rang out and the Surreys' man fell, fatally wounded. His companion bent down to assist him, when he also was hit by a shot. The fallen man died soon afterwards but the second, though in a very dangerous condition, has a chance of recovery.

Drastic Action.

Meanwhile, it came to the knowledge of the authorities that the local situation was developing in a portentous way. Trouble was being organised, and it was realised that the clash had to come sooner or later. It was apparent that the longer the time given to the agitators the more serious would be the outbreak when it burst; and remembering the mistake of 1919, the authorities discarded thoughts of the season and considered only the public weal. On Thursday, therefore, an attempt was made to get at the base of the cancer. Letters were sent to Zaghloul and his lieutenants, ordering them to refrain from making public speeches, assist at any public meetings, receive any deputations, write to the press, or otherwise interfere in the political situation. Furthermore they were ordered to leave Cairo forthwith, and repair to their respective villages, there to remain under the surveillance of the respective local governors.

Upon receipt of the letters the nine men concerned met at Zaghloul's house. The result of the debate was decision by some of the party, led by Zaghloul, to refuse to obey the orders. The news of the orders had spread throughout the city, and a huge crowd soon congregated outside Zaghloul's residence. When his secretary read to the multitude the letter written by Zaghloul, defying the authorities, enthusiasm rose to boiling-point and demonstrations immediately developed in several parts of Cairo. Collisions with the police followed, and the upshot of the trouble on Thursday afternoon was the death of two of the rioters, the wounding of seven, and injuries to seven policemen. Towards midnight on Thursday evening a special proclamation by the High Commissioner forbade all banks and other financial institutions to advance or pay to anybody any monies

or deposits, or to honour any drafts or cash any cheques on monies or drafts held in the name of Saad Pasha Zaghloul, or of the institution commonly called the Egyptian Delegation (i.e., Zaghloul's old delegation), without his written permission.

Friday dawned dull and dark, and rain fell early. At 8.45 an officer of the British Army, attended by two soldiers, went to Zaghloul's house and informed him of the orders to place him under arrest for disobedience of an order under martial law. Zaghloul was allowed to have his breakfast; he was then taken to a waiting automobile and transported to Kasr-el-Nil barracks. A little later he was motored down to Suez—and, according to a hint given to me by one who knows, he is to have a change of air abroad. Following on his departure from his house, gangs of young ruffians, led by effendi school boys, started on a tour of sabotage. They proceeded to break valuable plate-glass windows of the foreigners' shops in the European quarters, smash show-cases, damage facades, and injure stock; they also smashed the windows of the tramcars, broke the shutters of the cars, and otherwise damaged the service to an extent which rendered it inoperative. There was no attempt at that time to injure the persons of foreigners. Meanwhile, the Egyptian policemen on patrol duty looked calmly on from safe points of vantage.

The Military Called Out.

After a little over an hour the British military were called out. Contingents were sent to the three chief police-stations, and armoured cars and armed patrols began to clear the streets. Before their arrival, however, the ruffianly youths had smashed most of the lamps about the city, injured the growing trees on the foot-paths, and had torn away the iron railings to serve as weapons. Fleeing from the troops, the demonstrators hied away to the native quarters, where they continued to cause trouble by stoning the officers of the law. Later, they commenced their inevitable incendiarism, burning down one of the gates of the Helouan railway line, stoning a passing train, and setting fire to various shops and dwelling-places. They also commenced to build barricades. An effort was made to erect a large barricade in the neighbourhood of Zaghloul's house, and only the shooting of the ringleader, caught *flagrante delicto*, stopped that effort. Another rioter fired a shot at a passing lorry load of troops, and a shot from one of the soldiers brought quick retribution. Cairo was in semi-darkness last night, and, this morning, at the time of writing, the restiveness has not yet disappeared. All Christmas leave for the troops has been stopped.

The quick rush of events has at last produced a real unity amongst the Egyptians, who have combined on a basis of disapproval of the actions of the British. They have sunk their internal differences, and are now delivering, verbally and in the Press, strong protests against the measures taken. The issue is upon us. It is not the time for any half-measures. If the British are to retreat at all, they must do so whole-heartedly and unconditionally. If they are to stay and maintain their authority, there must be no endeavour to placate a feeling which has grown intensely bitter against us.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, December 19.

General Averescu's Cabinet Resigns.

The Ministerial trouble which had threatened for such a long time has at last broken out, and during the past week political events succeeded one another very rapidly. The crisis was precipitated by M. Také Jonescu's move in resigning from the Cabinet. M. Jonescu sent in his resignation on Sunday, December 11, after having had a long audience with the King on the preceding day. On being remonstrated with by General Averescu, he justified himself on the ground that he could no longer belong to a Government which was in conflict with the Crown.

M. Také Jonescu's resignation was followed by that

of M. Antonescu, Minister of Justice, and it was clear that the crisis had come. In an audience granted to General Averescu the King did not consent to these vacancies' being re-filled; and the General, understanding the hint, thereupon sent in the resignation of the entire Cabinet, recommending as his successor General Coanda, President of the Senate. The King did not regard this recommendation favourably; for he knew that this would simply mean the continuation of the same Government under a different name. The Sovereign then called M. Také Jonescu to the Palace and entrusted him with the formation of a new Cabinet, giving him three days for this purpose. The main condition made by the King was, however, that the present Parliament should be maintained, as it would not be opportune at the present moment to disturb the country with general elections, the more so, as fresh elections will have to take place, in any case, early next Spring for the Assembly of the "Constituante."

M. Take Jonescu Forms the Cabinet.

The King's wishes regarding maintaining the present Parliament rendered M. Také Jonescu's task very difficult, because the parliamentary majority—belonging to General Averescu's party—had already declared its enmity against a Také Jonescu Government.

Knowing the King's desire for a coalition Government which should comprise the representatives of as many political parties as possible, in order to bring about a *détente* in the political sphere, M. Jonescu first appealed to practically all parties for their support or collaboration; but soon found out that his endeavours in this direction were not to be crowned with success. Their refusals were based chiefly on the fact that, as the new Government will have to work with the present Parliament, which is so antagonistic towards it, they feel that the new Government could not have a long life, and that it was merely meant as a stop-gap.

It may not be without interest to review the attitudes taken by the different political parties towards M. Jonescu's attempts at Cabinet-making. The Transylvania National Party, whose support is considered very necessary for the viability of any Government, declared that, while it rejoices at the collapse of General Averescu's Cabinet, it could not collaborate with M. Jonescu so long as he has not authority to dissolve the present Parliament; but it will maintain a waiting attitude until the situation is cleared and the new Government has framed its programme. The Tzaranists are indifferent who is at the head of the Government so long as it will agree to pass the Franchise Bill on democratic lines before the new elections take place. M. Jorga's group is supporting the new Government, without, however, participating in the Cabinet.

General Averescu's party is dead against the new Government, and will do all in its power to overthrow it by passing a vote of censure on the first occasion when the new Cabinet appears in Parliament. M. Marghiloman's group favours General Averescu's suggestion of forming a Cabinet under General Coanda, in which eventually the portfolio of Finance would have been allotted to M. Marghiloman. The Liberals, instead of taking advantage of the present crisis in order to come to power, pretended at first to be quite unconcerned about what was happening, but afterwards declared that they would still continue to ignore the present Parliament and to abstain from attending the sittings. It is, however, generally thought that this attitude is only meant to throw dust in the eyes of their adversaries, and that they must surely have backed the King's plan of proposing a Také Jonescu Cabinet, thinking that such a Government would pave the way for them when a fresh Ministerial crisis should break out.

All this, however, did not discourage the new Premier from his aim of forming a Cabinet, and after having been granted an extension of 24 hours for this purpose, he resorted to his own personal friends and partisans, and on Saturday, December 17, presented the following Cabinet to the King for his approval. M. Také Jonescu,

President of the Council and Finance; M. Jon. Camarashescu, Home Affairs; M. Gh. Derussi, Foreign Affairs; M. Mihail Vladescu, Ministry of Domains; M. Gh. Mironescu, Ministry of Instruction (Education); General Stefan Holban, Ministry of War; M. Gh. Lucasiévici, Public Works; M. Mitush Dumitrescu, Ministry of Agriculture; M. Stelian Popescu, Ministry of Justice; M. Vasile Dumitrescu-Braila, Ministry of Religion and Arts; M. Mihail Oromolu, Ministry of Industry and Commerce; M. C. Xenii, Ministry of Labour and Social Assistance; M. C. Cihedariu, Ministry of Communications; and M. Caius Brediceanu, Minister for Transylvania.

The King not only approved this Cabinet, but, seeing the hostile attitude of Parliament towards the new Government, sanctioned adjournment for 30 days, which would make the maximum term of prorogation allowed by the Constitution.

It is true that, with the exception of M. Také Jonescu and Vladescu, the members of the Cabinet are more or less new men, who have never been Ministers before, but they are considered as fairly experienced men in their own particular lines. There are, however, still a few more portfolios available, and M. Jonescu feels confident that by making good use of the prorogation he will still be able to win over more weighty statesmen from the other parties. Moreover, with the acquisition of M. M. Mironescu and Dumitrescu-Braila, who were up to now Vice-President of the Senate and Vice-President of the Chamber respectively, under General Averescu, M. T. Jonescu, in due course expects to gain the sympathies of a large number of the majority.

It is generally expected that the new Government's immediate activities will be concentrated on the amelioration of the financial situation by revising and modifying M. Titulescu's Fiscal Reforms and by introducing other urgent expedients in this connection. Further, in order to gain the support of the other political parties, they will also have to tackle the Franchise Bill and the Housing Question.

Certainly, they will have their hands full in consolidating their own political situation, but with a politician of M. Také Jonescu's calibre as their leader, they may still give their opponents a surprise by remaining in power longer than the 30 days predicted by everyone.

General News.

The King has conferred on General Averescu the Order of Michael the Brave, 1st Class, which is the highest Roumanian military medal.

The Crown Prince, Prince Helen and their baby have left their Sinaia residence, and are now residing in a newly acquired Palace on the Chaussée Kisseleff, outside Bucharest.

The christening of Prince Mihai will take place during the Christmas holidays. For this occasion, Princess Elisabeth and Prince George of Greece have also announced their arrival in Bucharest for next week.

A new evening paper under the name of *Lupta* made its first appearance last week. This paper is under the management and ownership of M. Constantin Mille, who was formerly one of the owners of the well-known newspapers *Adeverul* and *Dimineatza*. Although the new paper styles itself independent, it is generally known that M. Mille leans towards M. Také Jonescu's policy.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Zagreb, December 20.

Views on the Irish Question.

The solution of the Irish question still occupies attention out here. The Croatian *bloc*, that is, the Narodny Club and the Raditch party, have seized upon it as political capital, and, at a recent congress, sent a telegram of congratulation to the Irish Parliament and to Mr. Lloyd George, which will no doubt be a matter of gratification to the latter. It affords, of course, a precedent for the Croatian demands of a State within a State, for the Croats falsely imagine, or at least maintain, that there is a true analogy between the Irish case and

their own. The Belgrade Press, on the other hand, instead of reproaching us for our methods of blood and iron in the Emerald Isle, comment sympathetically, noting always that the Irish place a provincial before an imperial patriotism, sacrificing the indivisible unity of the realm for their narrow preferences. The unemotional and non-political *Trgovinski Glasnik* (the *Commercial Messenger*), winds up its comments with the remark that the fate of Great Britain no longer rests exclusively in the hands of the English, but will in future depend upon the loyalty of the Irish, who will play a greater part henceforward in the foreign policy of the British Empire.

The New Cabinet.

The cynical game of the Ins and the Outs has run its usual course. After M. Pashitch has permitted the world to see that the Democrats under Dr. Davidovitch are incapable of forming a Cabinet without the Radicals he has simply resumed his old place, with a little shuffling of portfolios. It is like the old story of the lodger who had ham and eggs for breakfast every other morning, varying it on alternate days with eggs and ham; except that here it is always M. Pashitch. The changes in the Cabinet are not very great. M. Pribitchevitch states that he declines to be a stumbling-block, and so has accepted the Ministry of Education, relinquishing the Interior to M. Voza Marinkovitch, a financier and member of a prominent Democrat family. It is this Ministry of the Interior which is the occasion of most of these political crises, on account of its great political importance; and the struggle for its possession has often enough raged at most serious moments, so that the country has been without a proper head even at such times as when its fate was in the balance at Paris two years ago.

The other changes are that M. Krizman leaves the Cabinet, his portfolio of Mines and Forests being taken over by M. Rafaylovitch, a former Liberal, to-day a Democrat, a patriotic Serb who has often enough fought for his country, and a poet to boot. About a year ago he held the portfolio of Public Health. There are one or two other changes, but the new names are as yet unfamiliar to the foreign public. The list of the new Cabinet is as follows:—

Prime Minister	and
Foreign Affairs	.. M. Nikola Pashitch
Interior	.. Dr. V. Marinkovitch
Mines and Forests	.. Z. Rafaylovitch
Education	.. Sv. Pribitchevitch
Social Policies ..	.. Dr. Krstel
Religions	.. Dr. Zherjav
Finance	.. Dr. Kumanudi
Justice	.. Dr. L. Markovitch
Communications ..	.. M. Andra Stanitch
Agrarian Reform	.. M. Krsta Miletitch
Public Works ..	.. M. Velya Vukitchevitch
Posts and Telegraphs	.. M. Zh. Mealdinovitch
Unification of Laws	.. M. Trifkovitch
Agriculture	.. Dr. Ivan Pucelj
Commerce	.. Dr. Spaho
Public Health ..	.. Dr. Karamehmedovitch

Of these, Dr. Karamehmedovitch may be prevented by reasons of health from continuing, in which case another Mohammedan will take that portfolio. Dr. L. Markovitch was Minister of the Constituent Assembly, and M. Trifkovitch is a former Minister of Justice. Probably General Zechevitch will retain the Ministry of War.

The Extravagance of Bureaucracy.

It has been suggested often enough that one method of introducing greater efficiency into bureaucracy is to halve the number of officials and give their salaries to the remainder, who in those circumstances would gladly do their work, and in most instances, be perfectly capable of doing so. The Financial Committee of the Skupshtina is now engaged on studying that problem, and a special commission will be appointed to deal with the question in detail. While it is true that certain offices are understaffed, there is certainly room for a very

substantial reduction in others. Such a reform is badly wanted, in the interests both of efficiency and economy.

The Yugoslav attitude towards bureaucracy is the same as that of every country that suffers from the complaint. A parable to this effect recently appeared in the Zagreb *Dva Sata*.—Now Saint Bureaucracy is immortal, for nothing can kill him. One day a very determined man went to see the Saint, firmly resolved to draw money from him. "Great Saint," said the man, "Thou art immortal. What, therefore, is a thousand years to thee?" "One second" answered the Saint. "And what is a thousand dinars?" "One farthing" answered the Saint. "Saint, one farthing is a mere nothing, kind Saint, give me therefore one farthing." "Certainly," replied the Saint, "wait but one second."

Yugoslavs in America.

A recent Yugoslav Exhibition in the United States has called attention to the part played by this nation in the development of America, especially in the early days. As far back as 1700, a party of Dalmatians settled there after nearly circumnavigating the globe. In 1800, a party of Croats were shipwrecked on the East Coast and founded the city of Croatan, which is long since Americanised and has forgotten its Yugoslav origin. But missionaries began as early as the beginning of the XVIIIth Century. A Croatian Jesuit, Baron Ivan Ratkaj, died in New Mexico in 1680; and he was but the first of many, of whom the most famous was Ferdinand Konshtak, who arrived in Mexico in 1730, passed into Lower California and published the first map of that State: he is well known to American geographers under the corrupted Spanish form of his name, Gonzales. In 1838 Josip Knudek arrived and founded Ferdinand, Jasper, and other communities in the State of Indiana. All these missionaries were supported by funds from Yugoslavia. There are records in Zagreb showing that between 1830 and 1840, no less than 57,400 florins were collected in Croatia and sent out to promote the foundation by these missionaries of schools and churches.

The first Slovene to arrive, so far as is known, was a Bishop Baraga, who worked unceasingly among the Indians: his see covered the greater part of Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and part of Ontario. He died full of years in 1868, leaving his name behind in Baraga County, Michigan. He published a dictionary and grammar of the Chippeway language, translated the Bible into it, and wrote a prayer-book in the Ottawa language. After Baraga, five other Slovenes became bishops among the Indians. The city of Kaintown in Minnesota bears the name of a part of Slovenia, Krajna.

By their material attainments and contribution to science and civilisation, the Yugoslavs have done their proportion well. Professor Pupin, inventor of the coil-case that plays so important a part in telegraphy, is a Yugoslav, and Nikola Tesla, best known from his disc motor, is his fellow-countryman.

A Distinguished American.

The American Admiral Niegand, who is visiting the Yugoslav ports in the battleship *Utah*, has been decorated by General Zhivko Pavlovitch in the name of the King with the Order of the White Eagle, First Class, with Swords and Ribbon. This is a very great distinction, as the White Eagle is a much-appreciated Order, second only to the Star of Karageorge, and the first class is as a rule given only to Crowned Heads and Presidents.

GREECE.

Athens, December 24.

Queen Olga's Return.

H.M. the Queen Mother, accompanied by the four daughters of Princess Alice, disembarked at the Piraeus on December 20, from the steamer *Leopolis* which had brought them from Trieste. The King, Queen and Princess Irene, as well as the Crown Prince George, Princess Elizabeth and the Princess Helene, went on board to greet the Queen Mother.

The Anniversary of the King's Return.

Splendid weather favoured the fêtes organised by the

various Political Unions to celebrate the anniversary of King Constantine's return to Greece. From early morning a large crowd assembled in the Place de la Concorde, the agreed meeting-place of the Political Unions of Athens and Piræus, and a procession was then formed which made its way to the Cathedral Square. After the religious ceremony, at which the Ministers and other high State Officials were present, the procession again reformed and went to the old Palace where an address to the King was made, expressing the joy of the people at the re-establishment of Liberty and the dynasty. The address went on to say that Hellenism had only prospered under a monarchy, and confirmed the loyalty of the people to the dynasty. The organising committee then presented the address to the King. Giving way to the solicitations of the people, His Majesty appeared on the verandah of the Palace and was loudly applauded.

At night the town was brilliantly illuminated.

Attack on Admiral Coundouriotis.

A dastardly crime was attempted last Wednesday on Admiral Paum Coundouriotis, who is President of a Committee for the distribution of moneys and other necessities to the wounded soldiers, and soldiers' widows. Just before noon, whilst the Admiral, assisted by some of the other members, two of whom were ladies, was performing his charitable duties, three individuals, dressed as soldiers and carrying sticks, rushed into the building, upsetting the furniture and threatening the war widows and wounded who were present. They then entered the private office of Admiral Coundouriotis and after attacking with their sticks the two ladies, Madame Robotsanou and Mademoiselle Pantazidis, produced revolvers and fired several shots from close range at the Admiral and Monsieur Pallis, another member there at the time. Profiting by the confusion the assailants then made good their escape.

Though shot in the stomach and in the left arm, the Admiral managed to get up and proclaiming his wounds as slight, sent Mme. Robotsanou and M. Pallis, both of whom were slightly wounded, to a neighbouring dressing station. He was then assisted to his house and thence, shortly afterwards, taken to the *Evangelismos* hospital, where he was operated on and the bullet extracted. Fortunately the Admiral's condition is causing no anxiety, and in spite of his advanced age, he is expected to recover quickly.

Admiral Coundouriotis, the only person in Greece, who, besides the King, holds the rank of full Admiral, was in command of the Hellenic fleet which rendered such valuable services both to Greece and to her Allies during the first Balkan War. He was also one of the two superior officers—the other being General Danghis, who in 1916 accompanied M. Venizelos to Salonika, where he played a very important part in the creation of the Revolutionary Government and the building up of the National Defence Army which fought with the Allies on the Vardar, the Doiran, and the Struma fronts. When King Alexander died, Admiral Coundouriotis was proclaimed Regent, which post he relinquished when the Ralli Government came to power.

His "Unknown" Assailants.

It is no secret that the murder by Venizelists of Jean Dragoumis, on August 13, 1920, was the main cause of the catastrophe which so unexpectedly befell the Liberals three months later. Whether this has taught a lesson to the Venizelists remains to be seen; unfortunately one cannot say with certainty that the party at present in power has taken the incident as much to heart as it should. Despite the almost frantic endeavours of official circles and the Government papers to convince the whole world that the murderous attack on so respected a person as Admiral Coundouriotis was merely an individual case of revenge of three wounded soldiers who had been denied a few drachmae by the Relief Committee presided over by the Admiral, on the grounds that they were Royalists, there exists an uncomfortable feeling that the cowardly attempt was prompted by the bitter political antagonism which still reigns supreme in this unhappy land. The fact that, with the exception of Admiral Coundouriotis—who very seldom is present at the time of the distribution of the money—and one or two others, the majority of the members of the Committee are well-known anti-Venizelists or of unquestionably independent political tendencies, proves the absurdity of this theory. Needless to say, the culprits have not yet been traced.

The *Athenai*, an independent paper, in a leading article asks why should needless energy be expended in endeavours to trace the assailants, as it is certain that the Government will not allow them to be caught, just as under the Venizelist Government the murderers of Jean Dragoumis were allowed to escape. The article goes on further to say that the actual guilty parties are those who in speeches and Press articles indulge in senseless tirades against any political party other than their own, and it is chiefly due to the bitter harangues of certain people, unfortunately in a position to spread their words over a large area, that these political crimes are committed.

A Memorandum, and a Manifesto.

The Central Union of Popular Political Syllogues has addressed a memorandum to the Government, recalling two preceding letters to M. Gounaris, and demanding the carrying out of certain measures indicated. The memorandum states that the feelings of uneasiness of the people are such that the danger of a popular intervention is certain and imminent, unless steps are immediately taken to abolish "the supreme menace against the 'calme interieur' of the country." This menace, the Syllogues declare, should be completely eradicated by the Government, otherwise "the people is irrevocably resolved to rise up," not only in Athens but also in the provinces, in order to exact the carrying out of the entire electoral programme of M. Gounaris.

The people will also exact that "a stop be put to the

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wanton waste of public moneys, and crush Venizelism in the whole of Greece so that all danger to the State should disappear, and thus ensure an order of things in conformity with public opinion."

The Syllogues request the Government to put their demands into execution without awaiting the return of the Prime Minister, and the memorandum ends by saying that the acuteness of the irritation of the people is such that at any moment the slightest incident, even of secondary importance, may serve as a pretext for a popular uprising.

The Liberal Party has, on the other hand addressed a manifesto to the Greek people stating that their hope that those governing would perform their duties conscientiously has been deceived, despite the loyalty of the Liberals and the abnegation shown during the war by the Liberals serving with the Colours. After pointing out various acts of terrorism against known Venizelists, the manifesto culminates with the attack on Admiral Coundouriotis, and adds that it only remains to the Liberal Party to remind the Greek people of the abolition of their elementary rights of citizenship which has greatly contributed towards the unhappy issue of the national struggle.

Incident at Salonika.

News comes from Salonika to the effect that on the night of Monday last, an armed group of agitators attacked en masse the "Nouveau Club" the majority of the members of which are Venizelists.

The assailants fired several shots and completely overturned all the rooms of the Club, causing considerable damage.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, December 19.

France and Eastern Thrace.

Mention was made in my last letter of Bulgaria's claims to an economic outlet to the Aegean Sea. In connection with this the publication in several Bulgarian newspapers of a letter by Count Berguen, the correspondent of the *Journal des Debats*, is interesting.

Count Berguen addressed his letter to M. Altinoff, a secretary at the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who recently wrote a book on "Thrace under Inter-Allied Control in 1919-1920." The letter takes the form of a resumé of the state of Eastern Thrace as it was when French and Bulgarians shared in the work of administration; and the writer frankly states that he arrived in Thrace in a distinctly Hellenophil frame of mind, but that little by little he became quite as distinctly Bulgarophil. He recalled a conversation that he had on his return from Thrace with a high unnamed French personality who exclaimed: "It is too late; the resolutions are taken!" The speaker was referring to the Allies' decision to hand over Eastern Thrace to Greece.

The really interesting point about the letter is its publication at a moment when Bulgaria's hopes concerning her claims to an outlet on the Aegean, and perhaps something more, are running very high. It is well known that the relations between General Charpy, the Governor of Inter-Allied Thrace, and the Bulgarians were of the friendliest, and it is asked whether the French intend to broach the claims of Bulgaria at the coming Conference on Near Eastern affairs. In political, as well as in economical matters, Bulgaria has come to look on France as her friend; and if the latter nation intends to foster this friendship, she will surely suggest that Bulgaria be represented at the Conference.

Radoslavoff Cabinet on Trial.

It is now estimated that the trial of the members of M. Radoslavoff's Cabinet who were in power when Bulgaria entered the war, and who have been arraigned before a special High Court, will continue until well on into 1922. No witnesses have yet been heard, and the time of the Court has been fully taken up with hearing the explanations of the accused persons. M. Toncheff,

ex-Minister of Finance, has been examined at great length, and his defence, at first so confident and sure, has now developed into a plea of having acted for the best. One of the charges brought against him is that he pledged the coal mines of Pernik to Germany, in return for which the latter country was to make a loan of 500 million marks to Bulgaria. It is also alleged that M. Toncheff was personally interested in the floating of the loan, and benefited himself thereby. Three days ago General Jekoff, the late Generalissimo of the Bulgarian Army, gave his explanations regarding the law for the punishment of military offenders during the war. The General began by stating that the experience gained in the Balkan Wars had taught Bulgaria that it was necessary for the military authorities to possess full powers in time of war. During 1914 and 1915 a Military Commission was studying the question of military law, but when the war broke out no decision had been arrived at. On the eve of the declaration of war King Ferdinand issued a ukase which gave plenary powers to General Jekoff, but the Sobranie did not ratify this ukase. The General stated that King Ferdinand issued the ukase for purely military, and not for political, reasons, and that in order to prevent the sentences from being too severe, civilians, not officers, presided over military Courts-martial.

This practice, the General remarked, was not in conformity with what took place in other countries during war time; and furthermore, out of an army of 900,000 strong, only 400 were condemned to death during the three years that Bulgaria was at war. He closed his defence by stating that in his position as Commander-in-Chief, he was faced with the alternative of putting into force the death penalty against deserters from the army, thus violating the Constitution, or, by not doing so, risking the demoralisation of his army. He regarded it as his duty to choose the former course, and said that he did not even now regret what he had done.

The ex-Generalissimo gave his evidence in a calm and straightforward manner, which made a good impression on those who were present. Considering that in almost all countries that were at war full powers were given to the military authorities, it is difficult to understand why Bulgaria hampered her military commanders, and one is constrained to sympathise with General Jekoff's point of view.

The Municipality of Sofia.

With the exception of a few main thoroughfares, the streets of Sofia to-day present a dirty and ill-kept appearance. They are badly in need of repair, and are bestrewn with dirty paper and all sorts of rubbish. The condition of the streets is not the only sign of decay in Sofia, and the whole town bears a vastly different aspect from that which it bore before the war. The lack of sufficient funds has been the principal reason for this state of affairs, but the want of a proper spirit of co-ordination amongst the members of the Municipal Council has also tended to increase the evil. It is, therefore, with a good deal of interest that Sofiotes are following the passage through the Sobranie of a new measure which has as its object the bettering of existing conditions. The clause in the Bill which is exciting the most attention is that which provides for the election by the Government of the Mayor and twelve Councillors of the Municipality. Hitherto the Mayor and the thirty Councillors have been elected by the people. Owing to a certain apathy on the part of the bourgeoisie, and a corresponding keenness on the part of the Communists and Socialists, the members of the Municipality have of late tended to become a retrograde rather than a progressive element in the administration of the town. If the Government succeeds in passing the new Bill through the Sobranie, the people will still possess the right to elect 60 per cent. of the Municipal Councillors, i.e. eighteen members, but the Government will be almost equally represented by reason of the fact that the Mayor and twelve members will be their nominees. It is a matter of opinion whether the Government's

action in attempting, so to speak, to dominate the administration of Sofia is legal, but the interesting feature about the matter is that M. Stambolisky himself conceived the notion, and at the time of writing is encountering a certain amount of opposition from his colleagues. Whether the party will come into line with their leader over the matter remains to be seen, but in any case it is to be hoped that the reforms may succeed in restoring Sofia to its former clean and orderly state.

ALBANIA.

Tirana, December 16.

The Crisis.

The past week has been momentous and exciting, and at one time it looked as if things might take a tragic turn, so high did feeling run; but happily the good sense of the Albanian people has gained the upper hand again and nothing regrettable has taken place. I refer, of course, to the ministerial crisis which has caused so much interest abroad and regarding which, the news agencies inform us, so many rumours have been current. But in order to understand the causes which led up to the crisis it is necessary to look backward a little and to cast a glance at the High Council.

The National Congress assembled at Lushnia from January 20 to January 25, 1920, laid down the basis of a Constitution. A High Council (in Albanian *Keshilla e Nalte*) composed of four members was to function as Head of the State, as President of the Republic, or if the expression be preferred, as *Directoire*. This is the council which is called abroad (wrongly) the Council of the Regency.

The Constitution of Lushnia gave hardly any power to the Council save that of dissolving the Chamber of Deputies in case of any conflict between it and the Government, or of charging the man it considered fit for the task with the duty of forming a Cabinet. For the rest, the High Council had to content itself with signing decrees, that is to say, ratifying nominations made by the Ministers and laws voted by Parliament. Now, the Council has always shown some discontent at this powerlessness, and has shown an inclination to make its voice heard; but the difference between it and the Government has never assumed disquieting proportions.

Akif Pasha Elbasani is President of the High Council, in virtue of his great age. He is a patriot of old standing, always recognized as such from Turkish days, and an upright honest man, of noble family, but somewhat obstinate and dogmatic. Monseigneur Louis Bumci is a Catholic Bishop, well liked and respected by all for his uprightness and his patriotism. He is sometimes blamed for having a weakness for M. Louis Gurakugi, now deputy for Scutari and not at all a popular man. Dr. Michael Tourtoulis is a venerable old man, an active patriot and very clever. He practised as a doctor for many years in Cairo, where he earned a high reputation. If he has a fault it is that he is unsettled and somewhat inconsistent in his views. The fourth member of the Council, Abdi Toptani, is a cousin of the late Essad Pasha, but he was consistently a political opponent of Essad, and has always been regarded as a sound patriot and an honest gentleman. He has never been particularly energetic, and has earned the nickname of "Abdi the Taciturn."

How the Crisis Came About.

M. Pandeli Evangheli, who had been called to office on October 17 last, had not been able to complete his

Cabinet, two portfolios—those of War and of Public Instruction—being vacant; and in a short time the Minister of Finance resigned. For the three vacant posts the High Council wished to appoint its nominees, while M. Pandeli Evangheli had his own. Akif Elbasani being unwilling to ratify the appointments of Ministers, M. Evangheli decided to go his own way. At one time it looked as if an understanding would be reached, and the Cabinet completed, when Hassan Prishtina and his friends persuaded Pandeli Evangheli to retire from power rather than precipitate a conflict; and he resigned on December 7.

The High Council called on Qazim Koculi, Prefect of Valona—the same who played such an important part in the conflicts with the Italians in June and July 1920—and requested him to form a Cabinet. He declined, however, and Hassan Prishtina was then called to power.

Parliament was in recess and was to reassemble on January 1; so that the new Premier had not to appear before the deputies. But his appointment led to general dissatisfaction, among the deputies and in all patriotic circles. Several officials and a battalion—with all its officers—withdraw to Elbasan, as a protest. There was, however, no disturbance or violence, no quarrelling, no exchange of shots even.

Hassan Prishtina was an Albanian deputy in the Ottoman Parliament (1908-12), but has never been honoured by popular re-election. He chose as his colleagues:—Louis Gurakugi, Hoxha Kadri, Kristo Dako, Zia Dibra, Constantine Tassi and Hakki Ismail. The first three mentioned, like their chief, are discredited as being partisans of Italian policy. In face of the manifestations of the national displeasure the High Council had to request Hassan Prishtina to resign. He had held office only from December 7 to December 11.

The Kosturi Cabinet.

This time the choice fell upon M. Idoménee Kosturi, an Orthodox, a native of Kortcha (Koritza), a merchant, and formerly in the Cabinet of Suleiman Delvina. He accepted office provisionally, and is governing with the Under Secretaries of State, and the secretaries-general of the chief Departments, while awaiting the reassembling of Parliament. That event has been put forward, and is now to take place in three days (the 19th inst.).

The replacing of Hassan Prishtina by M. Kosturi has restored calm to the country, and the battalion which withdrew to Elbasan has now returned, with the rest of the protestants. I may add here that a spirit of solidarity and of unity has been noticeable in Albania for some years past. The constant dangers to which the country has been exposed have taught its people some useful lessons in wisdom and moderation.

The League of Nations' Commission.

The League of Nations' Commission of Inquiry has visited Mirdita, where it has interviewed the leading chieftains of the region and the priests. It is understood to have satisfied itself that the so-called Republic of Mirdita has no existence outside the imagination of Marko Gjoni, who sits tight in Serbia. The Commission, in view of the proofs of loyalty to the Government at Tirana given by the Mirdites themselves, has deemed it unnecessary to have any interview with Marko Gjoni.

The Serbian Withdrawal.

The evacuation of Albanian territory by the Serbs continues. On the 11th inst. Mount Tarabosh, which dominates the town of Scutari, was evacuated by them and occupied by the Albanians. The population of

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Scutari went out to Tarabosh to welcome the return to Albanian keeping of the dear mountain. The evacuation is not yet complete in the direction of Puka and the Drin, a further delay of ten days having been accorded to the Serbians by the Conference of Ambassadors, thus making the final date December 20.

An Appeal to Greece.

As your readers probably remember, since the departure of the French troops—that is to say, May, 1920—the Greeks have been occupying a region, containing 34 villages, situated north and east of the town of Kortcha. Certain Albanian territory situated south of Permet, Libohova and Delvina has also been occupied by the Greeks. Albania has requested the Conference of Ambassadors to invite the Hellenic Government to evacuate these places, in order that the two countries may be able to resume friendly relations; but up to the present Greece has made no reply.

The evacuation of the island of Saseno by the Italians is also awaited by the Albanians, since the southern frontier of their country as fixed in 1913 in London included the island.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, December 20.

The second all-Greek meeting, convened in order to ratify the draft of the organic constitution of the "National Council" and its plan of campaign, took place on December 3 and 4 at Nicosia, 450 representatives attending. The Archbishop, who was supported by the Bishops of Kition and Kyrenia, and the Abbots of the three principal Monasteries, opened the meeting with a prayer, and explained the object of the assembly. The different clauses were debated at some length. There was e.g. considerable discussion as to whether the contributions of the episcopal sees, the monasteries, and churches should be paid direct to the Central Fund at Nicosia, or into the district treasuries. It was finally decided that all collections from the bishoprics and monasteries should be paid into the central fund, and those from all the churches into the district treasuries. It was also decided that there should be only four of the latter, corresponding to the four episcopal sees, and not six, according to the six administrative districts of the island. The "National Council" is to consist of 46 members as follows:—Five *ex-officio*, viz., the Archbishop, the three Bishops, and the Abbot of the Kykkou Monastery: 40 elected in the six administrative districts (Nicosia, twelve, Famagusta nine, Limassol eight, Papho four, Larnaca four, and Kyrenia three). One member is to represent the professors and teachers of the island. A resolution was carried to the following effect:—That this meeting, which has assembled in order to vote the scheme of political organization, the object of which is to effect the liberation of Cyprus by union with Greece, considers it a duty to convey to its free motherland—which has ever striven for the freedom of unredeemed Hellenism—its heartfelt greetings, praying wholeheartedly for the speedy accomplishment of its work, for the good of the whole Eastern world. A copy of this resolution was despatched by the Archbishop, through the Greek Consul, to the Hellenic Government.

General News.

As America still has a great fascination for Cypriots, the Chief Secretary has notified the public that owing to want of employment in the United States, where there are, the Government understands, six millions of unemployed, no passports for America will be issued unless the applicant can produce an official document showing that a landing will be permitted by the United States authorities.

A case of smallpox has been introduced into Nicosia by a girl from among the Armenian refugees from Cilicia. Her family has been placed in the isolation hospital, and other precautions are being taken. Further large numbers of Armenians and Greeks have been unable to land. The scenes on board the steamers have been distressing when landing was refused.

A double murder under savage circumstances has been committed in a village of the Nicosia district. A villager had entertained at his house a young man, who was betrothed to his daughter, aged 12, and his father, from another village. He accompanied them to their village, and on returning home next day found that his wife and daughter had been murdered by strangling and blows on the head. In the house had been a sum of £75, which he had just inherited, and the money was stolen. The police have arrested six men and three women on suspicion.

The monotony of life has been broken at Limassol, where there have lately been concerts, balls, and two days of races. At Nicosia and other towns preparations are being made for Christmas festivities.

The Cyprus garrison, a company of the Sherwood Foresters, is being relieved by a Company of the Hampshire Regiment.

ASIA MINOR.

Smyrna, December 14.

On the French Railway line, beyond Ushak, near Banaz, a tunnel has collapsed, and the train service will be consequently interrupted for several months.

An S.O.S. signal was received by H.M.S. Shark from a British hydroplane, but before the Destroyer could leave Smyrna, the S.N.O. Constantinople sent a message that no assistance was required.

At 3.15 this morning the Greek sentinel on the landing quay shot a man who refused to answer, or obey, the usual challenge. The wounded man was carried to the hospital in a serious condition.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Paterson entertained Prince George of Greece and Princess Elizabeth at their residence in Bournabat last Tuesday, when prominent members of the Colony were presented to their Royal Highnesses.

Major-General and Mrs. Raymond de Candolle also entertained their Royal Highnesses, in their residence at the Point, last Wednesday.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE SITUATION IN EGYPT.

(To the Editor of "The Near East.")

Sir,—After reading my *Near East* of the 22nd December and the week-end cables from Egypt I am indeed in despair of our present Cabinet ever settling the Egyptian question. Four months' negotiations, which both sides describe as cordial, can only apparently bring us back to the old situation of arresting ringleaders and sending warships to Alexandria. Whose fault is it?

In India we have Lord Reading trying to soothe the Moslems by the assurance that the Turkish treaty is going to be revised in accordance with their wishes. At the same time in England the Foreign Office publishes the report of the Court of Enquiry in Alexandria, which amongst other things records that "hatred of Europeans has always existed in Egypt." Even if true it is hardly a happy method of establishing the better understanding with the Egyptians which Lord Allenby tells the Sultan we are so desirous of doing. But I challenge the statement as regards the past, whatever feeling the Egyptians may now have for Europeans in general and, owing to recent incidents, for the British in particular. If this hatred has "always existed," how is it that from Assouan to Alexandria there is hardly a village which did not before the war contain a Greek trader associating with and making money out of his Moslem neighbours? How is it that when the battle of Tel-el-Kebir was being fought not a few Europeans remained on and were unmolested in Cairo? How is it that even in Alexandria, where the scum of Europe (as many of the Europeans undoubtedly are) live cheek by jowl with the most inflammable portion of the Egyptian population, rioting

and murders are not of more frequent occurrence? The riots which occurred in Alexandria in 1882 were engineered by political agitators, as the trouble last spring, appears also to have been. Again, as in previous letters, I maintain if there was no cause for political agitation, the few extremists would be a negligible quantity. With no agitators the Europeans are as safe in the Nile Valley as in their own country. By all means arrest and deport your Extremists, but do not quarrel with your Moderates—as Adly Pasha and his delegation undoubtedly were, whatever they may be now.

When *The Near East* publishes (in large type too) the article of the *New Statesman* you, Mr. Editor, cannot be accused of refusing to hear the other side, but have your observations of late been quite fair on Adly Pasha. You have more than once implied that he would not abate one jot or tittle of his demands. But what about Lord Curzon's proposals which Adly Pasha tells us were handed to him cut and dried when he reached London and were practically the same as the maximum concession to be granted after four months' conversations? Surely too it is not difficult to read between the lines of Adly Pasha's Note, to see that it was the retention of the Army of Occupation at the Capital that was the chief, if not the only obstacle to agreement? What is the alternative? It is all very well for Lord Curzon to write stiff Notes for communication to the Sultan, but how is Lord Allenby going to govern without Egyptian assistance? As Sir Valentine Chirol tells us in his letter to *The Times* of the 24th inst., the Indian situation is by no means analogous. Lord Curzon is gambling on obtaining the assistance of Egyptians who are less patriotic than Adly Pasha to carry on the government for the time being. In the meanwhile our relations with Egypt's most reliable statesmen are being more and more embittered. I do not like to picture the consequences to follow. Let us therefore leave no stone unturned to find a solution acceptable to the Egyptians as a whole, even if regarded as too bold an experiment by Lord Curzon and the Cabinet. This solution I am firmly convinced is summed up in the word *sympathy*; sympathy which comes from the heart, not the spurious article which is so often served up in our declarations of policy, a grand example of which is at hand in the letter addressed by the British Union in Cairo, to Lord Allenby. An Egyptian reading this communication will certainly say to himself: "What hypocrites these British are! Selfishly they do their best to ensure that our interests shall continue to be sacrificed on the altar of the Capitulations and then in the same breath speak about "co-operation" and "the mutual esteem" of the British and Egyptian people which will be engendered thereby!"

As a Milnerite I must say that I sympathise with this interpretation. What is more, it is incomprehensible to me how any committee of Englishmen, in the light of the events of the past two years, can hope to advance their claims by penning such arrant piffle.

I am, etc.,

COLES PASHA.

Biarritz, Christmas.

INDIAN ARMY PENSIONS.

To the Editor of "*The Near East*."

Sir,—The Proportionate Pension scheme sanctioned for the Civil officers of the Indian Administration is a step in the right direction, in that it gives officers a chance to retire and "make good" elsewhere when they feel that they can no longer co-operate in the Reform Scheme. This is common justice as well as common sense on the part of the Government of India, for no administration can long survive without the confidence of its officers. But why, in the name of all that is fair, is similar justice not done to the Indian Army? On the Indian Army depends the security and honour of the country, and unless its officers are whole-heartedly ready to support the Government in the difficult times

ahead, it is much better that they should be allowed to go at once on such proportion of their pension as they may have earned, rather than that they should remain, a potential source of disaffection, if not of actual danger, to Government. For these are revolutionary times, and there are many adventurers, of all creeds and colours, waiting on the weakness of the central administration to carve out a kingdom for themselves in true Eastern fashion.

The Indianisation of the Indian Army is the deliberate policy of the Imperial Government: there will be little place in that policy for the British officer of the Indian Army. Why not let these officers go now, if they so desire, rather than keep them on against their will, to carry out a policy that neither they nor their men believe in? The rule of the Babu, inaugurated by Mr. Montagu, must have its trial. After that, the deluge! But it is rather unreasonable to expect those who see the deluge coming not to make sure of their ark of refuge—retirement on a reasonable pension.

After 15 years' service the Indian Policeman, under the new Pension Scheme, can retire on £450 p.a., which is sufficient to give him a good start in some other employment; whereas a soldier can only retire after 18 years on £286 p.a. Is this fair? After all, it is not the Administrator, nor even the Policeman, who will have to bear the brunt of the anarchy which will ensue from the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms. It is the soldier who will face the actual danger and discomfort, and the soldier who will have to take responsibility for firing on mobs, and the like. It is the soldier who will have to face the brickbats and the bullets. It is the soldier who will have to hasten to the relief of forcibly converted Hindus or massacred Mohammedans, and I fancy that unless he has been fairly dealt with he will hasten very slowly.

I am, etc.,

QUAI HAI.

THE GREEK ARMY.

To the Editor of "*The Near East*."

Sir,—In your issue of December 8 you quote an article in *Looking Forward*, September, signed C. Browne, Constantinople. Treating the Asia Minor question, Mr. Browne writes:—"The Greek Army, the main trump in the hands of the Allies, is now demoralized and can no longer be counted on."

On what grounds can such an assertion be based? From what reliable source is this knowledge derived? Has Mr. Browne been personally among the Greek

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soldiers? *I have.* On the Asia Minor front, I have talked with both officers and men, have slept in their camps, and jolted in their motor lorries over hundreds of miles. Thus sharing their life, I have shared their thoughts and aspirations, and this is the result of my investigation: not only are they not demoralized, but they have sworn a solemn oath that of the fair land of their fathers, which they have fought and bled for, and now partially redeemed, not one rood shall henceforth be desecrated by the Turks, who during eight centuries have soaked it in Christian blood and covered it with ruins.

During the Greco-Bulgarian war, Captain Trapman, war correspondent on the Hellenic front, wrote in the *Daily Telegraph* (August 1, 1913) of "the wonderful individual patriotism of the Greek soldier." Well, it is just that, the individual patriotism of the Greek soldier, which, against both military and political odds will, in the long run, win the day.

I am, etc.,

D. PSYCHA.

THE NYALA RAID.

(By Our Khartoum Correspondent.)

One of the finest 'shows' ever 'put up' in the Sudan was that of the defence of Nyala, where a handful of civil employees of the Government, with the assistance of some 42 policemen and warders and about 68 men of the Mounted Infantry of the Western Arab Corps; repulsed and finally put to flight a force of some 5,000 insurgents, organised under nine flags, under the supreme leadership of El Fiki Abdullahi el Siheini.

The Merkaz buildings had been previously put in a state of defence and surrounded by barbed wire in anticipation of an attack; which materialised on September 26, at about 8.30 a.m., when the insurgents advanced from the south, seven flags attacking from that direction and one flag from the west. The ninth flag simultaneously attacked the Suk, which lies to the East of the Merkaz, and which was defended by a detached post of the M.I. in a zariba.

By sheer weight of numbers the defenders of the Merkaz position were overwhelmed and forced beyond the wire on the northern side. Captain Chown died fighting within the defences and Mr. McNeill was killed whilst rallying the police and troops to the north of the fence. Three Merkaz employees and the Molahiz of Police were also killed, fighting bravely.

After the death of Mr. McNeill, El Yuzbashi (Captain) Billal Effendi Rizk, commanding the Mounted Infantry, with Mulazim Awal (Lieutenant) Hassan Effendi Mohamed Zein, Moawin Nyala Merkaz, organised a counter attack on the insurgents' rear, with the detachment which had been posted to defend the Suk. This attack succeeded, and the main position was immediately re-occupied. The insurgents then delivered a second attack, led by the Fiki Abdullahi in person, who advanced to within thirty yards of the defences before being wounded, when he was carried off by his followers, whose retreat was harassed by Arab Friendlies.

The severity of the fighting can be judged by the heavy casualties. Six hundred enemy dead were actually counted in the vicinity of the Merkaz, while the numbers of wounded and slain who were carried off must have been equally large. The Mounted Infantry lost 17 killed, two wounded, and one missing; the police, 20 killed, 12 wounded, and five missing. It is interesting to note that the proportion of casualties was heaviest amongst the police, who were armed with single-shot Martini action .303 carbines, the M.I. being armed with service magazine rifles.

The success of the stand made by a mere handful of troops, Province Police warders, and civilians against such overwhelming odds is sufficient proof of the gallantry of all ranks. While the defence owed much to the magnificent example of bravery set by Mr. McNeill and Captain Chown, a very critical situation was afterwards

retrieved by El Yuzbashi Billal Effendi Rizk and the Moawin Hassan Effendi Mohamed Zein.

It is noteworthy that no Egyptian troops were employed in this brilliant little action, the Province Police and Warders being locally recruited, and the Mounted Arab Corps being recruited from Darfur Province. The officers were all Sudani who had passed through the Khartoum Military School.

His Excellency the Sirdar and Governor-General was on his way back, and on receiving the news sent the following telegram to Brigadier General Sir Herbert Jackson in Khartoum:—

I have just seen telegram of October 14 from Governor Darfur to Civil Secretary giving details of action at Nyala. There can be no doubt that the stand made by this small force against overwhelming numbers was not only a very conspicuous achievement in itself, but averted what might have been most serious and far-reaching consequences. I deplore the loss of so many brave lives, among them McNeill and Chown, whose gallant example inspired the defence. The initiative and presence of mind shown by Yuzbashi Billal Rizk and Moawin Hassan Mohamed Zein at the critical moment of the action, after the death of these British leaders, are worthy of the highest praise. When I receive the full written report I shall take steps to bring the action into more prominent notice, but in the meantime I beg you will convey to all the survivors of the fight my thanks and express to them my high sense of the results achieved by their courage and devotion to duty.

The Fiki Abdullahi was subsequently taken prisoner, and was tried before a Mudir's court, and found guilty of waging war against the Government and of inciting his followers to murder. He was sentenced to death, and was hanged at Nyala on October 28. The Governor of Darfur called upon his principal adherents to surrender, failing which punitive measures would be taken. In the meantime the assessment of taxes on the harvest now ripening is proceeding as usual and the disloyal element in Nyala district does not appear to be large.

The Sudan Times of December 7 states:—

Khartoum, Dec. 5.

On November 22 a force composed of Camel Corps and Mounted Infantry Western Arab Corps, Egyptian Army, left Nyala to deal with those followers of the late insurgent Fiki Abdullahi el Soghayer who had not already dispersed. On November 27 the Column was attacked at Gughan el Zirga 85 miles S. S. E. of Nyala by a body of insurgents who were repulsed with a loss of 85 killed, four prisoners, and a number of wounded not ascertained. Of the Tribal Contingents co-operating with the patrol, one Arab was killed. The only casualty among the troops was the British Medical Officer, who received a slight wound in the arm while attending the insurgent wounded. The insurgents took to flight and were pursued by Mounted Infantry and Tribal Contingents. Punitive operations are proceeding.

AN EGYPTIAN PROTEST.

We have received the following telegram from Tanta, signed by Ali Khalifa. It speaks for itself:—

"Vehemently protest against your Government's trampling under foot of even simplest of personal liberty in Egypt, the flogging of students and officials, the killing of peaceful, defenceless men and women, for no other reason than legitimate claiming of usurped rights. The disgraceful breaking of promises is a blot on the escutcheon of Britain. This series of crimes has been lately crowned by the challenging of the national dignity and the intentional provocation of hostility through the harvest of our great elected leader, the personification of national ideals, Saad Zaghloul Pasha, with his colleagues, and their deportation to an unknown place. Evidently your Government is, therefore, held responsible before the civilised people of the world and before history for the disastrous effects of such mad policy, dictated by lust for blind imperialism and the enlaving of Freedom, a policy which has led, and will lead, to the deaths of innocent people, the spread of discontent and unrest all over the country, and the endangering of international interests. We assure you that the unique failure of your unreasonable Curzonian scheme will only be matched by the failure in store for your intimidatory policy. Our deep-rooted faith in the righteousness of our cause will never be shaken; we are more untired and more determined than ever to continue our efforts until the reaching of the national goal. As a sign of discontent general strike is in full swing for members of representative bodies, ulema, clergy, notables, business men, government officials, lawyers, doctors, engineers, teaching staff and undergraduates at Tanta."

The Bishop of Gibraltar last week consecrated the new English church at Algeciras.

On Christmas Day some Italian sailors at Sebenico, in Dalmatia came to blows with local soldiers and were only able to return to their ships after a struggle. The Italian Consul has protested to the Yugoslav authorities.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

EAST AND WEST.

"HELLENISM AND CHRISTIANITY." By Edwyn Bevan (London: George Allen and Unwin 12s 6d net.)

That "East is East and West is West, and never the twain shall meet" was accepted as axiomatic by the last generation. Writing of the interaction of Hellenism and Christianity, Mr. Edwyn Bevan sets out to prove that Mr. Kipling's apothegm was based on a total misapprehension of history. He maintains that civilisation is not a question of longitude, but of differences in intellectual, moral and economic development. Europe has been "Western" only for four centuries, and still contains dense masses of barbarism; while the races of Asia differ so widely that it is unscientific to place them in one category. Ancient Greece was unquestionably the cradle of Western civilisation. What, asks Mr. Bevan, gave its peculiar note to Hellenism as against all that existed outside it?

Surely the singular development of those mental faculties which we associate with rationalism, the critical intellect, the bent to submit tradition and belief to logical examination, the desire to get the values of things in their real proportions. It was because the Greeks could stand off from established custom and ask the Reason Why that they could make political progress, because they could feel the inadequacy of ancestral mythology, and ask what the world was really made of, that they could lay the foundations of rational science. It was fundamentally the same mental quality which kept their Art in all its idealism so sane, so closely in touch with Nature; which eliminated instinctively the disproportionate, the monstrous. All the development of knowledge of command over the forces of Nature, of purposeful order, which is meant by the term "Western Civilisation" to-day has had for its moving principle a rationalism whose origin is to be found in the Greek city-states.

The Christian cult in its myriad forms played a restricted part in moulding the wondrous process. Mr. Bevan, indeed, opines that the bulk of Western Society stands in need of conversion to Christianity. He, therefore, adopts "rationalistic civilisation" as a synonym of the political and economic conditions prevalent in Europe. Profound was its influence on Asiatic thought. The Arabs of old assimilated Greek science; and Persian mysticism sprang from Greek philosophy. A thousand years ago Mesopotamia enjoyed a degree of intellectual culture and material prosperity which in some respects has never been surpassed. The whole fabric was destroyed by successive waves of barbaric invasion from Central Asia; and the East sank into a lethargy which has endured till our own day.

The leaven of Greek civilisation worked on a vastly extended scale during the centuries of Roman dominion; but the empire of the Caesars was in its turn submerged by the influx of fierce northern tribes, and its intellectual culture suffered a long eclipse. Unlike Hither Asia, our continent is not at the mercy of barbaric hordes. In the 15th Century the Ottoman Turks gained a footing on its eastern confines; but Christendom, linked by religion and ideals held in common, proved strong enough to resist the tide of eastern invasion. The removal of external pressure gave free play to the human intellect; and Hellenism revived to banish the darkness of the Middle Ages. We Europeans are, therefore, heirs of the greatness of Greece and Rome; our mastery of Nature's forces is the logical result of their culture; the principles of our dominion in Asia are identical with theirs. What of the future? Mr. Bevan believes that the world is entering on an era unlike all its predecessors. History records a series of epochs each characterised by improved methods of communicating thought and by wider co-operation. Speech, writing, printing and the telephone mark successive steps in the ladder of civilisation. Nationalism carried to extreme lengths is, therefore, a deadly foe to progress:—

It is a foolish pride that would impel some fervid Nationalists to combat all extraneous influences to preserve every element of native tradition, good and bad alike. Whatever it may be in economics, *Swadeshi* in the sphere of ideas is a fatal policy for any people. Every spiritual advance which any branch of the human family achieves, it achieves not for itself alone but for mankind; and any people that refuses to profit by its suffers. Mr. Bevan is no Cassandra; he anticipates deeper

knowledge, increased sympathy and a closer fusion of interests as the results of a virtual annihilation of time and space. He is, perhaps, unduly optimistic in asserting that Westerners are impervious to the infiltration of Asiatic hordes. If there was ever a time when the heirs of Greek and Roman civilisation should take arms in protection of their precious heritage, it is the crucial years on which the world is entering.

F.H.S.

PALESTINE'S VILLAGE LIFE.

"THE PEOPLE OF PALESTINE." By E'lihu Grant. With 45 Illustrations (London and Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co. 10s 6d net.)

As through a microscope, or as on a cinematograph, is not too high praise for this close, sympathetic and skilful picture of Palestine village life under Turkish rule in the early years of the present century. The book is an enlarged, well-illustrated edition (1921) of an earlier volume by Professor Grant, who was for three years resident in the big village of Ram Allah, ten miles north of Jerusalem. At the price of 10s. 6d. it is one of the cheapest books offered to the public since the war, for it appears to attain classic rank, if by classic we imply the unique erudition of the author writing from a view point which has probably passed for ever. In the twelfth and final chapter the author has a guarded and short survey of the "New Dispensation" which was ushered in by the expulsion of the Turk from Syria, as much as to say "Here is a picture of yesterday; I cannot pronounce upon tomorrow."

The book is a book of travel, a farmer's manual, a tourist's handbook, an Arabic grammar, a cookery and gardening treatise, a Biblical Commentary, a fashion book, an auctioneer's catalogue, a "Hints to Good Behaviour," a meteorological record, all so deftly interleaved that the resultant impression is a charming pastoral poem, with the Syrian peasant, Moslem, Christian or Jew, as the central theme.

"Its (Palestine's) present population," says the author, "is made of sturdy and able people. Three great religions call it Holy Land. It presents to view three distinct types of human society, the desert nomad who dwells in the tented encampment, the peasant villager who reminds us in so many ways of the people of the Bible, and the more foreign-looking and mingled folk of the large cities."

A curious fact is that the Jew hardly enters within the scope of the American professor's vision; this picture of Palestine is a picture of Arabic-speaking Moslems and Christians, under Turkish rule, whose immature ideas of nationality are theocratic and not patriotic. The urbane, kindly author seems to have no distaste for the sordid, petty, daily jarring of the "seven and seventy" sects, but perhaps, mindful of America, as we may be of the British Isles, he remembers resolutely the proverb about throwing stones in glass houses. Certainly there is no lack of religion in the "Land of Milk and Honey," but there is a remediable lack of water and, possibly, an irremediable lack of common sense. The book's one blemish: no map.

In order to avoid misunderstandings the Bulgarian authorities wish to certify that Colonel Nicoloff, who is on trial on a charge of having illegally made use of his power when Superior Supply Officer at Plovdiv during the war, was arrested for reasons which have absolutely nothing in common with his well-known sympathies for British prisoners of war in that town.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.**To-Day.**

January 5, 1922 (New Style).

December 23, 1921 (Old Style).

Gumada I 6, 1340 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.

Tibet 5, 5682 of the Jewish Calendar.

The Georgian Minister has left London for Paris.

Mr. Alex Devine has left London for Rome and San Remo.

Viscount and Viscountess Milner spent Christmas at Sturry Court.

Sir Percy Loraine, the new British Minister to Persia, has arrived in Teheran.

Lord and Lady Montagu of Beaulieu have left England for several months, which will be spent in India.

Captain F. W. Shannon, Managing Director of Shannons, Ltd., spent Christmas in Egypt.

Major-General Sir Gerald and Lady Kitson have arrived at Cairo.

The Duc and Duchesse de Montpensier are travelling in Egypt.

Mrs. T. Wintringham, M.P., is now in Egypt on a short holiday.

Admiral Condouriotis, the ex-Regent of Greece, who was shot in the body on December 21, is now out of danger.

Sir Samuel Hoare, M.P., has gone to Constantinople, where he will organize a scheme of relief for Russian fugitives.

The Greek Premier, the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs, and other members of the Greek Mission, have arrived in Rome.

Judge Thorne, of the Mixed Courts, Alexandria, left for Cyprus in mid-December to join Mrs. Thorne, who was about to undergo an operation.

M. Yovan Yovanovitch, Consul-General for the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, left London last week for Belgrade.

Sir Malcolm Hogg, Member of the Indian Council, has left England on a business visit to India, and will return in the spring.

Lieutenant-General Sir A. S. Cobbe, V.C., Military Secretary, India Office, was last week reported to be out of danger, and progressing favourably towards recovery from his illness.

The Marquess Curzon of Kedleston left London for Cannes on Tuesday, for the meeting of the Supreme Council. He was accompanied by Marchioness Curzon, and they will stay at the Grand Hotel, Cannes.

Lady Sykes, widow of Sir Mark Sykes, gave a ball at Sledmere House, Malton, on December 28, in honour of the coming out of her eldest daughter, Miss Mary Freya Sykes, who is seventeen.

Prince Christopher of Greece has returned to Greece where he will spend Christmas (old style) with the Royal family. Princess Christopher is remaining at Cannes owing to reasons of health.

A marriage has been arranged between Thomas Beaumont Hohler, C.B., C.M.G., his Majesty's Minister at Budapest, and Cynthia, younger daughter of Lady De L'Isle and Dudley, and the late Mr. William Astell, of Woodbury Hall, Sandy.

The engagement is announced between Captain A. Cecil Pegg, 93rd Burma Infantry, youngest son of the late William Henry Pegg, of Heathfield, Sussex, and Mrs. Pegg, and Naida Olivia, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Tiernay, of Braeside, Berkhamsted.

The marriage has been arranged and will shortly take place between George H. Rashen (late Captain I.A.R.O., 26th Punjabis) and Jane Katharine Irwin, youngest daughter of the late Colonel and Mrs. Irwin, of Lynehow, Carlisle, and 53, Stanhope Gardens, S.W.7.

A marriage will shortly take place between Major George M. Bond, D.S.O., K.O.Y.L.I., youngest son of the late Lieutenant-Colonel C. F. Bond, 105th Madras Light Infantry, and Kathleen, third daughter of Mr. T. Gallaher, J.P., Ballygoland, Belfast, and widow of Major R. E. Bond.

The engagement is announced of Captain E. M. Hodding, late the Middlesex Regiment, youngest son of the late H. Hodding and Mrs. Hodding, Bemerton, Salisbury, and Margaret Clifton, youngest daughter of the late S. H. Carver, of Alexandria, and Mrs. Carver, The Moot, Downton, Salisbury.

The engagement is announced between Edric Charles Abbott-Young, P.W.D., India, son of the late Walter Evelyn Colebrooke Young, and Sybil, daughter of the Neville George de Bretton Priestly, of Roadside, Westhill, Putney, and the late Mrs. Priestly, daughter of Dr. Charles Homans, of Boston, U.S.A.

The engagement is announced of Anthony Conning Kilburn, late R.A.F., of Murrah Hall, Troutbeck, Cumberland, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. C. Conning Kilburn, of Broadstone, Dorset, formerly of Calcutta, and Maud, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. Toppin, of the College Malvern.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place in Egypt in February, between Major M. D. Townshend, D.S.O., R.F.A., son of the late Colonel C. C. Townsend R. A. and Mrs. Townsend, and Mrs. Dorothy Carrick, daughter of Mr. James Bayley, of Willaston Hall, Nantwich, and Mrs. Bayley, of Old Dover Road, Canterbury.

A marriage is arranged and will take place shortly in Cawnpore, between Captain B. K. Dymott, 31st Punjabis second son of Major D. F. Dymott, I.M.S. (retired), and Mrs. Dymott, 5, Bath Road, Camberley, and Edith Winifred, youngest daughter of the late John Taylor, of Heaton Moor, Stockport, and Mrs. Taylor, 291, Babba-combe Road, Torquay.

The marriage was celebrated on December 20 at the British Embassy Chapel between Mr. Severin Oswald de Bilinski, C.B.E., Managing Director of the National Bank of Turkey, and Miss Adriana Hilda Leibbrandt, of Cape Town, South Africa. The service was conducted by Canon F. C. Whitehouse. Among the large gathering at the reception were included:—Sir Horace and Lady Rumbold, Admiral and Mrs. Bristol, Rear-Admiral Sir Richard Webb, Lt.-General and Lady Harington, Major-General and Mrs. Marden, Colonel and Mrs. Welch, Colonel and Mrs. Gribbon, Commander and Mrs. Bennett, Commander Gould, Commander Macdonald, Commander Jaques, Mr. A. T. Waugh, Sir Adam Block, Colonel A. W. F. Baird, Lt.-Colonel R. W. Graves, Canon and Mrs. Whitehouse, Judge P. T. Thorpe, and Colonel Ballard.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, etc.

Mr. John Houston Sinclair has been appointed British Resident in Zanzibar.

M. Constantin Fotitch has been appointed permanent Yugoslav delegate to the League of Nations, and has taken up his post at Geneva.

M. Virgil Tilea, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, has returned to London from Bucharest after a prolonged absence on leave.

Mr. Frederic K. Maxwell, of the Legal Departments of the Ministries of Interior and Justice, has resigned his appointment in the Egyptian Government.

Mr. Cowasjee Jehanghir has been appointed a member of the Executive Council of the Bombay Government during the absence on special duty, as Chairman of the Indian Fiscal Commission, of Sir Ebrahim Rahimtulla.

The King has approved the appointment of the Earl of Lytton to be Governor of Bengal, in succession to the Earl of Ronaldshay, who will vacate the office in March 1922.

BIRTH.

Ogilvie. On December 31, the wife of A. Ogilvie (*née* Dawson) of a son, at 111, Burnt Ash Hill, Lee.

OBITUARY.

Lady Agnes Daniell, widow of Mr. Nugent Daniell, I.C.S., and sister of the Earl of Ranfurly, died on December 29, at 17, Lennox Gardens.

Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Martin Moorsom, M.V.O. died last week at Court Manor, West Meon, Hants, aged 82. He joined the Rifle Brigade in 1855, and served in the suppression of the Indian Mutiny, 1857-8.

The death occurred recently of M. Bakaloff, who was Minister of Public Works in the Radoslavoff Cabinet which was in office when Bulgaria entered the war. He was one of the Ministers whose trial began months ago for war responsibility.

The death occurred recently of Mr. Walter Morrison, of Malham Tarn. Mr. Morrison was keenly interested in Egypt and Palestine. He founded a chair of Egyptology at Oxford, was one of the founders of the Palestine Exploration Fund, and a lifelong member of its Executive Committee.

Regimental Sergeant-Major James Caddy, of the Ceylon Engineers, who greatly distinguished himself in rescuing children from a burning circus tent at Taunton in July, 1920, has died at sea. It would appear from cabled messages that death was due to a complaint caused by burns from which he never fully recovered.

The death occurred on Christmas Day of Admiral Sir George Lambart Atkinson-Willer, K.C.B. He joined the Navy in 1861, and in 1868 served in the Abyssinian War. After seeing much and varied service in many parts of the world, he achieved very notable distinction during the Somaliland operations in 1904, in which he landed and captured the Dervish stronghold of Illish.

Sir Francis Hugh Stewart, C.I.E., died on December 29 at Little Hallands, Seaford, aged 52. He was a partner in the firm of Gladstone, Wylie, and Co., merchants, of London and Calcutta, president of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce in 1915, member of the Bengal Legislative Council in 1911-12 and 1914, member of the Imperial Legislative Council in 1915, Commissioner for the Port of Calcutta in 1909-12, and in 1914-15 and Sheriff of Calcutta in 1914. He was Amateur Golf Champion of India in 1897. Sir Francis married Frances Henrietta, daughter of Mr. A. G. Rickards, K.C., and had three sons and four daughters.

Sir Thomas Sutherland, who was for many years Chairman of the P. and O. Company, died, in London, on Sunday night, aged 87. He was born at Aberdeen, and was only 19 years old when he entered the P. and O. Company's service. After two years in the London office he went to Bombay, and, later, to Hong-Kong. He was in China twelve years, and returned to London in 1867. He became a managing director in 1873, and Chairman of the Company in 1881. Reference to his many business activities will be found on another page. Sir Thomas sat for Greenock first as a Liberal, and later as a Liberal-Unionist. He was a Knight of the Legion of Honour and of the Order of St. John. He married in 1880 Miss Alice Macnaught, who died forty years later.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 1922.

THE POSITION IN EGYPT.

Although the deportation to Ceylon of Zaghloul Pasha and five of his fellow-Extremists may be denounced in Egypt as a declaration of war by the British Government on Egyptian Nationalist aspirations, there is no reason why this view should be endorsed elsewhere. The recent rioting has shown that there are two parties in the Nationalist movement; all classes of Egyptian opinion may be at one in supporting the agitation for independence, but one party is strongly opposed to the adoption of violent methods for the attainment of an end which it desires no less keenly than the other. It considers that violence can only prejudice the common cause, and after the disorders of last week, which in some cases made little or no discrimination between Egyptians and foreigners, it is inclined to approve at heart, if not openly, of the firm action taken by the British authorities against the Extremists. In these circumstances it would seem advisable that the British Government should state clearly that the deportation of Zaghloul Pasha implies no change of policy other than a firm resolve to put a stop to excesses or any disturbance of the peace. The question of the future status of Egypt remains where it was after the conclusion of the negotiations in London and the presentation to the Sultan of Lord Allenby's letter. That communication specifically stated that the rejection of the British Government's proposals would not affect the principle of British policy. Effect could not be given to the proposals without the consent and co-operation of the Egyptian nation, but His Majesty's Government remained "prepared to consider any methods which may be suggested for carrying out the substance of their proposals, whenever your Highness's Government may so desire." It is necessary to emphasize this official declaration, as there is a tendency to regard the door as being bolted and barred to all further negotiations. This is clearly not the case. Until, however, an Egyptian Government can be formed to co-operate with the British authorities, Egypt will not merely stand still in the matter of political development; she must retrogress. It is to be hoped, therefore, that Sarwat Pasha has not entirely abandoned the idea of undertaking the responsibilities of office. On what points he requires assurances which the British Government may not be prepared to give him has been not made public; but if the personal antagonism of Zaghloul Pasha, which was an important factor in regard to the position of Adly Pasha, entered into the picture, the removal of the Extremist leader ought to simplify the position.

When every allowance has been made for Egyptian disappointment, there can be no doubt that not only the Draft Convention, so summarily rejected in London, but also Lord Allenby's letter to the Sultan, so wounding to Egyptian *amour propre*, contains a very practical advance towards independence. Indeed, if negotiations could be resumed with a little more sympathy on each side, there would seem to be no reason why the intro-

duction of a time-limit should not meet all Egyptian susceptibilities, without impairing the effectiveness of the guarantees required by the British Government. The chief points at issue are the retention of British troops in the country, and the appointment of Financial and Judicial Commissioners as Advisers to the respective Ministries. In regard to the first point exception is taken by the Egyptians to the presence of British troops in the capital; the necessity of retaining them in the Canal zone is conceded. For the moment, however, after the recent riots in Alexandria and under the pressure of foreign Powers alarmed for the safety of their nationals, the British Government sets special store on having complete freedom in the distribution of its troops. This phase will pass; public opinion at home will continually act as a stimulus to the exercise of economy in military budgets overseas, while on the other hand the Egyptians know that a considerable time must elapse before suitable accommodation could be provided in the Canal zone for the troops concerned. The fact that any immediate change is a physical impossibility suggests that all reasonable objections to Paragraph 10 of the Draft Convention could be met by an undertaking to reconsider the position at the end of a stated period, when the whole question might be submitted to the arbitration of the President of the United States or of someone appointed by the League of Nations. In the same way after a certain number of years, if Great Britain should still feel unable to dispense with either one or both of her Financial and Judicial Commissioners, it should be open to Egypt, in the event of her feeling aggrieved in the matter, to invite an impartial investigation at the instance of the League. The submission of all these questions to a recognized tribunal must necessarily dispose of the Egyptian contention that real independence can never be attained so long as Great Britain remains the sole arbiter of Egyptian capacity. Five years or so are a very brief space in a nation's history, however long and tedious it may seem to ambitious politicians, and sober reflexion will convince the most ardent Nationalist that Egypt will in the long run lose nothing by proceeding slowly at this stage and making sure of each step as she goes.

A somewhat bitter controversy is raging in the public press over the rights and wrongs of the present *impasse* in Egypt; but most of what is written, it is to be feared, tends to drive the parties farther apart rather than to bring them nearer together. The sincerity of both sides in the London negotiations was beyond challenge; for this reason attention should be directed to convincing both of the narrowness of the actual gap that separates them and not to enlarging the gap into a gulf. Egypt will do well to avoid being led away by false analogies at this stage. For the elucidation of her problem she can rely only upon herself and Great Britain; she cannot command the world's interest. The influence of the foreign Powers that are in any way concerned in her affairs is more likely to be thrown in the scale against complete independence, when the crisis is reached, whatever unofficial encouragement Egyptians may have received from anglophobe representatives. Great Britain's record in Egypt is too well known to be affected by denunciations for her failure to satisfy on demand every Nationalist aspiration. Moreover, any tendency to enlist foreign sympathy will inevitably make the Egyptian task harder, as will be realized by anyone who gives due weight to a remarkable passage in the letter addressed to the Sultan, where it is stated that "these claims (to the exclusive right of tendering advice) are not asserted with any desire to derogate from Egypt's enjoyment of the full rights of national self-government. They are pressed only as against other foreign Powers." In these circumstances Egypt's line of policy should be clear enough. She should accept readily what has been offered her in the Draft Convention, with the determination herself to provide in due course the guarantees that the British Government considers it necessary to supply. If all goes as well as her own people predicate, she will find herself met half way by Great Britain.

ADVENTURES IN CENTRAL ASIA.†

From Tashkend to Orenburg and Back.

By *Sirdar Ikbal Ali Shah, F.R.G.S., M.R.A.S.*

On going out next morning I found just that mixture of the European and Oriental that one might expect to find at the threshold of Central Asia. Wide streets crossed one another at right angles; and though many of the houses were built of wood, the barracks, churches, and schools were of stone. People of all races thronged the streets, Tartars and Kirghiz with a good proportion of Russians, while in the bazaar the merchants seemed to be mostly from Bokhara, Khiva and Tashkend. There was, however, a general air of leanness and want about the entire place; not that food was scarce, but its price seemed to be absolutely prohibitive. The rule of the bazaar seemed to be entirely in the hands of the profiteers, but it was a profiteering that carried great risks; for I found that if the Russian authorities suspected any merchant of making undue charges, they were apt to swoop down on him and confiscate his entire stock, which they usually sold again at as high a price as he himself would have done.

"You are the Persian who wishes to be an interpreter?" he said, in a voice like a high wind. "What are you doing in Orenburg?"

"I am a tea merchant," I replied. "I brought a large quantity of tea from Tashkend, but cannot unload it and am down to my last copper."

"Umph!" he said. "Stranded are you? Well if your tea isn't any better than the rubbish we get here I'm not surprised. You fellows seem to think you can palm off anything you like on us in Orenburg. Perhaps you think we know nothing about tea, eh?"

"Most of the tea I have brought with me is of the best quality, your Excellency," I replied, "and I shall be delighted to send you a chest of it, if you will be so good as to accept it."

"Upon my word, that's very kind of you," he said, "and I won't say no. Seeing you're on the rocks (his language was on a par with his appearance) I'll take you on as my interpreter, but I can't give you more than house-room and rations, and I am taking it for granted that you really know the languages as you say you do."

"I can assure you on that point," I made haste to say. "When would you like me to start?"

"Oh, right away," he said. "Only go and see about that tea first, will you?"

I immediately returned to the town with a trooper, who in true moujik fashion carried the chest of tea all the way back to the camp on his shoulders. Then I reported myself for work. The Major-General was delighted with the tea and took me aside quite confidentially.

"Now, look here, Whats-your-name," he said, "I never remember these Asiatic names, I'll tell you quite frankly that I know none of the lingos spoken in these parts, so I want you to accompany me round the camp when I make my tours of inspection. You will also find out what the men are saying about things, mix with them freely and report to me. You understand?"

I quite understood that he wanted me to play the spy and was not surprised, as that is, and always has been, the mainspring of Russian administration. He was an easy-going kind of man, but managed somehow or other to get things done. His constant fear was that

he might be superseded in his command, and this was apt to make him hasty and nervous at times. Every morning we went round the camp. He certainly made pretty strict inquiries as regards the health and well-being of the troops, and took some pains to have abuses removed. Each evening I made a report to him, that is, when he was sober enough to hear it, for after having drunk oceans of tea all day, about four o'clock in the afternoon, when most of his duties were over, he exchanged the lighter beverage for what I took to be vodka, but what I afterwards found out was gin, which he told me in a burst of confidence reached Russia from Holland via Scandinavia and cost him a small fortune per bottle. I cannot say however, that his staff exceeded in their potations. They seemed to me to be men of the clerk or better-class shopkeeper kind, although a great many had been working-men. They were a strange mixture of efficiency and ignorance, forceful fellows in their way, who under the command of a really skilled officer might have gone far—much the sort of man, I should say, who served France so well during her Revolutionary wars—but they seemed to be wretchedly informed regarding the military power of other countries, and the things I used to hear them say about the Indian army caused me a great deal of amusement.

Things went on like this for nearly two months, when one day I heard that a Commissary had arrived from Moscow. On hearing the news the General looked decidedly uneasy and there were great burnings of papers and repeated applications to the gin bottle. Next morning when the Commissary visited him my chief was, as an American would say, "well lit up," and almost immediately a most unofficial altercation began. I was, of course, ordered out of the tent, but as I stood at the door I heard a good deal of it. So far as I could make out, separating the facts from the awful language that was freely used, the Commissary accused the General of all the military vices known to courts-martial, including peculation of stores on a considerable scale. In the middle of the rumpus I was extremely amused to hear an awful crash of glassware; and I afterwards found that the General in his indignation had been unable to keep his balance and had fallen into the veritable pyramid of gin bottles, which were only partially concealed by a canvas flap that had served as his wine cellar. This certainly did not improve matters, and when I heard someone charge for the opening of the tent, bellowing like a buffalo bull, I hastily made myself scarce. It was the Commissary, who was foaming at the mouth with rage.

"Drunkard!" he shouted. "Hog! You shall hear more of this."

Unluckily for him he had turned his faced towards the door of the tent, but as he walked backwards, waving his arms and shouting like one demented, he fell over a tent rope and landed with great force on the back of his head. He seemed somehow or other to jump to the conclusion that the General was responsible for his downfall, but as that worthy was still scrambling among broken gin bottles, he could hardly be blamed for the catastrophe. I was standing at the corner of the tent, convulsed with laughter and quite unable to move; and the Commissary, catching sight of me, whipped out his revolver and fired a couple of shots which missed me by a hair's breadth. The General, who had now recovered himself somewhat, returned the fire, on hearing which the Commissary gave vent to the most appalling yell, and ran off as fast as his short little legs would carry him. By this time the camp was fully aroused and some of the Uzbek troops running up, began firing off their rifles in the air, evidently in the

†The first part of this article appeared in *The Near East* of December 15.



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belief that they were about to be attacked. The General, maddened with drink and rage, seemed to regard the whole proceedings as quite natural, and placing himself at their head, staggered off after the Commissary with loud shouts of triumph. But the denouement was one which would not have disgraced the end of a Charlie Chaplin film. The Commissary at last ran to earth in the regimental kitchen, where he took refuge behind the stove, much to the amusement of the Tartar cooks. The General and his train, who had not noticed him enter the place, swept past, and eventually the unfortunate Commissary was able to return to the railway station. A fortnight afterwards nobody was surprised to hear that the General had been commanded to report himself at Moscow. Eventually he went off, carrying the remaining gin bottles with him. How he fared I do not know, and if he was cashiered he may have swelled the list of the unemployed at the great Labour Bureau in the Nevsky-Prospekt.

Once the General had gone, I was, of course, without occupation. I had learned all I wanted to regarding Bolshevik military affairs; in fact there was nothing to learn, unless one can call a downright muddle a fit subject for investigation; so one fine morning I took the train back to Tashkend, having sold my tea at a slightly better price than that first offered for it. I arrived after the usual delay at Tashkend, and after a couple of days there took the train through Ferghana to Andijan, one of the most important towns in Turkestan and the capital of Ferghana, which is notable as a cotton growing district, and more recently has been discovered to be one of the greatest oil-producing countries in the world. It is a place of considerable antiquity, and has several fine colleges and an excellent bazaar. The place is considerably Russianized and is undoubtedly one of those points from which the Bolsheviks would have made an attack upon India, had their plans not obviously fallen through. I had not been there many days when I was taken rather seriously ill with fever. My position was now extremely awkward, for were I to go to hospital the most searching inquiries regarding me would certainly be made. The very fact, too, that I intended to return to Chitral would have seemed suspicious to the authorities. I managed, however, to drag myself to a mosque, where I was received with the greatest possible kindness, and where I lay at death's door for nearly a month, so serious was the attack. Eventually I succeeded in returning to Chitral. It is impossible for me to describe the manner in which I accomplished this, as to do so would certainly incriminate several good friends at Andijan in the eyes of the Bolshevik authorities. Suffice it to say that I was thankful to be on Indian territory once more, and I can assure my readers that I have not the slightest intention of renewing my acquaintance with Central Asia until I can do so in peace and comfort and without the dread of the constant challenge of the spy, the ispolkom and the other satellites of Bolshevism.

THE CAIRO HOSPITAL.

A cablegram has been received (says the *Morning Post*) by the Royal Institute of British Architects from Cairo announcing that in the preliminary competition for the designs for the great hospital and medical school to be erected near Cairo by the Egyptian Government, the designs of the following six architects have been selected: Mr. John Reginald Truelove, care of Imperial War Graves Commission, Longuenesse, St. Omer, Pas de Calais France; Messrs. Cackett and Burns Dick, Pilgrim House, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Messrs. W. and T. R. Milburn, 11, Esplanade West, Sunderland; MM. Pierre and Louis Guidetti, 31, Quai Bourbon, Paris; Messrs. Lanchester, Rickards, and Lucas, and T. A. Lodge, 19, Bedford-square, London, W.C. 1; and Messrs. Nicholas and Dixon Spain, 19 Hanover Square, London, W. The result is an emphatic triumph for British architects. The competition was open to the world, and designs were received from many of the most distinguished architects in the United States, France, Canada, Italy, and elsewhere. Five out of the six places in the preliminary round have been won by members of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and the one successful foreign design is that of the firm of MM. Pierre and Louis Guidetti, of Paris. The Assessor in the competition is Mr. John W. Simpson, past-President of the R.I.B.A.

NEW YEAR'S HONOURS.

The New Year's Honours List includes:—4 Barons, 5 Privy Councillors, 17 Baronets, and 112 New Knights.

Prince Henry is appointed a G.C.V.O.

The Order of Merit is conferred on Sir James Matthew Barrie, Bt., in recognition of his services to literature and the drama.

Peerages are conferred on Sir James Buchanan, Bt., Sir Robert Nivison, Bt., Mr. Joseph Watson, and Mr. Francis Willey.

Among the Honours announced which have a special interest for our readers in the Near and Middle East are the following:—

BARONETS.

McRobert, Sir Alexander, K.B.E., LL.D., F.R.G.S.

President of the Board, Indian Chamber of Commerce, from 1898 to 1908, and Member of the Legislative Council of the United Provinces from 1900 to 1908.

Mountain, Sir Edward Mortimer.

Chairman, Eagle, Star, and British Dominions Insurance Company. For public services.

Wallace, Sir Matthew Gemmill.

For services rendered to the Defence of the Realm Losses Commission and War Compensation Court.

Yule, Sir David.

Head of the firm of Yule, Catto, and Co., East India merchants, Calcutta, and throughout India. Director of London City and Midland Bank and of the Mercantile Bank of India. For public services.

KNIGHTS.

Carruthers, William, Esq.

General Manager, Barclay's Bank, Director of British Fire Insurance Company.

Du Maurier, Gerald Hubert Edward Busson, Esq.

Actor Manager.

Duncan, James, Esq., J.P.

Managing Director of Steel Bros. and Co., Ltd., East India Merchants. Chairman Royal Insurance Co. For public services.

Hawtreay, Charles Henry, Esq.

Actor Manager.

Hobson, Albert John, Esq.

President of Association of Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom, 1920-21. Pro-Chancellor of University of Sheffield.

Fisher, Stanley, Esq.

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Cyprus.

(India.)

Muddiman, Alexander Phillips, Esq., C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S.

President of the Council of State.

Whyte, Alexander Frederick, Esq.

President of the Legislative Assembly.

Chevis, Mr. Justice William, I.C.S.

Puisne Judge, High Court, Punjab.

Richardson, Mr. Justice Thomas William, I.C.S.

Puisne Judge, High Court, Calcutta, Bengal.

Schwabe, Mr. Justice Walter George Salis, K.C.

Chief Justice, High Court, Madras.

Robinson, Mr. Justice Sydney Maddock.

Chief Judge, Chief Court, Lower Burma.

Avergal, M. R. Ry. Rao Sahib Muthiah, Chidambaram Muthiah Chettiyar.

Member of the Legislative Council, Sheriff of Madras.

Simpson, James Fletcher, Esq.

Member of the Legislative Council, Partner in Messrs. Gordon, Woodroffe, and Co., Madras.

Bomanji, Dhunjibhoy, Esq.

Merchant, Bombay.

Froom, Arthur Henry, Esq.
Merchant, Bombay, Member of the Council of State.
Watson-Smyth, Robert Middleton, Esq.
President, Bengal Chamber of Commerce, Bengal.
John, Edwin, Esq., C.B.E.
Merchant, Agra, United Provinces.
Jaquet, Robert Glover, Esq., C.I.E.
Late Accountant-General, India Office.

ROYAL VICTORIAN ORDER.**G.C.V.O.**

H.R.H. Prince Henry, K.G.
Cavan, General Sir Frederick Rudolph, Earl of, K.P.,
G.C.M.G., K.C.B., M.V.O.

C.V.O.

Marsh, Edward Howard, Esq., C.B., C.M.G.

ORDER OF ST. MICHAEL AND ST. GEORGE.**G.C.M.G.**

Cox, Maj.-General Sir Percy Zachariah, G.C.I.E.,
K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G.
High Commissioner and Commander-in-Chief for
Iraq.

Stevenson, Sir James, Bt.

In recognition of services as Adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies on business questions and as late member of the Munitions Council (1917 to 1919) and of the Army and Air Councils (1919 to 1921).

K.C.M.G.

Grindle, Gilbert Edmund Augustine, Esq., C.B.
C.M.G.

Asst. Under Sec. of State, Colonial Office.

Shuckburgh, John Evelyn, Esq., C.B.

Acting Assistant Under-Sec. of State, Colonial Office, from the India Office.

Grahame, The Right Hon. Sir George Dixon, K.C.V.O.,
H.M. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Brussels.

Barclay, Colville Adrian De Rune, Esq., C.B., M.V.O.
H.M. Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Stockholm.

Macleay, James William Ronald, Esq., C.M.G.
H.M. Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Buenos Aires.

HON. K.C.M.G.

Almerhum His Highness Ismail Ibni, Sultan Mohamed, IV.

Sultan of Kelantan.

C.M.G.

Lampson, Miles Wedderburn, Esq., M.V.O.

A First Secretary in the Foreign Office.

Johnson, Wilfrid Athelstan, Esq., M.V.O.

Until recently an Acting First Secretary in H.M. Diplomatic Service.

Pipon, Philip James Griffiths, Esq., C.I.E., M.C.

I.C.S., Member of the British Mission to Kabul.

Hellings, Robert Bailey, Esq.

Lately Government Agent, Southern Province, Ceylon.

Hodson, Arnold Wienhold, Esq.

H.M. Consul for Southern Abyssinia; for services on the Northern Frontier of Kenya.

Smallwood, Henry Armstrong, Esq.

Financial Sec. to the Administration, Palestine.

HON. C.M.G.

Ibrahim, His Highness Tunku, Regent of Kedah.

STAR OF INDIA.**K.C.S.I.**

Mansinhji, Captain H.H. Maharawal Shri Ranjitsinhji, Raja of Baria, Bombay.

Shafi, Khan Bahadur Mian Muhammad, C.I.E., Barrister-at-Law, Member of the Viceroy's Council.

Hailey, William Malcolm, Esq., C.S.I., C.I.E., Member of the Viceroy's Council.

Grant, Sir Alfred Hamilton, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., late Chief Commissioner and Agent to the Governor-General, N.W. Frontier Province.

C.S.I.

Sah, Captain H.H. Raja Narendra, Raja of Tehri (Garhwal), United Provinces.

Knapp, Arthur Rowland, Esq., C.B.E., Indian Civil Service, temp. Member of the Executive Council, Fort St. George, Madras.

Marjoribanks, Norman Edward, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S., Officiating Chief Sec. to the Govt., of Madras.

Bray, Denys de Saumarez, Esq., C.I.E., C.B.E., I.C.S., Officiating Sec. to the Govt. of India, Foreign and Political Dept.

Arbuthnot, Robert Edward Vaughan, Esq., I.C.S., Financial Commissioner, Burma.

King, Charles Montague, Esq., C.I.E., Member of the Legislative Council, I.C.S., Financial Commissioner (Development), Punjab.

Kaul, Rai Bahadur Pandit Hari Kishan, C.I.E., Provincial Civil Service, Officiating Commissioner, Jullundur Division, Punjab.

Hignell, Sidney Robert, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S., Private Sec. to the Viceroy.

Crerar, James, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S., Sec. to Govt., Home Dept., Bombay.

Copleston, Walters Edward, Esq., Chief Conservator of Forests, Bombay.

Evans, Frederick Buisson, Esq., I.C.S., Special Civil Officer, Malabar.

Muspratt, Colonel Sydney Frederick, C.I.E., D.S.O., Indian Army.

ORDER OF THE INDIAN EMPIRE.**K.C.I.E.**

Panna (Central India), Maharaja of, H.H. Maharaja Mahendra Yadvendra Singh Bahadur.

Le Mesurier, Havilland, Esq., C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., Member and Vice-President of the Executive Council, Bihar and Orissa.

Fagan, Patrick James, Esq., C.S.I.

Member of the Legislative Council, I.C.S., Financial Commissioner, Punjab.

Rao Raja Madho Singh.

Of Sikar, Feudatory Chief of the Jaipur State, Rajputana.

Warren, Sir Norcot, Imperial Bank of India.

Venkatagiri (Madras), Mansubhdar of, Raja Sahib Mushfiq Mehrban Karamfarmage Mukhsan Umduri-Rajah Raja Velugoti Sri Govinda Krishna Yachendruvaru Bahadur Panchhazari.

Raja Saiyid Abu Jafar, C.I.E.

Of Pirpur, Fyzabad District, United Provinces.

Maulvi Ahmad Husain Nawab Amin Jang Bahadur.

C.S.I., Sadr-ul-Maham, Peshi Department, His Exalted Highness the Nizam's Gvt., Hyderabad (Deccan).

Biles, Sir John Harvard.

Consulting Naval Architect to the India Office.

Bell, Charles Alfred, Esq., C.M.G., C.I.E.

Late I.C.S., and Political Officer, Sikkim.

Haig, Lieut. Col. Thomas Wolseley, C.S.I., C.M.G., Indian Army, late Acting Counsellor to H.M. Legation, Teheran.

C.I.E.

Khan Bahadur Saiyid Abdul Majid.

Minister for Education to his Excellency the Governor of Assam.

Smith, Maj.-General John Blackburn, C.B., Ind. Med. Service, Deputy Director, Medical Services, Eastern Command.

Hutchinson, Lieut.-Colonel. Francis Hope Grant. Ind. Med. Service, Public Health Commissioner with the Govt. of India.

Rennie, Francis Pepys, Esq. I.C.S. Judicial Commissioner, N.W. Frontier Province.

Patterson, Lieut.Col. Stewart Blakely Agnew. Ind. Army, Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, Rajputana.

McAlpin, Malcolm Caird, Esq. I.C.S., Sec. to Govt., Bengal.

Blunt, Edward Arthur Henry, Esq., O.B.E. I.C.S., Financial Sec. to Govt., United Provinces.

Entrican, Lieut.-Col. James. Ind. Med. Serv., Insp.-Gen. of Civil Hospitals, Burma.

Stewart, Alexander Carmichael, Esq., M.V.O. Indian Police, Insp.-Gen. of Police, Punjab.

Hudson, Walter Frank, Esq. I.C.S., Collector of Poona, Bombay.

Hope, Adrian James Robert, Esq., Late Suptdg. Engrn., Simla Imperial Circle.

Meares, John Willoughby, Esq., Electrical Adviser to the Government of India.

Standage, Lieut.-Col. Robert Fraser. Ind. Med. Serv., Residency Surgeon in Mysore, Bangalore.

Goldie, Maj. Kenneth Oswald, O.B.E. Military Secretary to the Governor of Madras.

Thomas, Edward Francis, Esq. I.C.S., Acting Collector and District Magistrate, Malabar, Madras.

Moysey, Edward Luttrell, Esq. I.C.S., Collector of Sataar, Bombay.

Macpherson, Thomas Stewart, Esq. I.C.S., Registrar of the High Court of Judicature at Patna, Bihar and Orissa.

Maung Po Hla, Esq. Deputy Commissioner, Pyapon, Burma.

Armstrong, Arthur Campbell, Esq., O.B.E. Indian Police, Supt. of Police, Central Provinces.

Williamson, Horace, Esq., M.B.E. Indian Police, Supt. of Police, United Provinces.

Newmarch, Alexander, Esq. Late Accountant-Gen., Madras.

Wathen, Gerard Anstruther, Esq. Ind. Educational Service, Principal Khalsa College, Amritsar, Punjab.

Khan Bahadur mir Sharbat Khan. Officiating Political Agent, Lorali, Baluchistan.

Natha Singh Sardar Bahadur. Brig.-Gen. and Commandant, Alwar Infantry, Rajputana.

Raja Maniloll Singh Roy. Of Chakdighi. Chairman District Board, Burdwan, Bengal.

Khan Bahadur Nasarvanji Hormasji Choksy. Retired Medical Officer, Bombay Municipality.

Raja Chandra Chur Singh. Lieut. Of Atra Chandapur, Rae Bareli District, United Provinces.

Durrant, William Scott, Esq. Late Deputy Accountant-Gen., India Office.

McLagan, Archibald Gibson, Esq. Of Messrs. Turnbull, Gibson and Co., Shipping Agents to the India Office.

KAISAR-I-HIND MEDAL.

The King has been pleased to make the following award of the Kaisar-i-Hind Medal for public services in India :—

Bar to the Medal.

Knox, Katherine Annie Louise, Lady. United Provinces.

Sorabji, Miss Cornelia. Lady Assistant to Court of Wards in Bengal.

Medal of the First Class.

Beals, Lester Hayes, Esq. American Marathi Mission, Physician and Surgeon Bombay.

Noble, The Rev. Peter. Minister, Baptist Mission, Bengal.

Thomas, The Rev. Frederick Vincent. Baptist Medical Mission, Palwal, Gurgaon District, Punjab.

Evans, The Rev. John Credig. Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Missionary, Assam.

Vadakke Kurupam Parukutti Netyarammal. Consort of His Highness the Maharaja of Cochin, Madras.

Gilmore, The Rev. David Chandler. Principal, Judson College, Rangoon, Burma.

Darbyshire, Miss Ruth. Supt. of the Lady Minto Nursing Association.

Bear, Georgiana Mary, Mrs. Commissioner of Girl Guides.

President Millerand last week received General Vali Khan, the Afghan Envoy.

A gale of unusual violence has been recently raging in the Black Sea. Several vessels in the port of Constantza have been slightly damaged, and many fishermen have been drowned.

Greek newspaper correspondents in Crete report that the troops have cleared practically the entire plain of Canea of insurgent bands, states a Reuter message from Athens.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

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New Year Honours.

Chief interest in the New Year's Honours List attaches to the distinctions conferred upon leading members of the financial and commercial community, among whom are many well-known in India and the Near East. The awards are dealt with in detail elsewhere, and I will only mention here a few of the outstanding appointments. Sir Alexander McRobert becomes a baronet, while the same distinction falls to Sir Edward Mountain, chairman of the Eagle, Star, and British Dominions Insurance Company, and to Sir David Yule, head of Yule, Catto and Co., and a director of the Mercantile Bank of India, and of the London Joint City and Midland Bank. Another representative of the banking community who figures in the list is Sir Norcot Warren who receives the K.C.I.E., while among the new knights is Mr. Watson-Smyth, president of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

Greek Finances.

Considerable interest has been aroused in business circles here by the news that Greece is endeavouring to raise a large loan on the London market. As the inevitable consequence of the prolongation of the war with Turkey Greece's financial position has for a long time been one of serious embarrassment, and several attempts have been made during the past years to raise a loan in this and other countries, but always without success. The British Government has now, however, decided to permit the raising of Greek loans in England, and the Greek Government has been authorised to negotiate with British Banks for a loan of not more than £15,000,000 to be utilised for purchases in this country. At the same time the Greek Government has foregone its claim to the unpaid balances of the loans arranged under the Agreement of 1918-19, amounting to about £5,500,000, and the securities for this sum will be available for the new loan.

Loan Prospects.

It would be rash to conclude because negotiations have actually been opened that a loan will be arranged without difficulty. On the contrary it may be assumed that it will be some time before an agreement can be reached as the terms on which a loan can be raised are not likely to prove easy to settle. It has to be borne in mind that values are very different from what they were in 1914, and that Greek credit has been very adversely affected by the strain involved in its present war. There is no doubt as to the willingness of British finance houses to assist Greece if—and this is the crux of the position—they can be satisfied as to the security offered. The prospect of an approaching settlement of the questions at issue in Asia Minor would do much to smooth the path of the negotiations, and would incidentally make it possible for Greece to obtain accommodation on much better terms.

Effect on Trade.

It is worth pointing out that valuable as the loan would prove to Greece its effect here would be of no less

importance. There is the stipulation for one thing that the proceeds must be utilised here, which of itself must give a great stimulus to industry, but apart from that the fact that we are willing to assist Greece is bound to have a great effect on the commercial relations generally of the two countries. In the stipulation—an excellent stroke—we are simply following the example of pre-war competitors, and I trust that whatever concessions may be made in the course of the negotiations this will be strictly adhered to at all costs. Before the war we could afford to be foolish enough to subscribe money to be used in competing countries, but we are not in a position to do so now, and even when we are it may be hoped that we shall still maintain this eminently sound practice.

The Position in Egypt.

Until the political situation clears the commercial outlook in Egypt is bound to be obscure. In the closing months of 1921 the Egyptian market position was showing signs of some improvement, and the development of a limited but gradually increasing demand for goods has been anticipated. Recent events make it necessary to revise this view, though there is no need for the pessimism felt in some quarters as regards the outlook. It is true that an attempt is being made to emulate the example of the non-co-operators in India, but there is no reason for thinking that a movement of this nature could have any great or lasting success in Egypt. The most serious feature of the situation from the commercial point of view is the effect on trade of the feeling of insecurity that is inseparable from present conditions. As long as uncertainty prevails the tendency must be to avoid commitments, and consequently trade is likely to stagnate until the outlook is a little clearer.

Sir Thomas Sutherland.

It falls to the lot of few men to leave behind them a record of achievement such as that of the late Sir Thomas Sutherland. His was in every sense a remarkable career. At an early age he entered the service of the P. and O., rose to become head of that company, and held that position for 34 years during which his assiduous work enabled the company gradually to build

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up the proud position which it now occupies. An administrator born it has been very happily said of him that he was the "Clive of the P. and O." Outside the great work for the company Sir Thomas's name is associated with two important events. He was one of the founders of the Hong-Kong and Shanghai Bank, and he was concerned in the agreement with the Suez Canal Company.

Scheme for International Credits.

It is a truism that nothing matters at the present time except the restoration of trade, and it is satisfactory to find a concrete proposal resulting from the Paris Economic Conference which will provide a means for united action in dealing with the abnormal situation with which the world is confronted. The recommendation of the conference is that an International Industrial Corporation with a capital of £20,000,000 should be established, the participants being Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, and the United States (if this country desires to be represented). The proposal, which is to be considered this week by the Supreme Allied Council, would appear *prima facie* to have much in its favour as a practical method of solving the problem. Clearly, as I have pointed out before, a policy of *laissez faire* will lead us nowhere. Things may right themselves but the world cannot afford to wait an indefinite period, and as all the steps taken so far have achieved little more than negative results it is obvious that other and more decided action must be taken.

Objects of the Corporation.

It is to be the primary object of the corporation to lay down the principles for the conduct of international commerce and finance, and afterwards to determine the necessary measures for industrial reconstruction in the countries concerned. Subsequently the activities of the Corporation would be devoted to the reorganisation of transport, harbour facilities etc. Obviously the capital named would be quite inadequate for comprehensive schemes of this character, and the intention is to establish a much larger undertaking. The brief details given, and the fact that the scheme has still to be approved, make it impossible to express any final view upon it. As I have said, it seems promising, and the only doubt in my mind is whether the operations of the corporation will not prove a long drawn out

process. When time is of the utmost importance it is essential that there should be no delay over preliminaries. But the idea of "laying down principles" has too much suggestion of officialdom about it. If the Corporation is to be useful it must get to work speedily and principles can be laid down *en passant*, so to speak.

Commentator.

INDIAN RAILWAY POLICY.

Legislative Assembly's Report.

Certain questions arising out of the report of the Committee on Indian Railways presided over by Sir W. Acworth, have recently been considered by a Committee of the Indian Legislative Assembly. This latter committee have now presented a unanimous report, the main points of which are as follows:—

The separation of railway from the general finance of the Government of India as proposed by the Acworth Committee is rejected, as it is impracticable in the present state of Indian finances. The committee therefore refrain from giving any opinion as to the theoretical advisability of such separation, but indicate that it might be advisable, when conditions have become more normal, and equilibrium is re-established, to re-examine the question.

As regards the capital programme the committee after emphasising the present need for rehabilitation and improvement of existing lines, state that a guaranteed programme extending over a course of years is almost as important as the provision of larger funds, and recommend that such a programme be prepared on a five years' basis, provision for each quinquennium being considered about two years before the termination of an existing period. The recommendation involves no lapses, money voted for one year but not spent within that year being carried on to the credit of railways up to a limit of the total amount fixed for a quinquennium. The financial programme should be strictly adhered to on an understanding, however, that war or other unforeseen contingencies, radically disturbing money markets, might make it necessary to curtail operations in any one year.

As regards the actual amount of the programme the report recommends that 150 crores (approximately £100,000,000) should be devoted to railway capital expenditure purposes during the next five years, and, recognising that the provision of funds to this amount may involve supplementing rupee borrowing by outside borrowing, the committee are prepared to support such borrowing, provided it is effected in the cheapest market. Immediate steps ought to be taken by the Railway Board to obtain a five years' revised programme from their agents, which, after scrutiny by the board, should be laid before the Assembly. Paramount stress ought to be laid on the improvement of conditions of travel of third-class passengers.

The committee is not at present able to contemplate the provision for any new lines, but recognise the great importance of the construction of certain feeder lines in the coalfields. They would prefer that those lines should be directly financed by the State, but in view of their urgency and the fact that rehabilitation must have the first claim on the funds available, the State should be willing that these particular lines should be constructed by private enterprise, concessions being given for this purpose. This should be subject to conditions that companies constructing these lines should be domiciled in India, raise only rupee capital, have a substantial Indian element in the directorate, and, if they work their own lines, should engage to apply the same rules as regards employment of Indians in the higher ranks as are in force on the State Railways.

The report states that the question of rehabilitation necessarily involves the consideration of the programme of expenditure chargeable against the railway revenues. The Committee consider that the present method of providing for depreciation, not by a proper depreciation fund but by making allotments from revenue for expenditure renewals and replacements should be changed, and recommend that early steps should be taken to calculate rates of depreciation for different classes of material in order that the recurrence of deterioration of recent years may be avoided, and depreciation be provided for automatically.

(India Office communiqué.)

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THE TRADE OUTLOOK.

Obstacle of the Exchanges.

In financial and commercial circles twelve months ago the opinion was almost general that we were in for a very bad year, and the event has proved this pessimistic anticipation to have been only too well-founded. It has been a period of acute trade depression without a parallel for the past hundred years. The position of this country at the beginning of 1920 might aptly be compared with a patient who has had a protracted and debilitating illness, and in the progress of convalescence has suffered a very serious setback when apparently on the road to a rapid recovery. Looking at the position now a superficial glance would suggest that the patient is simply where he was. In some directions an improvement is to be recorded, but on the other hand new complications have supervened. But a closer examination will show that in reality, though there are as yet no tangible results to point to, the general situation is distinctly better. Business opinion is as yet anything but optimistic as to the prospects, but the prevalent view is that, while the end of the depressing period of trade stagnation is not at hand, before the end of the year there will have been a vast improvement. It would be foolish in the circumstances to cherish any anticipations of a speedy trade "boom." That will come in due course; if conditions are favourable the events of 1922 may herald its approaching arrival.

Too much emphasis cannot be laid on the fact that until the exchanges approach the normal—or perhaps it would be better to say their post-war parity—there can be no prospect of any real trade revival. Until that happens any considerable development of commerce can only be by means of artificial expedients. During the greater part of 1921 an impediment to commerce with the Near East was provided by the fact that the majority of markets were still overstocked as a result of the injudicious buying of the previous year. That that factor is disappearing, indeed in many cases no longer exists, is so much to the good, but we cannot profit by it as we should owing to the lack of purchasing power in many of the countries concerned. Naturally traders simply cannot afford to undertake transactions with the exchanges at their present levels, and with the ever-present risk of violent fluctuations, and are perforce obliged to turn to countries with more favourable exchanges. It is a particularly hopeful feature in the circumstances that a number of Near Eastern countries should now be trying to raise loans on the London market, for if, as may be hoped, it is found possible to accord the desired accommodation it will do much to cement our relations with them, and will pave the way for commercial intercourse as soon as conditions make it possible, while there will be the immediate result that much, if not all, of the proceeds of the loans will be

spent in this country. Fortunately the problem of the exchanges does not present itself in all the Near Eastern markets, and Egypt, provided the political situation does not develop unsatisfactorily, should provide a promising market for British goods, as the congestion there is now practically non-existent. To Palestine, too, our traders should be able to look more and more as an outlet as the months go on, while there is an increasing opening to be found in Mesopotamia for trade enterprise. In India trade was affected during the past year by non-co-operation, and, of course, by the diminished buying power of the country due to the temporary restriction of its markets. Probably non-co-operation has done its worst, but the other factor will unfortunately have to be reckoned with until Russia and other countries are again in a position to resume their trade activities. Here, too, the exchange has handicapped trade, not for the reason that holds good elsewhere, but because the authorities were, as many people think, ill-advised enough to fix the parity of the rupee at 2s.

The most disappointing feature of 1921 was the erratic course of the exchanges. No one expected miracles, but it seemed reasonable to anticipate that so long after the war there would be a steady improvement in the exchanges. Quite the reverse happened. In some cases obvious reasons can be found for the depreciation that took place; in others the movements have been illogical. The Turkish exchange depreciated because of the chaotic conditions resulting from the absence of a settlement in Asia Minor; the drachma has reflected *inter alia* the strain on Greece's finances arising from the continuance of the war; the rupee has been influenced by the lack of exports. But there are many exchanges in regard to which no such explanation is applicable, which, taking into account local circumstances such as the last year's excellent harvest and the resources of the countries in general, should have appreciated or at any rate have remained fairly stationary. But though general conditions have been favourable, the exchanges have undergone a serious depreciation so much so that in some cases it has been necessary to introduce Government control over exchange transactions. The reason for the adverse movements is of course to be found in the fact that until lately Governments have shown an insufficient appreciation of the importance of restoring the financial equilibrium upon which the stabilisation of the exchanges depends. They are now taking measures which should have been adopted eighteen months ago. It is so much to the good however, that the energy now being displayed promises to compensate to some extent for the delay, and if the results of the policy now being pursued are what may be hoped, one can justly anticipate a very marked improvement in the Near Eastern exchanges by the autumn.

Belgium's exports to India are increasing. For the last trade year they amounted in value to £5,326,000.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended December 17, amounted to £5,980.

The P. and O. Company's Indian mail steamer Macedonia steamed from Gibraltar to the anchorage at Plymouth in two days 17 hours, the quickest performance since pre-war days.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended November 30, amounted to £13,304; total for year £258,324. For the corresponding period of last year the receipts amounted to £14,397; total for the year, £237,534.

The profit and loss account of the Steaua Romana (British) for the period from October 12, 1920, to June 30, 1921, shows a credit balance of £25,310, subject to income-tax and corporation profits tax.

The International Mercantile Marine Co. announces that the Red Star liner Lapland will be added to the Mediterranean service to augment the schedules already arranged for the Arabic, sailing January 21 and March 8, and the Adriatic, sailing January 7 and February 18. The Lapland will sail from New York on February 4 for Madeira, Gibraltar, Algiers, Monaco, Genoa, Naples, Athens, and Alexandria, making the return voyage from Egypt via Genoa, Monaco and Southampton.

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A New Machine.

One of the most striking features of a new high-voltage continuous current generator invented by Mr. R. Boin, a noted electrical engineer, is the special type of commutator which has been designed to prevent "flashing over" from one segment to another at high voltage. Others scarcely less worthy of attention are the rotary brushes and the air gap between the stationary armature and the rotating field system. This air gap is eccentric or rather elliptical.

The new machine has been designed for heavy duty industrial work, generating at from 400 to 500 volts, and, whilst it is at present in its late experimental stages, sufficient success has been met with to justify the expenditure of a large amount of capital in preparing for its commercial production. Its chief claims for attention are its undoubtedly high efficiency, and the great saving of both iron and copper in its design and construction. Whether it will prove more suitable for traction work than the types already in use remains to be seen, but there is no doubt that it will come largely into use in connection with the generation of power for motors and lighting.

As every engineer is aware, there are many advantages in connection with direct current high voltage work. There is not so severe a strain on the insulation of the various conductors, for example, whether for windings or transmission, and the phenomena of resonance, inductance, and power factor do not arise. There is, further, a greater element of safety in connection with the use of direct or continuous current at voltages round about 500 than there is with alternating current.

From a published description it appears that the Boin machine can be used as a dynamo or a motor, being similar in this respect to the more conventional forms of direct current machines. It can also be used as a direct current transformer. When used as a dynamo, which will naturally be the most commercial method of applying the advantages of its peculiar construction, direct current is fed to the winding on the rotating field system. The effect of rotating the latter in the elliptical air gap between itself and the stationary armature is to produce alternately a steady growth and a steady decrease in the magnetic flux through the armature windings. Commenting on this a correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* points out that the net result is that the direct current voltage available at the terminals is more nearly absolutely uniform than it is in an ordinary generator.

The actual value of the voltage produced depends upon the relative number of turns in the field and armature windings; hence it is a simple matter to produce a very high voltage in the armature.

Commutator Design.

The main difficulty in obtaining continuous current at a sufficient high voltage to make transmission an easy and profitable matter in bulk lies in the limited voltage which can be carried by an ordinary commutator without sparking and flashing over of the current from one segment of the commutator to the next adjacent and so on as the machine revolves. In addition there is the objection that rotating machinery is required to change the voltage of direct current, whereas the well-known static transformer, consisting essentially of two insulated windings on an iron core, is all that is required to change the voltage of any alternating current.

In the Boin machine, the problem of collecting this high voltage current easily and safely is solved in a very ingenious manner. Instead of using an ordinary commutator built up from a number of parallel copper bars or segments insulated from each other by means of mica strips, a special commutator is employed which consists essentially of several insulating rings with copper studs let into their peripheries. Instead of the brush passing from one bar to another separated from it

only by means of a thin piece of mica or other insulating material it passes from one copper stud to another in a different ring of insulating material. In effect, as will be seen, as large a clearance as one pleases, a mechanical clearance at that, can be given between the electrically consecutive contacts, and there is consequently no possible danger of the flashing-over. The development of this machine will be watched by electrical engineers with more than usual interest, as should it prove commercially successful as it seems will no doubt be the case, a new lease of life will be given to high voltage continuous current generators, transmission and use.

New Electric Furnace.

Recently a new steel foundry was formally opened in Belfast. The metal is melted electrically in the manner frequently described in these columns, and the furnaces are supplied with two-phase current on a three wire system. The principal furnace, which can deal with a ton and a half of metal, has a tank furnace body which is tilted by means of gearing operated by an electric motor. When the tank is tilted the molten metal runs into a ladle which can be conveyed, by means of an electrically operated overhead travelling crane, to any part of the foundry.

Water Power.

The final report of the Water Power Resources Committee has just been issued, and is well worthy of the attention of engineers, a perusal of its pages being certain to be of interest. Naturally few proposals that could be considered to be of a constructive character have been put forward; at the same time it is evident that the committee have had the commercial aspect of the matter well in view. Chief amongst the recommendations are that the collection and information regarding rainfall should be continued, and that long-term licences for the use of water power should be issued. It is also recommended that the State should give financial aid to water power undertakings during the construction period, and that the Board of Trade of the Electricity Commissioners should be charged with the supervision of water power development. It is also suggested that tidal power should be investigated by a technical commission.

British Trade Ship.

Of some interest to engineers is the information which has just been given to the Press by the board of the "British Trade Ship," and which shows the present and prospective fall in the costs of production. In view of the general reduction in prices the terms for exhibiting have been reduced from between £1,350 and £2,100 for stalls to from £900 to £1,400, whilst the cost of showcases and counter cases has been reduced correspondingly to an average charge of about £400. The charge to be made for first class cabin accommodation for a trade representative undertaking the whole voyage, which will last for approximately 18 months, is reduced to the sum of £1,000 which includes all meals taken on board the ship. In the opinion of many this sum is still excessive, and should be still further reduced.

Stokers and Furnaces.

I am asked to say that a large number of orders have been received recently by the well known firm of E. Bennis and Co., Ltd., for their stokers and compressed air furnaces for Lancashire boilers, chain grate stokers for water tube boilers, and mechanical coal and ash handling machinery. Amongst a considerable number of orders for collieries and mills, and also for iron and steel works, I notice one for equipment for a large power station supplying energy over a very large industrial area. This order is for four chain grate stokers for special water tube boilers, and the firm are certainly to be congratulated on the high opinion which it is evident the authorities hold regarding their productions.

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LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows under date December 28 :—

The period under review consists of but three business days, and even these have been overshadowed by the Christmas holidays. It is not surprising, therefore, that no great volume of business has been transacted. The somewhat weaker tendency noticed at the end of last week has disappeared, and a feeling of optimism has taken its place, which has more than made good the decline. Possibly this is also of a temporary nature, for, although we would like to see an immediate trade revival, there is little in the general situation at the moment to warrant such a happening. During the week-end, the news from Egypt has not been very encouraging. The political crisis there, to which we drew attention a few weeks ago, has apparently reached a climax. A boycott of British goods is talked of, and this, viewed in the light cast by recent similar events in India, can only supply further ground for misgiving amongst Lancashire manufacturers, at a time when a restoration of confidence is of paramount importance. On the other hand, reports from India continue to be on encouraging lines, and Manchester views the situation hopefully. The enquiry in Liverpool has naturally been somewhat restricted, and for the first time for many weeks no sale of Tokar or Sudan cotton has been recorded. At the end of last week, a "good" c.i.f. business was reported here, and as these reports are usually conservative rather than exaggerated in nature, this may be an indication that spinners are beginning to take a more active interest in the situation than they have done in recent months. At all events, it is refreshing to find that some at least amongst them have broken away from the tedious hand-to-mouth policy to which they have been tied so long. The era of higher prices and good business has been delayed long enough; let us hope that this is a happy augury for the New Year. Total sales, 600 bales. Quotations are raised 50 points, Good Sakellaridis exceptionally 75 points; Fully Good Fair Sakel 21.25d.

MANCHESTER REPORT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Friday.

The tone of the market during the past week has continued steadier. A feeling of optimism now prevails with regard to future developments. Naturally the Christmas holidays have interfered somewhat with business, and many buyers and sellers have not been in the mood to enter into important negotiations. Disconcerting features are still to be found, and not the least is the political trouble in Egypt. Recent advices received from that outlet do not read at all cheerfully, and it will probably be some time before shippers to that outlet have courage to operate on extensive lines. As can be expected only a few minor transactions have taken place for that part of the world. There has been some irregularity in Egyptian spinning prices, but certain producers are stiffer in quotation than a few weeks ago. A moderate business has been done chiefly in special sorts. The best of the outlets has been India, and some encouraging sales have taken place in gray shirtings, dhooties and mulls for Calcutta, and some fair orders have been booked in bleaching and printing styles for Bombay. Rather more inquiry has been met with for China, and although there has been no general buying movement some fair lines have been booked in shirtings and sheetings. White goods have been wanted for Java and Singapore. Some encouraging transactions have taken place in printing descriptions and fancies for the republics of South America. In American yarns for home consumption prices have been firmer. Bundles have been in request for India.

The next International Fair at Prague will be held from March 12—19, 1922.

Ladies' Millinery containing silk trimmed or untrimmed with flowers or feathers is now subject on import into Roumania to a Customs tax of 150 lei per piece, instead of 50 lei as recently.

Telegrams from Bucharest state that the Northern Railway Station was partly burnt down last week. A large quantity of passengers' luggage was destroyed in the fire.

AMERICAN COTTON CROP ESTIMATES.

(By E. C. de Segundo, A.M. Inst. C.E.).

As long ago as October last serious doubts began to be cast upon the accuracy of the United States Department of Agriculture estimates of the current season's cotton crop. These doubts were found to be justified upon the publication of the November ginning returns. The "man in the street," thrown upon his own resources, had recourse to statistics, and worked out that if the November ginning returns represented the average proportion of the total crop over the past ten years, then the total crop should prove to be in the neighbourhood of 10,000,000 or 11,000,000 bales, against some 6,500,000 bales officially estimated on October 3. The doubts, uncertainties, rumours, unskilful use of statistics etc., were not without their effect upon the market price of cotton both here and in the United States, and some curious and interesting anomalies in the price of cotton in Manchester and in New York on the same day, were experienced. No doubt the movements in the exchange contributed at times to accentuate and at other times to lessen these price differences.

According to the *New York Times* of December 13 the Federal Board has published a detailed explanation of how the cotton crop came to be so much underestimated. The details will be read with interest by those who only take an academic interest in the vagaries of market movements in the prices of cotton, but those who for the purposes of their business are accustomed to place implicit reliance upon the correctness of the methods whereby the official estimates are arrived at by the Department of Agriculture, will read the explanations with— to say the least—mixed feelings.

The final estimate announced on December 12 by the Department of Agriculture is equivalent to 8,340,000 bales of 500 lb. gross. The forecast of the Department on October 3, 1921, was 6,537,000 bales. The final estimate is therefore some 1,800,000 bales higher than that published in the beginning of October. In announcing its final estimate the Department gives several reasons for this discrepancy. The chief factors contributing to the misconceptions formed by the Department as to the true state of affairs are :—

(a) The insufficiency of funds applicable to travelling expenses prevented the statisticians of the Bureau from personally inspecting and checking the acreage planted in their respective states in 1919, 1920, and the first half of 1921, so that the Crop Reporting Board were forced to accept growers' reports of acreage reductions. The reports of the statisticians who, since July 1, 1921, have been able to travel, indicate that the growers' reports on June 25, exaggerated the reduction in acreage planted. It also appears that while many growers did, in fact, reduce their acreage, others, carried away by the hope of higher prices for cotton which would inevitably follow what they conceived to be an unwarranted reduction in acreage, actually increased the acreage.

(b) The Department appears to have been the victim of circumstances as well as of men in regard to the estimate of the yield of cotton per acre. It was reported that the fertilizer sold to planters last planting time was only 66 per cent. of that used in 1920. This would normally indicate a lower yield per acre. For some reason or other, the effect upon the yield per acre was not so great as anticipated. Possibly the residue of fertilizers remaining in the soil from last year was either overlooked, or had a greater effect than usual.

It would appear that the ravages of the Mexican boll weevil and of other cotton pests did not prove to be as great as was expected. Weather conditions were reported to have been generally unfavourable over large sections of the cotton belt during the growing period, but after the last condition report as at September 25, the weather changed, and during picking time it is stated to have been exceptionally favourable. Incidentally this circumstance accounts for the fact that the proportion the quantity of cotton ginned in November bears to the total crop is much higher than usual.

The yield per acre for the United States is now estimated at 126 lb. On the basis of the October 3rd forecast, it would have been 118 lb.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

DANUBE NAVIGATION INTERRUPTED.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, December 19.

It has been snowing incessantly throughout the country for over a week. Few people remember such heavy snowfalls to have taken place before Christmas. In some parts of the country the snow is three metres deep. Many railway lines have been blocked for over a week, and, especially on the Constantza line, trains were caught en route and kept for days in some little station. Owing to the frost that followed and the low water-level of the rivers the Danube began to freeze. This has interrupted the river navigation completely, and as a result many towns situated on the Danube and especially at the mouth of the Danube are completely isolated from the rest of the country.

Owing to the interrupted telegraphic and telephonic communication, reports are only now coming through of the terrific gale which raged on the Black Sea for three days at the beginning of last week, causing considerable damage to vessels on the high sea and in the harbours of Constantza and Sulina.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

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

Anchor Line.—S.s. Massilia for Bombay (Liverpool January 16).

Anchor Brochlebank Line.—S.s. Maimyo for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (leaves London, January 7); s.s. Maihar for Calcutta (Birkenhead, January 11); s.s. Manaar for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, January 21); s.s. Malancha for Calcutta (Birkenhead, January 25); s.s. Malakuta for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, February 4); s.s. Mahratta for Calcutta (Birkenhead, February 8).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Sittang for Rangoon (Middlesborough, January 7); s.s. Oxfordshire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, January 13).

Byron Steamship Line.—S.s. General Napier for Patras, Piraeus, Constantinople, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila, also calling at Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Bourgas and Varna (Liverpool, January 10).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Tyria for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, and Batoum (Liverpool, January 7); s.s. Brescia for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina and Catania, (Liverpool, February 2).

Ellerman Line.—S.s. Estrellano for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina and Catania, (Liverpool, January 12); s.s. Cressado for Gibraltar, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas and Varna, (Liverpool, January 21).

Ellerman's City Line.—S.s. City of York for Calcutta (Birkenhead January 7); s.s. City of Cairo for Calcutta (Birkenhead, January 19); s.s. Trafford Hall for Bombay (Birkenhead, January 23).

Ellerman's Hall Line.—S.s. City of Auckland for Bombay, Karachi and the Punjab (Liverpool, January 11).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—Steamers sail fortnightly for Malta, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz, and Braila.

Glen Line.—S.s. Glenariffe for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, January 12); s.s. Glenogle for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, January 26); s.s. Glenapp for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, February 9).

Harrison Line.—S.s. Tactician for Calcutta (Liverpool, January 7); s.s. Intombi for Port Said, Port Sudan, Aden, Mombasa, etc. (Birkenhead January 19); s.s. Author for Calcutta (Liverpool, January 25).

Henderson Line.—S.s. Martaban for Port Said, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, January 11); s.s. Henzada, for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, January 25).

Holt Line.—S.s. Telemachus for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, January 5); s.s. Agapenor for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, January 5); s.s. Titan for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Swansea January 5); s.s. Ajax for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Swansea, January 5).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Wingate for Piraeus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Tulcea, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, January 17).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. Malatian for Tangier, Malta, and Alexandria (Liverpool, January 14); s.s. Gerano for Algiers, Malta, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, February 4).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Nore for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, January 13); s.s. Perim for Bombay (London, January 14); s.s. Morea for Bombay (London, January 20); s.s. Sardinia for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, January 27); s.s. Karmala for Bombay (London, January 27).

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. Nirvana for Bombay and Karachi (London, January 14); s.s. Tanfield for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, January 21); s.s. Mandala for Bombay and Karachi (London, January 27); s.s. Morvada for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, February 3).

The Bengal and North-Western Railway Company recommend final dividend of 4 per cent., together with bonus of 2 per cent., on Ordinary stock (making 11 per cent. per annum, same as last year), payable, less tax at 3s. 6d. about the middle of February.

AGENTS WANTED ABROAD.

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

113. Import and Export Merchant in Smyrna invites inquiries from British firms wishing to trade with this territory. Will act as agent or on commission basis.

114. Importer in Karachi (India) travelling throughout India, wishes to get in touch with merchants and manufacturers in England and elsewhere. General merchandise.

115. An import and export firm in Spalato, Yugoslavia, wishes to enter into business relations with British manufacturers, importers and exporters. Specialities:—Exports: Medicinal herbs dried fruits, hides, timber. Imports: Oils, food products, tarpaulins, mackintoshes, sacks.

116. Import Merchants in Adana, Cilicia, Asia Minor, wish to represent British firms for any kind of British-made goods. Own account and commission basis. Good references provided. Send catalogues and samples with prices and terms.

117. Importer in Roumania, interested in Jute trade, wishes to get in touch with firms dealing in sacks, new and old Dundee, and Calcutta makes.

121. Exporter of Greek Ores in Athens, especially of purest quality Magnesite and Chromite wishes to be connected with interested British Firms.

ANCHOR LINE

First-Class Passengers only.

LIVERPOOL TO BOMBAY.

KARACHI via Bombay calling at Gibraltar & Egypt

LARGE STEAMSHIPS. UPPER DECK CABINS.

FITTED WITH ELECTRIC FANS.

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PASSENGER SAILING DATES—

CASTALIA, JANUARY 6.

MASSILIA, JANUARY 20.

ELYSIA, FEBRUARY 10.

CIRCASSIA, MARCH 10.

OLYMPIA, MARCH 22.

Anchor Line (Henderson Brothers), Ltd.,
16, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.3.

Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Sugar.—Home refined has been in moderate request at unchanged rates. West Indian crystallized has been quiet at 39s. 6d. Czecho-Slovakian remains at 19s. 9d., while White Java is 6d. lower at 43s. 6d. Futures have been quiet and steady.

Coffee.—Prices have remained the same, Jamaica has come to business at 150s; Costa Rica at 140s.; Indian at 110s.; and Nairobi at 104s. Futures have shown a higher tendency. The quotations are:—March, 52s. 3d.; May, 52s. 9d.; July and September, 53s. 9d.

Oilseeds.—A very firm tone has been in evidence. Indian linseed has been in good demand at 17s. 3d., and La Plata has come to business at 16s. 6d. Rapeseed has improved with brown Cawnpore at 17s. 3d. and bold Ferozepore at 18s. Cotton seed has risen with Egyptian black at 12s. 9d. and Sakellandis at 12s. 3d. increases of 3d. in both cases, but Indian has shed 1½d. at 9s.

Seed Oils.—Unsteadiness has prevailed. Linseed oil at 28s. 6d. shows no change. Rape oil has been steady with the crude variety at 46s. but refined is 6d. down at 51s. Cotton oil has been steady and prices show no change. Refined remains at 45s., Egyptian crude at 37s., and deodorized at 50s. Turpentine has gained 9d. at 68s. 3d.

Oilcakes.—All prices are unchanged. Palm kernel is 160s., cottonseed remains at 36s. 6d., and Arachis cake at 44s. 6d.

ASIA MINOR FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended December 10:—

Sultanas.—The total estimated arrivals to date amount to 162,380 bags as against 89,140 bags for the corresponding period of last year. The total estimated sales are 152,380 bags, as compared with 82,140 bags, and the estimated stock unsold totals 10,000 bags as against 7,000 bags.

Shipments.—By s.s. Gourko for London and Hull 21,153 boxes sultanas, 25 cases figs, 106 boxes figs, and 8,954 bags figs; by s.s. Cressado for Liverpool, 24,469 boxes sultanas, five cases figs, 566 boxes figs, and 2,264 bags figs.

Markets.—Sales of sultanas during the week have been limited to 300 tons. Shippers would have operated more freely but dealers refuse to make any concessions in price and, in many cases, are not disposed to sell. Stocks now available for export are estimated at barely 4-4,500 tons, mostly medium grades. Inferior qualities and very choice grades are in limited supply. Exchanges are very weak at 740-5 and prospects point to a fall in rates.

THE LINSEED INDUSTRY IN YUGOSLAVIA.

(By Our Belgrade Correspondent.)

The total output of linseed in Yugoslavia amounts to about 200 truckloads a year, which is not sufficient for the country's requirements for seed and oil. The balance required is satisfied by imports from the Argentine and from India, and before the war a substantial amount came from Southern Russia. In Yugoslavia, the crop is sown more with a view to the fibre than to the seed, whereas in the Argentine and in India more attention is paid to the seed, with the result that a coarser fibre is produced.

There are several factories where the oil is pressed, namely at Veliki Bechkerek in the Voivodina, at Koprivnica in Croatia, and at Zagreb, Britovo, and Medvode in Slovenia. The capacity of the first is substantial, but it cannot get enough of the raw material. Under favourable conditions of price and quantity it is capable of turning out about a thousand truckloads of the oil per annum. The press at Koprivnica can produce 388,800 kilograms of the oil or 385,700 of varnish and 25 tons of putty. It depends upon local supply for its seed. The factory at Zagreb can handle a thousand tons, and also depends on local supplies for the raw material. The factory at Medvode is of the same capacity, and treats oils of flax, hemp, sunflower and pumpkins. That at Britovo is of the same capacity, but is working at half speed owing to a shortage of raw material. Besides these

factories, there is a small output by peasant proprietors for local consumption.

If these works were fully occupied, they could supply the country's requirements and leave a surplus for export, but they suffer from the competition of the Dutch presses worked by windmills. This is unfortunate, as the local material is of excellent quality and enjoys a well-deserved reputation.

As to lac, there is plenty of alcohol available in the country. Resins are worked at Porech at Vishegrad in Bosnia, as also turpentine, so only the finer qualities need be imported when these are properly at work. Asphalt and benzole are produced to a small extent in the country. It is hoped to increase and develop the output of resins to replace imported shellac so as to be able to manufacture locally such commodities as sealing-wax, colours, water-proofings, &c.

ROUMANIA'S AUTUMN WHEAT SOWING.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, December 19.

According to the latest reports received by the Ministry of Agriculture the autumn wheat sowings in the Old Kingdom and Bessarabia do not cover the scheduled areas. In Transylvania, however, the entire wheat areas have been sown. As a result of the large quantity of snow which has fallen recently, the outlook for the coming crop is so far promising.

* * *

The gold-mine owners of Transylvania have addressed a memorial to the Roumanian Government asking for permission to export a further quantity of gold. Otherwise they will be forced to close down, since the prices paid locally are unprofitable.

The Consulate General of Germany in Cairo has been provisionally installed at No. 22 Sharia Tera el Boulakia.

A PERMANENT INCOME OF £500 PER ANNUM

can be obtained, after the fifth year, from a five-acre orange orchard in South Africa. Few investments offer such excellent results with security of capital. The outlay involved is only £125 p.a. for five years, or cash £562 10s. od., and the following are a few brief features of the scheme:—

1. The actual results obtained by the South African Prudential Co. show even better figures than above.
2. The Directors are well-known public men in South Africa.
3. The investor is the actual freeholder of his five-acre orchard.
4. There is an unlimited market for all the oranges grown.
5. All management work can be undertaken for a small percentage of profit.
6. The scheme is available for both investors and intending settlers.

Experts state that nothing over five miles from a railway station is a good commercial proposition. No point on the Prudential estates is beyond 2½ miles from a railway station.

Oranges from the Estates have been exhibited at the Union Government Trades Commissioners' Department, Trafalgar Square, S.W., and at the Royal Agricultural Show, Derby, last June.

Full particulars, plans, etc., from Dept. 33.

SOUTH AFRICAN PRUDENTIAL LTD.,
79, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.4.

LEVANT MARKET REVIEW.

The following extracts are taken from the review of the National Bank of Turkey for November:—
Produce.

Flour.—The market is overloaded with stocks of United States flour, and weak holders are accepting any prices in order to realise and settle advances from banks. United States values are fully 5 per cent. and up to 10 per cent. higher than those accepted locally for spot goods. This state of affairs is likely to continue if more heavy cargoes continue to arrive. Bulgarian flour and wheat are competing very successfully with United States produce and have reduced the consumption of the latter by 25 per cent. The position in the flour trade is unhealthy and until weak speculators unload and the market absorbs a fair weight of the present stocks, a recovery in prices to their proper level cannot be expected.

Barley.—There is no change to report and generally speaking no business is being done on the market. Prices stand at about 8 piastres per oke. There is no demand from the United Kingdom for Roumanian barleys, but advices from the Continent indicate that there are hopes of a small demand from Antwerp.

Sugar.—The following arrivals were recorded during November:—Dutch, 1,300 tons; Czecho-Slovakia, 400 tons; American, 350 tons; making a total of 2,050 tons, of which 800 tons were crystallised and 1,250 tons cube.

Rice.—1,600 tons of rice arrived during the month from the following countries:—700 tons Saigon; 250 tons Rangoon; 200 tons Siam; and 450 tons America. About 800 tons were sent to the Black Sea ports. Stocks on hand are almost nil.

Coffee.—During November 5,000 sacks arrived from Rio via Rotterdam and Amsterdam per s.s. Deucalion; c.i.f. price for Rio was about 50s. per cwt. 2,000 sacks were sent to the interior through the Black Sea ports and also to Batoum. Stocks on hand are about 2,000 sacks.

Canary Seeds.—Stocks all over Thrace do not exceed 750 tons. The market is very quiet here and a nominal price of 13 piastres per oke f.o.b. Constantinople is quoted.

Hazel Nuts.—Arrivals from Black Sea ports to date amounted to about 100,000 bags of which more than 95,000 have been exported to the consuming centres. Stocks in the Black Sea ports and interior are estimated at 75,000 bags for export to end of July 1922. Prices asked to-day are 43 piastres per oke shelled and 22 piastres per oke unshelled f.o.b. Constantinople.

Textiles, Dry Goods, etc.

Gunnies.—During October Egyptian sellers began selling 2 lb. bags at 70s. per 100 bags, although Calcutta prices were quoted round 80s. Consequently heavy quantities were bought, the local market became flooded, and sales were not sufficient to reduce these heavy stocks. Meanwhile prices both in India and Egypt dropped considerably and at the moment importers are losing over 10s. per 100 bags. As the season for gunnies is practically over, it is feared that these losses may become greater.

Hessian Cloth.—Imports have been up to the average and reasonable profits were realised. Prices at the place of origin have slumped but importers will not incur any losses owing to the excellent demand on the market.

Opium.—About 140 cases arrived from Anatolia mostly via Adalia and 60 cases were sent to the United States and Germany. As exchange became more stabilised, sellers lowered their prices and early during the month average quality druggists sold about 870 piastres per oke. Better quality druggists were fetching 850-875 piastres. Business however has been quiet even at these low prices. Salonika and Smyrna report considerable sales. Stocks on hand are 770 cases.

Grey Sheetings.—Between the months of June and September huge quantities of this commodity were purchased in America for future delivery. During October and November further quantities arrived and importers are experiencing difficulty in finding buyers.

Mohair.—Total imports from Ineboli are estimated at 5-600 bales. 1,100 bales were sold, for export. The Bradford market reports a quiet tone with very little business passing in Turkey quantities. It is authoritatively reported that the Greeks are requisitioning all stocks of mohair and wool that they can find in the occupied areas. These stocks are being transported to Smyrna where they will probably be offered for sale sooner or later. Stocks on this market are about 6,000 bales.

CURRENT PRICES.

General Produce.—Bacon: (Continental), 125s. cwt.; (Canadian), 117s. 6d. cwt.; (American), 105s. cwt.; butter: (Danish), 175s. cwt.; (Australian), 119s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 113s. 6d. cwt.; cheese (Canadian), 101s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 91s. cwt.; lard, 73s. cwt.; eggs (Danish), 41s. per 120; (Styrian), 20s. 6d.; per 120; chillies, 162s. 6d. cwt.; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 6½d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 102s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 150s. cwt.; (East Indian), 130s. cwt.; (Central American), 117s. 6d. cwt.; (Jamaica), 67s. 6d. cwt.; (Mocha longberry), 113s. cwt.; (Santos, superior) 62s. 6d. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochin), 67s. 6d. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 11½d. lb.; pepper (Singapore black), 3½d. lb.; (Muntok, white), 7½d. lb.; pimento 2½d. lb.; raisins (Valencias), 135s. 6d. cwt.; sultanas (Smyrna), 126s. 6d. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 80s. cwt.; currants (Amalias), 58s. cwt.; sugar: (Tate's cubes), 52s. 6d. cwt.; (Lyle's granulated), 47s. 4½d. cwt.; (Mauritius crystals), 42s. 9d. cwt.; (West Indian crystallized), 38s. 9d. cwt.; (centrifugal), 12s. 6d. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 1½d. lb.; rice (Rangoon, No. 2), 15s. 6d. cwt.; (bran, Rangoon), £5 15s. ton; cinnamon (firsts), 1s. ½d. lb.; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 3½d. lb.; tea: Indian (common to good common), 1s. 1½d. lb.; (medium to good) 1s. 7d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 9d. lb.; Ceylon (common to good common), 1s. 1½d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 8d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 9d. lb.; Java (common to good common), 8½d. lb.; wheat (English white), 46s. qr.; (Australian), 53s. 3d. qr.; barley (malting), 50s. qr.; barley (feeding), 39s. qr.; oats (English), 33s. qr.; oats (La Plata ex-ship), 25s. 1½d. qr.; maize (La Plata), 33s. 3d. qr.; flour, 42s. sack.

Metals.—Aluminium, £122 10s. ton; antimony (English Regulus), £35 ton; bismuth, 7s. 6d. lb.; copper (standard), £65 6s. 3d. ton; copper (electro), £75 ton; gold bars, 98s. 1d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 110s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 101s. 3d. ton; galvanized sheets (24 G), £17 5s. ton; lead (soft foreign), £24 18s. 6d. ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 1½d. unit; molybdenite, 33s. 9d. unit; nickel, £190 ton; platinum, 266s. 3d. oz.; plumbago, £20 ton; quicksilver, £10 7s. 6d. bottle; silver bars, 34½d. oz.; spelter (G.O.B.), £27 7s. 6d. ton; tin (standard), £171 2s. 6d. ton; wolfram, 11s. 6d. unit; zinc sheets, £34 10s. tin plates (20 by 14), 20s. 7½d. box.

Chemicals.—Acids: Boric, 66s. cwt.; oxalic, 8½d. lb.; citric, 2s. 2½d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 4½d.; ammonia (sulphate), £15 1s. 6d. ton; arsenic (white powdered), £40 10s. ton; benzole (standard) 2s. 5½d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £15 5s. ton; borax crystals, 31s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 121s. 3d. cwt.; Potassium: Bichromate, 8d. lb.; chlorate, 6d. lb.; caustic, £33 ton; nitrate, £42 10s. ton; permanganate, 11d. lb.; prussiate, yellow, 1s. 1½d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £15 5s. ton; Sodium: Crystals 140s. ton; bi-carbonate, £11 5s. ton; bi-chromate, 6½d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £9 3s. 3d. ton; chlorate, 3½d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £24 5s. ton; hyposulphite, £15 10s. ton; prussiate, 8½d. lb.; nitrate, £14 8s. 9d. ton; glycerine (crude, 80 per cent.), £80 ton; glycerine (industrial, 1260 per cent.), £110 ton; lemon oil, 2s. 11d. lb.; quinine, 3s. ½d. oz.; red lead, £39 5s. ton; white lead, £42 5s. ton; white ground lead, £51 15s. ton; sulphate of copper, £28 15s. ton; sulphate of iron 75s. ton.

Miscellaneous.—Cotton: (American), 10.21d. lb.; (Egyptian Sakel), 20.40d. lb.; Oilseeds: Linseed (La Plata), £16 15s. ton; rape (Toria), £18 2s. 6d. ton; palm kernels, £18 8s. 9d. ton; Oils: Linseed, £28 7s. 6d. ton; olive (Levant), £78 ton; palm, £37 17s. 6d. ton; rape (crude), £45 10s. ton; soya, £34 5s. ton; petroleum, 1s. 4½d. gallon; petrol, 2s. 1d. gallon; fuel oil (ex-tank), £3 15s. ton; coconut (Ceylon), £42 15s. ton; cotton (crude), £37 5s. ton; ground nut, £45 10s. lb.; Rubber: Plantation (No. 1 crepe), 11d. lb.; smoked sheet, 11d. lb.; fine hard Para, 1s. 2d. lb.

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**BOURNVILLE
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MADE UNDER IDEAL CONDITIONS

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SPECIALLY PACKED FOR EXPORT.

Company Notes and Reports.

ALGERIAN OILFIELDS.

The report of the Algerian Oilfields for the year to September 30, 1921, states that the output of Société Algérienne des Pétroles de Tliouanet, in which the Algerian company is largely interested, was 455,030 kilos. The concession referred to in last report was signed on March 9, so that the Tliouanet company is at last in a position to carry on development and add to a number of its producing wells. For this purpose the Tliouanet company has decided upon an issue of three million francs further capital. The Algerian Oilfields has a right to participate to the extent of 29 per cent. The remainder has been guaranteed by the Companies de Blanz. The issue will be made in January, 1922, and the Algerian Oilfields will take up its proportion. Trinidad Esmeralda Estate, in which Algerian Oilfields holds upwards of 50 per cent. of capital, continued its operations during the year. In October, 1920, a further property known as El Rosario, consisting of 491 acres, leasehold, was acquired. A geological survey has been made of this estate which establishes that it is the continuation of Mayaro Anticline, on which high grade oil has been struck at a shallow depth by another company operating on the Western half of the fold. No drilling has yet been done by the Trinidad Esmeralda Estate on this estate. Two wells have now been sunk on the Esmeralda Estate; in No. 1 several oil-sands were penetrated at the shallow depth which gave a small production of very high grade oil. No. 2 well was drilled to 1,800 feet, and passed through two oil-sands belonging to deeper series at 1,370 feet, and 1,800 feet respectively. Casing was set at the latter depth and testing of well started. Unfortunately soon afterwards two strings of casing collapsed at 815 feet, completely closing the hole below. A distinct slight earthquake took place at the time, and it is probable that the collapse may be attributed to this occurrence. For the present it has been decided to stop drilling until such time as conditions improve, when other wells will be put down to further prove the oil bearing capacity of the estate.

SPIES PETROLEUM.

The report of the Spies Petroleum Company states that no direct communication has been received respecting the company's properties in Grozny, which remain under the control of the Russian Soviet Government. Information received from representatives of the Grozny oil companies who have recently returned is to the effect that the company's properties are in working order and the electric power station has suffered no damage and is in operation. The managing director, together with the oilfields superintendent, visited Trinidad early in the present year, and after prolonged investigation several properties were acquired upon the advice of Messrs. A. Beeby Thompson and Partners. The care with which these properties were selected and favourable geological reports received justify the directors in the belief that they will prove of high value. It is the intention of the Board as soon as conditions permit to form a new company for working these properties and to offer shareholders the right to apply for shares when an issue is made.

EGYPTIAN SALT AND SODA.

A dividend of 22½ per cent. has been declared for the year ended August 31, 1921 (less income-tax), which will be paid to the ordinary shareholders whose names are on the register of the company on January 3, 1922. Interest coupon No. 23 on the company's bearer warrants for ordinary shares will be paid of and after January 3 at the National Bank of Egypt, 6 and 7, King William-street, E.C., and the same bank's branches in Cairo and Alexandria.

THE GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information, compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens, with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to September 30, 1921 (new style January 14 to October 13, 1921).

	Monopolies, tobacco stamps, stamped paper, Naxos emery.	Piræus Customs.
Gross receipts. Sept. 1921	Drachmae. 8,674,662	Drachmae. 4,829,214
Do. do. do. 1920	6,083,064	5,000,378
Estimated receipts for 9 months (Law of Control)	24,083,333	8,916,666
Actual receipts for 9 months, 1921	51,232,886	57,114,468
Actual receipts for 9 months, 1920	54,522,277	48,153,427
Difference between esti- 1921 mated and actual re- ceipts for 9 months 1920	37,738,552 30,738,943	48,197,801 39,236,760

Note.—Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and Naxos emery, 49 1-5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund on the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893.

The products of the sales of Naxos emery have been paid in paper drachmae since August, 1920. In the case of the Piræus Customs, the receipts in gold are included in the above statement at par.

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

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

Prices on December 23 were as follows:—Agricultural Bank of Egypt £4.5-16; Alexandria Water Co., Ltd., £6.7-8; Anglo-American Nile Steam, £2½; Associated Cotton Ginner, £15-16; Banque d'Orient, Fr. 56½x; Behera Ord., £E8½; Brasseries d'Egypte, Fr. 50; Building Lands of Egypt, £27-32; Cassi di Sconto Priv., Fr. 24; Ciments d'Egypte Priv., Fr. 50; Ciments d'Egypte Div., Fr. 24; Comptoir Fin. et Com. d'Egypte, £1; Consolidated Lands, Pt., 5; Credit Foncier Fondateur, Fr. 910; Credit Foncier Act, Fr. 655; Credit Foncier, 1886 Oblig., Fr. 321; Crown Brewery Priv., Fr. 114; Crown Brewery Div., Fr. 130; Eaux du Caire, Capital, Fr. 80; Eaux du Caire Jouissance, Fr. 102; Egypt and Levant, S.S. Ord., 26s. 1½d; Egyptian Delta Light Railways, £3. 11-16; Filature National d'Egypte, £12½; Immeubles d'Egypte Soc an des., £3. 11-16; Khedivial Mail S. S. Ord., 110s.; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co., Pref. £2½; Kom Ombo Ste An de Wadi, £4. 11-32; Kom Ombo Ste An Fondateur £34 ex.; Land Bank of Egypt, Parts de Fond £38; Lots Turcs Fr. 28; Menzaleh Canal Navigation Pt., 225; Nungovich Hotels, £6. 3-8; Ramleh Railways, £2. 5-8; Salt and Soda, 34s. 4½d.; Tram d'Alexandrie Priv., Fr. 37; Tram d'Alexandrie Div., Fr. 52; Union Fonciere d'Egypte, £2. 19-32; Egypt Hotels, £2. 3-32; Urbaines et Rurales, £2. 15-16.

The Moreton Bay, the first of the new fleet of Australian Government-owned steamers providing a fast service between England and Australia, arrived at Port Said (non-stop from Tilbury), 12 hours ahead of scheduled time.

The Christmas mail for transmission by air from Cairo to Baghdad which was despatched from London on Thursday, December 15, last consisted of 836 letters.

The secretary of the Czecho-Slovak Industrial Federation states that the production of the machine and metal industry is about a third of peace time production, of the chemicals industry 45 per cent., and of the glass industry 70 per cent. Only three blast furnaces are working.

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CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S INDUSTRIAL POSITION.

Referring recently to the present position of Czechoslovak industries, M. Bondy, the vice-president of the Prague Chamber of Commerce, said that the engineering industry is making good progress, the engine works in particular being well booked with orders for abroad, while the waggon factories are working on repairs for Roumania and Yugoslavia. In addition, considerable orders are expected from local railways. The textile industry in most of its branches is also well employed, working, to a certain extent, on contracts for foreign firms. The worst position as regards export is occupied by the beer-brewing industry, owing to the imposition of a heavy import tax on Bohemian "Pilsener" beer by Germany and Austria, where this beer is scheduled as a luxury article. The China industry has enough orders to keep all the works fully employed for a considerable time to come. The situation in the window and mirror glass industry has also improved, but employment in the hollow glass industry, especially in that situated round Bor (Haida) and Jablonec (Gablonz) remains unsatisfactory. The iron industry recently carried out several large orders for abroad, and it is estimated that for 1921 it will have a favourable balance of about one milliard Czechoslovak crowns.

OFFICE EQUIPMENT IN EGYPT.

It is rather an extraordinary fact (says the *Journal* of the British Chamber of Commerce in Egypt) that in Egypt with such a number of cosmopolitan business men who are in general smart in their methods—some of them rather too much so, in fact—there are few offices able to boast of systems and equipment embodying the latest ideas. There is the *laissez faire* attitude in some, conservatism in others, again a reluctance to force new and apparently complicated devices on an obviously unwilling staff, particularly in the case of large establishments. The net result is that what has been found of the greatest utility in the great commercial countries, is neglected in this. Card index systems are fairly widely used for recording prices of goods received, but seldom for other purposes. Tabulating machines merely on their looks are declared by the office staffs to be complicated, and the necessary fifteen minutes' trial to prove their use is therefore not undertaken despite the fact that incalculable time can be saved thereby. Similar instances can be multiplied indefinitely. It is interesting to note the attention given at home to the problem of lighting offices and workshops, and the results arrived at by the making of graphs showing the increase of work under improved conditions. The latter study is of course largely a psychological one, involving consideration of a man's natural dislike to monotony, and his reaction to brighter conditions, and is beyond the scope of this article. Any reader in Egypt can call to mind, however, cases of unsuitable offices,—largely owing, it must be admitted, to the lack of adequate accommodation elsewhere,—which could be improved by suitable painting and better lighting. It seems curious that there does not seem to be a more general use of exterior glass reflectors of light which would much improve many offices located in narrow streets.

SOCIETE ANONYME du BEHERA.

Notice is hereby given that Coupon No. 55 of the Société Anonyme du Béhéra obligations will be paid on and after January 1, 1922, at the offices of the National Bank of Egypt, Alexandria, Cairo and London (6 and 7, King William Street, E.C.4).

SOCIETE ANONYME du BEHERA.

Notice is hereby given that Coupon No. 34 of the Preference Shares of the Société du Béhéra will be paid on and after January 1, 1922, at the offices of the National Bank of Egypt, Alexandria, Cairo, and London (6 and 7, King William Street, E.C.4).

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PROSPECTS FOR THE NEW YEAR.

The Greek Loan.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Friday.

There has naturally been very little activity in the brief interval since the re-opening of the Exchange after Christmas, and it will probably be some days before things are really moving. Despite the lack of business, however, a steady tone has been maintained throughout the markets, and as usual during the past few months gilt-edged have been a firm spot. A year ago the prospects were anything but encouraging, but to-day the outlook is much brighter, and it is possible to anticipate a considerable increase of business in the coming months and more cheerful markets generally. A further reduction of the Bank Rate is to be looked for, with the result that the gilt-edged market should continue to exhibit a buoyant tendency. It is not difficult to foresee a coming rise in oils. This industry is the only one that is really prosperous at the present time, and it will be surprising if its prospects fail to attract the investor to an increasing extent. In other directions the outlook is not so clear. A revival in Industrials is dependent on the course of trade, while the Rubber Industry is not yet through its period of depression.

Coming Issues.

The number of new issues in 1921 was far below the level reached in the previous year, and a noticeable feature during the latter half of the year was the number of Colonial loans. There are probably more to come, while there are a number of oil and other issues due in the near future. I referred the last time I wrote to the possibility of some Balkan loans being floated, and it is worth noting that negotiations are now in progress for a Greek loan of £15,000,000. The loan is dealt with elsewhere, and I will, therefore, confine myself to remarking that the stipulation that the money is to be expended in this country, if it is maintained, will be a very welcome step. It would not be an innovation for a recent loan was raised on that understanding, but before the war anything of the kind would have been undreamt of, though our chief commercial rivals always made a point of it. However we have evidently grown wiser since the war, and it may be hoped that henceforward whenever British investors are invited to support external loans it will be with the knowledge that at any rate a large part of the money will be spent in this country.

Turning to the markets, gilt-edged, as I have pointed out have been a feature of the week. Consols are 50, 1-8, War Loan Fives are 92, 3-8, Fundings are 76½, while the Conversion Loan stands at 69, 5-16. The India 7 per cent. issue is 104½.

In the foreign markets French stocks were favourably affected by the improvement in the exchange, and War Loan Fives are 41½. German 3 per cents. have been steady round about 3, 3-16. Italian securities have been dull as a result of the position of the Banco Italiano di Sconto, Rentes being 22. The announcement of a pending Greek loan had a marked effect on Greek securities which have made a notable recovery, gains of from one to two points being recorded all along the line. Monopolies are 32½. Fundings are 33, and the 1914 5 per cent. are 38. Japanese securities have been on the dull side, while Chinese are about the same.

Industrials Quiet.

A very quiet tone has ruled in the Industrial group. Business has been on the smallest possible scale, and alterations of prices are insignificant. Still the undertone has been decidedly good, and it would not need an expert in psychology to detect the confident atmosphere that rules in this market. Great hopes are being based on developments in 1922, and if expectations are fulfilled prices at the end of the year will make a very different showing from what they do at the present time. Iron and Steel shares have made a firm showing. Armstrongs are 15s., Dorman Longs are 15s., while Vickers are 9s., and Guest Keens are 29s. 6d. Textiles have been quiet but steady, with Courtaulds 37s. 3d. Shipping securities have a harder appearance with

P. and O. Deferred at 30s, Cunards at 18s. 3d., and Furness Withys at 25s.

Oils Featureless.

There has been little doing in the Oil market during the week. Speaking generally, prices in this section by no means represent the actual position, and once public interest reawakens in Oils the market should go ahead. Burmahs are 8, 1-8, while Mexican Eagles which have been exceptionally firm are 3, 7-8. Among Egyptians Anglo-Egyptian B are 1½, while Oilfields of Egypt are 7-32. In the Roumanian group Roumanian Consolidated are 8s, Phoenix are 8s. 9d., at which they look a promising purchase in view of the hopeful survey of the company's position at the general meeting, Dacia Romanos are 11-16, and Steaua Romanas are 11s. 3d.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting	Parity of Exchange	Latest. Quotations.
Alexandria ..	Piastres to £....	97½	97½
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	98-99
Belgrade	Dinars to £.....	25.22½	275-285
Berlin	Marks to £.....	20.43	765-770
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3.15.16-1.4.1.16
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3.15.16-1.4.1.16
Brussels.....	Francs to £.....	25.22½	54.50-54.55
*Bucharest ..	Lei to £.....	25.22½	—
Constantinople	Piastres to £.....	110	705-735
New York....	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.21-4.21½
Paris	Francs to £.....	25.22½	51.70-51.75
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	275-285
Rome	Lire to £.....	25.22½	96½-96½
Sofia	Leva to £.....	25.22½	590-610
Teheran	Krans to £.....	50	51
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	10,500-11,500
Warsaw	Marks to £.....	20.43	11,500-12,500

* No Quotations.

In some cases quotations are nominal.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

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TENDERS INVITED.

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

(Particulars of tenders marked (D.O.T.) are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street S.W.1.)

Egypt.

Cocoa Fibre.—The Inspector-General, Prison Department, 43 Sharia El Bostan, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 3,750 okes of cocoa fibre, unplaited. January 15.

Fire Pumps.—The Director-General, State Domains, Administration, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of three hand fire pumps. January 16.

Wood.—The Director of Stores, Frontier Districts Administration, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of timber to specifications kept at the Administration's Stores, Arsenal, Alexandria, as follows:— 28 pieces of Canadian elm (20ft. and up by 12in. by 12in.); 40 pieces of English elm (20ft. and up by 12in. by 12 in.); 788 pieces of pitchpine (20 ft. and up by 12 in. by 12in.); 788 pieces of pitchpine (20ft. and up by 12in. by 12in.); 78 pieces of teak (20ft. and up by 12in. by 12in.); 20 pieces of beech (12ft. by 4in. by 4in.); 15 pieces of beech (17ft. by 6in. by 6in.); 600 pieces of deal boards of various dimensions. Representation by an agent resident in Egypt is essential. January 18. (D.O.T.).

Timber.—The Department of Technical Education, 14, Sharia Abdine, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of timber required for the Model Workshops, Bulaq. Specifications, lists of timber required, etc., can be obtained at the Model Workshops, Bulaq, Cairo. January 18.

Sundries.—The Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of (1) proprietary articles; (2) sundries (includes bottles, demijohns, droppers, and baths for eyes, ointments, pots, etc., etc.); (3) dressings; (4) crude drugs and heavy chemicals; (5) fine chemicals; (6) galenicals and packed articles. Representation by an agent resident in Egypt is essential. January 20 (D.O.T.).

Drugs.—The Director of Stores, Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of drugs required for the period of six months from April 1, 1922. January 20.

General Stores.—The Director of Stores, F.D.A., Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of consumable general stores such as ropes, nails, locks, leather, soap, brushes, etc. January 21.

Bulgaria.

Telephone Instruments.—The Bulgarian Department of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones invites tenders for the supply of 2,000 telephone instruments for table use, with local battery and magneto. Also for spare parts for these instruments. Tenders to be presented at the District Office of Finance, Sofia by February 20. (D.O.T.).

Porcelain Insulators.—The Bulgarian Department of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones, invites tenders for the supply of 100,000 porcelain insulators. Tenders to be presented at the District Office of Finance, Sofia by January 25. (D.O.T.).

Telephone Accessories.—The Bulgarian Department of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones invites tenders for the supply of the following parts for telephone exchanges, viz.:—Subscribers' line indicators, 2,200; indicators, end of conversation, 600; jacks, 2,500; plugs, 1,500; connecting pieces, 2,000; connecting pieces, switchboard, 20,000. A deposit of 5 per cent. of the total amount of tender is called for by way of guarantee. Local representation is essential. Tenders to be presented at the District Office of Finance, Sofia, by January 30. (D.O.T.).

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated December 23:—Season.—December 19 to 22—widespread rainfall in North-West Frontier and north and south-west of Punjab. Condition of crops.—December 22—Punjab prospects unchanged. Rain in the north and to the west of Lahore should greatly benefit wheat crops. In Central Provinces, sesamum very good; gram and linseed good; wheat on lighter soils requires rain badly. Markets.—Cotton.—December 17—Bombay cotton market steady. Fine M.G. Oomras Rs. 415 December-January; Rs. 408 March. Jute.—December 22—Calcutta jute market quiet. Firsts Rs. 55, Lightings Rs. 45. Gunnies quiet but steady. Tea.—At tea sale on December 20, Dooars, Assams and Darjeelings were excellent, Cachars and Sylhets good, and little change in prices. Common stalky teas were half anna lower, and good dusts 3 pies dearer. 454,811 packages were sold to date at an average price of 9 annas 9 pies per lb. Sellers' ideas were higher than those of buyers, and an appreciable amount of common tea was withdrawn from sale. Gap in price between commons and higher grades tending to widen again. Shellac.—December 20—Demand quiet and confined mostly to spot parcels. T.N. Rs. 155 spot. Rs. 140. January. Registration of New Companies.—Authorised capital of new companies registered in November 1921 Rs. 246 lakhs, against Rs. 1,117 lakhs in November 1920. No change in Bank Rates.

CAUCASUS OIL CONCESSIONS.

Reuter's Paris correspondent in a message dated December 24, states:—A Russian newspaper published in Paris announced that Mr. Krassin, through the intermediary of a group of capitalists owning petroleum wells in the Caucasus, has had interviews with the officials of the Quai d'Orsay regarding the question of concluding a treaty of commerce, that these negotiations had entered upon an active phase, and that at the request of a representative of the Soviets an official communication would soon be made on the subject.

It is announced here that no official of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs has had any conversations which could possibly relate to an affair of this kind, and no one has been approached in any manner on the subject by a delegate of the Soviet Government. The report in question is accordingly declared to be an entire invention and in absolute opposition to the policy followed by the French Government.

Numbers of Roumanian cattle and sheep are being exported to Constantinople, Greece, and Smyrna.

Although this year's beet crop in Roumania was abundant, large consignments of beet sugar are arriving from Czechoslovakia for marketing at prices not exceeding 14 Lei per kg.

Alcohol imported into Greece for heating and lighting purposes can be denatured only upon approval of the Ministry of Finance. It is exempt from all taxes, including port dues and municipal taxes, as well as import duties.

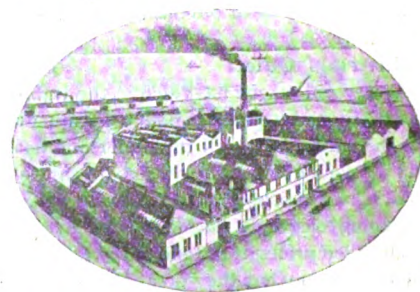
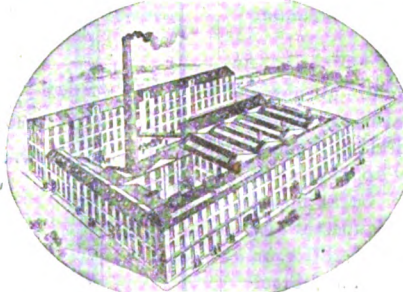
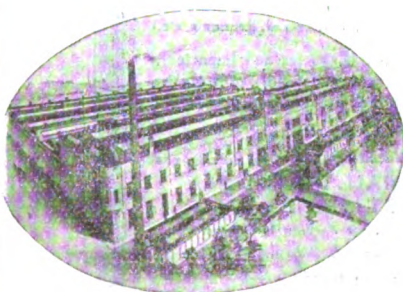
The Roumanian Government has decided to propose, in accordance with a plan which will be communicated later to holders, the settlement of Treasury bonds issued in foreign denominations and held by the public in various countries. Holders of such bonds are requested to communicate forthwith all particulars concerning the same on forms to be obtained at the Bank of Roumania, 17, Tokenhouse-yard, E.C.2.

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No. 557—Vol XXI.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 1922.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

An Interesting Rumour.

"Hymeneal rumours," wrote George Meredith, might be backed to run a race with the tale of evil fortune," and it is not to be denied that rumours of the kind referred to have been finding their way from South-Eastern Europe in large numbers of late. With so many young Royalties available in that region, this was not surprising. The marriages of the Crown Prince of Roumania and the Diadoch of Greece have removed two pairs of 'eligibles;' but there remain others, prominent among them King Alexander of Yugoslavia and King Boris of Bulgaria. Rumours regarding the matrimonial intentions of the former have been particularly numerous, and it may be that the latest of them has no more solid foundation in fact than its predecessors, but it is certainly more interesting. The Belgrade Press lately announced that King Alexander was to spend Christmas (Old Style) as the guest of the King and Queen of Roumania at Sinaia; and added the hope that the visit would be followed by his betrothal to Princess Marie. Indeed, one London daily has already stated that such a betrothal has been officially announced in Belgrade. We shall await confirmation from other sources before tendering our congratulations; but such a match would obviously contribute towards the peace of the Balkans.

Nationality and Civilization.

Throughout the thinking world to-day, from the reactionary pole of thought to the revolutionary, there is a recognition of the possible lapse of civilization as we know it. The cry that the Allies' victory in the Great War saved civilization is no longer often heard, but rather that, as Viscount Milner recently said in his address to the Classical Association, "the roots of European civilization are in danger." From that school of religious thought which laments the danger, and believes it can be averted only by an universal return of Europe to the Catholic Faith, to the school of the Scythians in Russia, which welcomes it, passionately believing that their country has a cosmical mission, comes this warning, and it applies with peculiar force to the future of those lands with which we are accustomed to deal in these columns. The old idea that material progress was sufficient to secure the stability of Europe,

and, through her, of the rest of the world, is now untenable; the dogma that the economic interdependence of countries was a guarantee against war (and consequent disruption) was shattered by the last great upheaval; and yet, on almost every side of Eastern Europe and of Western Asia we find bitter, unavailing, national rivalries, and this in the face of the acknowledged awakening of the East, and particularly of Islam. To this disastrous haggling there must be an end; it must cease, or we shall disintegrate into anarchy. But how to end it? How can we re-assert the basic unity of Europe, and at the same time come to an understanding with Islam?

Aids to a Solution.

Viscount Milner stated the problem with the frankest clarity, but for a solution he had to rely on a generalisation: "moral approximation and moral approximation alone can control the elemental passions that engender antagonism between race and race." In his sketch of the factors tending to produce this moral approximation he mentioned specifically only two—Christianity and Greco-Roman culture. Now upon the respective prospects of these two things individual opinions differ; but no serious thinker, so far as we are aware, anticipates their domination over or spread through the inchoate masses of Russia and of Islam—at any rate in time to ward off a possible catastrophe. Russia appears ready to take up what we seem, temporarily at least, to have thrown down—the conception of the "white man's burden"—and to take it up in a sense which may be as pleasing to the East as was ours; and Islam, no longer regarding the West as one, but as a congeries of self-cancelling units, is awake as it has not been for upwards of a thousand years. Russia may return to the comity of struggling European nations, or it may pursue a mystic path of its own; but the condition of an Islam quiescent under European rule is gone, probably for ever, and from Morocco to Mesopotamia the Arabs are testing the power of the West. We must, therefore, try to pierce and to appreciate the ultimate designs of Russia; and we must comprehend and gauge this surgent impulse of Islam. In connection with this endeavour we note with satisfaction a suggestion made last week by Professor Toynbee at the annual meeting of the Historical Association, in a paper entitled "Western Travellers as Sources of Levantine History." He pleaded for collaboration in a systematic study of the records of travellers in the East, so that some definite

and exhaustive historical results might be obtained. This is an excellent scheme, not the least advantage in the execution of which would be the prevention of some of the countless mistakes made by the politicians of the West.

A Transcaucasian Federation.

The Transcaucasian republics of Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan have entered into a federation, to which Ajaria (or Ajaristan) is also understood to have adhered. What policy the Federation will follow, what force it can command, even what are the terms of agreement between its members are all unknown at present; but it is only natural to infer that the change is the result of dissatisfaction with the existing state of things, and, therefore, anti-Bolshevist in character. If that be so in fact, it is a matter for congratulation to other countries besides those immediately affected. It is to be feared, however, that Moscow, which has stamped its mark so brutally on the three republics, will not suffer the spirit of freedom to return to them and their small companion any more willingly than she has permitted its existence elsewhere. If the Federation is to achieve any real liberty, it will have to fight sooner or later. Whether the present is a suitable time to make the effort, or whether it will be wiser to wait, only the men on the spot can judge. And what the outside world will be most anxious to learn is whether those who have directed the new movement actually desire to shake off again the northern fetters. The announcement that a conference is being held—or has just been held—at Tiflis to discuss economic and commercial relations between Angora and the Caucasian States should not be overlooked.

Difficulties for Daghestan.

At the time of writing the above note the attitude of Daghestan towards the new Transcaucasian Federation was not quite clear. A Constantinople message, since received, passes on a report that the Moscow Soviet had refused to recognize the independence of the little State, and that hostilities had broken out as a result. That tells its own tale, and unless Daghestan can get help of a substantial kind from its southern neighbours—a most unlikely contingency—the outlook for the Moslem State is far from encouraging. Another message, also received quite lately, states that three divisions of the Sovietist Army were recently assembled in the district of Batoum, that military trains were moving through Azerbaijan towards Tiflis, and that a (Bolshevist) concentration was taking place along the Turkish frontier. The conference at Tiflis, mentioned above, must have found plenty of urgent topics for discussion.

The Future of Palestine.

The *Morning Post* published last week a most interesting communication from a correspondent regarding the future of Palestine. Important decisions, we are told, may be announced shortly; and if the forecast given is approximately correct, the importance of the decisions will certainly not be questioned. In the first place: "It is understood that the British Government, on consideration, recognizes that the Zionist interpretation of the Balfour Declaration cannot possibly be enforced without the gravest injustice to the people of Palestine, without a repudiation of our solemn promises to these people," and "It may be taken for certain that there will be definite repudiation of the claims which the Zionists have sought to read into the Balfour Declaration (that Palestine is to be made Jewish in the same sense

that England is English)." Finally: "The Balfour Declaration will be defined," and the Jews will have to "stand on an equality with the other inhabitants of the country." The value of the first and second announcements depends entirely upon the "definition" given to the famous Balfour Declaration; but regarding the advisability of having an official definition of the kind indicated there can be no two opinions. Such a definition will probably be welcomed by the Jews almost as heartily as by the Moslems and Christians, since it should go far towards putting an end to a situation which is obviously highly unsatisfactory, and in which nobody seems to know where he stands. But it still remains to be seen whether the *Post's* correspondent is a true prophet.

The Sudan Raid.

The Nyala raiders and their supporters must be feeling rather sorry for themselves just now. The leader of the original attack paid the full price of his temerity a couple of months ago; and now a Reuter message from Cairo announces that one Mohammed et Tor on whom his mantle appears to have fallen, has died from wounds received in fighting, while two other leaders are in custody. Whether these losses are due to the small punitive force which left Nyala on November 22 is not stated, but presumably that is the case. The column is reported to have occupied Gereida without opposition, and to have made large captures of stock from the disaffected Masalat tribes. Finally, it is announced that the fines which are being imposed are being rapidly paid up. All this is highly satisfactory, and it looks as if the Sudan has again given proof that it has no need of instruction in the handling of such little affairs. The Masalat and their friends must surely wish that the Egyptians' hopes may be fulfilled.

A Sidelight on Persia.

A depressing picture of the Caucasus under Bolshevist rule is given in some extracts from a letter sent thence recently, and published in the *Morning Post*. The process of spoliation and plundering has gone on as thoroughly here as elsewhere, even the electric tramcars having been shipped off to Moscow, labelled "a gift from the Georgian people"; and many places being on the verge of starvation. In marked contrast with this, the writer declares that: "Conditions are good in Persia; pre-war scale of living, splendid crops, and no Bolshevism." In these days, when disinterested information regarding Persia is so hard to come by, even this scrap is something to be thankful for. But the picture presented by it is rather astonishing. "No Bolshevism?" We are glad to believe that the Persians, like other Moslem peoples, are unlikely to take kindly to the Russian plague; but "who sups with the Devil must have a long spoon," and Teheran has certainly given us all the impression that it is on excellent terms with Moscow. Has not the Mejliss quite recently ratified the Russo-Persian agreement signed last February? And is not the Moscow representative the most powerful person (in fact) in Teheran to-day? Sir Percy Loraine, the new British Minister, has lately arrived there. It will be interesting to note whether his arrival is followed by any amelioration in relations between Persia and Great Britain.

Teheran and the Kurds.

The Persian Legation announces that "According to information received from the Foreign Office in Teheran" there is no foundation for the report that an autonomous Kurdish Government has been set up in the Tabriz

district. The *communiqué* also declares that the Government forces at Suj Bulak, having been reinforced by 3,000 Persian Cossacks, had inflicted a defeat on the rebel Kurds, and that the Kurdish leader, Sardar Arshad and three of his principal supporters had been killed. If all these reports are confirmed, the Persian Government is indeed to be congratulated; but in confused conditions such as those existing in the Urumiah district to-day reports are apt to need revision; and it will not be altogether astonishing if the Kurds prove capable of giving considerable trouble to Teheran for some time to come.

The Week in India.

The past week has brought news of no important developments in India. The Moplah rebellion may fairly be described as an event of 1921, though a few leaders may still remain at large: the rest of the country has been quiet; and the only item calling for notice is the report that an attempt is being made to get together an unofficial political conference, which its promoters hope may succeed in putting an end to the present discontents. Whether such a result may be expected depends on question of representation, on which we are as yet imperfectly informed; but the history of the word "conference" in India is not very encouraging. It has been used so often for gatherings of a few busybodies, who claim to speak in the name of India, or even of humanity at large, that it now suggests the ideas usually associated with Tooley Street, and for that sort of conference India has no use at present. Real benefit might on the other hand result from a meeting of a few men of keen intellect, and sufficiently wide apart to cross-examine each other with effect. There are quite a number of bubbles, and of blisters, to be pricked, and the operation is most effective when it is conducted on mutual lines, but we scarcely expect a conference of that type to emerge from the recent *pourparlers*.

New Ideas in Indian Universities.

Sir Harcourt Butler's speeches and actions during his recent visit to Cawnpore have brought into prominence two ideas which may prove to be of great importance in the development of higher education in India. One of these is that the new universities now being established should aim definitely at specialisation in order to meet local needs. Hitherto India has looked rather to standardisation, and the existing institutions are all very much alike, attempting to cover too much ground with wholly inadequate resources. In Cawnpore on the other hand, if Sir Harcourt's ideas materialise, as they usually do, there will be a university as closely related to the environment as those of Leeds and Manchester; the ordinary subjects of a liberal education will not be neglected, but the dominant note will be the development of applied science. Cawnpore already possesses an agricultural college, and the foundations of a technological institute have after many years' discussion at last been laid; a university arising in great measure out of these elements will be particularly well adapted to benefit the great industrial city, and also the wide rural district of which it forms the commercial centre.

The Civic University.

The second idea, also familiar in this country but still unknown in India, is that those cities which aspire to have a university should put down a reasonable proportion of the cash required for buildings, equipment and endowments. In all such matters India still dreams

of the inexhaustible treasure-houses of her rulers, but enlightenment is now proceeding rapidly; the Ministers brought into existence under the new Constitution have already realized that they are not in a position to give universities and similar boons away to every suppliant, and Cawnpore has been told frankly that the matter rests largely in its own hands. We hope it will not be allowed to rest for long. The city contains men who could individually put down the needed funds without inconvenience, but it would be better that all the rich men should join to provide a university of which they and their descendants, could be proud. With one or two honourable exceptions, the citizens have hitherto been slow to realise the responsibilities of wealth, but they have now an opportunity of setting a magnificent example to the rest of India.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

Ireland Accepts.

After four days' more debate, the Sinn Fein Parliament in Dublin has accepted the Treaty with Great Britain. At one time it seemed very doubtful whether there would be a majority for the agreement, but the extremists appear to have lost ground during the Christmas holidays; and Mr. de Valera, who has been accused by the *Freeman's Journal* of showing the petulance due to wounded vanity, did not play his cards particularly well. On the other hand, Mr. Arthur Griffith and Mr. Michael Collins both showed themselves strong men, moderate in expression but formidable in argument.

The majority—64 to 57—is narrow enough. But it is suggested that it does not accurately represent the feeling of the country, which is supposed to be more nearly 75 per cent. for the Treaty, and 25 per cent. against. How far that calculation is correct we shall only be able to tell when the elections have been held, and much depends on Mr. de Valera. He declares that he is "sick of politics", but it is more probable that he is annoyed at not being allowed to play the autocrat. It is possible that he will lead a Hertzog movement against the new Government, and it is evident from the speeches delivered by several republican politicians that he can rely on a certain amount of support; but the Government itself will be run by Messrs. Collins and Griffith. It is too early to prophesy as to their success in initiating a constructive policy.

No General Election.

The talk of a general election in February, to which I referred last week, has rather died down again. It seems that the Liberal Coalition Whips, with a few members of the Government—the Prime Minister, Lord Birkenhead, and Sir Robert Horne—approved the idea as good strategy, for the Opposition is very depressed at the moment, and the Government still has the kudos of the Irish settlement. But Mr. Austen Chamberlain does not want an election, nor does Sir George Younger, who as Chief Conservative Whip, is a very formidable person when he chooses to assert himself, as he has done on the present occasion.

More important still, neither London nor the country wants an election. London has its own particular reason, since it has a County Council election in March, which will be a trial of strength between the Socialists and Conservatives, and the metropolis does not want this overshadowed by a parliamentary argument. The objection of the country at large is that too much politics is bad for business at a time when trade is reviving, and that as by common consent the Government would win, although probably by a reduced majority, an election would settle nothing.

Cannes.

Another reason against a general election comes, curiously enough, from Cannes. Mr. Lloyd George, having settled the Irish question, is now considering

schemes for the reconstruction of Europe—minus the Near East, which he leaves to Lord Curzon. The Prime Minister's speech, which was duly acclaimed as a "bomb-shell," followed the lines anticipated, in advocating a conference of the Powers with Germany and Russia. The pessimism which this proposal has caused in France is not quite understood on this side of the Channel; there is no suggestion that we should bill and coo with Moscow and Potsdam, but to continue biting thumbs at each other seems to us absurd. Broadly it is proposed that Russia must revoke the repudiation of her debts—Lenin by restoring Capitalism has already taken the first decisive step in that direction—that the German reparations scheme be cut down to practicable limits, and that some of the French (and consequently also Italian) debt to Britain be cancelled. It is difficult to see why this should cause such a pothor in Paris, but unfortunately any stick seems good enough to beat us with at the moment.

I understand that the Near East does not come into the field of vision. According to one of the political wits, the difficulty is that Mr. Lloyd George's side of Downing Street does not know exactly where the Near East is, and does not like to ask Lord Curzon's side of the street, where they keep a few maps, for the information. But this, like the story that the Cabinet thought Angora was a goat, and asked the Board of Agriculture to take the matter up, must be accepted with a grain of salt; it is like the pre-war anecdote of the harrassed statesman who, asked what were the chief imports of Bulgaria, answered hastily "Buxtons and Bouchiers."

However France may dislike Mr. Lloyd George's new policy of European reconstruction, it is on the whole being well received in this country, and it has had a good press in America. It is felt by many that reconstruction in Europe is the best, and indeed probably the only road, to renewed prosperity at home.

The End of Eatanswill.

There was a fire last week at the sleepy but pleasant little Suffolk town of Sudbury. In ordinary circumstances this would hardly call for notice, but Sudbury has long been identified by Dickens scholars as Eatanswill, and unfortunately the fire burnt down the "Rose and Crown," which was the hotel where Mr. Pickwick stayed, where Mrs. Leo Hunter read what Count Smorltork called her "Ode to a Perspiring Frog," and where Mr. Winkle played havoc with the heart of Mrs. Pott. Fortunately, Dickens pilgrims can still see the "Angel" at Bury, a few miles away, where Mr. Pickwick was deceived by Jingle and Job Trotter; and the "White Horse" at Ipswich, where Mr. Peter Magnus proposed to the lady in curlpapers, has changed little in a century.

The Honours List.

The New Years list of honours contains nothing of unusual interest. Sir Charles Hawtrey and Sir Gerald du Maurier are added to the long list of theatrical knights; and Sir James Barrie received the Order of Merit, which was very popular. One of the new barons makes whisky—a lord spiritual, as somebody of the Malaprop tendency remarked; and one of the new baronets is famous all over the world for a custard powder. Another runs a tobacco firm. There are 112 new knights—a round hundredweight, 37 baronets, and four barons. We do things wholesale in these days.

Grand Juries.

The Grand Jury system, suspended during the war, has been revived this month; and in almost every case there have been strong protests, first, that the system is too antiquated to be any longer of use, and secondly that it costs money and waste time. A curious defence has been put forward, to the effect that it is a safeguard against Bolshevism; but how or why is not explained. The system was originally a safeguard against tyranny and abuse of the law, but in the present day effective publicity and the operation of the Court of Criminal Appeal make it superfluous. And almost any criminal lawyer laughs at the idea that under English procedure the law may operate too harshly against the innocent; the difficulty is rather, as every prosecuting barrister will agree, that the dice are loaded in favour of the guilty.

Hardy Annuals and Crime.

There has been a mild epidemic of influenza, and a severe epidemic of January sales; but these are hardy annuals. Rather more unusual is a sudden outburst of murder or suspected murder cases, which has filled the newspapers with horrors and the tea-table with shudders. One of these cases, the Bournemouth murder, has been so bungled by the local police that it may result in a reform of the criminal system. At present Scotland Yard is not called in to investigate a murder case outside its own district, partly on the grounds of expense—the cost falls on the county rates—and partly because the local police naturally want the credit of catching the criminal. But in fact they are not quite up to the job in difficult cases, and although they resent the idea of getting specialised assistance, the public are becoming uneasy at their failure. Sir Basil Thompson, the late Chief of Scotland Yard, who knew more murderers than most people, has outlined a scheme of reform, and it is to be hoped it will be adopted.

Bankrupt Theatres.

The New Year opens with another loud outcry from the theatrical profession. The Christmas season has been disastrous, and one play after another has been taken off with only a few days' run. Last summer the result of the coal strike was bad enough, but the winter of their discontent is far worse. One of the troubles seems to be that theatre rents and expenses are too high, so that unless a play runs it loses money; it is also suggested that the "stars" take more money out than they bring in, while the "stars" in turn accuse the stage carpenter and the limelight man and other "noises without" of getting too high wages. What may be the truth of this matter, as Pepys says, God knows; it is beyond me.

A Record Billiard Break.

Last week saw a record billiard break, Newman in his match against Falkiner scoring the tremendous total of 1274 at one visit to the table. His opponent Falkiner, by the way, was not discouraged by this terrific score; he was once a miner, and has all the proverbial pluck of the miner without any of the alleged roughness. He is a singularly graceful artist to watch.

The Australian Tour.

The Australian Cricketers did very well out of their 1921 tour in England. After all their expenses were paid, each player and the manager received £766, and £10,000 will also be distributed among the six State Associations. Their report advocates that in the next tour there shall be additional matches against the Gentlemen of England and the Players of England, and also one against the North, at Manchester. The Scottish match, which was a great success, will be a permanent fixture.

The Week's Books.

"Washington and the World's Peace" (Collins) is a collection of the articles written by Mr. H. G. Wells at the recent conference. He chronicles the "phases of enthusiasm, hope, doubt, depression, and irritation" at the sessions, but his final feeling is that the Conference was "a successful and hopeful beginning in open international co-operation." Mr. Wells' own personal attitude is expressed as follows: "I believe so firmly in this great world of peace that lies so close to our own, ready to come into being as our wills turn towards it, that I must needs go about this present world of disorder and darkness like an exile, doing such feeble things as I can towards the world of my desire, now hopefully, now bitterly, as the moods may happen, until I die." Elsewhere he declares that "this is not a doomed world we live in; it is a world idiotically spoilt."

"Northwest Australia" (Simpkin Marshall) by R. Logan Jack, is a wonderful record of exploration and discovery from Captain Cook to the present time, and it includes many of the author's own adventures.

It is not very often that one gets hold of a good novel, but "The Street that Ran Away" (Mills and Boon), by Elizabeth Croly, is a delightful fantasy that will appeal to the imaginative.

Occellus.

THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

(From Our Own Correspondents).

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, December 28.

Political.

Although a change of Government has taken place, the crisis does not seem to have come to an end; and the King is still consulting the various political leaders. The appointment of a government like that formed under M. Také Jonescu, which has no parliamentary majority and is represented by a single party, and a small one at that, has aroused great dissatisfaction among the different democratic parties, and especially among those of the new provinces. They all feel that the Constitution has been slighted; they are determined that this case should not be used as a precedent for the future; and they are now endeavouring to form a so-called *Constitutional Bloc*, their war-cry being that the Government should be the true expression of the nation's voice. The *Bloc* further demands that the present Parliament, despite the majority's unpopularity, should be kept alive for just so long as would be necessary to pass the franchise bill, but under a "concentration" Government under a strictly neutral chief, and that this Cabinet should in due course preside over the new elections. The name of M. de Flondor, the Bukovinian Leader, has been put forward as a possible chief, owing to the fact that he enjoys the sympathy and esteem of practically all parties, and has kept aloof from active politics for the last three years. It is true that M. Také Jonescu has offered M. Flondor a portfolio in his Cabinet, but it was declined. M. Flondor held that the only way out of the present *impasse* would be a concentration Government, which should comprise the leading men of all parties. With the exception of the Liberals, all other parties are in favour of this scheme. There are, however, difficulties to be overcome before the project could materialize. For the last ten days M. Flondor has been working hard to bring the various leaders under one banner; for should this attempt fail, it is common knowledge that the power will fall into the hands of the Liberals like a ripe apple. Naturally, the Liberals are refusing to join in the "concentration" and are doing everything possible to prevent it from succeeding. They would like to be called to power by the King in the midst of a strong ministerial crisis, for with a General Election under a neutral Cabinet their chances of success would be considerably reduced. Nothing definite is expected to develop until after the Orthodox Christmas holidays.

Despite all the political manoeuvres, the new Ministers are attending to their duties assiduously, and M. Také Jonescu is at the same time doing his utmost to gain the support of as many Deputies and Senators as possible before Parliament reopens, in order to be able to carry out his political programme with the present Parliament.

In connection with the new Government's programme the Prime Minister made the following declarations to the Press: "The present Government is neither a party Government nor a coalition of parties, but has been called to power by confidence of the King, and has, therefore, a Mission to fulfil. In the first place the Government has assumed the task of making it possible for those parties which had withdrawn from Parliament to return. In this respect I have succeeded, for with the exception of the Liberals all other parties have consented to attend the sittings. Our second task is to see that the present Parliament should carry through the important Franchise and Fiscal Reforms." With regard to the Franchise Bill the Government intends to adopt the Decree Law of the Bratianu Government, which is to unify the voting system throughout the country, including Bukovina and Transylvania, where hitherto the voting system differed from the rest of the country. As to the Financial Reform, the Government intends to propose that the levy on capital should be suspended at least

until it can be ascertained how much can be collected from the progressive income tax. The quotas on the aggregated income, however, will be reduced.

Roumanian Immigrants from America.

Roumanians residing in Canada and the United States have sent a delegation to Roumania to study the question of returning to their country of origin. Their numbers reach many thousands, and they are mostly Roumanians originally from Transylvania, who preferred emigration to Magyar oppression. A good many of them have resided in America for 10 to 20 years, and are fairly well-off. The two principal reasons for wishing to return now are: first, the desire to see their country again, especially since it has been freed from the foreign yoke, and, secondly, the advantage offered in converting their dollars into lei at the present rate of exchange. For Roumania such an immigration would be of great benefit and importance from many points of view; for it would not only mean an influx of Roumanian capital, but would provide the country with skilled labour and men of enterprising spirit of Roumanian nationality, the need for whom has been greatly felt, especially since the country has trebled in size.

Bucharest Station on Fire.

A big fire broke out at the Gara de Nord on Sunday morning at five o'clock and lasted throughout the day. The entire right wing of the station was burnt down. The damage is estimated at about 15 million lei, without, however, including the loss of the archives that perished in the fire, and which will be very hard to replace. The fire is supposed to have started in one of the rooms above the booking offices. There are several versions of its origin. Some put it down to a short circuit of the electric wires, or to the defective iron stoves used in the offices, while others suspect that it was wilfully caused.

General News.

The new Belgian Minister at Bucharest, M. Eugen Robyns de Schneidaner, presented his credentials to the King with the usual ceremonial in the presence of M. Derussi, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, last Saturday.

Princess Kyra, the daughter of the Grand Duchess Cyril, who has been staying for several months with her aunt, the Queen of Roumania, left Bucharest on Monday for England.

The appointment of M. Titulesco, former Minister of Finance, as Roumanian Minister to London, has now been officially conformed.

Queen Marie, accompanied by Princesses Marie, Ileana and Kyra, attended on Christmas morning the divine service held at the Anglican Church in Bucharest. The British, American, French and Swiss Ministers and many members of the respective Legations, as well as a large number of the British colony, were also present. The service was conducted by the Bucharest Chaplain, the Rev. Claude Hinscliff.

Another Christmas celebration took the form of a party attended by the whole British colony and a number of American friends. It was given at the Y.W.C.A., and the Chaplain and Mrs. Hinscliff acted as host and hostess. The British Minister, Sir Herbert

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Dering was present, with Lady Dering, and among others were the American Minister and Mrs Jay, and the First Secretary of the British Legation, and Mrs. F. Millington-Drake. Thanks to the kindness of these ladies and gentlemen and to the efforts of the British community, there were two bands—one gypsy and one jazz—excellent refreshments, and, as a climax, a present off a Christmas tree for every guest present.

On this occasion the Rev. H. Adeney, the former Bucharest Chaplain, was presented with an address and a handsome gold watch, a large silver inkstand, and other valuable objects, by Sir Herbert Dering, on behalf of a large number of British and American friends, in recognition of the great services rendered by him for sixteen years in ministering to their spiritual needs. Mr. Adeney had asked to be released from the chaplaincy in order to be able to devote his full time to the missionary work, for which he came to this country. Besides, as the British colony has grown considerably during recent years, a full-time Chaplain was urgently necessary. It is largely due to the zeal and energy of Mr. Adeney that the British colony at Bucharest can now boast of having a proper church building.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Zagreb, December 28.

"Black Hand" and "White."

The newly formed Government appeared to be in danger of being still born, owing to a further dispute between the Radicals and the Democrats regarding the Minister of War. As this portfolio is always held by a soldier, and as soldiers are not supposed to take part in politics, one would expect this ministry to be exempt from the usual party bickerings. But the Democrats roundly asserted that General Zechevitch, the Minister, was but a nominee of an association of officers known as the *Bela Ruka*, the White Hand, a clique which supports the Radicals, and apparently dictates to them, on the analogy of the famous *Crna Ruka*, or Black Hand, which exerted so powerful an influence on Serbian politics before the Union. The Black Hand no longer exists, and the Democrats assert that the Radicals called into existence the White Hand, on the homoeopathic principle, that the day of its usefulness has long since gone by, that officers should take no part in politics, even behind the scenes, and that the parliamentary life of the nation must not be exposed to secret and irresponsible influences.

M. Pashitch insisted on General Zechevitch as Minister of War, even in face of a threatened interpellation in the House, which would greatly damage the Government directly Parliament met. But at the eleventh hour, different counsels prevailed. General Zechevitch himself on Christmas Eve, after the new Cabinet had taken the oath, tendered his resignation to the King, which was accepted; and so this incident, which had prolonged the crisis several days and threatened to split the Coalition once more, was closed. It is not known who will be the new Minister of War, but M. Pashitch himself will hold the portfolio for the time being.

Serious Colliery Explosion.

There has been a severe colliery explosion at Zenica, involving considerable loss of life and great material damage. Fire-damp had accumulated in one section of the mine, which was fortunately isolated from the main workings, and had its own ventilation. The inspectors reported absence of fire-damp, and ordered the miners in to the face, when one of the inspectors went to examine the fans. All the party were carrying electric lamps. Suddenly there was a fearful explosion. There were eight killed, including the inspectors, mostly being victims to the consequent fall of roof rather than to the explosion itself. Fortunately, the fans were working well, or the number of victims might have been very much greater; for there were about three hundred miners engaged in that section. It is anticipated that it will take a fortnight to clear the falls of roof and re-open the district. The victims will be buried at the public expense.

Czecho-Slovak Immigrants.

It is interesting to note how many Czechs and Slovaks there are in Yugoslavia. A journalist who has studied the question estimates them at 150,000. The Czechs live mostly in Croatia, and the Slovaks in Srem and the Voivodina. The Czechs began to immigrate during the reign of Maria Theresa and Joseph II, when the Hapsburgs were doing all in their power to mix the races in the southern portions of their dominions, but there was a substantial influx during the last century, especially in the year 1883. Owing to the identity of faith and similarity of languages, the Czechs in Croatia have been largely assimilated, but the Slovaks have retained their national consciousness, probably because they have been brought more into contact with Germans and Magyars, and partly, perhaps, owing to a greater natural conservatism.

Liubliana, January 2.

The King's Visit to Slovenia.

After having been twice obliged by ministerial crises to postpone his hunting trip to this part of the world, the King at last carried out his intention in the last week of December, 1921, and on Monday, the 27th., accompanied by Prince Paul, he arrived at Kamnik in the Alps to enjoy a few days' sport and rest. Unfortunately the former was rather spoiled on the first day by recent falls of snow, which had caused the chamois to shift their ground; but the second was wholly successful. The King had at least two really fine days up in the mountains, and is reported to have been delighted with the beauty and grandeur of the scenery. On Thursday, the 29th., he paid a two hours' visit to Liubliana.

Already at a very early hour in the afternoon, the Dunajska cesta, by which the King was expected to enter the town, was thronged by expectant and enthusiastic crowds, and there was a great gathering outside the Government House itself, where His Majesty was during his brief stay the guest of the Viceroy, Dr. Hribar. When in response to much cheering—"Long live King Alexander! Long live Prince Paul! Honour to King Peter the Liberator! Long live Yugoslavia!"—the King at last came out on the balcony, he was acclaimed yet more heartily, and the crowd sang the Serbian hymn. Similar scenes recurred at the station, only there they almost partook of the nature of a private reception on an unusually large scale. Standing on the platform, the King talked to the various military and civil notabilities who were presented to him, enquired about matters of local interest, and so, in the course of friendly, informal conversation, prepared to enter the compartment. It was then that the most characteristic scenes took place, showing the abyss which happily separates the modern democratic era from the former Austrian despotism. The platform was packed, the crowd cheered incessantly, when suddenly the news spread: "The King will speak." Dead silence. And then the King, in his clear, pleasant voice, addressed those present as follows:—

"Dear Brothers! I thank you, for the hearty reception I have received throughout Slovenia, in the country, in the villages, the towns, and now in Liubliana itself. All of you who greet me here to-day as your King, pray accept my sincere thanks. When you go home, give my greetings, in town, in every village, and in every house, to those who are not here to-day. Tell them: 'The King dearly loves the Slovenes and beautiful Slovenia!'"

Of course these simple words went straight to the hearts of his hearers. Plain working men elbowed their way to the front, and when the police tried to hold them back, retorted: "He's our King!..... We're going to get a sight of him!" After this, the King shook hands with those nearest him, and the crush and enthusiasm reached their highest point. Spontaneously the crowd sang the Yugoslav national anthem, which is the Serbian hymn, and the Croatian and Slovene national paeans combined, and finally the "Hej Slovani." At last, at 6.12, the Royal train steamed out of the station amid a display of love and loyalty ab-

solutely inconceivable in the old days. At the window of his compartment stood the young King, waving his hand and calling out : " Na avidenye ! " (" An revoir ! ") and the crowd shouted back : " Yes, come back soon ! We shall expect you for the Sokol Gathering ! Long live King Alexander !—Long live Yugoslavia ! "

BULGARIA.

Sofia, December 28.

Bulgaria and Western Thrace.

By the time this letter is in print, the Allied Conference on the Near Eastern question will be on the point of beginning, but nothing has yet transpired which gives ground for thinking that Bulgaria's claims to an economic outlet to the Aegean Sea will be considered by the Conference.

The Sofia Press has been incessant in its demand that Bulgarian claims should be recognised, and on December 24, the *Zora* observed in a special article : " One must not forget that by virtue of Article 48 of the Treaty of Neuilly, Greece is still only holding a mandate for the Allied Powers in Thrace. Certain Great Powers hoped that Greece would show herself worthy of this Mandate by according full rights of protection to minorities, and by also allowing Bulgaria an economic outlet to the Aegean Sea. The Greeks have done neither of these things, and one trusts that the great Powers will see fit to make a change in the existing conditions. "

The Bulgarian point of view has been very clearly and succinctly stated by the *Zora*. Greece does not yet own Thrace ; she shares co-sovereignty over it with Great Britain, France, Italy, America, and Japan. Naturally enough, she has begun to regard it as her own, because for eighteen months Thrace has been governed and administered solely by Greek officials. But the Great Powers have to decide, either at the coming Conference or at a later date, the future of Thrace. If their intention is to leave Thrace as it is at present, i.e. under Greek administration, it will be better for all the countries concerned if an announcement to this effect is made as soon as possible. If on the other hand, the Powers are determined to fulfil their pledge, and grant Bulgaria an economic outlet to the Aegean Sea, it will also be more satisfactory if the necessary steps are taken at once.

As the Powers have formally agreed to grant Bulgaria an outlet, she has the right to suppose that the outlet will be forthcoming. This raises the question where the outlet will be, and under what conditions it will be granted. Dedeagatch is the port specified in the Second Treaty of Sèvres, and a Commission consisting of three members, named by the League of Nations, Greece and Bulgaria respectively, is charged with the task of putting into force the machinery necessary for the creation of the outlet. So much is known and no more.

Sofia University and the Government.

Some months ago the Government passed a law by which three letters were abolished from the Bulgarian alphabet. The University protested against this change, but without effect. At the beginning of December, M. Popoff, the Rector of the University during 1921, made a speech at the annual meeting of the University. This speech was afterwards printed and circulated. It was written according to the old alphabet, that is to say, it contained the three letters which are no longer allowed to be used. M. Omartchevsky, Minister of Education, had his notice called to the matter, and addressed a letter to M. Popoff asking him to furnish a full explanation why the latter had allowed the law to be thus

broken. M. Popoff replied by drawing the Minister's attention to the fact that the University resented the change in the alphabet, but that personally he took full responsibility for the matter.

To this the Minister retorted by sending an official to the University with instructions to close, with a Government seal, the rooms of the Secretary and Treasurer of the University. This action was hailed with great indignation by the University, and a hastily convened meeting of the Senate decided to send a letter to the Minister asking for an explanation of his high-handed conduct. At the same time they informed the Minister that if he did not take steps to remove the seals by a certain day, the Rector would himself remove them. Meanwhile M. Omartchevsky had issued a circular letter to all the Professors of the University, who number about fifty, asking them what point of view they intended to take in this dispute.

As soon as the Senate heard of this circular letter, they forbade the Professors to reply personally, and instead wrote to the Minister informing him that he had not the right to approach the Professors in such a manner, and that all correspondence must be sent to the Senate, under whose orders the Professors are.

The Minister, who is also the Censor, did not allow any mention of the dispute to appear in the local press, but the affair has become public property, and great interest was evinced as to what the Government's attitude would be. Yesterday the news was forthcoming that the seals had been removed, *not by the Rector*, so the incident may be presumably regarded as closed.

General News.

On Christmas morning a service was held at the Protestant Church of Sofia which was attended by many English and American residents. In the evening a dance was given at the British Legation by the Hon. W. A. F. and Mrs. Erskine. The whole of the British colony, besides numerous Americans, was present.

M. Bakaloff, ex-Minister of Commerce, died in prison at Sofia on December 25. He was a member of the Radoslavoff Cabinet that was in power when war was declared, and he was at the time undergoing trial.

Sofia, January 2.

An Echo of the Dimitroff Murder.

The murder of M. Dimitroff, the ex-Minister of War, promises once more to become a matter of public interest. A few days ago a letter, purporting to be written by the assassins of the Minister, was received by many Ministers, ex-Ministers and newspapers at Sofia. The accusations contained in this letter are of such a serious character that it is as well to state that up to the present there are no proofs which go to show that it is authentic.

The letter, which is typewritten, is a long epistle, and consists of a *résumé* of the papers found in the pockets of the murdered Minister. M. Dimitroff's habit of carrying important papers in his person was well known, and it has been hazarded that the principal motive actuating the murderers was the desire to obtain possession of these papers. The letter begins by stating in detail the sums of money spent by M. Dimitroff while he was travelling abroad at the country's expense. These sums run into many millions of levas and are, to say the least, somewhat excessive. The letter goes on to give particulars of the Minister's financial dealings, both abroad and in Bulgaria. Clippings from his diary are also mentioned, while there are references to certain persons who have met their death in somewhat strange circumstances. It also contains a promise that facsimiles of certain of the dead Minister's letters will be

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published. Altogether the letter constitutes a serious charge against the Government, who will no doubt speedily take steps to issue a complete denial of the contents of the document, which, it is worthy of remark, bears no signature.

The Radoslavoff Cabinet on Trial.

The first witness in the above trial was General Fitcheff, Minister of War from September 1914 to June 1915, and now Bulgarian Minister at Bucharest. Put quite simply, General Fitcheff's evidence consisted of a direct accusation against ex-King Ferdinand and M. Radoslavoff, the Premier, of having planned to enter the war on the side of Germany. General Fitcheff said that he was not in agreement with this policy and felt bound to resign his post as Minister of War. He was succeeded by General Jekoff, who afterwards became Commander-in Chief. General Fitcheff mentioned that the journey of General Jekoff to Constantinople in the summer of 1915 was in the nature of a secret mission, having as its object the entering into relations of Turkey with Bulgaria. General Fitcheff's evidence was highly important, and makes the position of the accused much less favourable than it was.

The Royal Princesses.

The position of the Royal Princesses was raised in the *Sobranje* last week by M. Pastoukhoff, a Socialist Deputy. The questioner was anxious to know whether the Princesses' return bore any political character. The Prime Minister, M. Stambolisky himself replied. He stated that the return of the King's sisters need occasion no fear in the minds of the *Sobranje* or of the nation. They had simply come back to Sofia to keep their brother company, and M. Stambolisky reminded the *Sobranje* that the present Government would never tolerate any idea of Ferdinand's revisiting even his former kingdom.

This statement, coming as it does from the actual ruler of the country, will finally allay any suspicions that have been entertained either inside or outside Bulgaria that there was a chance of Ferdinand's returning.

The Government and the Country.

January is to be a month of great activity on the part of the Government. Eight out of the ten members of the Cabinet are to speak at large meetings which are being convened throughout the country. M. Stambolisky himself is to address meetings at Stara Zagora, Choumen, and Vidin. An appeal to the rural population to subscribe freely to the coming loan will be a feature of these meetings, and the Government are very optimistic on the results that will be obtained.

General News.

M. Augustus Kral, Minister Plenipotentiary of the Austrian Republic, presented his letters of credence to King Boris on Friday, December 30.

M. Ratkitch, Serbian Chargé d'Affaires at Sofia, will shortly become Minister, while M. Kosta Theodoroff, the Bulgarian Chargé d'Affaires at Belgrade will also present his letters to King Alexander.

A disastrous explosion, happily not causing any loss of life, took place at a munitions depot belonging to an Italian subject last Thursday. Upwards of 20,000 shells were blown up, and the financial damage is very considerable.

The New Year was celebrated very quietly in Sofia. A service was held in the Cathedral on New Year's morning, which was attended by King Boris, the Royal Princesses, the Diplomatic Corps, and the Cabinet; and afterwards the congregation proceeded to the Palace to sign their names in the King's visitors book.

ALBANIA.

Tirana, December 27.

The Political Situation.

The country seems now to have calmed down after its political excitement. Parliament having been summoned, as I told you in my previous letter, M. Kosturi handed in his resignation, in order to allow of the formation of a regular Government. The sittings were tumult-

uous, and the deputies had never had such an important problem to solve. Hassan Prishtina had formed his Italophil Cabinet from members with irredentist views, who hoped to be able to save Kossovo, or at least a part of that region, with Italian assistance. The Nationalist party hold that Albania requires above all things peace and calm, to live on good terms with her neighbours, and to avoid playing the game of any one of them—in a word, to pursue a policy of neutrality. It wishes to avoid any adventurous policy and to have a frank and dignified entente with Serbia, Greece and Italy.

The New Cabinet.

Jafer Ypi, Prefect of Scutari and Minister of Justice in the Suleiman Delvina Cabinet, was charged with the formation of a new Government. He selected as his collaborators: Ahmed Zogolli, Minister of the Interior; Fan Noli, Foreign Affairs; Hysein Vroni, Justice; Kol (Nicholas) Thachi, Finance; Rejeb Mitrovitza, Public Instruction; Ismail Hakki Tatzati, War; Spiro Koleka, Public Works. The new Cabinet is Nationalist, composed of men who have already had experience. There are only two members who are new: Fan Noli and Ismail H. Tatzati, the former of whom has been Albanian delegate to the League of Nations.

The Cabinet was proclaimed yesterday as formally constituted; and to-day it has asked Parliament for a vote of confidence, which has been accorded by a big majority.

The High Council.

Dr. Tourtoulis, who was in France, for reasons of health, and only returned to the country two days after the formation of the Hassan Prishtina Government, handed in his resignation, and Abdi Toptani followed his example. The two other members of the High Council, Akif Pasha Elbasani and Mgr. Louis Bumci, were subjected to lively criticism in Parliament on account of their attitude at the time of the formation of his Cabinet by Hassan Prishtina; and finally the High Council was declared dead. Elected on January 25, 1920, at the great assembly at Lushnia, the High Council has thus been in power 23 months.

To replace the four members thus disposed of, Parliament has elected: Sotir Peri, former Minister of Education (Orthodox, native of Kortcha); Omer Pasha Vroni, a landed proprietor of Berat (Moslem); Antoine Pistuli a wealthy citizen of Scutari (Catholic); and Refik Toptani, a landowner of Tirana (Moslem). There are grounds for believing that these changes, in the Cabinet and in the High Council, have created a good impression all over the country, and in Tirana educated opinion entirely approves of them.

The Serbian Withdrawal.

The evacuation of Albanian territory by the Serbian troops is almost complete. The Yugoslavs have been spreading reports to the effect that Albanian troops had been penetrating the neutral zone; but these reports are without foundation, for nothing abnormal has occurred in this region save the setting on fire of the village of Tchank, on the Drin, by the Serbian troops.

A New York Rumour.

The newspapers reproduce a New York telegram to the effect that the Albanian representative in the United States had offered the Albanian Throne to Prince Jerome Bonaparte. This report caused great surprise here, for there has been no question of choosing a Prince for the country. The question of Albania's standing in this regard has never yet been considered; but the majority of the people lean to a republican form of Government, holding that it will afford the best means of avoiding difficulties and complications.

TURKEY.

Constantinople, January 2.

Peace Talk.

With the advent of the winter active operations in Anatolia have had to be suspended, and the convocation of an inter-Allied Conference for the consideration of the Turkish problem has given rise to much speculation. In many quarters there is a feeling of optimism regarding

the possibility of a definite and general settlement in the near future. These optimistic views are based partly upon the belief that British policy is veering round to a recognition of certain Turkish territorial claims on the one hand, and that the Kemalists, when it comes to the point, will not prove unreasonable, on the other hand. It must be confessed, however, that whatever justification there may be for the first supposition, there is little evidence to support the rest of the argument. On the contrary, almost daily fresh evidence becomes available against the existence of the slightest modification of the views of the Angora Government regarding peace conditions. Those views are still defined by the National Pact, complete and unmodified in any way. If Allied interests can be safeguarded in harmony with the conditions of the National Pact, optimism would not be misplaced, but is this possible? The conditions of the National Pact involve the abandonment of the Straits and the abolition of the Capitulations apart from any question of territory. As a matter of fact, Nationalist politicians attach at least as much importance to the political and economic clauses of the National Pact as to the political conditions. There is a general tendency to overlook this point, and to assume that if only the Greeks could be persuaded to abandon Anatolia the way to peace would be free of any further serious obstacles. It must not be forgotten, however, that by the treaty concluded with the Soviet Government, the Angora Government definitely agreed that *the Straits question should be settled by a conference of delegates representing the States bordering on the Black Sea*. As none of the Allies could, under the conditions, be represented at such a conference, this can only mean that both the Soviet Government and the Angora Government have pledged themselves to settle the matter to the exclusion of the Allies. If the Greek army were unconditionally withdrawn from Anatolia, the few Allied battalions at present guarding the Straits would not be able to hold out for long against the Kemalist army. This is really the crux of the question. It is too late now to discuss the rights or wrongs of the Greek occupation of Smyrna, for it is the Greek army which stands between the Kemalist army and the southern shore of the Dardanelles and the Marmora. The truth of the matter is that the Turkish problem is essentially not a Turkish problem at all, but a Russo-European problem. When the Allies tried to settle the Straits question without troubling about Russian interests, they forgot that the geographical position of Russia must always determine Russian foreign policy, no matter what government may be in power. There are rumours concerning a conference in Constantinople to which both Turkish and Greek delegates will be invited, but the one really hopeful sign is the invitation which is to be sent to Chicherin and Litvinoff to discuss the Near Eastern question. That is certainly a step in the right direction, for there can be no permanent settlement of the problem without the participation of Russia.

A Treaty with the Ukraine.

The Turkish Press announces that the negotiations between the Ukrainian delegate, General Frunze, and the Angora Government have been concluded, and that the agreement will probably be signed to-day. General Frunze will leave at once for Kieff, and the Ukrainian Soviet is expected to ratify the convention without delay. Little is known regarding the actual clauses, but the general nature of the convention is stated to be similar to that of the Russo-Kemalist treaty of March 1921. It is described as military, political and economic alliance. In view of the exclusively military nature of General Frunze's mission, it is only logical to infer that the agreement is chiefly concerned with military matters, and it would not be pushing the argument too far to deduce that Roumania was a subject of especial consideration in the arrangements made. It is reported on reliable authority that the Turks insisted upon an undertaking on the part of the Ukraine to take active measures against Roumania in the event of Roumanian

assistance being given to Greece. The negotiations were conducted by Yussuf Kemal Bey assisted by Munir Bey, Chief Legal Adviser, Reshid Bey, Political Adviser, Mustapha Abdul Halid Bey, Commercial Adviser, and Colonel Kiazim Bey, Military Adviser.

Local Affairs.

The situation of the Central Government remains unchanged. The attempt recently made by the Angora Government to secure the Sultan's recognition of the Great National Assembly was unsuccessful, and according to the Anatolian press a commission under Jelaeddin to draft an amended Constitutional Law, by which the Sultan's administrative prerogatives will be definitely abolished. In this connection it is worthy of note that in a recent speech, Mustapha Kemal emphatically declared that the Angora Government was not a provisional administration, and that the measures promulgated were in no sense provisional. It will be remembered that the Nationalist leaders used to maintain that they were merely acting on behalf of the Sultan, who being a virtual prisoner, was not a free agent, and that as soon as the National aims had been secured, they would at once restore the Sultan's authority. The provisional nature of the Nationalist administration was clearly and emphatically affirmed on numerous occasions, both by Mustapha Kemal himself, and all the Nationalist leaders. The recent statement of the Anatolian leader is therefore of considerable significance and indicates unmistakably the determination of the Kemalists to reduce the Sultan to a mere figurehead. Very little can be ascertained regarding the attitude of the Central Government in the matter, but there is reason to believe that efforts are being made to persuade the Angora Government to postpone all consideration of the Constitutional question until after the conclusion of peace. There are, however, urgent reasons which may prevent the Angora Government from taking this course. In the first place, unless the authority of the Central Government is definitely repudiated, the Angora Government can have no legal existence in International Law, and all the treaties it has concluded are therefore invalid. Mustapha Kemal's argument is that a government exists by virtue of its legislating and administering the laws promulgated. Foreign governments have already, tacitly or otherwise, recognised the Angora Government, and the present constitutional position is therefore anomalous. Incidentally, this is another important factor that will have to be considered with the utmost attention before peace can be concluded.

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CYPRUS.

Nicosia, December 21.

Ecclesiastical Trouble.

The autonomous Greek Church of Cyprus, which has not infrequently experienced troubles, is now much perturbed over another "ecclesiastical scandal," in connection with the disputed election as Œcumenical Patriarch, at Constantinople, of Meletios Metaxakis, now in America. The people and the Press are discussing the matter as seriously affecting their community. His Eminence Bishop Meletios, who is regarded as one of the ablest prelates of the Orthodox Greek Church, is well-known in Cyprus, having been for some years Bishop of Kition, before he was appointed as Metropolitan of Athens during the Venizelos régime. When King Constantine was restored, Meletios was deprived of his position, and proceeded to America where he became the head of the Greek Church Community. His recent election as Œcumenical Patriarch, while considered valid at Constantinople, is regarded by the Greek Government and loyalists as having been irregular and not in accordance with the canons of the Church. Telegrams from Athens state that neither the Government nor the Church can recognise the election, since the Holy Synod was not properly convened, and bishops who should have attended could not do so. It was, they say, carried out by a *coup d'état* and by a minority. There was not, and could not be, in the circumstances, a legal quorum of electors, and moreover Meletios was not eligible, not being of the see of Constantinople. In fact "there was not one of the regulations which was not transgressed." The discord which has consequently arisen involves all Greek Communities in fresh anxiety at a moment when it is essential that Greece should be thoroughly united and speak with one voice.

In Cyprus a very unfortunate situation has been created, as the Archbishop lost no time in dispatching a telegram of congratulation to Mgr. Meletios. This action appears to be generally regarded as injudicious. Some papers take the view that no such telegram should have been sent before ascertaining the views of the other independent Churches. It implies a recognition and acceptance of the election. It is probable that the Patriarchs of Alexandria and Jerusalem will not acknowledge it. The Cyprus Church may then be placed in a very awkward position, since it may find itself separated in this matter from the Church of "the Motherland" and other patriarchal Churches, and in communication with a Patriarch uncanonically or "anti-canonically" elected. The Church of Cyprus is one of the five great churches of the Hellenic body, and every caution should have been observed before practical acknowledgment of the validity of the proceedings. A somewhat severe rebuke is being administered to the Archbishop and his immediate advisers for having brought about the situation. It is suggested (by at least one paper which takes this view) that the best way out of the difficulty would be that Meletios should decline to accept the honour. By such an act of abnegation he would show his sense of patriotism and of desire for Church harmony, and thereby gain the highest respect and honour from the nation. It is, however, probable that the question of validity will be submitted to a full Conference or Congress in the near future, though it is feared that even so the trouble and schism may not end there.

The New "National Council."

Canvassing is now taking place on behalf of candidates to sit as representatives in the new Council which is to steer the "union" ship now preparing for a fresh cruise. Nicosia is to have 12, and already 16 have been nominated. A poll is to be taken on a day not yet fixed. Probably there will be competition in some, if not all, of the other districts. Papers urge the electors to vote only for those candidates who will devote themselves "body and soul" to the object in view and will not support any compromising solutions of the "Cyprus question"; for the papers, by dint of reiteration of this phrase, have come to talk as if such a "question" was a fact generally recognised outside the island.

ASIA MINOR.

Smyrna, December 29.

St. Eleftheros' Day.

Yesterday being St. Eleftheros' day the entire Greek Community celebrated it in honour of Venizelos. The Police and Gendarmes had received orders to urge the inhabitants not to close their places of business and keep the day as a general holiday, but their injunctions only made the people more determined to fête their lost leader. The thoroughness with which this celebration was carried out seems to have astonished the Royalist authorities, and it is rumoured that a considerable number of "shillalah" men have arrived in Smyrna from Athens; these men are expected to assist the royalist police and gendarmes in cowing the enthusiastic Venizelists.

REFUGEES IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

Refugees, victims, direct or indirect, of the Great War, are pitifully numerous in many parts of the world to-day, but nowhere are they more so than in Eastern Europe and Western Asia, and Constantinople surely shelters more of them than any other city. We have referred again and again to the plight of the Russians who have been forced to fly thither in order to avoid the Bolshevik terror, and we sincerely sympathise with them in their misfortune. Some idea of their lot may be gathered from the article, printed on another page of this issue, which won the Second Prize in our recent competition for lady readers. But it is not only Russians and Christians who are suffering in Constantinople. A letter from Lord Lamington and others published in our columns a year ago drew attention to the widespread distress prevailing then among the Moslems of Turkey, and this was followed up by a report from the Rev. Dr. Frew, which must surely have touched the hearts of all who read it.

Unfortunately it is not possible to say that things are to-day any better in this respect than they were a year ago. Mr. Allan Ramsay writing from personal experience gained on a recent visit mentions "70,000 poor derelicts, mainly children, housed in the semi-ruined barracks of Daoud Pasha . . . whose case is the most desperate of all the stricken peoples of Europe." That is a wide claim, but it is probably in no wise exaggerated, as those who know Constantinople and the Turks will be the first to recognize. There is, as Mr. Ramsay well says, nothing to be hoped for locally with a ruined country and a bankrupt Government; and if these poor children and old folk are to be saved, Europe must help and help quickly. At such a time there can surely be no thought of Cross or Crescent, but only of the suffering that has to be relieved if the teachings of either of the great religions are to be followed. A British Committee for Relief of Moslem Refugees in Constantinople appeals for funds, and the British Crescent Society is also doing good work in the vast field. The Secretary of the former is Lieutenant-Commander Neville Rolf, D.S.O., Ottoman Public Debt., Constantinople; and the Hon. Treasurer of B.R.C.S. is Mr. A. S. M. Anik, 2, Fenchurch Avenue, E.C.

Mgr. Chrysanthos, the Metropolitan of Trebizond, is in London, to lay before the Archbishop of Canterbury the Greek Government's views on the election of the Œcumenical Patriarch and on a *rapprochement* between the Churches.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

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INDIAN ARMY PENSIONS.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—Isn't "Quai Hai" squealing before he's hurt, when, in the letter published in your last issue, he asks why officers in the Indian Army have not been given a chance to retire on the same footing as the Civil Services? The difference between the two cases is this. The terms of employment of civil officers have been varied to their detriment: the terms of employment of military officers have not yet been varied, though it is obvious they will shortly be varied. When orders issue for "indianising" the Army, then its officers will know whether service in the new conditions is good enough or not, and they will know what terms of retirement are offered to the dissatisfied. If the terms are inferior to those which have been offered to, let us say, the Indian Police, then will be the time to protest: to threaten a policy of ca'canny in advance is in my opinion altogether premature, and scarcely accords with the great tradition of the Indian Army.

I am etc.,
HUZOOR.

THE TRAGEDY OF CILICIA.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—Doubtless the French and the Turks are in accord in thinking that they have made an agreement, which gives them decided political and economical interests even at the cost of injuring British prestige, and shamelessly rendering homeless 200,000 Armenians, Greeks, and other Christians from Cilicia. Probably they are in accord on another point, too—that the public opinion of the civilized world may rise in hot indignation against the Franco-Kemalist agreement, that Downing Street and the White House may protest against France's secret and greedy acts, which lay the hatchet to the root of concerted action by the victorious Allies, but that public and governmental protests may soon cool down and the treacherous act may stand as a *fait accompli*. But will it? Will the millions of men and women whose sons, husbands or brothers fought the Prussian principle that "might is right," will Englishmen, Frenchmen, Italians or Americans really allow M. Briand's envoy's treaty to become a *fait accompli*, and let hundreds of thousands of poor Armenian and other Christians—who were gathered in Cilicia from the deserts, and promised a thousand times, the right to live peacefully—perish in such inhuman circumstances?

Already tens of thousands of poor Armenians have left Mersina and are fleeing away at random. Their native land, Cilicia cannot keep them; for the Turk is so bloodthirsty, and his political promises are "scraps of paper." Cyprus cannot accept more than 4,000, Syria has refused them, Egypt has done likewise, and the panic-stricken people for days roved the wild seas, before the Greek Government landed them on the islands of the Aegean, where misery will face them.

What are the sins of the Christians of Cilicia that they should on France's demand fall under her zone of influence (Sykes-Picot pact of 1916), then, be deprived of the British joint occupation of the country (after the Armistice), and finally, be handed over to their enemies?

The *Matin* cynically observes that the massacres of the Christians are the result of war only, and that as soon as peace is concluded between the Turks and them, no ground remains for massacres. But the public, especially of England, cannot be fooled so bluntly. Was there a war in Turkey in 1894-95-96, and in 1909, when Armenians were massacred in cold blood?

No: we shall not be led astray any longer either by promises that are forgotten so shamelessly, or by treaties that are made "scraps of paper" so quickly, but we ask in the name of our boundless sacrifices for the Allied cause, in the name of justice and civilization, that a stop be put to those inhuman acts that are crucifying a whole nation on a cross of gain, greed, and political opportunism.

The sufferings of the Armenians during the war will never be forgotten, but the sufferings they endured after the Armistice are more acute and worse, because they originate, directly or indirectly, in the connivance of the Allies, especially of France.

Will the English public keep silence, and Mr. Lloyd George's Liberal Government turn a deaf ear to the limitless sufferings of the Armenian people "and the honour and good name of England"? The Armenians are looking to the great and noble British nation for immediate and real political help.—I am, etc.,

R. TAKVORIAN.

Nicosia, Cyprus, Dec. 16, 1921.

CYRILLIC transliterations.

(From Our Zagreb Correspondent).

The excellent Yugoslav review, *Nova Europa*, to the literary, political and economic articles of which reference has often been made in these pages, has some articles in Cyrillic and some in Latin characters, to which nobody can object. But the editor has one habit of which we find ourselves unable to approve. Foreign names are transliterated, as is of course indispensable, phonetically, into Cyrillic, but they are treated in the same way in Latin, which is unnecessary. The doubtful advantage is that it teaches the semi-educated Yugoslav how to pronounce, at least approximately, the names in question, for the educated one does not require this instruction: it has the undoubted disadvantage that universally familiar names are unrecognisable at first glance. Some of our English names, for instance, appear in very questionable guise; who, for instance, would recognise at once Tekerej, Lord Brajs, Valpol, Carls Dzema Foks, Dzon Drajden, and Tred-Junion?

The two alphabets sometimes lead to amusing incidents. Most words look totally different, of course, but some look the same while having a different sound; for several letters are common to the two alphabets, but have different values. Thus H, P, C, B, and Y, are common to both, but in Cyrillic have the values of N, R, S, V, and U respectively. But the Serbs are so insistent on having the names of stations in Cyrillic as well as in Latin, that even when there is no difference in form, they repeat the word, quite unnecessarily, of course. Thus, in Slovenia, there is a station called Otok. Now this is the same in Cyrillic and in Latin characters. So they have it up twice, once for Latin, once for Cyrillic, and a third time for luck, I suppose; so we see in large letters: OTOK OTOK—OTOK. So everybody is pleased.

The Times announces that the battleship Centurion, Captain R. G. A. W. Stapleton-Cotton, C.B.E., M.V.O., was due to arrive on January 6 at Malta from Egypt, where she has been stationed since October 18, to refit. Other movements impending among ships of the Mediterranean Fleet include the return from Constantinople to Malta about January 19 of the battleship Benbow, Captain A. E. F. Bedford, flagship of Rear-Admiral Sir Richard Webb, K.C.M.G., C.B. She is being replaced at The Porte by the Ajax, Captain H. Ralph Crooke, C.B., which was recently recommissioned. The battleship Marlborough, now refitting at Devonport, is to be recommissioned there on or about January 24, and to leave about February 7 for the Mediterranean to relieve the Emperor of India, Captain W. A. H. Kelly, C.B. C.M.G., M.V.O. which returns to the United Kingdom for refit. Among the light cruisers on the station, of which Rear-Admiral Sir Reginald Tyrwhitt, K.C.B., D.S.O., is in command, the Concord, Captain B. M. Money, D.S.O., is relieving the Caradoc, Captain G. P. Bigg-Wither, at Constantinople. The latter ship is due immediately at Gibraltar for refit. The Ceres, Captain J. K. Im Thurn, C.B.E., left Malta for Egypt on December 23.

THE MYSTERY OF THE ORIENT.

By *Edouard Driault.*

(Continued.)

A course of lectures on Greek Independence is being given at the Sorbonne, Paris, by M. Edouard Driault, in connection with the centenary of the Greek insurrection of 1821. For his introductory lecture, of which we now give a summary in English, M. Driault chose the title "The Mystery of the Orient."

The first portion of this lecture we gave in our issue of December 29. M. Driault then proceeded to the Turkish Era. We continue our summary:—

II.—The Turkish Era.

But the Arab era and the Byzantine era, glorious as they were, foundered in the Turkish era.

The Orient was from the 15th century the Ottoman Empire, whose end we see to-day; for whatever may be the conditions to-morrow of Turkey, it will be no longer the Ottoman Empire. Hitherto there has been too much confusion between Arabs and Turks. The common religion has not effaced racial differences. Arabs belong to the white race; and the Turks are Mongols, a yellow race. There is as much difference between an Arab and a Turk as between a Frenchman and a Chinese. The Arab race has kept itself far more pure, while the Turks have intentionally mixed with vanquished races in the harems and especially in their war-like institution so characteristic of them, the militia of the Janissaries. It might be said that the Arabs became sedentary while the Turks remained nomads, camped on their conquests, as formerly the Camp of the Golden Horde, on the banks of the Volga, before the formation of the Muscovite States. The Turks have had no concern in founding anything. They have been mere warriors, with no other aim than to kill and to pillage for their enjoyment. They have destroyed and usurped the Khalifate of Baghdad. For the Ottoman Sultans were not true Khalifs, as they were not descended from Mohammed. They have usurped Damascus and Cairo, and under their domination these great Arab cities fell into silence, as if they had been reclaimed by the desert. The Turk is the desert, the Turanian, at one time the conqueror of Iran, Ahriman, conqueror of Ormuzd. They destroyed and usurped the Greek Empire. They destroyed, while still in delicate infancy, the young Christian nationalities of the Balkans, which hoped to live and expand under the loosened rule of the Byzantine emperors; on the plains of Kossovo they stamped out for five centuries the young Serbian nation, already valiant and conscious of its great future. They threatened the whole of Christianity. They penetrated almost to Malta, as far as the gates of Vienna; and they thought to feed their horses on the altar of St. Peter of Rome. For 400 years they reigned over the whole Orient. Their domination remained a conquest pure and simple, symbolised by the Janissaries, young Christians converted to Islam, and trained to the enthusiasms of holy war, which allowed the infidels no rest, and assured for its heroes the everlasting joys of Allah's paradise. They have founded nothing; they never tried to. They allowed the vanquished nations to live under their purely military administration, without suspecting that in this way they were preserving them for their inevitable renaissance. Theirs was the might, and the only use they made of it was to terrorise. Heirs of Baghdad and of Constantinople in whatever way they might be, they failed to make the most of the marvellous heritage devolved upon them. They allowed it to fall into ruins. Where is the memory of the Abbassids? Where is the magnificence of the palaces of Byzantium? Some generations of factitious renown derived from the Imperial court: and then life destroyed in the excesses and crimes of the harems. Even the race of the Sultans was lost in nervousness and foolish terrors, which made the masters tremble like slaves, the daily punishment of their tyranny from fear of its

just reward. Of the Parthenon at Athens they made a powder magazine; and it exploded under the Venetian bullets of Morosini and Koenigsmarck, and its mutilation was a symbol of Ottoman barbarism. Prostrated in the deadly delights of the seraglio, which became little better than a resort of excess, while their tired Janissaries lounged and smoked their pipes, the Ottoman Sultans had no thought for the organisation of their Empire, for giving it lasting institutions, for assuring the fusion of conquerors and conquered (the latter always kept at arm's length as a horde of *rayahs*), for work for the general prosperity, for opening roads, for exploiting the riches of the soil, for giving life, in a word, to the magnificent countries of which they were in possession. The Turkish Orient was, consequently, misery and ruin. The great road which the Phoenicians had traced, which Alexander the Great had largely opened from the Mediterranean to the Indus, which the Arab merchants had exploited fruitfully in the interest of all the peoples, this incomparable road, of which one might say that it was and is the essential artery of the ancient world, was cut by the Turks and closed to the world's commerce—an unpardonable failure which has condemned them.

And the West, which has need of the riches of Asia and of all the Far East, the West which has always stretched out its efforts towards India, the fascinating and immensely productive India, the West had to go and search its treasures by means of the voyage round Africa and even right across the world. The discovery of America resulted, but the Turks can claim no merit from it. Up to the 19th century the Turks refused to allow merchants to pass by the Red Sea under pretext that it bathed the shores on which are built the holy cities of Mecca and Medina. The Arab Khalifs had never had such scruples of pure fanaticism. The Turks made no contribution to art: a few mosques which are only copies, even when they have pretensions to sumptuousness, imitations of Byzantine or Persian art, or perhaps of the grand Arab art; no contribution to the development of science, of philosophy, in which the Arabs have been so remarkable; to the organisation of the human city, which requires the assiduous collaboration of all the peoples of goodwill. The Orient, so fruitful in works and in the boldest inventions, was as dead for centuries, for centuries lost that will never be recalled.

A GOOD ONE.

(From Our Zagreb Correspondent.)

The following incident throws an instructive light on the composition of the kaleidoscopic old Austro-Hungarian army. An Austrian officer was instructing his men upon who the enemy was, and the following conversation took place between him and a Croat soldier. "Who is the enemy, Matek?" asked the officer. Silence. "Who is our greatest enemy?" Matek's face lit up. "I know," he said, "The Magyars!" "No," said the officer angrily, "The Magyars are with us: but who is our real enemy, whom the Magyar hates too?" "I know," said Matek, "the Schwabs" (*i.e.*, Germans). "You are mad, Matek" cried the officer, "Tsar William is with our Tsar: the great and cultured German people is with us, against a low, uncultured, enemy in the Balkans. Now you know who he is?" A gleam of intelligence dawned on Matek's honest face. "Why, the Bulgars of course" he cried. "No, you idiot" cried the officer, now really angrily. "No, the Bulgars are with us against their enemy of centuries, who wants to take away our name, our faith, . . ." "Now I really do know" cried Matek in triumph, "it must be the Turk." "Go to the devil" roared the officer, "and learn geography."

Members of an Indian political delegation have arrived at Melbourne on their way to Fiji to inquire into Indian discontent there and to investigate the possibilities of setting Indian ex-soldiers and the land in Fiji.

MUSICAL NOTES.

ON CAROLS.

The subject of carols in this country is one to which the most abysmal ignorance still attaches. For there is a tendency to regard them, either as being a rather dismal product of, or an extorting prelude to, Christmas, or as being confined to a semi-sacred hymn-like tune. Indeed, if the average person were asked to name more than a dozen carols, he would be puzzled, and possibly quite unashamed. This tendency, which I suppose is one of the curses left over to us by musical Victorianism, is happily, though slowly, dying out, since deeper research is being made yearly into the history of carols. And I am sure it will be further diminished by the publication of an entertaining volume, written by Dr. W. J. Phillips: "Carols: Their Origin and History." With Words and Music. (London: Routledge and Co. 6s. net.)

Dr. Phillips' book is a quite handy and handsome presentation of facts which are only to be found in larger and less accessible works. His description of the carols, of their nature, their history, and their literary and musical content, is very simply made, the object being to popularize his theme; and the volume has the welcome addition of musical examples and of various illustrations upon some of the texts (the best of which latter is Henry Payne's curiously full design to "I saw Three Ships come Sailing in.") There is the danger in this simplification of style of becoming either monotonous or colourless, but on the whole it is avoided, and the book serves well its purpose of being an introduction to the subject.

Originally the word "carol" meant nothing more than a song-dance, and might as well be applied to Spring as to Winter; certainly its primitive associations were secular. But gradually it came to be associated with Christmas, and it is the historical narration of this association that is the best part of Dr. Phillips' work. He shows clearly how the carol developed from the Mystery-plays, into which the ecclesiastics had willy-nilly to incorporate it, so popular was this form of song with all the people; and from the fifteenth century until the advent of the Puritans in the seventeenth century (and even later in other countries than ours) the art of carol-singing and of carol-making was a distinct one.

When the author of this book proceeds to describe the varied nature of the carols, dividing them up into such groups as "Carols of the Virgin Mary," "Carols of Nature," "The Wassails," and so on, he is not so illuminating as he might be, for he rather disregards modern research into the subject. Thus when he quotes the beautiful fifteenth-century "I sing of a maid that is makeless," he might have added how freshly popular it has become through Holst's setting of it for voice and violin; similarly, it would seem impossible to write down "Wassail, wassail all over the town" without mentioning the wonderful arrangement of it by Vaughan-Williams. Among musicians to-day there is a new and wide interest in carols, both from historical and creative motives, and it is the chief blemish of this book that that fact should be rather obscured.

AN IRISH COMPOSER.

There are still people who assign high musical significance to that group of musicians who, towards the end of the nineteenth-century, were responsible for the renaissance of English music—that group whose most prominent figures were Parry, Mackenzie, Stanford, and Cowen. Of these people, Mr. J. F. Porte, whose book on Elgar I reviewed in these columns a month or two ago, is one; for he has published a painstaking study of "Sir Charles Stanford" (London: Kegan Paul. 7s. 6d. net). Historically, C. V. Stanford has much importance, as much for his interest in folk-song as for his work for English music; particularly for his research into Irish melodies and for his raising of the general standard in our academies will he be remembered. But

musically, he will, I think, apart from a few songs, be soon forgotten. However, Mr. Porte does not think so, and he has carefully made a complete catalogue, and in some cases a useful analysis, of Stanford's works. This writer's critical faculty is not strongly developed, but, for those who care for these things, his record will be very serviceable.

ON GRAMOPHONE RECORDS

For some time I have thought that a few brief comments upon gramophone records as issued in this country may be of service to readers, particularly those abroad, and I hope now to have the opportunity of saying something on the subject each week. The enormous uses to which the gramophone can now be put are disputed by no musician, and any opposition to it as a musical instrument comes from old-fashioned fogies, and is certainly dying. There will surely come a time, as the making of records becomes more perfect—and it is improving every year—when every cultured household will possess a gramophone.

Now among the companies issuing records in England there is none more enterprising than the Gramophone Company, the makers of "His Master's Voice" records, and it is upon some of their recently-issued works that I will speak this week. First I shall take some of their instrumental works, then vocal, and finally the light and more (what is called) popular kind of records.

Elgar's "Enigma Variations" have now been recorded on two double-sided records, and excellently, as far as Variation 10. From those early days when Bernard Shaw spotted the composer of these Variations as a winner, they have been growing in popularity in every civilized country (except possibly France), and it is good to have them here, conducted by the composer. If one had to find marks of supreme excellence, one could point to the fine clarity of the cannonading drums in Variation No. 7, to the purity of the clarinets' tone in No. 8, and to the exquisite wood-wind snatches in the "Dorabella." But it is, admittedly, a case of finding virtues.

Many people, I suppose, now that Saint-Saëns is dead, will buy the two double-sided records of his second pianoforte concerto, played by the Belgian, de Greef, and conducted by Landon Ronald. The amazing brilliance of the work is fully realised by the pianist, and is well reflected on the records, which deal very faithfully with the incisive, staccato touch; but for myself, I find the work thin, and over-full of academic correctness.

The glorious overture from Wagner's "Die Meistersinger" is magnificently recorded in two parts, with Albert Coates conducting, the balance of brass and strings being particularly notable; and its sensuous appeal comes through as the intoxication from strong wine. Similarly, the Scherzo from Dvorak's "New World" Symphony is made in two parts, with Landon Ronald as conductor. I have never understood why this symphony has retained its hold on public affection; but still, here it is, as well represented as you may wish by the Royal Albert Hall Orchestra.

Benno Moiseiwitch is a young Polish pianist who gained an immense popularity in England during the war, and he still holds it as a technician *par excellence*; he plays as if he sensed everything in tone-values, and he has not yet developed a great imagination. However, his last-issued record, double-sided, is peculiarly adapted to show off his virtues, for it contains a "Finlandish Dance" of Palmgren, Leschetizky's "Arabesque in A flat," and Chopin's Valse in G flat major. His delightful spickness and neatness of technique are brought out with superb fidelity, and though the individual *timbre* of the pianoforte has not yet been conquered, it is being more nearly approximated.

The two pieces played on one record by Isolde Menges, one of our finest lady fiddlers—an adaptation by her husband, Tod Boyd, of Brahms' "Waltz in A flat major," and of this arranger's own "Samoan Lullaby"—are beautifully recorded. In both there is some perfect double-stopping, and the purity of the violinist's tone is a joy.

Andante.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

RADICAL ZIONISM.

"ZIONISM AND WORLD POLITICS." By Horace Meyer Kallen, Ph.D. (London: William Heinemann. 12s. 6d. net.)

This important American work, by a member of the "New School for Social Research," is above the range of purely Jewish interests. It shows how the Jewish problem has been bound up with the growth of social, political and scientific conditions; it describes the inner nature of Zionism in Europe, America, and Palestine, and it urges, with praiseworthy frankness, a peculiarly radical Zionism which merits no less outspoken comments. Briefly, Dr. Kallen urges that the problem of Jewish settlement is the development of Palestine as a state dedicated to the advance of social justice. This means a Jewish economic state; it means "industrialization" to allow for the admission of a larger population; it means something like Guild Socialism, but more political (p. 311). In this scheme the Co-operative Society will form a basis, and the British "Co-op." would guide and train it (p. 321); and Dr. Kallen believes that the sympathy of British Labour for Zionism is not only in order that a "historic wrong" may be righted, but that "an important experiment in creative democracy" may be tried (p. 288). And as the trend of life in this country is towards "industrial democracy," it is the policy of the Jews to be in harmony with it and not with "the powers that be" (p. 290). Moreover, friendly relations must be cultivated with the Arab-speaking population, with a view to the assimilation, on the cultural level, of the Jew and the kindred Arab. Common opposition to imperialism will also unite them.

The Jews are the only people for the experiment, which in fact is inevitable for Jewish Palestine; and any resistance of vested Jewish interests could be broken down by "force or persuasion" (p. 316). The cause of the Jews and that of the masses are generally identical (p. 233), and Palestine holds a central place in a world-wide network of political and other relationships (p. 278); consequently it is interesting to know that the social-economic theory urged by Dr. Kallen has possibilities outside Palestine (p. 303). Further, a happy Palestine will require a new ideology, a new system of concordant ideas and institutions; and Dr. Kallen has no doubt that only a new ideology will save Europe. He is thus in agreement with Mr. Lenin, even to the extent of deploring the part religion takes in education, and in the view that teachers should be sent, preferably from America, to teach the young (pp. 211, 235, 284, 326 sq.). Indeed Dr. Kallen, who does not seem to have heard of the horse that died just as it was learning to live on nothing, has much sympathy with the Russian experiment, and only regrets that Bela Kun's dictatorship in Hungary was not left alone: "The success or failure of this experiment under its own weight and strength would have been a distinct service to mankind (p. 229). No doubt! True, the dictatorship "avoided, as well as it could, the errors of the Russian Soviet Republic" (p. 227), but the experiment needs severe measures, e.g. "vigorous preventive justice, education and industrialization" (p. 235). Besides, Russia undergoes socialization through "autocratic" force (p. 203), and we hear of the "hardships of an imposed communism" (p. 224), and the "vigour" of its military discipline (p. 226).

Dr. Kallen denounces the Allied blockade of Russia (p. 208 sq.) but admires that by organized Labour (p. 231). He condemns the White Terror, but not the Red, and it is doubly significant that he can speak of the "prophet-like truculency" of a Zionist champion (p. 134). Condemning sweating, exploitation, etc., he is yet aware of Jewish faults (pp. 91, 125); but emphasizing "Christian usury," he forgets both Semitic antiquities, and the capitalist promise of Deut. XV.6. Imperialists are of course anti-Jewish, and vice-versa, and he condemns in turn nearly all the "imperialisms"—national, religious, cultural, economic, and financial. But he omits the socialist imperialism of the Soviet Republic though he is aware of her "military oppression and militant propaganda in the East" (p. 212); and,

referring to early Palestine situated between the military imperialisms of Asia and Africa, forgets that Jewish imperialism was not quite unknown. Seeing that Zionism has its own mission—to raise the "barbarous" level of the fellahin (p. 295), it is a little out of place to gibe at "the traditional high moral business" when civilisation is to be defended against Russia (p. 222).

No people is so disorganised as the Jews, and Zangwill's biting epigram is repeatedly verified (pp. 86, 117, 143, 152 sq., 227, 244). Suffering has repeatedly united them, but their own differences obstructed united Jewish action to save two thirds of the Jewish population of the world from being done to death (p. 247). Anti-Semitism may be practically rooted out in Russia (p. 211), but we learn of the intense bitterness among the Jews themselves (pp. 244 sqq.). Their worst enemies seem to be always the kinsmen within their own gates. Dr. Kallen has the scantiest respect for Rabbinical and Reformed Jews, and deplores the sentimental or religious considerations which appear to hamper his secularist Zionism. He speaks of "the resentful opposition of the Secretary of State for India, an Englishman of more or less *Mosaic persuasion*" (p. 189)—we italicise a favourite phrase of his; and elsewhere he scents hostility or malice even on the part of his own people (pp. 97, 319 sq.). When, therefore, charges are brought of obstructionist or malicious Anti-Semitism it is well to bear in mind Dr. Kallen's perfectly candid remarks on the weakness, or inability, or indiscretion, or stupidity of Jews themselves (pp. 98, 100 sq., 174, 254 sq., 326).

As regards the economic theory urged by Dr. Kallen, the fundamental fact is that any sweeping theory of social improvement must be far more scientific, more logical, more sociological, and so forth, than that which is offered by him or by the Bolshevik and other extremists. He has ignored important sociological evidence. He has not understood his Old Testament history, but relies upon some second-hand "higher criticism." He misunderstands the Hebrew prophets, and his conception of "righteousness" is as fallacious as that of old which made it mere alms-giving. His idea that the land belonged to the people also quite misses the point. (Lev. xxv. 23). So, while, on the one side, "higher criticism" and the science of religion are re-interpreting the Old Testament—and Prof. Warburg has rightly perceived that the merely historic claim to Palestine is not of the strongest (p. 108), on the other side, when Dr. Kallen demands a new ideology, a new philosophy of Zion (p. 284), he must realize the ordinary principles of a unifying ideology.

The value of any unifying ideology will be judged, not least of all, by its attitude to religion, and Dr. Kallen seems to go out of his way to offend the religious and sentimental feelings which have hitherto supported Zionists and other Jews. Nor is his radical socialism tactful if he supposes that for his egregious experiment upon the unfortunate inhabitants of Palestine he can appeal to Jewish capitalists and others with a "sense of religious duty" and "social responsibility." (p. 331 sq.) Dr. Kallen must not complain if his book alienates the sympathies of other readers besides the present writer, and he can scarcely expect Palestine to be the field for a fallacious conception of "social righteousness," and raw material for a half-baked theory of social progress. His very candid book deserves candid consideration. The Jewish problem is one in which Jews themselves must co-operate; and this book may help to clear their minds. Jews have suffered cruelly and innocently, but the excesses of their own number have been chief among the contributing factors. If some of the most thorough-going Semitists have been of non-Semitic origin, Anti-Semitism, on the other hand, is also a Semitic feature, and the Old Testament itself is, in a sense, Anti-Semitic. There must be a profounder study of the Jewish problem if Zionism is to succeed, and Dr. Kallen's "study in history and social psychology" is mainly a well-written and clever piece of radical propaganda.

STANLEY A. COOK.

TWO GREAT REVIVALS.

"THE GREEK RENAISSANCE." By P. N. Ure, M.A., Professor of Classics at University College, Reading. (London: Methuen and Co., 6s net.)

Historical research has been revolutionised by the vast scientific movement which owes its birth to Darwin's "Origin of Species." No modern historian enters on his task with an arsenal of preconceived ideas, or presumes to ignore facts which do not square with some favourite dogma. The environment which moulded a nation's intellectual life is studied in the light shed by geology, archaeology, and economics. It is admitted on all sides that the roots of the present lie deeply embedded in the past and that the future looms before us as an inevitable resultant of forces which have been long in operation. The new departure is admirably illustrated by a work on the Greek Renaissance by Professor P. N. Ure, who teaches Classics in University College, Reading. He deals with every side of that marvellous civilisation to which our own stands deeply indebted; and shows us that the law of evolution produced identical effects at widely different epochs.

We are apt to restrict the term "Renaissance" to a revival of literature and art which dawned in the 15th century and has not yet spent its force. This was no isolated phenomenon: Greece became the theatre of a Renaissance in the seventh century B.C.; and the two movements have much in common. In each antecedent civilisations had been destroyed by waves of barbarian invasion, and in each a period of comparative tranquillity gave scope to the constructive genius which runs like a thin vein of gold through the quartz of human nature. Greece borrowed largely from the products of Egyptian and Asiatic culture, while the Byzantine Empire in its death-throes handed the torch of Hellenic civilisation to Western Europe. The Trojan expedition immortalised by Homer had the same effect as our Crusaders in welding inchoate nationalities into a more or less coherent entity and inspiring them with common ideals.

Although Professor Ure emphasizes the essential "modernity" of the Greek Renaissance he is careful to point out divergences between the two movements. Ancient Greece and her colonies were a congeries of City-states, each administering an area no larger than that of an average English county. Such an environment gave ample opportunity to the expansion of individuality and the exercise of constructive genius. The political unit is now immeasurably greater, and machine industry has conspired with rapid communication to stud the Western World with overgrown human hives, which stifle originality and reduce all workers to a uniform dead-level. The population of Attica in its glorious prime was less than that of the smallest London borough. On the other hand the Greek Renaissance compares unfavourably with our own in its failure to develop experimental science. This defect "limited the Greeks' sphere of thought, their mechanism for diffusing knowledge, and for political organization." But every social problem which perplexes us to-day arose in the city states of ancient Greece, and was dealt with by men who "sought objectives similar to our own and did so with a not dissimilar equipment." Educationists will concur with Professor Ure's opinion that "taken in its broadest sense, history is perhaps destined to be the most important science of the immediate future."

F.H.S.

FIFTH EDITION.

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THE CALL.

"SOUTH WITH SCOTT." By Captain E. R. G. R. Evans, C.B., D.S.O., R.N. (London: Collins. 10s. 6d. net.)

"The object of this book," writes Captain Evans in his Preface, "is to keep alive the interest of English-speaking people in the story of Scott and his little band of sailor-adventurers, scientific explorers, and companions. It is written, more particularly for Britain's younger generations." It is impossible to think that the story of Captain Scott's wonderful achievement and tragic, heroic death can ever be forgotten, but it is certain that many who would not read the longer account nor those written from the scientific specialist's point of view, will read enthralled this condensed account of it, which is a perfect book of adventure. Captain Evans' style is absolutely simple and straightforward, but he makes every scene vivid, and his companions so real that we seem to have known them. Every detail that he tells us of the voyage, of the winter spent on Cape Evans, and of the final journey is of intense interest, and we read on and on, until in the end we seem to have been wandering too in those endless fields of snow and the oppression of the final tragedy is almost unbearable. From the moment when "the brown backed petrels began to appear, sure precursors of the pack ice" we plunge with the adventurers into a new and wonderful world, a grim world, whose peaks, the author feels, seem to be mocking the explorers. There is a vivid description of the landing on Cape Evans and the erection of the winter dwelling place. Here the newest of the ill-fated motor sledges broke through the ice and sank. Captain Scott, we are told, took the news "awfully well." It is in little touches like this that Captain Evans mostly shows his tremendous admiration for his leader, making us feel that he considers him great beyond ordinary words of praise.

The sense of tragedy gradually closes in on the reader who knows only too well what was to be the fate of five of the gallant band and who knows too that all the time Amundsen was ahead with the Norwegian flag. But before this there is much that will delight him, especially if he belongs to "Britain's younger generation," in the description of life in the Hut—a plan of which is given, showing how it was divided up—and particularly of the wonderful feast on Mid-winter Day and the "Christmas tree." We have here illustrated one of the greatest triumphs of the spirit of man, the successful determination to lead a normal life under utterly abnormal conditions. One of the clearest of Captain Evans' pictures is that of Captain Oates working unceasingly to lessen the hardships of the ponies, in a storm on the voyage, when "he seemed to be actually lifting the poor little ponies to their feet as the ship lurched heavily to leeward." "He himself appeared quite unconscious of any personal suffering, although his hands and feet must have been absolutely numbed by the cold and wet." In a blizzard when he stayed outside "trying to keep life in his charges and up to the very last, although the time had come when the animals had to be killed and eaten one by one." It was a part of the sublimely unselfish courage that sent him out to meet death in a blizzard.

It is impossible to give an adequate impression of this powerful book and we can only recommend everyone to read the story of heroic endurance for themselves.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Shuwa Arabic Stories." With an introduction and vocabulary. By C. G. Howard. (Oxford University Press).

"The Song of Songs: Love Lyrics of Ancient Palestine." By Morris Jastrow, jun., Ph.D., LL.D. (London and Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co., 12s. 6d. net.)

"A Memorial Record of the Seventh (Service) Battalion, The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry." Compiled and Edited by Lieut.-Colonel C. Wheeler, D.S.O. With a Foreword by Major General J. Duncan, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O. (Oxford: Basil Blackwell. 10s. net.)

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

January 12 (New Style).

December 30, 1921 (Old Style).

Gumada I, 13, 1340 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.

Tebet 12, 5682, of the Jewish Calendar.

Prince Nicolas of Roumania is the guest of the King and Queen of Sweden at Stockholm.

M. D. Mamartcheff, Secretary to the Bulgarian Legation, left London last week for Sofia, on leave.

Mr. Lindley, the new British Minister to Greece, has arrived in Athens.

Viscount Peel, who is in Palestine, will return to London at the end of January.

Major and Mrs. T. G. Hetherington have left Abberton Manor, near Colchester, for Cairo.

Sir J. R. Ellerman and Lady Ellerman have left London for Egypt, and expect to be away for two months.

Viscount and Viscountess Milner have returned to town from Sturry Court, Sturry, Kent.

Canon Burroughs, Dean-Designate of Bristol, will shortly leave England for Egypt, and expects to be away nearly three months.

Mr. A. O. Lamplough, the well-known painter of Egyptian scenery, left England last week on board the s.s. Narkunda.

M. Gavrilovitch, Secretary to the Legation of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, and Mme. Gavrilovitch returned to London last week from Cannes.

It is announced that Princess Mary has definitely selected as one of her two bridesmaids Princess Marie of Roumania.

The *Wiener Zeitung* states that ex-King Ferdinand of Bulgaria is engaged to Mlle. Hronek, a leading member of Viennese society.

Lord Northcliffe arrived at Colombo (Ceylon) on January 3, and paid a visit to the Governor, Sir William Manning.

The marriage was celebrated on December 22, between Morton Hiles (late Political Dept., Mesopotamia), and Suzanne Hansell, widow of Miles Hansell.

The Archbishop of Trebizond, with M. P. Dragoumis and M. A. Nicolaidis, members of the Greek National Assembly, have arrived in London.

Sir Murdoch Macdonald has arrived in England from Egypt. When he returns to Cairo in February he will be accompanied by Lady Macdonald.

In a chess match played between past members of Oxford and Cambridge Universities, held at the City of London Chess Club on January 7, Major R. W. Barnett, M.P., played first board for Oxford.

Brigadier-General Sir Percy Sykes is reported to have arrived in Tangier for the purpose of studying the methods pursued by Marshal Lyautey, the French Resident-General in Morocco.

The Marquess Curzon has received a message of good wishes for the New Year from M. Pashitch, Prime Minister of Yugoslavia, and has reciprocated its friendly assurance.

The marriage was celebrated on January 3, at St. Clement's, Bournemouth, by the Rev. C. Stewart, between Captain Charles Kellie, 1st Brahmans, youngest son of Colonel J. Kellie, late R.E., and Sybil Doreen, youngest daughter of the late Lt.-Colonel R. A. C. King, R.A., and Mrs. King, of Bournemouth.

A marriage has been arranged between Peter Keith Wallace, second son of Major-General A. Wallace, C.B., I.A. (ret.), and Mrs. Wallace, Fleetwood, Wellington College, Berks, and Christian, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Edmonds, of East Cosham House, Cosham.

An engagement is announced between Major Wilfrid Weatherbe, R.F.A., youngest son of the late Sir Robert Linton Weatherbe, Chief Justice of Nova Scotia, and Lady Weatherbe, and Laura Margaret, daughter of Henry Montague Laurie, I.C.S. (retired), barrister-at-law, and Mrs. Laurie, Kenbank, Dalry, Kirkcudbrightshire.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Mr. Ernest Hodder Platt, late Coldstream Guards, of Le Douvre, Sark, and 12a. Barn Park, Teignmouth, and Mlle. Marie Claire Mihaesco, Legion d'Honneur, youngest daughter of General Ath. Mihaesco and Mme. Lucie Roxanne Mihaesco (*née* Jiano), of 11, Rue Antrîn, Bucharest.

The marriage was celebrated on December 12, at St. Paul's Cathedral, Calcutta, by the Rev. Canon Stokoe, assisted by the Most Reverend the Metropolitan, between Frederick Ewart Robertson, eldest son of the late Mr. F. E. Robertson, C.I.E., and Mrs. Robertson, and Brita Muriel, only child of Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Cobbold, 20, Lee Road, Calcutta.

The Rev. Ibrahim Baz has been appointed a canon of St. George's Cathedral, Jerusalem. He is the first Palestinian to receive this dignity, and deserves the thanks of the British community for his really heroic work in helping British wounded prisoners in Jerusalem during the war, when it was risk to any man's life to be known to the Turks as having British sympathies.

The marriage arranged between Major W. A. Nicholls, D.S.O., R.F.A., only son of General Sir William Nicholls, K.C.B., and Lady Nicholls, of 79, Warwick Road, S.W., and Hilda Evelyn, youngest daughter of Brigadier-General Gaussen, C.M.G., C.I.E., D.S.O., and Mrs. Gaussen, will take place at Brompton Parish Church on January 18.

A marriage has been arranged and will take place in February, between Mr. H. S. Offley Garrett, M.A., I.E.S., Professor of History in the Government College, Lahore,

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only son of the late Dr. E. M. Garrett, of Cambridge, and Mrs. Garrett, and Sibyl Beverly, younger daughter of the late Mr. H. H. Young, of the Cottage, Old Normanton, and Mrs H. H. Young, of the White Cottage, Holloway Hill, Godalming.

Mr. Edward James Standen, C.B., of Queen's Gate Gardens, Kensington, from 1857 to 1872 secretary to the British Commissioner on the European Commission of the Danube, and who served as Resident Director in Paris to represent the British Government on the Council of the Suez Canal Company, being appointed a member of the Managing Committee in 1888, a Crimean veteran, who died on November 1, aged 84, left £16,178.

Lord Lytton, Governor-designate of Bengal, has arranged to leave London early in March in order to arrive in Calcutta in time to meet the convenience of Lord Ronaldshay, who wishes to make over the charge of the Governorship before the end of that month. Lady Lytton and probably the three younger children will accompany him. Lord Lytton will have a holiday fortnight in Switzerland in the last half of this month if the work of preparation for five years' absence in Bengal permits.

While it was fully expected that M. Kostitch, the Yugoslav chess champion, would win the premier tournament at the Hastings chess festival, it was scarcely expected that he would do so as easily as was the case. He actually went through the tournament without even a draw, an achievement which is rare enough even in club events, and as his opponents numbered among them the British champion and an ex-British champion, it must rank as a distinctly fine performance. M. Kostitch, who will be staying in England for some time, will probably be a competitor at the London International tournament this summer.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, &c.

Herr Augustus Kral, the Austrian Minister to Bulgaria, presented his credentials to King Boris on Friday, thus reopening diplomatic relations between the two countries, which were broken off in October, 1918.

The Secretary of State for India in Council has made the following appointments to the Indian Educational Service :—

Mr. Surendra Nath Dhar, D.Sc. (London), M.Sc. (Calcutta), and Mr. Kayalettha Chakko Chakko, D.Sc. Eng. (London), as Professor of Civil Engineering respectively at the College of Engineering, Madras.

Mr. Arthur Errol John McLean, B.A. (Oxon), as Principal of the European High School, Maymyo Burma.

Miss Alice Henrietta Lawrence, Honours School of Modern History Oxford, Diploma in Pedagogy, London, as Inspector of Training Institutions for Women Teachers in the United Provinces.

OBITUARY.

M. Dimitrakopoulos, chief of the Progressive Party in Greece, has died in Vienna, where he had gone for a cure.

The news comes from Paris of the assassination of Count Maurice de Leusse, who left France last November for Ethiopia on a big game shooting expedition. He was murdered by native brigands when 20 days' march from Adis-Ababa.

The death is announced from Egypt of Dr. Herbert Milton. Dr. Milton had for many years past been a prominent figure in Anglo-Egyptian circles. It was in 1884, says the *Sphinx*, that he went to Egypt to take up the appointment of Principal Medical Officer at Kasr-el-Aini Hospital. In this capacity he did much excellent work, and after his resignation in 1898 he continued that work in a nursing home at Gezira, where he remained until 1916. And apart from his medical duties, Dr. Milton took a great interest in the development of Egypt.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 1922.

A MILITARY HOLIDAY FOR THE NEAR EAST.

After Washington, Cannes. In the matter of conferences Pelion is being piled upon Ossa, and in the south of France a valiant effort has been made to prevent the first from eclipsing the second, by producing something more than what is proverbially associated with the labours of mountains. At Washington definite results were secured; there is at least to be a naval holiday in regard to capital ships, however much its economic and moral values are to be whittled away by competition in other types of vessels; and the Pacific Pact is a tangible contribution to the world's peace. The Pacific, however, is a long way from Europe. Cannes is nearer home, and is called upon to deal with matters of more pressing urgency. The greater interest, therefore, attaches to the second conference, and for this reason it was harder to live up to the expectations formed of it. Unfortunately, the meeting of the Supreme Council does not, in the nature of things, lend itself to concrete results. It may decide to summon an international economic conference at which Germany and Russia are to be represented, and the resolution to this effect is a notable achievement; but the main interest will attach to the decisions taken by that later gathering. The Supreme Council may also discuss the situation in the Near East; but unless the meeting of the Foreign Ministers in Paris is to be stultified at Cannes little more can be done than to prepare the ground for agreement between Great Britain, France and Italy in redrafting the Turkish settlement. What Europe is waiting for is the actual terms that are to restore peace to the Near East and remove by no means the least important contributory cause to unrest over a much wider region. But while the Entente Powers are feeling their way cautiously and without conviction to a settlement of the Turkish question, there would seem to be a good opportunity for the States of South-Eastern Europe to take a leaf out of the Washington book and to endeavour to do for themselves, and incidentally for Europe, what the Pact between the Great Powers has done in the Pacific.

Action on these lines would not imply any weakening of the desire to make a complete success of the conference to which the Cannes meeting has given its sanction. For the economic reconstruction of Europe anything short of co-operation between all the States must necessarily be inadequate. There is not the same need for catholicity to forge an effective political instrument in a restricted area. The Cannes resolution of January 6 imposes as an antecedent stipulation to the economic conference that "all countries should join in an undertaking to refrain from aggression against their neighbours." This is a most excellent condition, although a little vague, as it does not indicate the period for which the self-denying ordinance is to hold good. It enforces upon the participants the spirit of the League of Nations, whether they belong to that body or not. But the clause presumably had special application to Russia;

and if the Soviet Government should refuse to take part in the conference, there may be a tendency to let the all important stipulation drop. It would be a great mistake, if this were done. With every country pledged not to attempt aggression, the ground would be ready for a Near East Pact on the lines of the Washington Agreement. Fear of attack or the harbouring of aggressive designs is responsible for a heavy military expenditure in all the States of South-Eastern Europe, with one involuntary exception. If both factors are eliminated nothing should prevent all the countries concerned from formally agreeing among themselves to reduce their military commitments to a scale proportionate, let us say, to that imposed upon Bulgaria. The advantage of such a step is obvious. In the current budget of Yugoslavia military expenditure is estimated at a quarter of the budget total. One of the great hindrances to an improvement in the rates of exchange is the State expenditure in each country. Economic reconstruction must needs lag behind the nations' requirements until each Government adopts practical measures of economy.

The chief obstacle to a pact of this nature would be the refusal of Russia to take part in the conference or to subscribe to the condition that she should refrain from aggression. Roumania would naturally hesitate to run the risk of a reduction of her powers of defence in the face of the Bolshevik menace; and unless a fixed ratio between military strength and population were adopted by all the countries in South-Eastern Europe, the pact would be shorn of its value. To meet the difficulty presented by the Russo-Roumanian frontier, it should be possible for the Entente Powers to give the necessary assurance to the Roumanian Government. They would find the guarantee well worth the obligations it imposed, because the economic rehabilitation of South-Eastern Europe is essential to the well-being of the rest of the Continent. A further obstacle to the proposed agreement may be met with in the fact that the Peace settlement has in various respects created an unsatisfactory condition of affairs in the Balkans. Apart from the present *impasse* between Turkey and Greece, Yugoslavia has no port of her own on the Adriatic. Bulgaria is without an outlet to the Aegean Sea, and the partition of Macedonia cannot represent a settled state of things for that territory. Although the different countries might agree to a military holiday for a certain period, it would be in several cases with the reservation that they must still work openly or covertly each for the realization of its particular ambition. If, however, South-Eastern Europe could produce a statesman inspired with vision and prepared on behalf of his own country to set an example of self-denial, there should be a good opportunity at this time, not only of accomplishing the pact in question, but also of bringing the States together into useful economic co-operation, which would go far to rehabilitate that part of the world. The peoples themselves are wearied of international as well as of domestic strife, which have brought them to such a parlous condition; they would welcome the occasion that diverted the attention from party politics to a policy which promised temporary relief and, perhaps, a means of permanent escape from their existing troubles. So far the only move in this direction has come from Czecho-Slovakia, where Dr. Benes has succeeded in bringing into separate agreement with his own country, Roumania, Yugoslavia and Austria. Prompted by fear of aggression, these treaties are only negative contributions to the establishment of permanent peace; but now that their aim has been attained it should be possible to build upon them a more constructive policy. As soon as the different States of South-Eastern Europe have accepted the conditions on which they are to be represented at the International Economic Conference, they should push forward a pact of their own. Linked together by agreement in regard to a military holiday for themselves, they would be able to make a far more effective contribution to the discussions at the All-Europe Conference.

WHEN THE RUSSIANS CAME TO CONSTANTINOPLE. †

(November 1920).

By *Eveline Scott.*

As far back as I can remember and a great deal further back than that, the inhabitants of the Bosphorus have always thought of the Russians as a danger and a menace. Even as children, we caught the prejudice from our Turkish neighbours and whenever revolutionary clouds gathered on our horizon, never quite clear from promise of stormy times, we invariably thought the worst thing that could happen to us would be to have the Russians knock down the forts at the entrance to the Black Sea and take possession of Stamboul. Had it not always been the tradition to believe that some day they would inevitably conquer Turkey, make themselves overlords of the Black Sea by commanding its straits, and head of the Eastern Church by seizing old Byzantium? But there was more than a historical tradition behind our feeling. There was a present and lively fear of a Muscovite avalanche. Although we were English, we dreaded and disliked the Russians, as did our polyglot friends. If ever we heard cannonading, which was more frequent than you would believe, we used to say, cocking our ears, half as a joke and half in dread: "Hear that? The Russians are coming!"

I could not help thinking about this the other day when I stood at my window and watched, through the drizzling rain, a dozen or more old French tramp steamers chugging slowly down stream with their heavy loads of refugees from the Crimea, packed in grey lines on every available spot on deck, high and low, fore and aft, on the bridge, in the life boats, along the railings—everywhere. The Russians had come to Constantinople at last. More than one hundred thousand of them, miserable, hunted, starving creatures, without property or hope, faced with a future of complete uncertainty and pursued by the ghosts of what they had seen. Not were they the first, these Crimean civilians and remnants of Wrangel's army, to invade our city. They found thousands of their compatriots already here, for, ever since the first revolution they have been coming and coming and coming. An endless Slavic stream. It would seem that in this age of refugees, the Russian is the refugee *par excellence*. He has been trekking steadily for the last four years. From Petrograd to Moscow; from Moscow to the Volga; from the Volga to Sebastopol; from Sebastopol to Turkey—and then where next? Always the Russians have been fleeing from a terror that has dogged their footsteps, stolen their peace of mind, and finally pushed them into the sea.

They have taken possession, so to speak, of the city. You see them everywhere, in all manner of quaint and curious garb; in bedraggled uniforms of an obsolete army, in heavy furs brought from the ice-bound North, in the long, tight fitting coats, woolly caps, ammunition shoulder straps and high boots of the Caucasus mountains, in the gay and fashionable dress of the Moscow nobility, and in the nondescript, pitiful apparel of the confirmed refugee. All classes, all ages, all trades, all professions are represented. It is as though Russia had been poured like sand, freely, through a funnel into the Turkish capital. . . . Was there ever a day when we spoke with confidence of Russia as a steam-roller?

You may imagine what it means to have tens of thousands of refugees thrust into an overcrowded city, which has suffered more than most capitals in lack of opportunity to build new dwellings during the war, and which has been housing, moreover, an Allied army of no inconsiderable numbers. There has been horrible suffering. People have even gone so far as to say that it would have been less of a hardship to have faced a Bolshevik invasion than an uncertain and unhealthy foothold in a congested alien city. Bewildered authorities have done their best to meet the problem, but how can

such a problem be adequately met? There is so much of it. And where is it to end? Who will be bold enough to say when Russia will be again a safe country to live in?

Individuals, societies, organizations try desperately to alleviate some of the misery. Camps are formed outside the city; governments segregate the refugees on the Princes' Islands. Indeed, Prinkipo, made famous to the western world by Wilson's proposals that it be a meeting for pourparlers with the Bolsheviks in 1919, has been turned for some time into a miniature Crimean watering place. There, instead of the nondescript Levantines of other days, who might combine in their persons the blood of five or six nationalities, you see the sturdy Slavic figures of men and women with large frames, strong faces, high cheekbones, blue or grey eyes, and the free, rather wide, stride of a powerful race.

You can go to several apartments and *salles de vente* in Pera and buy anything from second hand clothes to furs and diamonds, fans and snuff boxes brought there by the refugees to be turned into money for bread. Who knows what treasures might be picked up? Eighteenth century lacquer work, and fine embroidery, strange and costly gems and antique china—last relics of that old autocratic order in Russia which has so hopelessly and completely collapsed. Strange tales reach your ears of men who were once lawyers in Petrograd selling newspapers in the street; of ladies who commanded five servants in their day, offering their services as nursemaids. Oh, there has been suffering! But the Russians are a proud and virile people, and you can see them rising slowly and doggedly from their low estate, and soon they will have outwitted even so malign a fate as has lately struck them down.

It is most intensely interesting to observe the changes they have wrought. Pera, the European quarter is a different place. It is Russianized. Over the foundation of unstable, shifting Levantines has been spread a layer of Slavic humanity. There are Russian newspapers and Russian restaurants. The best Armenian restaurant which for years has held prestige over all others, is completely overshadowed by two or three Russian eating places, which have excellent *cuisines* (what people know better than they how to prepare and enjoy food?) and as well, which is far more important, they have efficient service and an air that smacks of the complexity of western tastes and manners. The *Nouveau Theatre*, that tawdry tinsel theatre built out of an old Skating Rink, presents Symphony Concerts, and the musicians are all Russians. Never before in history, has Constantinople had local music that could touch it in beauty and technique. Indeed, artists of all kinds are as easily picked up on the streets of Pera to-day, as daisies on the Bosphorus hill sides in April. You can hear the best music for next to nothing. A famous bass from the Petrograd Opera House comes to your door begging you to arrange a concert for him; a celebrated pianist-composer will be more than grateful for an introduction to ladies of society who give *musicales*. Fine 'cellists play in restaurants, who in pre-war days held concert halls spellbound.

The Russians have brought other things to Pera too. They have brought gaiety and color and a devil-may-care spirit into the night life of the place. There is an intensity and abandon to their way of living which horrify the mild and thrifty native. You hear sinister tales of questionable clubs where there is loud carousing and heavy drinking every night in the year. The realism of Gorky's novels has been scattered all over a sophisticated quarter that is not unversed in the realism

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† This article won the Second Prize (£5) in our Ladies' Competition.

of many nationalities. But there is something peculiar and individual about the idiosyncrasies of the Russian. He is more thriftless than the Irishman, gayer than the Italian, more melancholy than the Englishman, more artistic than the Pole and in his powers of recuperation and buoyancy, outdoes the ever-persecuted Armenian, which is saying a good deal. If a Russian wants something, he wants it badly; if he decides to go down the broad road to destruction, he goes the whole way. He does not mince matters. How often do you see the exasperated benefactor throw up his hands in despair, when the Russian to whom he has given a warm overcoat sells it that same day and goes on a great and glorious spree for two whole nights and days on the proceeds, with nothing at the end of it but blank hopelessness and and further begging for warm overcoats? It is whispered that certain dark and narrow side street in Pera are not as safe as they were and that hungry men are desperate robbers. And do you think the Allied Police can cope with the situation?

The problem comes much nearer home than seeing poor outcasts on the streets or hearing an occasional fortnightly symphony concert. There is, for instance, my friend, Mrs. A. who has taken up as a *protégée* the twenty-five year old daughter of an ex-Minister. She is exceedingly well educated, speaking English and French fluently. She has lived in the best society in Petrograd and her father owned an estate outside the city. Now she is living in one room in a Bosphorus village, eking out a bare living by teaching French and acting as part time governess to tiny children. She came to me the other day and most volubly told me her story and asked my advice. She is very independent and determined to stand on her feet. Not so the Princess who was taken in by my warm-hearted cousin. "Such a woman!" remarked my cousin, whose warm heart, I fear, underwent a severe cooling process, "such a woman! Untidy, lazy, ungrateful. She turned my house into an hotel, got up at all hours, expected endless services from the maids, left her cigarette ash all over the carpets and invited her friends to spend prolonged week-ends with her. Finally I had to employ a ruse, hire a special carriage and secure the backing of an allied official to get rid of her." I remember a ride I had in the American college truck by the side of the wild Russian driver, last summer. He was fair and big, with a shaved head, blue eyes and a most intelligent manner. His English was feeble but he lost no opportunity to improve it. He chatted to me in the strangest mixture of French, German and English. He explained that he had half his diploma from the University before the war and he wanted to study more. I looked at his grimy hand and rough overalls. "Do you think, Madame," he said, "I can to learn in Robert College next year?"

The taking of Constantinople by the Russians has been an undramatic but an exceedingly thorough affair. Will this flood of new life into this old city have any permanent effect? You wonder sometimes when you hear constant stories of intermarriage; how your friend, the American Y.M.C.A. director has just taken to himself a Russian wife or how your Russian chauffeur has lately become engaged to your Armenian nursery maid, or how Mr. Dubensky has so well established himself in trade that he has leased a large office building for twenty years. On the other hand there are rare moments in which you are made to feel uneasy yourself, for the confirmed pessimist among your acquaintances will tell you that the Crimea isn't very far away from the Bosphorus after all, and that the Bolsheviks may take it into their heads to come your way. And then who knows? Your yourself may be joining with the Russians next time, in this eternal business of theirs, of refugeeing. You wonder for an uncomfortable moment. And then you look at the Allied warships in the harbour and take heart again. You turn from any misgivings as to the danger of the Russians in Russia (even now you think of them dimly as a menace to the Bosphorus) to your duty towards the Russians at your door, who knock asking you for bread, education, peace . . . and some faint hope of better days to come.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

In consequence of queries, the Editor thinks it advisable to state that the quotation from any article does not necessarily imply that the views expressed are shared by "The Near East." On the contrary, an attempt is made to include as far as is possible in the available space all sides of the various questions discussed.

England and the East.

In an article entitled "The Defiance of Gandhi," the *Morning Post* of December 31. once more pleads that the British Government, wherever it may be, shall govern, and proceeds to comment with satisfaction upon the speech made by the Viceroy of India last September at Simla. And in a final exhortation that Mr. Gandhi be imprisoned, it says, in the martial-law-and-no-damned-nonsense tone:—

Now, the ordinary law and Gandhism cannot exist together. With Gandhi at liberty, the ordinary law is in chains. The Viceroy goes and the "Dictator" remains. The majestic fabric of peace and order which the British race, to its eternal glory, has, after countless sacrifices and unending labour, raised for the protection and well-being of the helpless and emotional peoples of India, is now in danger. The Government of India, if India is to be saved, must answer the insolence of Gandhi with the full weight of that law which it is its duty to uphold. Otherwise Gandhi will soon be to India what Lenin has become in Russia.

The plain fact of the matter is that civilisation, if it is to survive, cannot afford another Kerensky. Without law there is no liberty. When elementary truths are forgotten nations suffer. Self-determination, that phrase "loaded with dynamite," is being detonated throughout the emotional corridors of the East, and is threatening to bring the whole structure of civilisation to dust and ashes. The ignoble surrender in Ireland has doubtless had its share in fanning the flame which is at present threatening India and Egypt, and all those tragic forces of rebellion, some fanatically sincere, some merely criminal, which are hungering to sweep across city and plain, feel that the barriers and sanctions are breaking down everywhere. Now, therefore, is the urgent time for authority, backed by law and moral force, to reassert itself. Already there are signs that the world and its rulers are returning to sanity. The so-called "Dictator of the Nile" is on his way to Ceylon, and Lord Allenby, to the intense relief of all law-abiding people in Egypt, native or foreign, is apparently determined to uphold the law. Lord Reading, if he is to be loyal to his trust and his own words, must do likewise. If his predecessor had had the courage and independence to have done his duty, Gandhi would not now be proclaiming rebellion at his congress camp, and Lord Reading would not be face to face with the menace of another Mutiny.

Egypt.

The *Spectator* of December 31, in two notes on the Egyptian situation, first details Lord Allenby's latest measure, and then says:—

As we are responsible for the peace and prosperity of Egypt, Lord Allenby's firm action must be approved. Zaghlul and the fanatics in his pay could not be allowed to terrorize the country. Yet it has to be admitted that the return to the old fashioned method of governing Egypt contrasts oddly with Lord Milner's offer, last year, of virtually all that the wildest Egyptian Nationalist could desire in the shape of "self-determination." For this sudden swing of the pendulum from the one policy to the other the Government at home are, of course, responsible. Even if the Egyptians were a highly educated people, with great political experience, they might be excused for showing surprise and indignation at the Government's sudden change of front. The May riots, of course, showed that

Egypt was no more fit to govern herself than the Philippines are, but no serious person who knew Egypt ever held any other opinion. The worst of it is that to-morrow or next week the Government may suddenly go on the other tack and revert to Lord Milner's scheme. The moderate Egyptian politicians, if there are any, cannot repose much confidence in our Cabinet.

But the *New Statesman* of the same date does not let the matter rest so lightly. It begins by stating that "the struggle in Egypt has opened 'according to plan,'" details the measures by which "Egypt is preparing to resist us by every means in her power," and then briefly relates that "for more than a generation we have had an 'Egyptian problem.'" But—"the Egypt of 1919 was not the Egypt of 1914;" and "what had been a nationalist party in the good old days was now developing into a national movement. It only remained for the British Government to thwart it, in order to make it solid and complete." It proceeds:—

But the British Government and those who support its policy add a present folly to their past folly, for they do not even now recognise what they have done. Despite all the warnings of the last three years, despite the facts before their eyes, they persist in dividing the Egyptians into categories of sheep and goats, and deluding themselves with the notion of gaining the favour of the "moderates" by crushing the "extremists." Two years ago—even a year ago—there was some sense in this differentiation. There was a left wing of the Zaghlulists which would be content with nothing short of driving the English into the sea. There was a large section, represented by men like Adly and Rushdi, who were ready to come to terms that would give the substance of what they wanted both to the Egyptian and the British peoples. And between the two was a huge mass—including, we do not doubt, Zaghlul Pasha himself—who would have accepted a settlement honestly and tactfully arrived at on the basis of the Milner recommendations. But the British Cabinet has closed the Egyptian ranks. Adly and his delegation were brought to London and fooled. Adly has returned to Egypt and resigned. There is no Egyptian Government in Cairo; there are no "moderates" in Egypt to applaud Lord Allenby's mailed fist or the mockery of freedom which Lord Curzon offers if Egypt will be of good behaviour. We are diverted—and we imagine that Downing Street is diverted too—by the naive complaints of Coalition leaders that the "moderates" "have ceased to work with us." The Cabinet knew long ago that their terms would not be accepted. Some of them, at least, did not care whether they were accepted or not. That, in our opinion, is the most serious feature of the whole affair.

The trouble in Egypt is not merely a disagreeable incident like an enlarged North-West Frontier affair. It is not an embarrassing opposition, such as we are faced with in India, to honestly conceived measures of reform which have the support of a great mass of Indian opinion. We can assert our belief that we are substantially right in India and that Mr. Gandhi is substantially wrong. We cannot, without utter hypocrisy, make any such assertion about our policy and Zaghlul's and Adly's in Egypt. Egypt is a nation, united and remarkably homogeneous; the fellaheen may be illiterate and ignorant, but that does not entitle us to pretend that they do not know what they mean, or mean what they say, when they demand independence. Egypt, moreover, has had again and again from us during the last thirty years explicit promises of freedom. Egypt has never been a part of the British Empire. And for these reasons, amongst others, Egypt is now a test case for the British people. Those who refuse Egypt her freedom are not only doing a wrong to Egypt; they are doing a wrong to this country and to the British Common-

wealth of Nations. The British Commonwealth of Nations is a new name for the British Empire. But it is also a new thing; it expresses an ideal, a contribution of the English race to the civilisation of the world. It is necessary, and it is legitimate, that the British Commonwealth of Nations should forget much of its ignoble Imperial past. It is impossible if it is to live, that it should forget the fundamental principles on which it is based. Freedom and consent are among those principles; force is not. It is a voluntary union of free peoples which has emerged from the Empire; it still has clinging to its skirts unfree peoples whom its aim must be to make free partners. Ireland has been brought into this partnership; the tremendous experiment will be made of bringing in the Asiatic races of India. But what has Egypt to do with this, it will be asked, if Egypt is outside the British Empire? The answer is that Egypt could and should be brought into partnership with the free nations of the British Commonwealth—not of course, with the exact status of the self-governing Dominions, but with a properly defined status of her own—the status, if you will, of an ally voluntarily accepting certain privileges and certain duties. That, as we understand it, would be the practical effect of our granting the Egyptian demands for independence, subject to the safeguards, which we require and they have always been willing to admit, for our legitimate interests.

It concludes with a discussion of the two main arguments used in defence of the policy of "forcing an unwilling Egypt under British tutelage." The first (which it believes to be hollow) is "the necessity of keeping a hold on Egypt for the security of our imperial communications and commercial interests."

The second excuse, which is, of course, mixed up to some extent with the first, is that the Egyptians are not fit for self-government. We shall not argue out this question; it was dealt with sufficiently by Lord Milner and his colleagues, and in any case ninety-nine out of a hundred of those who make the statement do not know what they mean by it. It is no doubt natural for Englishmen to think that they can govern other peoples—and especially Oriental peoples—better than those peoples can govern themselves. But not even Englishmen can govern another race against its will, save in one way—by the sword. That is the way that our militarists have chosen for us in Egypt. It is a form of government which we suppose will be congenial to professional soldiers and that type of administrator which regards "niggers" as designed by Almighty God to conduct themselves lowly and reverently towards white men. We do not think it will commend itself for long to the taxpayers of this country who have to foot the bill, to the merchants who trade with Egypt, or to any intelligent man who sees its inevitable reactions in India and the Middle East. We believe, in short, that the policy which is being put into force to-day in Egypt is not only a betrayal of a long series of pledges, not only offensive to the liberal sentiments of the British people, but is utterly stupid. The risks that we should take in conceding to Egypt that independence that she asks for, with the safeguards for ourselves and others that she would give, are but slight. The risk of our not being able to rule Egypt by brute force is not a risk at all—it is a certainty. It is to make such a Pyrrhic triumph for the bullies of the Coalition Cabinet that we are asked to dragoon Egypt as we dragooned Ireland, to drain our purses and to trail British honour in the mud.

An accidental shell explosion on board the Greek destroyer 'Leon,' which was lying in the Piræus, occurred recently. It appears from official inquiries that the explosion took place when one of the crew was handling a submarine bomb. The number of casualties is stated to be 21 killed and 42 injured.

THE FUTURE OF ARMENIA.

A memorandum on "Armenia and Asiatic Turkey" has been forwarded to the Prime Minister by Mr. Aneurin Williams, M.P., on behalf of the British Armenia Committee. It makes suggestions for the future treatment of the Armenian people. In the Caucasus, where the Armenian Republic of Erivan has been absorbed in part by the Angora Government and in part by Soviet Russia the memorandum contends that in principle the Armenians must some day decide for themselves whether they are to remain Turkish or Russian subjects or to form an autonomous or independent State, but no action is asked for against either Russians or Turks. As to the north-eastern portion of Turkey in Asia, a demand is made that, as proposed at the London Conference in March, 1921, and endorsed by the Assembly of the League of Nations in September, "a National Home for the Armenians, entirely independent of Turkish rule," should be established, with access to the sea. In dealing with the question of Cilicia, the memorandum describes the Treaty of Angora as a violation of the pledges given to the **Cilician Armenians** by the French and British Governments. For the purpose of safeguarding the Armenian minorities scattered over the rest of Asia Minor, the memorandum suggests the appointment of foreign Consuls, whose special duty it would be to watch and report on any serious wrongs done by the Turks to their non-Turkish subjects, and the organisation of an efficient gendarmerie controlled by European officers.

THE INDIA SOCIETY.

The first Rolleston Memorial Lecture arranged by the India Society was given at the Victoria and Albert Museum last week, by Professor Strzowski. The subject was Indo-Persian landscape in Northern art. He defined Northern art as the Iranian art which grew up under the influence of Mazdaism (the religion of Zoroaster), and gave examples taken from Italy, India, and China to show that Iran was the centre from which had come landscapes in pictures in which no attempt was made to reproduce the actual forms of nature. He claimed that the source of this artistic direction was not Hellenistic, but Eastern Aryan art, which attained its development under Mazdaism, and afterwards exercised an influence over Christian as well as Buddhist and Chinese painting. In support of this claim he drew parallels between the landscape in the mosaics at Ravenna, the wall paintings in the cave temples of Ajanta and the shrine of Tanamushi at Nara.

Mr. Laurence Binyon, the chairman, said that this was the first of a series of lectures under the memorial scheme designed to recall the great work done for the India Society by the late Dr. T. W. Rolleston. The object of the society was to stimulate interest in Indian art. Chinese and Japanese art had taken a permanent place in the minds of Englishmen, and India's achievements in that sphere should not hold a subordinate place.

THE ORTHODOX CHRISTMAS.

Christmas Day according to the Greek and Russian Calendars was Saturday, when special services were held at the Greek and Russian Churches in London. Dr. Pagonis, the Great Archimandrite, assisted by the Rev Agathangelos Moschovakis, the Archimandrite, conducted the service at the Greek Church in Moscow-road, Bayswater, which was largely attended. Among those present were M. Boeresco, the Minister Plenipotentiary, and Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, the Greek Chargé d'Affaires and Madame Rangabé, M. and Madame Mango, and the leading members of the Greek community. The members of the Russian colony attended a special service which was held at St. Philip's Church, Buckingham Palace Road.

M. Dimitri Stancioff, the Bulgarian Minister, and Madame Stancioff on Saturday held a reception at the Legation, 51, Queen's-Gate, which was attended by the members of the colony to commemorate Christmas Day.

M. Michael Gavrilovitch, the Minister of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, and Madame Gavrilovitch entertained at luncheon on Saturday the personnel of the Legation and a few friends.

RUSSIAN REFUGEES IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

The *Morning Post* publishes the following extract from a letter which a correspondent has received from his son, a naval officer in Constantinople:—

"I devoutly hope you are not giving anything to save miser-

able Bolshies in Russia, whilst here (in Constantinople) these 300,000 loyal Russian refugees are starving and homeless. We (the Fleet) have started saving our scraps for these unfortunate people; this ship alone is feeding 500. Even our seamen are deliberately buying more than they want for themselves, especially bread, and we find whole new loaves, put into the scrap baskets. We hope to raise £100 in our ship, but that will go no way, and unless something is done at home the Services out here (5,000 all told) can't hope to keep 300,000 starving Russians alive through the winter. This will mean cholera for a certainty. For Heaven's sake, and for our own, let us preserve these brave loyalists from starvation, that in due time they may return to their own country, and let the Bolshies die—the sooner the better!

"Lots of these poor refugees have risked going back to Russia rather than beg, or sponge all their lives on a world that seems to have no need of them; over half of these are shot by the Bolshies before they have been in Russia for 48 hours; the others are lost sight of. In a few years we may be deeply lamenting that we ever allowed these good and brave people—people on the side of law and order—to waste away, when the real fight with Bolshevism begins, as some day it must."

This eloquent appeal reinforces those which have appeared in our own columns, and it is to be hoped that it will not fall upon deaf ears.

SPORTS FOR INDIAN STUDENTS.

At the annual meeting of the Indian Gymkhana Club, held at Lord's, details were given of the financial position in respect to the recent purchase of 16 acres of pasture land at Thornbury Avenue, Osterley, for £6,500, and the progress made in equipping the ground for cricket, tennis, football, hockey, and other games. The appeal, issued in the summer of 1920 for £15,000 to cover the entire cost had yielded only £3,000 when the ground was provisionally selected last spring. Fortunately the Maharaja of Patiala, himself a great cricketer, was then in this country, and generously guaranteed the balance of the purchase money if it did not arrive in time for the date of completion, September 29. A preliminary payment of £1,000 was made, the remaining £2,000 in hand being earmarked for drainage and equipment. On September 28, the Maharaja of Patiala (who had previously subscribed) sent a donation of £4,000, and this was paid to the owners as a second instalment and the purchase price. It was agreed that the balance of some £1,500 should remain unpaid for a time so that the other princes and those who had expressed sympathy with the scheme and promised to send cheques, might provide the funds. The money is now urgently required.

Greek newspapers state that the Ecclesiastical Congress at Salonika has decided to consider the election of M. Meletios Metazakis as Oecumenical Patriarch as null and void.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

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The Cannes Conference.

It would be idle to suggest that the decision arrived at at Cannes to hold a conference of all the Powers, with a view to finding a way out of the economic *impasse* in which the world finds itself as a result of the war is to everyone's liking for there is a widespread and most justifiable distrust of Russia which cannot be dispelled in an instant by a change of front on the part of the Bolsheviks which may be more apparent than real. Still it is obvious that the way to the *status quo ante* lies in the restoration of all countries, for we are all dependent on one another.

Genoa and Afterwards.

However with what Russia may or may not do we are only indirectly concerned, and the main point at issue is the results that are likely to accrue in regard to the Near East from the meetings at Cannes and Genoa. There are two matters of the first importance that demand attention. Firstly the exchanges which are hampering reconstruction, strangling trade, and in so doing are reacting on other countries where the exchanges are nearly normal with very serious consequences. Secondly the position in Asia Minor, in regard to which it need only be said that so long as a state of warfare continues it is patent that there can be little prospect for commercial enterprise, and the economic position of the belligerents can only grow worse.

The Gezireh Project.

The December issue of the *Journal* of the Sudan Chamber of Commerce contains a letter from the Director of Agriculture, Sudan Government, dealing with an article that appeared in that periodical on the Gezireh project. In the article in question, to which I referred in these columns some weeks ago, the writer *inter alia* expressed the view that 50,000 feddans was the extent of development in the Gezireh for many years. The Director of Agriculture states that "those just as capable of forming an estimate, after careful consideration, put the minimum area under crop in any one year at 100,000 feddans, and this area is limited only by the amount of water which it has been decided can safely be taken from the Blue Nile on completion of the Makwar Dam."

Private Enterprise.

Proceeding to deal with another point raised by the writer the Director of Agriculture comments on the inclusion of Kassala and Tokar as private enterprise and says that "if Kassala and Tokar be regarded as private enterprise, then the Gezireh may just as fairly be considered private enterprise. There is no essential difference between the systems which hold at Kassala and Tokar and that arranged for the Gezireh. At Kassala and Tokar the Gash and Baraka deltas are flooded annually by the natural flow of these river; and the Department of Agriculture administers these areas directly." He further points out that in two important particulars Tokar, Kassala, and the Gezireh differ from private

estates in Khartoum and north of Khartoum. "Firstly, in the method of irrigation. On the private estates in question water has to be pumped from the river—an expensive item. At Tokar and Kassala we have natural flooding and in the Gezireh irrigation by 'free flow' canal. Secondly in the question of climate. Tokar and Kassala have a climate much more favourable and the Gezireh a climate more favourable for cotton growing than that of the Nile from Khartoum northwards."

North Persian Oil Concessions.

In his reference at the meeting of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company to the extraordinary attitude taken up by the Persian Government with regard to the North Persian oil concessions Sir Charles Greenway said that one of the signatures which was being repudiated was that of a former Prime Minister, who "was cognisant of the negotiations for the sale of the concessions to us, and was, in fact, the principal guest at a dinner . . . given by M. Kostaria in London to celebrate the conclusion of the negotiations," and added that he would like to know his views on the action of his Government "and what steps he proposes taking to secure recognition by them of his acts and deeds and to deny the statement put forward by them that the concessions were obtained by coercion." In reply a long letter has appeared in *The Times* from Vossukh-ed-Dowleh, much too long for me to quote *in extenso* unfortunately, for it is a delightful example of Oriental diplomacy and certain to please his august master the Shah-in-Shah. In the course of it, while admitting that he signed the Concession Act he states that the first he heard of any negotiations between M. Kostaria and the company "was after I had resigned for the second time, and left Persia, and subsequently met him in Paris." As regards the dinner he says "it is perfectly true that on this occasion some mention of an oil concession was made, but I am bound to say that the dinner in question was not to my knowledge given in order to celebrate the conclusion of any negotiations between the Anglo-Persian Oil Company and M. Kostaria; and even if it were so intended. . . ."

—but I think I have quoted enough.

Commentator.

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Commerce and Industry.

REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Zagreb, December 28.

Causes of Budget Deficit.

The Finance Committee of the Skupshtina has found that the causes of the deficit in the Budget are mainly the following:—1. Great military expenditure. 2. The great number of Government officials and employees. 3. Bad administration, disregard of the elementary principles of finance and economy, and failure to collect the revenue from all available sources. Thus they have seen the beam in their own eye, and as this is the first step towards improvement, and the Committee are determined to bring about a cure if it is humanly possible there is reasonable hope that we may see some amelioration in public finance during the coming year.

Commercial Debts.

There has been a great deal of talk about the proposed moratorium on commercial debts, by which the Government hope to avert the failure of a vast number of merchants and tradesmen whom ruin stares in the face owing to the sudden and violent fall of the dinar, which makes it impossible for very many of them to meet their obligations abroad incurred when the exchange was at a much higher figure. The scheme, admittedly a desperate remedy and a choice of evils, has passed the committee stage, and will come before the Cabinet and probably be passed in a few days. The details are as follow:—

Post-war debts incurred before October 1, 1921, in sterling, French, Belgian and Swiss francs, Italian lire, American dollars, and Dutch florins will be protected in this manner. If the creditor seeks payment through the Courts and the debtor or his guarantor cannot meet his obligations, he will deposit dinars with the *Uprava Fondova* (Administration of State Funds) in Belgrade to cover his liability at the following rates:—150 dinars per pound sterling, 260 dinars per 100 French francs, 150 dinars per 100 Italian lire, 675 dinars per 100 Swiss francs, 37 dinars per dollar, 12.50 dinars per Dutch florin. By this deposit the debtor will be considered covered against all claims and the Courts will not grant any judgments or bankruptcies on their account, but the debtor will remain still liable to his creditor for the full amount in the foreign currency. He will be bound to pay his debt in foreign currency to his creditor in four instalments, the first in nine months, the second in 15, the third in 20 and the fourth in 24 months, counting from the date of deposit of the dinars, together with interest at the rate of 6 per cent. with the right of withdrawing a corresponding portion of his deposit on making each payment. The debtor will give the creditor a bill which can be exchanged upon demand for a new one every three or six months, which shall indicate the amount of dinars which he has on deposit as security.

The Courts or the *Uprava Fondova* have the right, out of the deposits in question, and before the dates of the instalments referred to, to buy the entire amount of foreign currency required, if the rate of exchange permits, and so to liquidate the liability before the instalments are due, as may the debtor himself. If the debtor is unable to deposit dinars at the said rate to cover his liabilities or to pay his instalments in foreign currency when due, and the creditor sues him, the Courts will give judgment against him and declare him bankrupt.

Miscellaneous.

The Legislative Committee of the Skupshtina has proposed that the Belgrade Municipality be empowered to tax excess land values, and it is probable that this form of tax will be introduced into the State taxes throughout the country.

The Minister of Commerce has passed a ruling that in future it will not be permitted to deposit shares of local limited liability companies at the meetings of financial institutions abroad.

The Minister of Commerce has allotted to the Inspectorship of Labour, of the Ministry of Social Policy, the duties of boiler inspection, which will be unified throughout the country and brought up-to-date.

The Commercial Treaty between Yugoslavia and Austria will be prolonged from January 1 to August 1, 1922.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, December 19.

Roumanian Industries Fair.

In accordance with the decision of the former Ministers' Council, the Roumanian Industries Fair will be held annually during the months of August and September at Bucharest in the existing pavilions in the Parcul Carol. The official pavilion will be used for a permanent industrial museum. The fair of 1922, however, will be international, and will be opened on August 20. The Ministry of Industry is to decide what classes of foreign articles shall be admitted to the fair.

Coins to Replace Small Notes.

The Ministry of Finance is negotiating with the Swiss firm that supplied the 50 and 25 bani metal coins for the supply of coins to replace the 1, 2, and 5 lei notes.

Bucharest, December 28.

Stagnation of Trade.

Although the Christmas season is in full swing the trade market is still very slack compared with previous seasons. The chief reasons for the stagnation are the money stringency and the consumers' unwillingness to pay the present high prices. Wholesalers, being anxious to sell, are ready to reduce their prices when it is a question of large cash deals. Retailers are satisfied with smaller profits, being afraid to be caught with stocks should the Roumanian leu go up in value. Therefore, generally speaking, stocks in hand are still sold at lower prices than those prevailing at the factories abroad, so that the few orders booked by foreign travellers are based on credit and at a fixed rate of exchange lower than the one existing to-day.

Miscellaneous.

The Minister of Communications has closed a contract with the Polish firm A. Plage and Laskiewics, of Lublin, which has undertaken to organize the new aerial line from Dantzig *via* Poland to Bucharest.

The Roumanian State Treasury having a stock of gold of 2,700 kilogrammes chiefly from the State mines of Transylvania, and seeing the high price of gold prevailing abroad, has sent a Commission to Paris for the purpose of disposing of this stock at the best price obtainable. The Commission which is headed by M. Dimopol, the Director General of the Casa de Depuneri and Consemnatuni, left Bucharest last Saturday.

The Ministry of Industry and Commerce has now decided to allow the import of carpets, which are divided into two categories:—(1) The real Oriental carpets worked by hand are allowed to be imported only by private persons and in quantities not exceeding two to three pieces and weighing not more than 25 kilogrammes. The duty for this category of carpets will be 300 lei "gold" or 6,000 lei per square metre. (2) The ordinary factory made carpets can be imported by anyone and in any quantities, while the duty on them will be double the tax existing at present.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, December 28.

The War Indemnity Question.

To-morrow the Inter-Allied Commission will hold a meeting to consider the question of the payment by Bulgaria of the first instalment of the war indemnity. It is known that the points of view of the different

delegates are not the same, some holding that Bulgaria is able to pay now, whilst others hold that a delay ranging from three to five years is necessary. An announcement of a delay should be sufficient to force up the value of the leva, which it is worth while noting has been remarkably steady for the last month. The rate on London is 590 to-day. On the other hand the forthcoming publication of the budget deficit, which is very considerable, will it is feared render it necessary for the Government to call into use the printing press.

The Internal Loan.

The Internal 6½ per cent. loan is to be floated during January, and although the first amount due to be raised only totals 100 million levas (£170,000), it is possible that if success attends the loan the printing of new bank notes, may be held over.

The value of imports during 1921 was 2,213,827,000 levas, against exports of 1,642,998,000 levas, making an excess of imports over exports of more than half a milliard levas. Unless the difference between the value of imports and exports is considerably reduced in the near future, Bulgaria's currency cannot be expected to improve in the near future.

Sofia, January 2.

The Inter-Allied Reparations Commission.

Count Cherisey, Chief of the French Delegation of the Commission, vacated his post of President at the end of the year, and Prince Borghese, the Italian Delegate, becomes President. The latter is for the moment away from Sofia, but is expected back very shortly. The Secretary Generalship of the Commission also undergoes a change, the Italian M. Corsi, being replaced by Mr. Bruce.

It was thought that a decision as to the payments to be made by Bulgaria during 1922 would have been decided last month, but so far no definite arrangement has been come to. The Commission may be said to have spent 1921 in studying the finances of the country with a view to seeing how much money can be exacted. The result of this study can hardly have failed to render them somewhat sceptical as to the ability of Bulgaria to pay the full quota, *i.e.* every six months to put aside a sum sufficient to pay 2½ milliard gold francs in 37 years.

The only satisfactory feature about present day Bulgarian finance is that the printing press is not being used. During 1921 the circulation of bank notes decreased by 659 million levas. M. Tourlakoff, the Minister of Finance, is of opinion that, failing any extraordinary expenditure, 1922 can also be got through without having recourse to the press. If this view proves to be correct, Bulgaria's financial situation has every chance of improving, more especially if the importance of unrestricted trade is realised by the Government.

Evidently the influence of the Inter-Allied Commission on Bulgarian finance is slowly establishing itself, and thanks to the thorough manner in which the Commission is doing its work, there is every reason to believe that they may yet succeed in fulfilling their dual duty of exacting the war indemnity, and at the same time putting Bulgaria's finances on a sound footing:

ASIA MINOR.

Smyrna, December 14.

The Greek Commissariat have issued a notice that from January 14, the export of olive oil from Smyrna has been forbidden.

Work on the site of the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley Park began on January 10.

The Commercial Company of Salonika announces a dividend of 1s. per share, placing £1,280 to statutory reserve, and carrying forward £4,045.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cable received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated January 3:—

Condition of crops.—December 30.—In Bengal, rain desirable for spring crops in Western districts. Sind prospects improved by good rain. Bombay Presidency and Central Provinces crop prospects unchanged. January 2.—In Assam, outturn of transplanted winter rice good. Broadcast rice, tea, sugarcane, and prospects of rape and mustard fair.

All-India crop forecasts, 1921-22.—First forecast of winter oil seeds:—Rape and mustard, 1921-22 3384,000 acres; (1920-21, 2,385,000 acres); linseed, 1921-22, 2,001,000 acres; (1920-21, 1,755,000 acres).

Markets.—(a) Cotton.—December 29.—Bombay Cotton market—Fine M.G. Oomras, Rs. 475. Bombay cotton arrivals from September 1 to December 22, 786,000 bales as compared with 428,000 bales in the same period of last year. (b) Piece-Goods.—In Bombay piece-goods market no wholesale demand and ruling rates weaker. Some retail enquiry showing. Local goods moving steadily and prices firm. (c) Jute.—December 30.—Calcutta jute market firm. Sellers asking Rs. 58 for firsts and Rs. 46 for lightnings. Gunnies very quiet but steady. (d) Rice.—December 30.—Special Straits Quality Rice, Rs. 395 for December new crop. (e) Shellac.—T.N., Rs 145 spot.

Bank Rates.—Imperial Bank of India rate 7 per cent. from December 29.

THE ALMOND CROP OF PALESTINE.

At present there are estimated to be more than 4,000 acres of almond trees in the Jewish colonies of Palestine, and less than half that area scattered about the country in small units which supply mainly the local needs (says an American Consular report). The crop for the harvest just closed is approximately 2,227,000 lb. from the Jewish colonies, and probably not more than 700,000 lb. from the other sources. Old trees have borne very well this year, and with the new trees coming into bearing the current crop is considered quite a good one.

Almond growers in Palestine have not yet specialised in the soft-shell and other finer varieties, although there has been some experimental planting of these varieties. They find that the medium-sized, hard-shell nut best meets local growing, harvesting, and market conditions.

For the year ending March 31, 1921, the customs returns show exports of almonds amounting to only 28,046 kilos (61,870 lb). By far the greater part of the crop is required to meet local trade demands. The almond industry of this country has developed to a size where machinery is required for preparing the crop for market, and a few American almond hullers, used for removing the outer husk of the nut as it comes from the tree, have been imported. This work has hitherto been done by hand, but the machines introduced are giving satisfaction, and it is probable that more of the same kind will be imported. The Palestine Government has recently consented to sell almond hullers to the list of agricultural machinery which may be imported free of duty.

COMMERCIAL UTILITY OF SAFFLOWER OIL.

Safflower (*Carthamus tinctorius*) is widely grown in India chiefly as an oil seed. The oil is "one of the most valued of edible oils, and the oil cake when prepared after thorough decortication is one of the most valuable cattle foods, etc." The Agricultural Research Institute at Pusa, India, have been conducting experiments on the commercial possibilities of this oil, the results of which have been embodied in their Bulletin No. 124, recently issued. It contains a report of the experiments conducted in this country by Mr. J. Stewart Remington, Consulting Chemist, Aynsme Technical Laboratories, Grange-over-Sands, Lancashire. He concludes as under:—"Safflower seed oil should become a very valuable economic product if it can be only brought over and utilised on the home markets. It should be an excellent oil, if properly manipulated, for the colour, paint and varnish industries, also for soap and linoleum manufactures, as well as for edible and culinary purposes—in the latter case if proper means are devised as regards refining and bleaching.

OIL NOTES AND NEWS.

British Burmah Petroleum.

The final dividend of 6d. per share free of tax declared by the British Burmah Petroleum Company for the year ended July 31 makes the total yield $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. free of tax. This is considerably below the dividends of the two previous years, the return for 1919-20 being 20 per cent., and that for 1918-19 being $17\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., but the same as that for 1917-18. At their present price the shares yield a very fair return, and in view of the prospects of the company it cannot be said that they stand at too high a figure.

Anglo-Persian Success in New Field.

The very interesting information has been forthcoming during the past week that oil has been struck at a depth of 2,000 feet in the Anglo-Persian Oil Company's new field at Comodoro Rivadavia, in the Argentine, and that a yield of 400 barrels a day of good quality oil has been given by the well sunk. It is stated that seven other wells are being drilled in the same section, and that preparations for the testing of other areas in the Argentine are being carried out as rapidly as possible.

It will be recalled that at the recent general meeting the Chairman of the company, Sir Charles Greenway, said that the company had acquired important interest in two companies which hold large areas in the Comodoro Rivadavia, Neuquen, and other fields. "Six test wells are being put down in the first of these fields," he added, "and we have just received advice that one of them has already struck oil, but the capacity of the well has not yet been ascertained owing to a temporary plugging. In the other fields two test wells are about to be commenced." News of the results obtained from the other wells will be awaited with considerable interest.

The Steaua Romana (British).

A very interesting speech was made by Sir Charles Greenway at the general meeting of the Steaua Romana (British), Ltd., a report of which will be found elsewhere in these columns. Dealing with the efforts to rebuild the parent company in Roumania and its organisation he pointed out that before the war the company was not only a producer and refiner of oil, but had its own steamships and therefore its own transport, and its selling organisations in various parts of Europe and the Near East. The management in Roumania and the French and British companies have devoted themselves to the reconstruction of this organisation. As regards drilling operations the total drilling for last year was over 10,000 metres, and Sir Charles stated that it was hoped during the present year to drill 20,000 metres.

Prospects of Company.

As regards the outlook for the company Sir Charles pointed out that with a return to more normal conditions the earning capacity of the Steaua Romana should increase as it had done during the past two years. Obviously the earning capacity of the Steaua Romana (British) is dependent on the course of the leu, the position of which at present is anything but satisfactory. But as has been often pointed out in these columns the rate now ruling is far from representing the situation, and like everyone else who is *an courant* of the facts Sir Charles takes a very hopeful view of the outlook. He pointed to the fortunate position of Roumania as a result of the war with her territory more than doubled, and declared that the problems that confront the reconstruction of new Roumania are the causes of the fall in the leu. "It would be idle," he continued "to attempt to foretell the future of the leu, but I can give you a few facts as to the present position of the country. At present the issue of notes is made by the Banque Nationale, and amounts to some 13 milliards of lei. The basis of this currency is Government Gold Treasury bonds, but latterly the bank has refused to issue any further notes, both at the request of the Government and at the desire of the banks themselves. Taking 600 lei to the £, this means an issue in sterling of only £1 per head of the population, which is of course, an ex-

tremely small issue as compared, with that of any of the other adjacent countries, and gives very great hopes of the restoration of the financial equilibrium necessary for the re-establishment of a more normal rate of exchange. Every one of the new provinces has—like the old Roumania itself—natural resources of great value. Roumania, as you know, was before the war a large exporter of cereals, oil and timber. This trade must be re-established in due course, and therefore this country has possibilities of recovery from the present depreciation in exchange and financial difficulties greater, perhaps, than those of any other country in Europe."

Phoenix Oil and Transport.

The rise in the shares of the Phoenix Oil and Transport Company Ltd., was only to be expected in view of the promising survey of the situation given by the chairman, Mr. E. Manville, at the recent general meeting. He stated that the company had actually entered the profit earning stage, the receipts being now in excess of the expenditure, and pointed out that it was the intention of the Board to ship the bulk of the company's products to England and France, to be sold for sterling or French currency so that in this way the difficulty arising from the fluctuations of the exchange will be overcome.

ASIA MINOR FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., Smyrna report as follows for the week ended December 17:—

Sultanias.—The total estimated arrivals to date amount to 163,560 bags as against 90,170 bags for the corresponding period of last year. The total estimated sales are 153,560 bags as compared with 83,170 bags for 1920, and the estimated stock unsold totals 10,000 bags as against 7,000 bags.

Shipments.—Sultanias are being loaded on the s.s. Brescia for Liverpool, and s.s. Borodino for London.

Markets.—Sultanias continue in demand but dealers are holding for progressively advancing prices and business is consequently restricted. Estimates of stocks remaining in the country vary between 3,000 to 4,000 tons. Arrivals are limited, farmers in the interior of the country sitting tight on their remaining stocks. Exchanges have fluctuated very widely. Sterling suddenly dropped at the beginning of the week to 710, slowly recovering to 730.

Sultanias.—In a further report dated December 24, Messrs. C. J. Giraud state that the total estimated arrivals to-date amount to 165,460 bags as against 91,645 bags for 1920. The total estimated sales are 156,460 bags, compared with 84,645 bags for 1920 and the estimated stock unsold is 9,000 bags as against 7,000 bags for last year.

Markets.—About 400 tons of sultanias were bought in the early part of the week, prices reflecting an advance of 2s. to 4s according to quality. Dealers are very firm in their views, and business is being restricted owing to their reluctance to sell. Estimates of remaining stocks are between 3,000 and 4,000 tons. Exchanges are weak with declining tendency.

CATALOGUES REQUIRED FOR IRAK.

Information has been received at the Department of Overseas Trade that the Director of the Public Works Department, Baghdad, Irak, is anxious to obtain catalogues, designs, specifications, prices, etc. of the following machinery and equipment:—; Farm tractors, road tractors and agricultural machinery, excavating machinery; irrigation pumps; piping and pipe fixtures; well boring plant and casings; steel bridges (ready for erection); cement and concrete mixers; quarry plant; brick and tile making machinery; electric lighting and power plant; pumping plants; motor cars, lorries, and tank waggons; petrol and oil tanks with measuring gauges; portable wooden houses with double roofs and walls; water craft; railway locomotives; aerial ropeways; refrigerating apparatus; small electric lighting sets with fans and accessories.

Engineering Topics.

By Our Engineering Representative.

Pit Motor Maintenance.

One of the principal factors in prolonging the life of any motor used in a dirty or dusty situation, as a colliery or flour mill, is cleanliness; cleanliness not merely outwardly manifest in polished steel and perfect paintwork, but extending to the innermost recesses of the windings. More especially is this so with motors of the induction type, and whenever one of these is dismantled it should be thoroughly cleaned and re-varnished.

One of the most usual methods adopted is to blow out the windings with a bellows or air blast, but this is by no means sufficient, and the slots should be thoroughly scraped out with a blunt scraper small enough to get into the smallest corner. After thorough scraping it should be well swilled with petrol, the usual precautions against naked lights being adopted, which will remove any traces of grease or oil. In regard to this it is as well to remember that benzol should never be used for the purpose, as it will attack the varnish or enamel used, or one or other of its constituents with the result that although the windings may look all right a breakdown, sooner or later, is inevitable.

For re-varnishing an air blast should be used to drive the insulating liquid into the crevices of the winding, and although certain varnish makers recommend brush work no amount of manipulation with a brush can get the varnish into the tiny openings into which oil spray can penetrate when the machine is running. Another point is that with a brush the varnish is apt to drag slightly, and on such a surface dust and dirt readily accumulates. When an air spray is used the surface dries perfectly smooth and glossy, and whilst the dust does not adhere to this to any extent what does collect is easily wiped off.

It is not generally realised by those who have charge of large induction motors that a good many starting difficulties can be traced to neglected and dirty slip rings. It must be remembered that when the rotor is standing on open circuit and the stator is switched on to the line there is 100 p.c. slip, which means that the voltage induced in the rotor and the resultant tension between the slip rings is at its maximum. Any dirt, grease, or dust that has been allowed to collect will accumulate to such an extent that ultimately there will be a flash-over when the stator current is closed for starting. It may be urged that there is little likelihood of such trouble, but in the case of motors not fitted with short-circuiting gear the carbon brushes are always in contact with the rings, and a mixture of fine metal and carbon dust with a percentage of grease spreads over the insulating bushes. If in the course of time, as is generally inevitable in colliery installations, a certain amount of fine coal dust and oil gets added to this it is not long before serious trouble ensues. Slip rings and all adjacent parts should be thoroughly cleaned with petrol, all dust should be cleaned away, and, in the view of the writer, the carbon brushes should be removed and replaced with brushes of copper morganite which should run for years without causing pitting on the slip rings or requiring cleaning in any way.

Motor Licences.

Now that the New Year is well on its way all my motoring readers should have received their new licences, always providing that they have not forgotten to make the necessary application. Emphasis may be placed on the fact that this year no period of grace has been mentioned, and it is probable that any car driver who ventures out without the new paper disc boldly displayed will find himself stopped and questioned by the first policeman he meets, with the usual result. There is a general impression about, which I hope is ill-founded, to the effect that the Ministry of Transport, which has to do something to justify its existence, is intending to press as heavily as possible on motorists in regard to taxation matters. This would seem to be the case, as a

commencement has already been made in the work of mulcting the car owner. There was last year a rebate on cars with engines made before 1913. It was understood by us all that this year it would be on cars with engines made prior to 1914; next year on those with engines of earlier date than 1915 and so on. But no; the Ministry apparently take the view that as they have specifically mentioned 1913 that is a date that must stand, and consequently all those who bought second-hand cars of a certain date under the perfectly natural expectation that a rebate would be allowed now find they will have to pay the full iniquitous rate. It may be supposed that next year the same thing will take place and the same rebate will be allowed on cars with engines of pre-1913 date. By that time the year will have become so firmly rooted in the official mind that it will be utterly impossible for anything but the total obliteration of the Ministry to get it out. Consequently if we live so long, we may expect, in 1950 or 1960 to have to fill up forms which will give us clearly to understand that no rebate will be allowed from our motor taxes unless our cars are fitted with engines made prior to 1913.

The Brooklands Programme.

The events so far mapped out in connection with the great motor track promise to be full of interest, and as the track is being thoroughly repaired and put into as perfect order as possible, I expect that a large number of records will go by the board. I should not be surprised if someone does not attempt to lower the famous 24 hours record, whilst several of the other records are practically certain to fall at the first attack. Most of the motor cycle records will also be broken, and it is to be hoped that this year British machines will prove all that could be wished. British motor cycle engineering does not appear to be in anything like the high state of development reached in the British car industry, and it is high time that our principal manufacturers began to set their house in order. At the moment there are two American makes of machines which are undoubtedly and admittedly superior to anything we turn out, and this should not be. If we can lead the world in car engine design there would seem no reason why we should lag behind in the smaller productions. To return to our subject, there will be the usual Easter, Whitsun, and August Bank-holiday meetings together with the two usual Saturday afternoon meetings, on May 13 and October 14. The long distance race for two and three litre cars will take place on September 16, which is also a Saturday, and on July 15, the Junior Car Club will hold the one and a half litre race. There will be, in addition, a number of events organised by outside clubs, and provided the committee take some further steps to add to the comfort of visitors—a feature which has been sadly lacking in the past—some very large attendances may be expected.

Vulcanite Protection.

For electrical and other work there have been a number of attempts made to coat metals and metal appliances with vulcanite but with but little success. It appears, however, that a Stockport firm, Messrs. Murray, Parkyn and Co., who are specialists in vulcanite work, have met with unprecedented success in their efforts to solve the problems. They are able so to coat cast iron, steel, and other metal objects with vulcanite that there is a perfect contact between the two substances, a fact which can be demonstrated by X-ray examination. Probably the greatest commercial value of the process will be in connection with chemical engineers' appliances, as it will be possible to line retorts, tanks, pans, pumps, and other appliances in such a way as to protect them completely against the action of acids in either liquid or gaseous form. Electrical tests show that the vulcanite coating will withstand an alternating current of 2,500 volts. It is understood that the process can be used for coating timber with vulcanite for various purposes.

Company Meetings.

STEUA ROMANA (BRITISH).

The Position In Roumania.

Sir Charles Greenway's Speech.

The first annual meeting of the Steua Romana (British), Ltd., was held on January 5, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street. Sir Charles Greenway, Chairman of the company, referred to the fact that the company, together with a group of the six most prominent bankers in Roumania and a French group, holds control of the Steua Romana, Bucharest, who have, during the period under consideration, made an increase in their capital in which the three groups have participated. The Roumanian company declared a dividend of 20 per cent. or 100 lei per share for 1919, and 35 per cent. or 175 lei per share for 1920.

Holding in the Roumanian Company.

The value of the British company's holding of shares in the Roumanian company has, of course, declined owing to the heavy fall in lei, with a similar fall in the value of the dividends thereon, but the intrinsic value of the latter's present and potential assets is probably much in excess of the present value of the shares. Sir Charles Greenway commented upon the various economic and industrial features of the country, and stated that owing to the great value of her natural resources, Roumania, which was before the war a large exporter of cereals, oil and timber, has greater possibilities of recovery than any other country in Europe. In the meantime, however, lei earnings will be kept in Roumania and not converted into sterling.

The British and French groups each made, in addition an advance to the Roumanian banking group to enable them to participate, and, as security for this, they each have a charge upon one half of the holding of that group in the Roumanian Company. This amount is repayable in sterling, during the last six months of 1924. The Roumanian banks have requested that the settlement of the interest thereon in sterling should be foregone for a period of four years, ending 1924, and be met by the deposit of lei, in cash or securities, with a margin of 25 per cent. to the equivalent at the current rate of exchange of the sterling due. This matter is at present under negotiation.

Dealing with the objects of the company, Sir Charles Greenway said that the purchase was made to secure for allied interests, that is Roumanian, French and British, the position formerly held by the Germans in the Steua Romana Company and in its sub-companies, agencies, and properties, and to secure control of the surplus production of oil available for export.

Drilling Operations.

Under the Roumanian, French and British management drilling was increased, 5,000 metres being drilled during the first six months of 1921, and over 10,000 during the year; while it is hoped to drill 20,000 during the present year. Refineries and storage have been repaired, and the company's tin-making plants are working at Constantza, Smyrna, Salonika, and in Bulgaria.

Jointly with the local power company the erection of a new electrical power station at Floresti, on the output of which the company will have first call, has been started, and should be completed by the end of the year. The company's distributing companies and agencies in Bulgaria, Turkey, Greece, Asia Minor, and Italy have been re-organised and valuable sequestered assets have been, or are in process of being, restored to the company. One of these which will bring into the company a very large sum of money in sterling has been admitted and is expected to be shortly realised.

One tanker of 4,000 tons has been returned and a satisfactory arrangement reached with the Reparation Commission over another 7,000 tons; while the return of others is under negotiations.

Trading Side of the Company.

On the trading side, the British Company have, during the past year, dealt with approximately 35,000 tons of petroleum products under the rights which it holds in this connection. A commercial agreement has recently been concluded with the Roumanian Company, and it is hoped that increased activity in Roumania will cause greater quantities of oil products, in excess

of internal requirements, to be available for export.

At the conclusion of his remarks Sir Charles Greenway moved, and Sir Albert Stern seconded, the resolution that the report and accounts for the year ended June 30, 1921, be received and adopted, which was carried unanimously.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

South Behar Railway.

The report of the South Behar Railway Company for 1921 states that after paying the dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended December 31, 1920, a balance remained of £8,708, plus rental received from Secretary of State for India for the half-year to June 30, 1921, and other receipts, less interest on Debenture stock and sundry outgoings, leaving £18,312. An interim dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum was paid, leaving £8,822 to carry forward. Adding £15,000 half-yearly rental to December 31, 1921, and other receipts, less interest on Debenture stock and sundry outgoings, there remains £18,518 to be dealt with. The directors recommend the dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the half-year to stockholders registered December 31, 1921, leaving £9,028 to be carried forward. Meeting, 25, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.1., January 13. 1 p.m.

British Burmah.

The directors of the British Burmah Petroleum Company recommend a balance dividend for the year ended July 31, 1921, of 6d. per share, free of tax, payable February 28, to holders registered January 17. This will make the distribution for the year 12½ per cent., free of tax. The distribution for 1919-20 was 20 per cent. free to tax.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna Aidin Railway for the week ended December 31 amounted to £6,356.

The Indo-Burma Oilfields announce that since the last official communication, the three following wells have come in on the Yenamma field:—Number 23, producing 12 barrels per day; number 24, producing 28½ barrels per day; number 25, producing 25 barrels per day.

According to a Reuter message from New York the Vienna correspondent of the Associated Press telegraphs that the Austrian Government has allowed it to become known that Messrs. Vickers Armstrong are offering to purchase the great Woellersdorf arsenal which would be converted into works for the manufacture of locomotives for Balkan orders.

AGENTS WANTED ABROAD.

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

113. Import and Export Merchant in Smyrna invites inquiries from British firms wishing to trade with this territory. Will act as agent or on commission basis.

114. Importer in Karachi (India) travelling throughout India, wishes to get in touch with merchants and manufacturers in England and elsewhere. General merchandise.

115. An import and export firm in Spalato, Yugoslavia, wishes to enter into business relations with British manufacturers, importers and exporters. Specialities:—Exports: Medicinal herbs dried fruits, hides, timber. Imports: Oils, food products, tarpaulins, mackintoshes, sacks.

116. Import Merchants in Adana, Cilicia, Asia Minor, wish to represent British firms for any kind of British-made goods. Own account and commission basis. Good references provided. Send catalogues and samples with prices and terms.

117. Importer in Roumania, interested in Jute trade, wishes to get in touch with firms dealing in sacks, new and old Dundee, and Calcutta makes.

121. Exporter of Greek Ores in Athens, especially of purest quality Magnesite and Chromite wishes to be connected with interested British Firms.

Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Variable Tendency Prevails.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Monday Evening.

Sugar.—Considerable business has been transacted during the week, especially in crystallized and West Indian varieties. Home refined has been in moderate demand at unchanged prices. West Indian crystallized has gained 6d. to 40s., while Czecho-Slovakian has shed 1s. 9d. to 18s. White Java has been a good market and has been sold at 42s. 9d. as also Cuban 96 per cent. January-February which came to business at 10s. 6d. White sugar quotations are: January-February, 17s. 3d.; March, 17s. 1½d. May, 17s. 3d.; and August 17s.

Coffee.—Very little business has been passing during the week, and prices remain firm. The futures market has been steady. Quotations are:—March 50s. 9d.; May, 51s.; and July-September, 52s.

Rice.—An improvement in the demand has made the market firmer. Large shipments of Egyptian Japan rice have been received in London during the week. Burma No. 2 has been quoted at 15s., Siam No. 1 at 13s. 6d. to 14s., and Saigon No. 1 at about 13s.

Almonds.—There has been a steady demand for this commodity, and prices have risen in many cases. Offerings of Morocco almonds have been small and prices have risen 7s. 6d. per cent. Sicily almonds are quoted at 127s. to 130s. There is a likelihood of a great scarcity of Jordan almonds in the near future. The demand for this commodity at present is limited.

Oilseeds.—Indian linseed has been in poor demand during the week, and as a consequence, has risen 9d. to 18s. La Plata has been firm at 16s. 6d. Rapeseed has been quiet with Teria unchanged at 17s. 6d., but brown Cawnpore has shown an increase of 1s. at 18s. 3d., while bold Ferozepore has remained firm at 18s. Cottonseed has again risen with Egyptian black 3d. up at 13s., and Sakellaris at 12s. 6d. also 3d. up. Indian has gained 9d. at 9s. 9d. Copra has been quiet. Ceylon, November-January, at 27s. 9d. has been in fair request, West Indian is quoted at 27s. 3d. Mauritius at 26s., and Java has been done at 26s. 6d.

Oils etc.—Prices are firm. Linseed oil has gained 2s. 6d. at 30s. Rape oil has been steady with the crude variety and refined each 1s. down at 45s. and 50s. respectively. Cotton oil has shown no improvement, and prices remain firm. Refined remains at 45s., Egyptian crude at 37s., and deodorized at 50s. Castor oil has been easier with pharmaceutical at 55s., firsts at 50s. and seconds at 45s. Fish oils have been a dull feature, and little cod oil has been offering. With regard to coconut oil buyers have been backward in coming forward. Ceylon has come to business at 47s., and Cochin at 60s. Deodorized is quoted at 51s. 6d. Turpentine has advanced 3s. at 71s. 3d.

Oilcakes.—Linseed cake has been offered at 13s. Imported Egyptian cottonseed cake has declined, and is quoted at 9s., while palm kernal cake, which has been dull, has been done at 7s. 6d. Undecorticated groundnut cake has come to business at 10s. 3d.

AGRICULTURE IN MALTA IN 1920-21.

The Superintendent of Agriculture at Valetta in his report for 1920-21 states that the past year may be described as a very good one for field crops which develop from October onward, and therefore had the advantage of the very satisfactory rainfall, and as a very bad year for all arboricultural crops maturing since April, 1920, which were greatly handicapped by the general scarcity of rain in the previous year.

The agricultural area is estimated at 46,691 acres, the cultivated area being estimated at 42,891 acres. Wheat was grown on 11,621 acres, a decrease of 1,142 acres, and the yield was 38,237 quarters as compared with 39,713 quarters. Barley was sown on 6,676 acres, this total including 2,657 acres devoted to meslin. The yield is estimated at 20,057 quarters of barley and 11,955 quarters of meslin.

The area under citrus fruits amounted to 171 acres, the production being estimated at 75,080 dozen. 2,518 acres were devoted to other fruits, of which the production was estimated at 61,716 cwt. Cotton was grown on 605 acres as against 630 acres for the previous year. The production was 106,480 lb. as compared with 137,160 lb.

AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS IN MESOPOTAMIA.

The following extracts are taken from the Agricultural Bulletin of Irak for the month ended November 15 :—

The absence of rain has rendered possible the harvest of the date and rice crops in prime condition. Apart from these there are no crops of much importance standing on the land during the period under review.

The level of the Tigris continues to be extraordinarily low. A slight rise was recorded in both the Euphrates and Tigris towards the end of October. Extension and silt clearance of the Yusu-fiyah Canal are progressing favourably. Construction of the Butern Regulator near Amara has been commenced. Repairs to the Hindieh Barrage are nearing completion. Good progress is reported in constructional work on the extension of the Saklawiyah Canal. Advantage has been taken, so far as it is financially possible, to attend to repairs and clearance of all canals during the slack season which intervenes between the harvest of the summer crops and sowing of winter crops. Sowing of winter cereals has commenced where canal water has been available for an initial irrigation.

The harvest of white rice is nearing completion, and threshing is in progress. The bulk of the Busreh date crop has been harvested and is now packed ready for export. Dates are about an average crop, but prices are exorbitantly low. The earliest of the citrus fruits from the DIALA are being marketed. An average crop is expected. Early sown winter vegetables near the towns are making good growth. The watering of the cotton crop was discontinued early in October, and the harvest is now practically completed.

Fodder continues to be particularly scarce, except in the irrigated areas. Condition of stock is normal for the season, with the exception of sheep, which appear to be in a poorer condition than usual.

Experimental Farms.

The experimental plots of ground nuts and maize at Kut and Baquba are now being harvested. The picking of cotton continues. Land has been prepared for varietal test with wheat and also for bulk cultivation to procure a seed supply for general distribution next year. The closing of the Baghdad-Kut railway has appreciably affected the accessibility of the Kut farm.

At the Central Experimental Farm, Rustam, the main well was closed for repairs during the month. It has since been completed. Arrangements have been made to conduct experimental work with wheat on a small abandoned date garden on the estate. This site is also being used as a tree nursery. The programme of experimental work for the coming winter crops has been laid down, and about 300 acres of land have been suitably plotted. The picking of cotton continues.

Cotton grown from seed supplied from the Department is being purchased and ginned by the British Cotton Growing Association in Baghdad. The current price for this seed cotton is 3½d. per lb. This is equivalent to twice the price paid in the bazaar for seed cotton of the local variety. Despite the failure of this year's cotton crop, owing to a shortage of water, on a fairly large proportion of the 600 acres grown where, however, the crop did succeed it has impressed the local cultivator. Demands for seed for next year's crop have already been received to the extent of a few hundred acres, and a considerable increase in the area under cotton is anticipated. One important factor which will contribute towards the increased area under cotton, is the low rate at which cereals are now selling.

The recent rise in the price of fuel oil for irrigation engines has caused a fair amount of discontent amongst owners of fuel oil plant. The economic values of kerosine and oil fuel for pumping installations in the Irak are under investigation. The Baghdad agents for the Anglo-Persian Oil Company contemplate the erection of an oil tank for bulk supplies immediately upstream of Baghdad, which is nearer the centre of the lift irrigated area than are the present tanks at Khirr Depot.

There is a marked tendency towards the development of land schemes all over the country. This tendency is attributed more perhaps to the degree of security that now obtains than to any other cause.

THE DRIED FRUIT TRADE IN 1921.

A Difficult Period.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co., of Liverpool, in their annual review of the dried fruit trade state:—The period under review was one of considerable difficulty and anxiety. Financial strain, strikes, unemployment, and heavy taxation, reduced the spending power of the community, consequently buyers pursued a very cautious policy in their purchases.

Currants.—During the early months we experienced a flat and lifeless state of affairs, and values declined by the end of February about 5s. to 10s. per cwt. Early in March the Government disposed to a Syndicate their remaining stock, about 7,000 tons, which had been hanging like a cloud over the market, and a welcome change for the better was the result, as more life and interest were immediately infused into the article, with an appreciable rise in values. Unfortunately this improvement was short lived, the miners coming out on strike, and the fear of the railway and transport workers joining issue, decided buyers to suspend operations, pending a settlement, so that months of trading at two of the most important periods of the year viz, Easter and Whitsuntide, were lost. Upon resumption pressure was quickly in evidence, and sellers showing anxiety to unload, prices dropped smartly. The latter end of August witnessed a considerable increase of activity, without any improvement in prices.

New Fruit.—The season's trading has been most disappointing. We had no arrivals before the end of September, fairly heavy stocks of old fruit were carried over, reducing buyers' interest in the new crop, and a cautious policy was pursued, traders acting carefully. The sensational rise during the latter part of November on the Greek market, attributable in a great measure to heavy American buying, caught traders short of supplies, and a sharp advance in price followed, as stocks held in England were extremely meagre. We close the year with some reaction from the top prices, but the tone has ruled firm, and there are signs of a renewed period of activity, as first hand stocks are estimated at only 5,000 tons against 12,000 tons last year, exclusive of stock held by Government of somewhere about 10,000 tons.

Arrivals of New Fruit.—Latest quotations are:—1921, 12,169 tons:—Pyrgos, 55s. to 56s.; Amalias, 56s. to 60s.; Patras, 58s. to 65s.; Zante, 54s. to 60s.; Gulf, 62s. to 68s.; Panariti, 70s. to 75s.; Vostizza, 70s. to 85s.; Vostizza smalls, 66s. to 75s.; old fruit, 48s. to 54s.

Valencia Raisins.—The pessimistic estimate as to the extent of the crop proved to be correct, and it is doubtful if over 7,000 tons were harvested. Quality was undoubtedly disappointing, containing a large proportion of small fruit, fine being very scarce. During the drying process part of the raisins were caught by rain, and upon arrival showed signs of being out of condition, and had to be sold at reduced figures. The market opened quietly:—Half boxes selected, 125s. to 132s.; and quarter boxes selected, 130s. to 140s. It was some time before buyers realised the smallness of the crop, and that prices were justified; once this was understood, trading commenced and arrivals were cleared as they became available at values in sellers' favour, and we finished at:—Half boxes, 130s. to 135s.; quarter boxes, 140s. to 150s.; seedless, 120s. to 125s.; out of condition, 80s. to 110s.

African Cape Raisins are becoming yearly more important, as in colour and quality they resemble the Denia fruit, more than any other raisins grown. Unfortunately Liverpool have no direct steamers, so have to rely on transshipments *via* Southampton. The few arrivals on this market met a ready sale at 90s. per cwt. When the growers have learned to grade and pack like the Denia growers, they will be felt as serious competitors.

Sultanas.—We were quite out of stock upon the arrival of new fruit, the trade having to depend very largely during the summer months on Afghan varieties. In January sales were:—Red, 85s., and yellow, 95s. to 100s., and steadily appreciated in value. Closing prices were:—Red, 105s. to 107s.; yellow, 137s. 6d. Smyrna qualities, 150s. to 170s.; and Greeks, 138s. to 140s. We commenced dealing in the new crop when the first steamer Luque was loading, prices ranging from 100s. to 120s. c.i.f. according to quality, and upon her arrival, although it was known old stocks were exhausted and new fruit would come to a bare market, lower prices had to be taken to make progress. Prices were:—Fair, 105s.; medium, 115s.; and good to fine,

134s. The demand continued slow, and with lower quotations coming through from Smyrna, caused nervousness in one or two directions, lower qualities being forced down to 95s. and sulphured to 120s., rebounding later to 103s. and 135s. respectively.

Towards the middle of November more interest was displayed, developing into an active market, and with higher prices being demanded in Smyrna, we finish the year with a strong tone; closing values:—Fair, 108s. to 109s.; medium, 115s. to 120s.; and good to fine, 125s. to 150s. Greater attention was paid this season to sulphured varieties.

Figs.—The first of the new crop came to hand per s.s. Luque, and were quickly disposed of. Skeleton cases:—Large boxes, 140s. to 150s.; small boxes, 155s.; locoums, 160s. to 180s.; and pulled, 95s. to 115s. Lower prices were accepted for later steamers. On the whole a good steady demand was experienced; practically all stocks were cleared before Christmas. Final quotations are:—Large boxes, 110s. to 125s.; small boxes and packets, 120s. to 130s.; and locoums, 110s. to 120s. Bags naturals:—Forward sales 48s. to 50s. c.i.f. for September shipment took place. Spot sales opened:—Prima, 54s. to 57s. 6d., and genuine, 58s. to 63s. 6d., and although the price eased slightly recovered and closed unchanged. Quality of skeleton cases was good, but bags naturals below last year's standard.

CURRENT PRICES.

General Produce.—Bacon: (Continental), 122s. cwt.; (Canadian), 115s. cwt.; (American), 105s. cwt.; butter: (Danish), 156s. cwt.; (Australian), 88s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 120s. cwt.; cheese (Canadian), 96s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 89s. cwt.; lard, 75s. cwt.; eggs (Danish), 41s. per 120; (Styrian), 20s. 6d.; per 120; chillies, 162s. 6d. cwt.; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 6½d. lb., cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 102s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 150s. cwt.; (East Indian), 130s. cwt.; (Central American), 117s. 6d. cwt.; (Jamaica), 67s. 6d. cwt.; (Mocha longberry), 113s. cwt.; (Santos, superior) 62s. 6d. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochin), 67s. 6d. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 11½d. lb.; pepper (Singapore black), 3½d. lb.; (Muntok, white), 7½d. lb.; pimento 2½d. lb.; raisins (Valencias), 135s. 6d. cwt.; sultanas (Smyrna), 126s. 6d. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 80s. cwt.; currants (Amalias) 58s. cwt.; sugar: (Tate's cubes), 51s. 9d. cwt.; (Lyle's granulated), 47s. 7½d. cwt.; (Mauritius crystals), 43s. 1½d. cwt.; (West Indian crystallized), 38s. 9d. cwt.; (centrifugal), 12s. 6d. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 1½d. lb.; rice (Rangoon, No. 2) 14s. 9d. cwt.; (bran, Rangoon), £5 15s. ton; cinnamon (firsts), 1s. ¾d. lb.; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. ¾d. lb.; tea: Indian (common to good common), 1s. 2½d. lb.; (medium to good) 1s. 8d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 9d. lb.; Ceylon (common to good common), 1s. 1½d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 8d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 9d. lb.; Java (common to good common), 8½d. lb.; wheat (English white), 46s. 9d. qr.; (Australian), 53s. 3d. qr.; barley (malting), 50s. qr.; barley (feeding), 39s. qr.; oats (English), 33s. qr.; oats (La Plata ex-ship), 15s. 1½d. qr.; maize (La Plata) 33s. 9d. qr.; flour, 41s. sack.

Metals.—Aluminium, £122 10s. ton; antimony (English Regulus), £35 ton; bismuth, 7s. 6d. lb.; copper (standard), £66 3s. 9d. ton; copper (electro), £74 10s. ton; gold bars, 98s. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 100s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 101s. 3d. ton; galvanised sheets (24 G), £17 5s. ton; lead (soft foreign), £24 5s. ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 1½d. unit; molybdenite, 33s. 9d. unit; nickel, £190 ton; platinum, 316s. 3d. oz.; plumbago, £20 ton; quicksilver, £10 7s. 6d. bottle; silver bars, 34½d. oz.; spelter (G.O.B.), £27 3s. 9d. ton; tin (standard), £170 12s. 6d. ton; wolfram, 11s. 6d. unit; zinc sheets, £34 10s. ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 19s. 9d. box.

Hides and Skins.—Ox and Heifer (first), 90 lbs. and up, 8½d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 8½d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 8½d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 7½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 6½d. lb.; (second), 90 lbs. and up, 7, 1-8d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 7, 1-8d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 7, 1-8d. lb., 60 to 69 lbs., 6, 1-8d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 5d. lb. Cows (first), 60 lbs. and up, 6d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under 6d. lb.; cows (second), 60 lbs. and up, 5d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 5d. lb.; Bulls (first), 5½d. lb.; (second), 4½d. lb.; Kips (first), 6½d. lb.; (second), 5½d. lb.; (third), 4d. lb.

Miscellaneous.—Cotton: (American), 11,70d. lb.; (Egyptian Sakel), 20,45d. lb.; Oilseeds: Linseed (La Plata), £16 15s. ton; rape (Toria), £17 15s. ton; palm kernels, £18 7s. 6d. ton; Oils: Linseed, £27 12s. 6d. ton; olive (Levant), £18 7s. 6d. ton; palm, £37 17s. 6d. ton; rape (crude), £37 17s. 6d. ton; soya, £34 5s. ton; petroleum, 1s. 4½d. gallon; petrol, 2s. 1d. gallon; fuel oil (ex-tank), £3 15s. ton; coconut (Ceylon), £42 5s. ton; cotton (crude), £37 5s. ton; ground nut, £43 lb.; Rubber: Plantation (No. 1 crepe), 11d. lb.; smoked sheet, 11d. lb.; fine hard Para, 1s. 2d. lb.

Chemicals.—Acids: Boric, 66s. cwt.; oxalic, 8½d. lb.; citric, 2s. 2½d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 4½d.; ammonia (sulphate), £15 1s. 6d. ton; arsenic (white powdered), £40 10s. ton; benzole (standard) 2s. 5½d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £15 10s. ton; borax crystals, 31s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 121s. 3d. cwt.; Potassium: Bichromate, 8d. lb.; chlorate, 6d. lb.; caustic, £33 ton; nitrate, £42 10s. ton; permanganate, 11d. lb.; prussiate, yellow, 1s. 1½d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £15 5s. ton; Sodium: Crystals 140s. ton; bi-carbonate, £11 5s. ton; bi-chromate, 6½d.

lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £9 3s. 3d. ton; chlorate, 3½d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £24 5s. ton; hyposulphite, £15 10s. ton; prussiate, 8½d. lb.; nitrate, £14 8s. 9d. ton; glycerine (crude, 80 per cent.), £80 ton; glycerine (industrial, 1260 per cent.), £110 ton; lemon oil, 2s. 11d. lb.; quinine, 3s. ½d. oz.; red lead, £39 5s. ton; white lead, £42 5s. ton; white ground lead, £51 15s. ton; sulphate of copper, £28 15s. ton; sulphate of iron 75s. ton.

TENDERS INVITED.

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

(Particulars of tenders marked (D.O.T.) are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street S.W.1.)

Egypt.

Cocoa Fibre.—The Inspector-General, Prison Department, 43 Sharia El Bostan, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 3,750 oke of cocoa fibre, unplaited. January 15.

Fire Pumps.—The Director-General, State Domains, Administration, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of three hand fire pumps. January 16.

Timber.—The Department of Technical Education, 14, Sharia Abdine, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of timber required for the Model Workshops, Bulaq. Specifications, lists of timber required, etc., can be obtained at the Model Workshops, Bulaq Cairo. January 18.

Sundries.—The Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of (1) proprietary articles; (2) sundries (includes bottles, demijohns, droppers, and baths for eyes, ointments, pots, etc., etc.); (3) dressings; (4) crude drugs and heavy chemicals; (5) fine chemicals; (6) galenicals and packed articles Representation by an agent resident in Egypt is essential January 20 (D.O.T.).

Drugs.—The Director of Stores, Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of drugs required for the period of six months from April 1, 1922. January 20.

General Stores.—The Director of Stores, F.D.A., Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of consumable general stores such as ropes, nails, locks, leather, soap, brushes, etc. January 21.

Marine Articles.—The Director of Stores, F.D.A., Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of marine articles, office and rest-room furniture, and tools, etc.. January 24.

Marine Boiler.—The Secretary General, Ports and Light-houses, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of a new multitubular marine boiler of the following description:—Diameter 11 feet; length 10 feet; two corrugated furnaces. Boiler working pressure 180 to 200 lbs. per square inch. Built to Lloyds rules 100 A1 and supplied with all accessories as per specification. Offers will remain valid for one and a half months from March 1, 1922.

Bulgaria.

Telephone Instruments.—The Bulgarian Department of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones invites tenders for the supply of 2,000 telephone instruments for table use, with local battery and magneto. Also for spare parts for these instruments. Tenders to be presented at the District Office of Finance, Sofia by February 20. (D.O.T.).

Rails and Accessories.—Tenders are invited by the Director-General of Railways and Ports for rails, bolts, fishplates, etc. The total quantity of the material required is 5,808 metric tons. Tenders are to be submitted to the Directeur Général des Chemins de Fer et des Ports de l'Etat Bulgare, Sofia, Bulgaria. A deposit of 5 per cent. is required to qualify tenders, of which 1 per cent. must be deposited in the National Bank of Bulgaria in Sofia before the adjudication, and the certificate of receipt attached to the tender, whilst at the same time a declaration is required to the effect that the remaining 4 per cent. will be deposited when the adjudication is made. January 24. (D.O.T.).

Porcelain Insulators.—The Bulgarian Department of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones, invites tenders for the supply of 100,000 porcelain insulators. Tenders to be presented at the District Office of Finance, Sofia by January 25. (D.O.T.).

Telephone Accessories.—The Bulgarian Department of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones invites tenders for the supply of the following parts for telephone exchanges, viz.:—Subscribers' line indicators, 2,200; indicators, end of conversation, 600; jacks, 2,500; plugs, 1,500; connecting pieces, 2,000; connecting pieces, switchboard, 20,000. A deposit of 5 per cent. of the total amount of tender is called for by way of guarantee. Local representation is essential. Tenders to be presented at the District Office of Finance, Sofia, by January 30. (D.O.T.).

Materials for Bulgarian Department of Posts.—Tenders are invited by the Bulgarian Department of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones for the supply of the following material:—(1) Porcelain insulating tubes for telephones (10,000), insulating tubing

(impregnated paper), for telephones. (2,200 metres), Ebonite caps (1,7000) and Insulated copper wire (1,000 metres); (2) Various electrician's small tools (include 900 pairs pincers, 20 brazing lamps, 100 soldering irons, 1,500 bits, 300 axes); (3) Bronze in plates and bars, iron and steel plates and bars and insulating materials. Tenders will be opened at Sofia, District Department of Finance at 4 p.m. on March 8, in the case of (1), February 27, in the case of (2), and February 14 in the case of (3). Each tender is divisible. (D.O.T.).

India.

Canvas, etc.—The High Commissioner for India invites tenders for the supply of (1) Canvas sails; (2) Copper bolts; (3) Buffers, wrought-iron; (4) Chain, iron galvanized, for signal levers; (5) Engine turntables. Forms of tender may be obtained from the Director-General, India Store Department, Belvedere-road, Lambeth, S.E.1., for Nos. 1 to 3, and January 31, for Nos. 4 to 5.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting	Parity of Exchange	Latest. Quotations.
Alexandria ..	Piastres to £....	97½	97.7-16
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	96-86.50
Belgrade	Dinars to £....	25.22½	275-285
Berlin	Marks to £....	20.43	765-770
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3.15.16-1.4.1.16
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3.15.16-1.4.1.16
Brussels	Francs to £....	25.22½	54.50-54.55
*Bucharest ..	Lei to £....	25.22½	—
Constantinople	Piastres to £....	110	705-735
New York....	Dollars to £....	4.86 2-3	4.21-4.21½
Paris	Francs to £....	25.22½	51.70-51.75
Prague	Kronen to £....	24.02	275-285
Rome	Lire to £....	25.22½	96½-96½
Sofia	Leva to £....	25.22½	590-610
Teheran	Krans to £....	50	51
Vienna	Kronen to £....	24.02	10,500-11,500
Warsaw	Marks to £....	20.43	11,500-12,500

* No Quotations.

In some cases quotations are nominal.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

AND

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE

PORT SAID NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Port Said, December 31.

One of the most significant items of news in this part of the world is the announcement of the Suez Canal Company that on and after January 1 ships of a draft of thirty-one feet will be accepted for transit of the Canal. This will not affect a great number of ships, especially now when cargoes are difficult to find, and ship-owners are glad to get even a half cargo, but it means that practically any ship trading in eastern waters will be able to transit the canal when she is loaded down to or even below her marks. If any ship, such as a man-o-war was deeper she would probably be unable to come through for other reasons.

Previously in these notes we have touched on the subject of motor-ships, and recently three of these vessels which are worthy of comment have passed through the Canal. The first is the *Jutlandia*, which with her sister ship the *Selandia*, was the pioneer of ocean going motor ships in the East. The *Jutlandia* was built in 1912, and has been running satisfactorily ever since. She carries 7,600 tons of cargo, and can keep up a speed of 11 knots on a consumption of $8\frac{1}{2}$ tons of oil per day. She takes a thousand tons of oil in her double bottom, sufficient for one hundred and ten days' steaming, to use a slightly incorrect term; in other words she can fill up in the East where oil is cheap, with enough to take her home and out again, and still leave a good margin for emergencies.

The second motor vessel is the Brocklebank ship *Malia*. She is engined with a new type, called the Fullager, after its designer. A small engine of this design was made and put into a coaster, and given a three month's trial. Proving satisfactory it was taken out, and another similar engine was put into the vessel in question. It is said that the voyage out was not entirely without incident, but valuable experience is being gained with a type of engine which promises a revolution in economy of consumption. Lastly the fine Danish motor-ship *Asia* passed through recently.

ICE BREAKING ON THE DANUBE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, December 28.

According to the latest news from Sulina, as a result of the measures taken by the European Danube Commission and the different shipping companies, whose ships have been caught by the ice at Braila and Galatz, two ice-breakers are now working hard up river and two other ice-breakers are expected from Constantinople. Should the present mild weather continue for a few days longer the ice-bound ships at Braila and Galatz are expected to be released by the end of this week.

TANKER CHARTERING REVIEW.

Outlook Rather Better.

Messrs. John I Jacobs and Co., Ltd., of London, in their half-yearly report on oil-tanker chartering state:—

After the issue of our last half-yearly review in June last, oil freight rates still further declined in July and August, but after this, considerable demand having arisen on the part of the Continental oil merchants for clean tonnage, the rates for this class of boat steadied, and have remained more or less stationery. Whereas the demand, such as it was, during the first half of the present year, was for large dirty boats for the carriage of fuel oil, crude oil, etc., the requirement during the second half of 1921 has been to a very great extent confined to clean boats, principally owing to the fact above mentioned, and to the depletion of stocks of lamp oil and spirits which were held on the Continent, and which had to be augmented for the winter season.

With the recent over-production of tanker tonnage, it is not surprising that builders should now be complaining about the scarcity of requirements, and tonnage can be contracted for at less than half the prices ruling last year. The amount of tonnage which continues to be launched reaches very large figures, but the accumulation of orders has now been practically eliminated. The gross registered tonnage of tank steamers afloat now reaches the large figure of about 5,000,000 tons as against the pre-war figure of about 1,500,000 tons. In a great number of cases large tank steamers have been laid up as soon as they left the builders' hands.

It is encouraging to be able to report a certain activity on the part of the Roumanian producers, and quite a number of handy boats have been fixed at figures ranging from 42s. 6d. down to 35s. from Constantza to U.K., Continent, including Rouen. The Black Sea ports have also exported a limited number of cargoes both of refined oil and spirit and of lubricating oil. Freights, of course, from Novorossiisk or Batoum ruled rather higher than those from the Roumanian port, but in spite of the uncertainty of loading conditions a large tanker was obtained at so low a figure as 31s. 6d. for a cargo of kerosene to the Thames.

With the supply of tonnage in excess of the demand, it is perhaps only natural that little business on time charter basis should have been effected, and the few definite charterers who have come into the market have easily found all the tonnage they require at from 7s. 6d. to 9s. 6d. on the deadweight, according to size and description of the steamer. The reports which continue to arrive from the Argentine Republic in connection with the oil industry out there are still full of optimism, and it would appear that there are great hopes of the Southern Republic becoming one of the great oil producing lands of the world. At the moment, the transport is practically in the hands of the Argentine Government, who have four or five tank steamers operating between Comodoro Rivadavia in Patagonia and the River Plate ports. An Argentine company, it is reported, secured after long negotiations a tank steamer for twelve months time charter at 15s. on the deadweight, and in order to conform with Argentine law, owners agreed to place the boat under the Argentine flag and conform to the Argentine Navigation Laws in connection with the crew.

The basis rate for clean tankers of from 6-7,000 tons from the Northern States to the near Continent has been 27s. 6d. with 5s. extra from the Gulf, always on the basis of two ports of discharge, including refined oil and-or spirit as the cargo. Smaller boats of from 4-5,000 tons capacity have on occasion received 5s. per ton more, but the demand has mainly been for the larger boats. For the Mediterranean there has been a limited demand for Marseilles and Cette at figures which have varied from 52s. 6d. for a small boat to 35s. for boats of about 8,000 tons capacity. Spain has been more active perhaps than the usual, taking boats to deliver cargoes this year before the new import tax comes into operation on January 1. The rate for light oil from the Northern States to North Spain may be taken at 95s. with the option of Spanish Mediterranean ports of 40s. Charterers for German account have taken up considerably more tonnage during the latter months of the year, and besides a large tanker for kerosene at 32s. 6d. from the Gulf to Hamburg, have just taken a small boat for lubricating oil from New York.

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As regards dirty cargoes, the demand has been, to all intents and purposes, absolutely confined to large boats and as low as 25s. has been done on several occasions from the Gulf to a direct port in the U.K. for either crude oil or fuel oil, whilst 27s. 6d. was paid for a gas oil cargo to the Thames. Italy has taken up a tanker lately of about 10,000 tons at 30s. for fuel oil from the Gulf to Spezia, and this compares with the rate of 280s. paid about the same time last year.

It is taking owners all their time to find sufficient employment to keep their boats at sea in spite of the fact that current rates leave nothing for depreciation and very little to put aside for contingencies. The outlook, whilst not very hopeful, is rather better than earlier in the year, and with the amount of tonnage to be built now strictly limited as to quantity owners may look forward to being able to keep their tonnage at sea over the coming year.

VIZAGAPATAM HARBOUR.

A Rival to Calcutta?

The importance of the harbour scheme now being put into execution at Vizagapatam can hardly be overestimated (says a correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian Commercial*.) The inherent advantages of the place are enormous. Its accessibility for Central Indian produce will be at least as great as that of either Bombay or Calcutta, and infinitely greater than that of Madras. It will provide the easiest and shortest route to Burma and the Straits for mails, passengers or goods.

The new harbour will be ideally protected from storms, and will be in no way inferior to Calcutta in this respect. It remains to consider its comparative accessibility from the sea, and here lies the superiority of the new harbour over Calcutta. Calcutta is one of the most, if not the most, difficult harbours to enter in the whole world. The dangers of the Hooghly are proverbial. The delay caused through its passage even at the best of times, the high piloting charges, and the ever-present danger of the James and Mary and other shoals are a few of its many drawbacks, while bores form at intervals, travel up most of its length and cause inconvenience to all vessels moored in the vicinity. At Vizagapatam, on the other hand, the new harbour will be of easy access, vessels only having to pass between the two groins to find themselves in the nearly landlocked waters of the harbour.

CZECHO-SLOVAK SALT DEPOSITS.

Salt is found in Czecho-slovakia in eastern Slovakia and in Rumania. The salt beds (says the American Trade Commissioner at Prague in a recent report) run parallel with the Carpathian Range from east to west through the counties of Sarys, Zemplin, Uzhorod, Beres, and Marmaros, and continue on through Roumania to the eastern and southern parts of Transylvania.

There are two salt mines in Czecho-slovakia—one in Solnohrad near Presov, in Slovakia, and another in Marmarozska Solotvina in Rumania. The mines at Solnohrad are flooded with water, and salt is obtained by boiling the solution and evaporating the water. The salt mines in Marmarozska Solotvina were taken over in July, 1920, from Roumania. They yielded only 8 to 10 cartloads of salt per day until November, 1920, when the working staff was enlarged and two shifts installed. The production then rose to 30 cartloads per day. The Rumanian deposits extend over an area about 2,160 metres long and 1,700 metres wide. The depth of the known beds is estimated at 170 metres. The pure salt content of the Rumanian mines has been estimated as high as 60,000,000 metric tons. Assuming a yearly consumption of 300,000 metric tons, the deposits should last for 200 years.

Although the salt deposits in the neighbourhood of Solnohrad, in Slovakia, are probably very extensive, the output of the salt mine there is small—not more than two cartloads per day. There are 132 workmen employed. There is a project now under way for building a modern salt-mining plant at a cost of about 14,000,000 crowns. The output can then be increased to about three cartloads a day. The Ministry of Public Works announces that a full development of the Slovak and Rumanian mines will more than meet the domestic needs of 80 cartloads a day.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

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

Anchor Line—S.s. Massilia for Bombay (Liverpool, January 16); s.s. Elysia for Bombay (Liverpool, February 4).

Anchor Brocklebank Line—S.s. Manaar for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (leaves London January 21); s.s. Malancha for Calcutta (Birkenhead, January 28); s.s. Malakuta for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, February 4); s.s. Mahratta for Calcutta (Birkenhead, February 11).

Bibby Line—S.s. Oxfordshire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, January 1); s.s. Lancashire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, February 1).

Cunard Line—S.s. Cypria for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, and Batoum (Glasgow, February 9); s.s. Brescia for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina and Catania (Swansea, February 6).

Ellerman Line—S.s. Cressado for Gibraltar, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas and Varna (Liverpool, January 21); s.s. City of Oxford for Gibraltar, Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, January 21).

Ellerman's "City" Line—S.s. City of Cairo for Calcutta (Birkenhead, January 19); s.s. Trafford Hall for Bombay (Birkenhead, January 23); s.s. City of Sparta for Calcutta (Birkenhead, February 2).

Ellerman's "Hall" Line—S.s. Kasenga for Bombay, Karachi, and the Punjab (Liverpool, January 31).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line—Steamers sail fortnightly for Malta, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz, and Braila.

Glen Line—S.s. Glenariffe for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, January 12); s.s. Glenogle for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, January 26); s.s. Glenapp for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, February 9); s.s. Carnarvonshire for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, February 23).

Harrison Line—S.s. Intombi for Port Said, Port Sudan, Aden, Mombasa, etc. (Birkenhead, January 19); s.s. Author for Calcutta (Liverpool, January 25).

Henderson Line—S.s. Henzada, for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, January 25).

Holt Line—S.s. Anchises for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, January 24); s.s. Antiochus for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, January 26).

Johnston Line—S.s. Wingate for Piraeus, Syra, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantinople, Sulina, Tulcea, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, January 17).

Papayanni Line—S.s. Malatian for Tangier, Malta, and Alexandria (Liverpool, January 14); s.s. Bosnian for Algiers, Malta, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, February 4).

P. and O. Line—S.s. Nore for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, January 13); s.s. Perim for Bombay (London, January 14); s.s. Morea for Bombay (London, January 20); s.s. Sardinia for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, January 27); s.s. Karmala for Bombay (London, January 27).

P. and O. British India Line—S.s. Nirvana for Bombay and Karachi (London, January 14); s.s. Tanfield for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, January 21); s.s. Mandala for Bombay and Karachi (London, January 27); s.s. Morvada for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, February 3); s.s. Nevasa for Bombay and Karachi (London, February 10).

The production of olive oil in Greece for the year 1921-22, is estimated at approximately 37,000,000 metric okes.

We have received a copy of the January issue of the *Indian and Eastern Druggist* for January, a special number in celebration of the visit of the Prince of Wales to India. The issue contains a number of articles of interest, besides the usual trade news, and has as a cover a portrait of the Prince of Wales in three colours.

SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

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

Stamboul, December 24.

The stagnation recorded in our previous reports continues. Arrivals of merchandise are notably smaller. Consignments to Batoum are restricted. Buyers from that centre are beginning to obtain their supplies direct from here. The commodities most in demand are cabots and sugar

The market in manufactured goods is at a standstill. In view of the weakness of prices at Manchester and the lack of orders cotton goods are more and more neglected.

A large number of important houses of this city have opened branches in the course of the year in Roumania, principally at Galatz, to create outlets. These branches which carried through at the commencement sufficiently remunerative transactions are suffering at present from the continued depreciation of the leu and the restrictive measures imposed by the Roumanian Government, preventing merchants from exporting unsold merchandise. Large stocks have in consequence accumulated, notably at Galatz.

Produce.—Sugar: Prices continue to fall in America. The Cuban syndicate having been dissolved holders are offering their stocks at more and more reduced rates. The fall in prices has had a repercussion in Holland and Czecho-Slovakia. Quotations are :—7 dollars per 100 kilos (as against 34 dollars or more a year ago); Java, £18 10s. per ton, January-February shipment; Dutch, £20 per ton; here £22 per ton in transit; in customs, £27-28 per 100 kilos.

Coffee.—The rate which had risen at the commencement of the week has since fallen to the extent of 1s. 6d., although the statistics indicate a reduced crop. Quotations are :—Rio, Ps. 50-58 per oke, in transit; in Customs Ps. 18 per oke.

Flour.—The market is inactive with a tendency to fall. Stocks here are more reduced than before. They are estimated at 200,000 sacks; at the same time large consignments are shortly expected.

Roumanian and Bulgarian wheats which the local flour trade had commenced to import are not holding their own against flour of American origin.

Mamouret-ul-Aziz.

The report for November states :— Imports are becoming more and more restricted. There has been a fall in the prices of sugar, soap, and petrol. The first was sold at 15 piastres gold, the second at 22 piastres gold per kilo; and the third at 160 piastres gold per bidon of 16 kilos. They have fallen respectively to Ps. 12, 18, and 13c. Petrol imported from Aleppo is of American production, and is inferior to that of the Caucasus, which is worth 10 piastres gold or more per bidon.

A telegram from the Viceroy, Revenue and Agriculture Department, to the Secretary of State for India, dated January 6, states :— Our telegram dated December 31. Relief works closed in Kurnool District, Madras Presidency. Number on relief :—Baluchistan, preceding week's figures: works, 63; gratuitous, 400. Madras: works, 5,500; gratuitous, 2,466. Total 11,100.

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GREEKS BUOYANT.

ROUMANIAN OILS STRONG.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Monday Evening.

Contrary to the expectation maintained in many quarters there was no general revival of interest in the markets during the past week, and even gilt-edged were inclined to dullness. The rumours of a General Election in the spring had some effect of course, but the main cause of the lack of activity was the tendency of the public to avail developments, combined, I fancy, with a certain amount of profit taking in some departments. If it should be decided to hold an election shortly then I fear we must put aside all ideas of brighter markets until it is over. But there is no need to be pessimistic *ante diem*, and so far as can be seen it is just as likely at the moment that there will be no dissolution until next year. But if it is postponed we can anticipate intermittent rumours until the event. To-day the markets close on a much brighter note as a result of the Dail's ratification of the Irish Treaty.

An excellent indication of the gradual improvement in conditions is to be found in the number of new companies that are now being registered. It points decidedly to a returning confidence among the commercial community. There have been a few new issues this year so far, and the support they have received has been most encouraging for the others that are to follow and also for the underwriters, whose experiences in the latter half of 1921 were often the reverse of pleasant. There is no fresh news regarding Near Eastern loans. As was to be expected the pending Anglo-Persian issue continues to arouse interest. In some quarters it is still thought that there will be an issue of Ordinary shares, but if this should be the case it will be very surprising when it is obvious that the company can raise the required capital by means of Preference shares.

Gilt-Edged Firm.

Gilt-edged have, of course, been favourably influenced by the Irish news, and close on a cheerful note. Consols are 1-8 up at 50½, while the Conversion Loan has gained 1-10 at 66, 3-8. War Loan Fives close, however, a shade lower at 92, 3-8. The India 7 per cent. Loan is unchanged at 104½. In Near Eastern securities which rank with British Government funds Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per cents. are 70½, Greek Guaranteed 2½ per cent. 1808 are 63½, and Turkish Guaranteed 4 per cent. 1855 are 71½.

An improvement in the exchanges has been reflected in a harder tone in the foreign market. French Fives are 1½ up at 43½, while German 3 per cents have gained 3-16 at 3, 3-8. Italian securities have been dull, and Rentes are 1 down on the week at 21. Japanese bonds have displayed some weakness, while Chinese are much about the same. Greek stocks have continued to exhibit a buoyant tendency, and once again a very general advance is to be recorded. Monopolies are 34xd., a rise of 1½. Fundings are 2 up at 35xd., while the 1914 5 per cents. at 41½ show a gain of 3½. The 5 per cent. 1881 Loan is 38½, while the 5 per cent. 1884 Loan is 38½, there being in both cases a considerable advance.

Industrials Cheerful.

Though business as usual in these times has been on the small side a very cheerful tone has been in evidence, and in various directions advances are to be recorded. Iron and Steel shares have been notably firm. Armstrongs are unchanged at 15s., but Dorman Longs are 9d. up at 15s. 9d., whilst Guest Keens are 2s. up at 31s. 6d. Exceptionally Vickers are 3d. down at 8s. 9d. Tobacco shares have been a special feature of the week, with British American a strong spot at 64s. 6d. Textiles are lower on balance. Courtaulds at 30s. 10½d. have shed 4½d., while Coats are 2, 21-32.

Shipping securities have been steady. P. and O. Deferred are 2 up at 307, while Cunards have gained 3d. at 18s. 6d. Furness Withys, however, are 6d. lower at 25s.

There has been little doing in mining descriptions with the exception of a few lines. As a result of the labour situation on the Rand Kaffirs have developed weakness. Chartereds have been dull, closing at 11s. 1½d. Tin shares have been neglected.

The Rise in Phoenix.

A rather uncertain tone has ruled in the Oil market during the week, and dullness developed in certain directions as a result of the reduction of the price of American crude. Mexican Eagles are 3-8 down at 3½, while Burmahs are somewhat lower at 5, 7-8. Among Egyptians Anglo-Egyptian are 1-10 down at 1, 7-16. In the Roumanian group Phoenix have been in special request, and are 2s. 9d. up at 11s. 6d. I indicated the probability of this last week, and expect this share to go still higher, as it looks moderately priced in view of the prospects of the company. Roumanian Consolidated are 1s. up at 9s., and at its present price this share seems a promising lock up. Steaua Romanas are unchanged at 11s. 3d.

Banks Steady.

Among banking descriptions Agricultural of Egypt 2½ per cent Bonds are 54, 3-8, while the 3½ per cent. Guaranteed Bonds are 55, 7-8. Imperial Ottoman Banks are 8½, Ionians are 4, and Bank of Athens are 2. National Bank of Egypt are 19. Chartered of India are 15½, while National of India are 37½. P. and O. Banking Corporations are 11, 7-8.

Among land shares Béhéras are 9, Béhéra Prefs being 3, 3-16xd. Egyptian Delta Lands are 7s. 10½d., Gharbihs are 1, 9-16, New Egyptians are 24s. 6d., and Union Foncières are 2, 11-16. Sudan Plantations are 2½.

Rubbers Dull.

Following a new fall in the price of the raw commodity dullness developed in the Rubber market, and in a number of cases shares have been marked lower. Still the statistical position is steadily improving, and that is the all-important consideration. Fluctuations there must be, but in general I think it may be taken that the shares are not likely to go much lower. But there is little question that a good many months must elapse, unless there should be some remarkable development in the use of rubber, before there is any great recovery, and that fact is likely to prove a deterrent to people to buy even though there is a prospect of a substantial profit in the end.

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

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

Prices on December 30 were as follows:—Agricultural Bank of Egypt £4, 5-16; Alexandria Water Co., Ltd., £6, 31-32; Anglo American Nile Steam, £2½; Associated Cotton Ginners, £15-16; Banque d'Orient, Fr. 50½x; Behera Ord., £E8½; Brasseries d'Egypte, Fr. 50; Building Lands of Egypt, £7-8; Cassi di Sconto Priv. Fr., 100; Ciments d'Egypte Priv., Fr. 50; Ciments d'Egypte Div., Fr., 24; Comptoir Fin. et Com. d'Egypte, £1; Consolidated Lands, Pt., 5; Credit Foncier Fondateur, Fr., 910; Credit Foncier Act, Fr. 654; Credit Foncier, 1886 Oblig., Fr., 318½; Crown Brewery Priv., Fr., 114; Crown Brewery Div., Fr., 130; Eaux du Caire, Capital, Fr., 80; Eaux du Caire Jouissance, Fr., 102; Egypt and Levant, S.S. Ord., 26s. 1½d; Egyptian Delta Light Railways, £3, 9-16; Filature National d'Egypte, £12½; Immeubles d'Egypte Soc an des., £5, 3-8; Khedivial Mail S. S. Ord., 110s.; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co., Pref. £2½; Kom Ombo Ste An de Wadi, £4, 11-32; Kom Ombo Ste An Fondateur £34; Land Bank of Egypt, Parts de Fond. £38; Lots Turcs. Fr. 29; Menzaleh Canal Navigation Pt., 225; Nungovich Hotels, £6, 3-8; Ramleh Railways, £2, 5-8; Salt and Soda, 34s. 6d.; Tram d'Alexandrie Priv., Fr., 38; Tram d'Alexandrie Div., Fr., 54½; Union Fonciere d'Egypte, £2, 19-32; Egypt Hotels, £2, 3-32; Urbaines et Rurales, £3.

There is a market in Constantinople and district for oil cooking stoves, ovens, and water heaters.

Mr. A. J. F. Kemp, of Messrs. A. Kemp and Son, manufacturers of gold plate in sheet, Tenby Street North, Birmingham, has been appointed Roumanian Consul in Birmingham.

Anglo-Egyptian Oil Output.—Gemsah (week ended December 30), 8 tons (last week 8 tons); Hurghada (week ended December 30), 3,363 tons (last week 2,684 tons).

Under the extended export credits scheme to stimulate export trade additional credit to the amount of £2,421,000 was sanctioned between the end of October and the end of the year.

Cotton & Cotton Goods.

MANCHESTER MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Saturday.

The New Year has opened with a fairly optimistic feeling, and there is no doubt that there are definite indications that an improvement in demand can be anticipated. Any movement towards better times however, will be gradual. Numerous buyers are now convinced that more favourable opportunities of purchasing are not likely to be experienced, but free operations are checked by the tightness of money. If the present demand is maintained there should be more work to go on with in the near future. With regard to Egypt, better advices have been received from that outlet, and traders on this side are hopeful of more business being done within a very short time. Money is stated to be coming in more freely. Only a few small sales in a variety of fabrics however, have taken place for the Near Eastern outlets, generally. Egyptian yarn prices have tended to harden, and many spinners are more independent than a month ago. Some useful orders have been secured. The cloth demand for India has been on extensive lines, and although offers are still on a very low basis some encouraging transactions have taken place in gray shirtings and light cloths for Calcutta, Bombay, Karachi, and Madras. Rather more activity has been displayed by shippers to China, but transactions have been scattered. Buyers for South America have not been altogether idle. American yarn prices have continued firm, but home users have only purchased sparingly. The undercurrent of demand for bundles for India and the Far East keeps up fairly well.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson reports as follows under date January 4 :—

Up to the end of last month the recent improvement was well maintained, and the opening days of the New Year had been awaited, by most people, with considerable eagerness. It was generally felt that the trade was on the eve of better times. The first day's trading was quiet with only a moderate turnover, but sentiment was so strongly "bullish" that spot prices were all raised $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb. An unfortunate break in the New York futures market overnight caused a severe reaction here to-day, and yesterday's advance was completely wiped out. As was only to be expected, buyers were very shy, and the sales were smaller than ever. Nevertheless, the better tone which has been in evidence of late still remains, and while we write the futures markets are slowly regaining some of the ground lost, and this, no doubt, will be reflected in the spot prices to-morrow. The most hopeful feature in the situation at the moment is the better news which keeps dribbling through from Manchester, where, undoubtedly, a larger business is taking place. India, at last appears to be slowly but surely "coming in," and yesterday China, which for a long time now has remained quiescent, bought freely. Yarn also appears to be slowly finding a market, though prices are still far from satisfactory to the spinner. The main thing is that stocks are moving, be it ever so slowly. One cannot expect a rapid recovery; there is too great a weight of cotton here, and too many "distress" lines of yarn and cloth to be absorbed from Lancashire, for such a thing to happen, but most indications point to a steady all-round improvement taking place. A boycott of British firms is being attempted in Cairo, but otherwise the recent troubles in Egypt appear to have quietened down. The enquiry for spot cotton in Liverpool

during the past week has been on a moderate scale only; it was of a general character and calls for no special comment. C.i.f. business has fallen off again after last week's spurt. Total sales, 1,800 bales (includes 200 Sudan). Quotations show an all-round advance on the week of 25 points. Fully good fair Sakellaridis to-day 21.50d.

COTTON PRICES IN 1921.

Lower Index Number.

The index number for the general average of the prices ruling on December 31, 1921, for American and Egyptian raw cotton, American and Egyptian cotton yarns, and cotton cloth is calculated by Mr. Frederick W. Tattersall, of Manchester, at 197, assuming that the quotations for each of the commodities on July 31, 1914, was 100.

A year ago the figure was 219. at the end of 1919 it was 552, and on December 31, 1918, 374. The year 1917 closed at 342, and the final calculations for 1916, 1915, and 1914, were 186, 115, and 76, respectively.

Apart from the American cotton, which, at 176, shows an advance of 27 points compared with the previous year, quotations on balance have been more favourable to buyers. American yarn now stands 51 points lower at 190 against 241, and the reduction in cloth from 238 to 179 records an even larger decrease—59 points. In Egyptian cotton a fall of 6 points has occurred from 259 to 253, whilst Egyptian yarn prices have moved downwards 24 points from 209 to 185, which brings the average decline to 22 points.

ROUMANIAN DEBTORS.

Important Judgement regarding Bills of Exchange.

The first definite interpretation to be given of the much disputed Article 41 of the Commercial Code of Roumania is reported to the Department of Overseas Trade by the Commercial Secretary to His Majesty's Legation at Bucharest (Mr. Alexander Adams) in a judgment pronounced by the Ilfov Commercial Tribunal on November 22, last.

Article 41 stipulates that when foreign monies have to be paid on the day upon which bills fall due such foreign monies are to be paid at the rate of exchange of the date of the payment of the bill. This provision is interpreted in the judgment as applying to the great mass of debtors who paid their acceptances upon the due date, but in the case in question in which a Bucharest debtor firm had not done so the rate of exchange must be that ruling at the time when the payment is actually made.

This judgment makes it perfectly clear that bills of exchange accepted by Roumanian debtors in pounds sterling, provided the proper legal formalities are carried out, will be payable in Roumania either in pounds sterling or at a rate of exchange sufficient to enable the holder of the bill to purchase pounds sterling for the amount due at the moment and place of actual payment.

There is a market in Yugoslavia for coal, wood, paper, electrical supplies, chemicals, drugs, cocoa, chocolate, tinned meats and fish, boots, shoes, flour, &c.

Mr. P. N. Caridia has been appointed general manager of the Ionian Bank.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 558—Vol XXI.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 1922.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Betrothal of King Alexander.

The rumour of the betrothal of King Alexander of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, to Princess Marie of Roumania is confirmed—was indeed, confirmed just after *The Near East* went to press last week; and we are glad to be able to join sincerely in the chorus of congratulations with which the event has been hailed. King Alexander has led a strenuous life, both during the time he was Regent, and since he succeeded his father on the throne last year, and he has certainly earned the rest and domestic happiness which we all hope will now be his. Both he and Princess Marie are known in this country, and the Princess, it was recently announced, will be one of our own Princess Mary's bridesmaids; so that it is not surprising that the news of their engagement has been received here with much interest and real pleasure.

A Factor of Peace.

But it is natural that the greatest satisfaction at the news should be in South-Eastern Europe. It is realised there that the betrothal is sure to draw Yugoslavia and Roumania still more closely together; while the fact that Roumania and Greece are also united by family connexions constitutes another link in a chain which, we may hope, will prove a service of strength and unity in the Balkan countries, and make for peace with neighbouring States. Quite apart from the congratulatory telegrams exchanged between M. Také Jonescu and M. Paschitch, the reports from many centres show what high hopes are already being built on the engagement. It is felt especially that the Little Entente cannot but be strengthened by it, and the view is very generally expressed that Greece will soon join that partnership. Time alone can show how far these expectations are justified, but it is not to be denied that the news of the engagement has created a more friendly atmosphere in that part of the world. "All the world loves a lover" and the peoples of south-eastern Europe are no exception to the rule.

The Cannes Conference.

As all the world now knows, the Cannes Conference has broken down, but whether the proposals emanating from it are, owing to the change in the French Cabinet, still-born, or whether they will be used by Mr. Lloyd George in his "conversations" with the French Premier as the basis of future action it is difficult even to guess. We can well understand how those proposals, the main

points of which were the welcoming of the Germans and the recognition of the Bolshevists, were so distasteful to the French nation as to bring about the fall of M. Briand, but in so far as they concerned the Near East we do not see why the arrangements agreed upon by the two Celtic Premiers should not hold. It is true that in the British Government's Memorandum these proposals were stated in rather worn and very pious platitudes, yet the essential statement of the fact, not the unactuous manner of stating it, is what matters. For the Memorandum remarks, with apparent if belated conviction, the "collapse and confusion of the normal processes of economic life" in South-Eastern Europe, and it touches the crux of the problem, as we see it, when it says that this collapse "cannot be remedied unless the produce and markets of Russia are once more made available to the world." Concord between Great Britain and France should be possible at least in the remedying of this condition of affairs. But so long as there is disagreement between these two countries on the question of Russia, so long, we are afraid, will the recovery of the Balkans be delayed. At the time of writing it is not known what the result has been of M. Poincaré's conferring with Lord Curzon on the Eastern Question, and on the Franco-Turkish Pact; but at any rate it is good, in view of the public and quite justified irritation at the delay in settling the problem of the Near East, to learn that those responsible for its solution are still anxious to present an unanimous proposal, and that consequently the frightening prospects of continued individual action by Great Britain, France, or Italy are still far from being realized.

Politics and Religion.

It is often lightly said, perhaps too lightly, that religion as a political factor in the affairs of South-Eastern Europe is dying, and, conversely, it is not always realized how closely politics affect religion there. But incidents still occur which show how strongly the old fires yet burn. We have no impertinent desire to discuss the purely religious aspect of the election as Orthodox Patriarch of Constantinople of Mgr. Meletios Metaxakis, who recently passed through London from the United States on his way to Constantinople; we merely wish to point out the lamentable bitterness with which politics are in this case attempting to control religion. Mgr. Metaxakis may proceed to his spiritual care with the greatest desire to put, as he himself when in London said was his aim, "an end to a period full of misery for all the

populations in the Levant." But against him in the field are all kinds of parties, some without doubt honest, and others whose principles descend not wholly from religious convictions.

A Schism in the Greek Church?

The visit to London of Mgr. Chrysanthos, Archbishop of Trebizond, serves to remind us of the vexed question of the Patriarchate. Mgr. Chrysanthos has come to this country with the laudable object of drawing closer the bonds between his Church and the Anglican Church—a consummation which, were there any devolution of moral principles from one to the other, would surely entail the cessation of such deplorable rivalry as is now being shown at Constantinople. But how difficult the situation is and how far off any unity in these matters, may be seen from the fact that Mgr. Chrysanthos himself does not recognize the validity of the election of Mgr. Metaxakis, though their respective spiritual aims must be identical. It really seems possible, if Royalist and Venizelist do not assuage their bitterness, that a schism in the Greek Church may arise—an event which would not be likely to raise the standing of that institution in Western eyes.

The Egyptian Problem.

The situation in Egypt may be described as not entirely satisfactory, but not nearly so unsatisfactory as the prophets of evil endeavoured to make us believe that it was bound to become by this time. The policy of firmness has justified itself thus far and—as our Cairo Correspondent indicates in the concluding paragraph of his letter—when the Egyptians realise fully that the British Government is in earnest the solution of the Egyptian problem will be much nearer. For the time being the deportation of Zaghloul Pasha and the minor firebrands seems to have drawn the various groups and parties of Egyptians together, but it is doubtful how long their unity will last, since it depends chiefly upon their opposition to Britain and secondly on their desire to prevent any Egyptian Government being formed. It is not quite clear what they expect to achieve by such a policy, even if they can carry it into effect; for it is not very long since Egypt was "carrying on" without any native Government, and managing quite well, too. But in point of fact it would not be at all surprising to learn any day that a Government had been formed. One Cairo Correspondent announced last week that it was "unofficially stated" that Sarwat Pasha had succeeded in forming a Cabinet. The message even gave the composition of the Cabinet—and a very good one it would make, too!

"Those who won't see—."

One of the chief troubles about Egypt is that there is such a very general tendency to regard—or affect to regard—the British Government's present spirit of caution as dishonest: to declare that because its conception of what Egypt should have granted to it now does not coincide with that of the Egyptian extremists, it is acting dishonestly. For this state of things, it must be admitted, our own Government is very largely responsible. It would have done well to emphasize the point of view so ably expressed by Mr. Balfour in the House of Commons on November 17, 1919, but for some reason or other it has allowed that statement to fall into the background, with the result that the Egyptians have, not unnaturally, let false hopes run

away with them altogether. At the moment the tendency is all in the other direction; the Egyptians close their eyes to all that was offered them at once, and to all that was promised them in the future; they profess that they cannot have any more faith in British promises; and they declare that if they cannot get exactly what they clamour for—and at once—they will have nothing at all. In a word, they are in a state of political sulks. In the circumstances we cannot blame them, perhaps, or cannot blame them alone; but it is to be hoped that they will speedily abandon their present attitude, and reconsider the position as it actually is.

"Yawash, Yawash!"

In the preceding Note we have touched upon a side of the question which seems to have been studiously ignored by many people in this country as well as by the professional Egyptian agitators. It is, however, worth bearing in mind; for, after all, Great Britain has, somehow or other, earned the reputation of keeping her promises; and it is hard to understand why they should be disregarded now. It is unpleasant to observe that the opponents of this view are numerous, and markedly emphatic in their utterances; but that does not, even in these days of word-production, necessarily prove that the view is not a sound one. The British Union in Egypt has been blamed for views expressed in its Memorandum to Lord Allenby. In its annual report, just issued, it refers to the "strongest sympathy with aspirations towards a more independent State" felt by its members "long resident in Egypt who know and like the Egyptians," and declares that though the view has been misinterpreted, it is true. And it adds: "To agree to the entire independence demanded, and to jump from present conditions at once to a self-governing independent State would be rendering Egyptians a bad service, and would lead to eventual chaos and regrets." In other words the Union would make haste slowly. And, perhaps, "*Yawash Yawash*" is no bad advice at the present juncture.

Progress in Irak.

Encouraging reports of progress in Lower Mesopotamia have been received in London lately. King Faisal continues to make an excellent impression, and has lately given an illustration of his diplomatic skill. Certain Muntafik Arabs had shown an intention not to pay their land tax, but his Majesty visited them personally and by his eloquence in appealing to their loyalty persuaded them to reconsider that decision, and pay up promptly. No better proof of his power with his own people could be forthcoming, as those who know the Muntafik and their record will readily agree. Moreover, throughout the country the people are settling down to business, and the wealthier classes in particular are showing keenness to invest their money in up-to-date industrial undertakings. An election was held last month, and is reported to have aroused a good deal of interest; and it is hoped that the General Assembly when it meets will very soon pass an organic law and ratify the treaty now in course of negotiation by Sir Percy Cox on behalf of the British Government. The Tribes, it is to be noted, are strongly in favour of the retention of the British Divisional Advisers, and the British Officials are said to be in favour with all the people save a small clique of young Syrians, who have their own axes to grind.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

Cannes and Cannots.

London, Monday evening.

The breakdown of the Cannes Conference was not unexpected. Quite early in the week it was anticipated that M. Briand would find his position impossible, and would resign; the facts being that, broadly speaking, he agrees with Mr. Lloyd George's policy, but cannot carry the French Chamber with him. His resignation came in rather a questionable form, it is true; he stood not upon the order of his going in Paris.

His successor, M. Poincaré, is personally very popular in England. But his policy is not our policy, and no amount of argument will make it like our policy. Downing Street and the Quai d'Orsay now take entirely different views of the future of Europe, and it is no use blinking the fact. In these circumstances the Cannes Conference has become known as the Cannot Conference, and what is to happen at the proposed Genoa Conference, where we were to talk things over with the Germans and Bolsheviks, no man knows. There was some hope here that Mr. Lloyd George would become a pacificator of Europe, and that a certain amount of co-operation would now become possible between the late enemies on the Continent. Friendship, of course, is out of the question; but what we have at present is not real peace, but a truce with a monthly crisis. It would be a good thing to end that recurrent uncertainty once for all; but only England and Italy look at matters from that point of view. We find it difficult to follow French policy, and more particularly French politics, with their too great personal rivalries and quick succession of ministries—a factor that can hardly be good for the continuity of French methods—and while there is still a sincere desire to patch up the Entente, these successive incidents make it increasingly hard to do so. The major fact is that we want a policy of reconstruction in Europe, and France does not. She is not prepared to join with us in the former, and we do not see what good is to come out of the latter.

At the risk of repeating what I said a few days ago, I must again point out that the net result of these continual failures is to assist the advocates of British isolation. Why worry about Europe when there is the rest of the world to colonise, develop, and trade with? is the argument of this section. Reconstruction, it admits, is the right policy, but if Europe will not have it, then do not worry; let us get on with our own affairs. and not waste time trying to combine incompatibles.

There is always a natural swing in this direction after a great war, but the disillusion of an unreal peace have assisted the movement. It is rather strikingly reflected, by the way, just now in the money market, where Indian and Colonial loans have been snapped up with avidity, and more are to follow. There is plenty of money here awaiting investment, but I doubt whether much of it is going across the Channel.

The General Election.

We are in for a great outburst of political oratory this next fortnight, and leaders of all parties are to address their followers. Fortunately, one is not compelled to read the speeches; only Mr. Lloyd George's forthcoming utterance is awaited with much curiosity, as it is expected to define his position more closely. It is generally believed that he is swinging rather to the left, and will take up the cudgels for the Coalition Liberals, of whom he is the personal head; these unfortunates get little of the limelight, and the Tories want to swallow them whole—they would like to swallow the Prime Minister too, but for fear of the subsequent indigestion. Mr. Lloyd George is credited with the idea of reuniting the Liberal Party, or at least attracting some of the Wee Frees to his banner, under the title of the National Liberal Party; this would make them more of an equivoise for the Conservative majority in the Coalition, who are accused of wanting things all their own way. How far he will succeed is doubtful, but the Prime Minister is certainly not a Conservative. The real position is summed up fairly accurately in this week's

Outlook, which remarks that it would back the Conservatives to win if they had sufficient brains, and the Liberals if they had sufficient numbers; but as things are, the Conservatives have lost their heads, the Liberals their bodies, and both their principles. In these unhappy circumstances, the offspring must remain in doubt, but like all hybrids, it will probably be sterile.

The talk of a general election continues. But the public is not excited, and the daily papers have rather moderated their support of the idea. The Sunday papers, which are more Coalition than the Coalition, are favourable.

Lord Carson Again.

Incidentally, a violent speech against the Coalition was delivered last week by Lord Carson. What he said was of no particular importance; the real importance of his speech was that it was a breach of the wholesome tradition which debars a Law Lord from taking active part in politics. The Die-Hards, of course, are in ecstasies, but one seems to recollect a musty proverb about those whom the gods wish to destroy.

A Terror to Cabinets.

Mr. Gibson Bowles, who died last week, would have cut a much bigger figure in politics had he possessed more of the herd instinct. But he could never hunt with a pack, and he was so convinced an individualist that he always attacked his own party—and he belonged to both in turn. He proved the Government wrong on several occasions, and no Government likes that, or forgives it.

He made a fortune out of *Vanity Fair* forty years ago; he was not so successful with the *Candid Quarterly Review*, which died during the War. I remember, by the way, he had an extraordinary way of paying his contributors. I received a cheque one day which was not made out to me personally, but to "No. 9," and it was signed X.Y.Z., or some such hieroglyphic; with it was a slip to say that in order to preserve the anonymity of journalism, this system had been adopted by the *Candid Quarterly*. I felt rather shy about paying it in—not, of course, from any distrust of Mr. Bowles, but from some vague idea that the irreproachable bank cashier who took my money should imagine it was a Ku Klux Klan device.

Chinese Geology.

The great days of exploration seem to have returned. The ascent of Everest has begun, Shackleton is well on his way to discover fresh seas and icebergs new, and now it is announced that Professor Gregory and his son are to explore the unknown mountain ranges of China. The Professor once wrote a jolly book on "The Dead Heart of Australia," and last autumn he published a work of profound interest (to geologists) on "The Rift Valleys of East Africa"; we shall expect another great geological survey as a result of his trip to China, but he has prom-

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ised to keep an eye on botanical and zoological points also. He is the leading geologist of the age, but I imagine that his penchant for travel is largely due to the fact that he is a professor at Glasgow University, and it is well known that no human being can support existence in Glasgow without long absences.

Water Gas.

An animated controversy is being carried on as to the possibility of being poisoned by the gas companies. By the Gas Regulation Act of last year all restrictions on the amount of water gas supplied as a dilution of ordinary gas were withdrawn; and water gas contains about 42 per cent. of carbon monoxide. It is tasteless, and odourless, and I believe it provides a painless form of death; even with the present extortionate price of gas it is well within the reach of the poorest. But the question is, should the gas companies have the power to supply us with this euthanasia at so much per cubic foot when we do not really want it? Dean Inge recently discussed the ethics of suicide, but even he did not suggest that the gas companies should multiply our opportunities like this.

The Week's Books.

"Essays and Addresses" (Allen and Unwin) by Professor Gilbert Murray, requires little more than the actual mention of publication. The professor is so much more than a professor, and his essays are so much more than the ordinary run of literary essays, that his book is sure of a welcome.

Lord Dawson created quite a pother last autumn at the Church Congress by a paper on sex, which is not usually supposed to exist at Church Conferences. He has now reissued it as a pamphlet under the title of "Love, Marriage, and Birth Control" (Nisbet), in which he remarks that "the fear that discussion of this vital problem will endanger morality surely loses sight of the fact of knowledge being so fundamental to our well-being that incidental dangers encountered along its path must not deter us from its continued pursuit." Incidentally he points to the ever-widening gap between the formal teaching of the Church and the actual belief of the present generation.

I do not know that there is very much interest in the actors and actresses of the past generation; their fame seldom outlives them. But for those who are attracted by the historical stage, Mr. Percy Allen's "Stage Life of Mrs. Sterling" (Fisher Unwin) should prove worth reading. The book is much more than a biography of the lady in question; it comes so near to being a survey of the Victorian theatre as a whole, and it is so well done, that one rather wishes that Mr. Allen would turn his attention to the larger subject.

Those who read Mr. J. M. Keynes on "The Economic Consequences of the Peace" two years ago will know fairly well what to expect from its successor, "A Revision of the Treaty" (Macmillan). He does admit, however, that not all his prophecies of disaster have come off, and that "in spite of trade depression, and disordered exchanges, Europe, under the surface, is much stabler and much healthier than two years ago." The reason given is that "many of the misfortunes which I predicted as attendant on the Reparation chapter have not occurred, because no serious attempt has been made to execute it." One further quotation must suffice; "The deeper and fouler the bogs into which Mr. Lloyd George leads us, the more credit is his for getting us out. He leads us in to satisfy our desires; he leads us out to save our souls. He hands us down the primrose path, and puts out the bonfire just in time. Who, ever before, enjoyed the best of heaven and hell as we do? In England opinion has nearly completed its swing, and the Prime Minister is making ready to win a General Election on Forbidding Germany to Pay, Employment for Everyone, and a Happier Europe for all. Why not, indeed? But this Faustus of ours shakes too quickly his kaleidoscope of halos and hell-fire for me to depict the hues as they melt into one another." From all of which I conclude that Mr. Keynes does not quite like Mr. Lloyd George.

An interesting list is printed in the current "Publishers' Circular" of the number and class—not the quality—

of books published in 1920 and 1921. In the former year the 11,004 books were published, in the latter 11,026—a fairly level run. It would be interesting to know how many manuscripts were offered for publication and rejected—but publishers do not give up these secrets.

Fiction shows a decline of 178 volumes, but this does not mean any decline in the taste for romance, as the vogue of the popular railway magazine, with its machine-made short story of sentimental slush, attests. Religious books show an increase of 96—this presumably includes books on spiritualism, which still find readers—and descriptive and travel books have gone up by 102. Other increases are in books in fine arts, poetry, the drama, and essays. Scientific works seem to show a decline; it is notorious that many of these have been held over owing to the high cost of production and the relatively small sale.

A publisher with whom I was discussing the position some time ago told me that fewer books and better books were now issued than before the war; people were reading more, and more serious works. It is the middle-classes that read the novels, particularly the woman of the middle-classes; the working-classes have a taste for the text-book, especially the text-book on economics and politics, and occasionally psychology; beyond that they do not stray. Their taste for fiction is glugged by the weekly magazines; science and religion they ignore. Authoritative technical works find a steady market among specialists, both at home and abroad. Altogether things might be worse in the British publishing trade. "There is not much money to be made," said my informant, "but we earn a reasonable living, and in an interesting fashion."

"The Leipzig Trials" (Witherby) is an account of the German War Criminals' Trials and incidentally a study in German mentality. It is written by Mr. Claud Mullins, who was one of the English barristers engaged in the trials, and contains an introduction by Sir Ernest Pollock, Solicitor-General. Mr. Mullins seems to have been astonished at the German legal procedure, which is very different from that of the British Courts, but he formed the opinion that the judge had a real desire to do justice, and succeeded in attaining his end. He explains in detail the reasons why we obtained convictions, whereas the French and Belgian charges failed.

Ocellus.

A DISTINGUISHED SYRIAN.

A correspondent in Buyrout writes:—Selim E. Tabet Bey, a notable of Beyrout, who had taken a conspicuous part in the political and social life of Syria, passed away rather unexpectedly on December 18, at his residence in Zubdul, Bekaa, Grand Lebanon. His death has removed one of the most original and interesting figures in Syria. He was a rare conversationalist and host, and his summer residence in Zubdul, a beautiful estate was visited by many travellers such as the late King Milan of Serbia, Mr. Vanderbilt, Lady Westmacott, Miss Gertrude Bell, Prince Mohammed Aly, the Emir Faisal, and last but not least, Viscount and Lady Allenby. The distinguished General appreciated not only the personal charm of his host, but also, and especially, the kind and thoughtful hospitality he had shown, throughout the early period of the Armistice, to the officers and men of the British Army in Syria. It was apparently in recognition of such services that King George was pleased to send him his autograph photo through Lord Allenby. The services that he rendered during the war to so many friends, high and low, including the Maronite Patriarch, will contribute to perpetuate his memory as one of Syria's best men, more especially as in certain instances his intervention was made at the risk of his person. In his letter of condolence, Lord Allenby wrote: "Great Britain has lost a valued friend."

M. Raduloff, Bulgarian Minister of the Interior, has taken up the Portfolio of Commerce, while M. Dashkaloff, hitherto Minister of Commerce, goes to the Ministry of the Interior.

As a result of the attention called to the opium menace the cultivation of the poppy has been forbidden in Egypt.

According to the Athens newspaper *Embros*, the Soviet Government of the Ukraine has sold four submarines to the Kemalists, who are sending them without delay to Trebizond.

News has reached Athens that the Komalst Government has condemned to death 25 Enverist officers.

Mgr. Meuleman, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Calcutta, was received in private audience by the Pope last week.

THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

From Our Own Correspondents.

EGYPT.

Cairo, December 31.

The Trouble in Cairo.

My previous letter concluded with the account of the troubles up to the Friday evening subsequent to the arrest of Saad Pasha Zaghloul. On the Friday evening slight disorders were fairly general; the city of Cairo was in partial darkness, owing to the organised destruction of the lamps in various quarters. On Saturday morning the troubles spread, demonstrations occurred in various parts of the city, and during the morning the British Military authorities assumed complete command of the city. That afternoon the Officer Commanding Cairo District proclaimed that destruction of public or private property would be rigorously suppressed, and that the soldiers had been given orders to fire in case of necessity. From that hour the hooliganism began to subside in Cairo. Demonstrations had been attempted at Alexandria, but the Alexandria police rose to the occasion superbly. Making wholesale arrests, they reduced the unruly elements to discreet inactivity.

Strike in Lower Egypt.

Meanwhile, agitators had been at work all over Lower Egypt. Serious troubles flared out at Port Said and Suez, and the British military authorities were impelled to take over both towns. Rioting also occurred at Tanta, and on the next day—Christmas Day—a "curfew" from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m., was instituted with the object of lightening the night patrol of the British troops.

Strikes were declared by almost every section of Egyptian workers, whether professional or manual. The Government officials went out for three days, but their return to duty was accelerated by the announcement that those absent would be deprived of their pay for the length of time they were away. Lawyers, all students, the cab-drivers, Cairo tramwaymen, and other sectional unions stopped work as a protest against the declared British policy and against the arrest of Zaghloul and his colleagues.

On Christmas Day the curve of trouble rose to its highest. Renewed disorders were reported from practically all centres in Lower Egypt. Zaghloul had been taken to Suez, and five of his late lieutenants—Fathallah, Pasha Barakat, Atef Bey Barakat, Mustapha Bey Nahass, Sinnott Bey Hanna, and Professor William Makram Obeid (late Envoy Extraordinary of Zaghloul to London I)—having refused to obey the orders of the High Commissioner, were sent to Suez with him. With the development of the troubles, the High Commissioner had been compelled by force of circumstances to act first and foremost as Commander-in-Chief of the British Army, upon whom had devolved the task, first of keeping the disturbance as small as possible, and later, of restoring order. The negotiations with Sarwat Pasha for the formation of another Ministry were dropped; and the Sultan, yielding to the pressure of Adly Pasha and the other members of the Egyptian Cabinet, on Christmas Day announced that he had accepted the resignation of the Adly Cabinet, which had been submitted on December 8.

Military Measures.

The British troops had occupied the most important caracols in Cairo on Friday; but there was one, near the Azhar University, which had been left to the local authorities. On Monday morning the mob determined to wreck this building. They attacked it, but the defenders were not playing the game with kid gloves on: they shot at the crowd, and they shot to kill. According to official information, five were killed and four wounded. This brought the casualties in Cairo up to about 20 killed and 70 or 80 wounded. Meanwhile, a number of isolated attacks had been made on Europeans, but never at any time during the trouble has there been any determined manifestation of xenophobia. Things became a little more serious at Suez on Monday—Boxing

Day—but the proclamation by the Base Commandant that the R.A.F. had been ordered to drop smoke bombs to the right of any perceived assembly, and to follow them with live bombs if the assemblage did not immediately disperse, produced a salutary effect. Col.-Commandant Lawson had gone to Port Said, and his measures there had had an immediate good effect.

Egyptian Unity.

From Tuesday morning, the whole trouble, which visibly had been created solely by the lowest elements of the native population, began to ease everywhere. Armed Nile boats, containing British blue-jackets, had been despatched to Upper Egypt, where, though there had been no actual disorders, it was known that agitators were active. Following on the restoration of calm, the higher classes of the Egyptians began to recoil from the shock of the swiftly-moving drama which had been staged during the Christmas season, and there was a general tendency towards unity. The dissentient members of Zaghloul's old Delegation at once fraternised with such members of Zaghloul's committee as were left; and together they issued a proclamation through every line of which ran a feeling of bitter hostility to Britain. The Native Press also published evenenomed articles, which conveyed everything but hints of reconciliation to British policy. Within two days the tone of the whole Press in Egypt was becoming dangerous.

Papers Suspended.

Quick action followed. The English *Egyptian Gazette* on Tuesday morning had published a leader in which it had hinted that the authorities had not given a sufficient explanation of the drastic action against Zaghloul and his committee. On the same day the *Istiklal*, which was founded during the régime of the Adly Cabinet and was regarded generally as the organ of that body, published an article which was deemed likely to hamper the military authorities in the execution of their duty. The *Egyptian Gazette* also had headed its report of the disturbances as "Egypt's Defiance." Both papers were suspended for two days. The tone of the Press thereupon became modified. The only disorders later in the week were at Fua, near Damanhour, the village of the Barakat family—two of the members of which were with Zaghloul. These disorders were promptly suppressed by the local authorities, though they sustained casualties in the effort.

The Departure of Zaghloul.

The returning calm allowed time for consideration of the political position. Obviously there was no hope of an Egyptian Cabinet in the circumstances, and the High Commissioner authorised the under-secretaries of the respective Ministries to assume the powers and functions of the Ministers provisionally, and pending the formation of another Cabinet. On Thursday evening Zaghloul and his five colleagues were deported to Ceylon. The news became generally known in Cairo and throughout the country on Friday evening, but up to the time of writing there have not been any noteworthy incidents connected with the deportation. I understand, from a thoroughly trustworthy source, that Zaghloul and his colleagues were well-treated at

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Suez. The British officers gave up their own furniture to the internees, gave them horses to join in the daily rides, played cards with them each evening, entertained them to dinner in the Officers' Mess on Christmas night, and saw that the best food was procured for them from an adjacent hotel. I also understand that the internees were quite content with their treatment at Suez.

An Englishman Murdered.

Yesterday morning Mr. Ernest Hatton, the Locomotive Superintendent of the Cairo division of the Egyptian State Railways, left his house near the Cairo station to walk to his work. He had not gone more than a few steps when an unknown assailant shot at him from the rear. The bullet entered his back and passed through the heart, killing him instantly. It is believed that the crime was due to revenge, and probably perpetrated by a discontented workman of the railway workshops. A few cases of incendiarism also have been reported, but the situation now seems to be quite in hand. Order has been restored, but at the best an *impasse* has been reached. The Egyptians profess that they will not have the British policy at any price. Yet they are beginning to realise that the British Government meant what it said in those recently-published official documents. When the realisation is general and complete, the Egyptian problem will be much nearer solution.

Port Said, December 31.

Agitations at Christmas.

Christmas week in the European quarter at Port Said has been exceptionally quiet, though the festivities indoors have been as jolly as ever. The emissaries of the troublous factions, came to Port Said when Zaghoul Pasha was arrested, and at last have succeeded in stirring up the baser elements. The day before Christmas the mob twice attempted to march from the native quarter into the European town. The first time they were turned back by the Egyptian police. Yet a second attempt was made, with girls and children at the head of the procession, in the hope that no force would be used to stop them. However, they were turned back by the Indian troops. Next day the mob in the native quarter became more turbulent than ever, and were constantly stoning the pickets of the police and military; so after a warning to the notables of the town, who tried in vain to calm the populace, the military were obliged to fire, killing one and wounding six. There was a rumour that a Syrian had fired on the mob, but the investigations undertaken by the police have so far not confirmed the report.

The day after Christmas, an agitator who had been arrested attempted to escape, and this was the cause of more firing, which resulted in two more killed and eight wounded. In the morning, General Lawson, the O.C., called a meeting of the leading native residents, and requested them to use their influence to calm the mob; they did so with a great measure of success, and so saved a still more rigorous application of martial law. However, in the evening, as the authorities were burying three of the men who had been killed, the funeral party found the road to the cemetery barricaded, and were fired at. They replied, wounding six, who were removed to hospital.

Things are now rapidly returning to normal, and the melodious voice of the cabdriver is once more to be heard in the streets, after a three days' interval of delightful quietness. The European residents in the town feel themselves fortunate in having a Commandant of Police who, by his energy and promptitude and the loyal cooperation of all his subordinates, was able from the outset to confine the trouble to Arab-town, so that not a single window or street lamp has been broken in this quarter, and ladies and children have been out as usual.

The Girl Guides.

On the 18th and 29th the Girl Guides gave an entertainment in the Eastern Exchange Hotel to raise funds for a new club-room. For several days previously all the guides had been vying with one another as to who could sell the most tickets, and the attendance showed

that they had left no stone unturned to secure an audience in which there was no one who had not done her share. The first part of the programme was taken up with Girl Guide songs, a demonstration and an explanation of the objects of the Girl Guide movement, and the examinations for the various badges. The second part was occupied by an extremely pretty series of *tableaux vivants*, in which Guides, Brownies, and Cubs took part. Altogether it was a most enjoyable and successful time, and we hope the financial results will be in keeping.

Christmas Services.

The services at the English Church on Christmas day were well attended, and the anthem, the "Prince of Peace," rendered by the choir, who had been trained by Mrs. J. E. Roberts, was much enjoyed, as was also the solo by Miss Nanine Roberts. In the evening most of the choir went to the British Hospital, and sang some Christmas carols and hymns for the benefit of the patients.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, January 6.

A Crisis in Abeyance.

Owing to the approach of the Orthodox holiday season, the political squabbles have temporarily subsided, though the crisis has become in no way less acute. As the general impression continues to be that the present Cabinet is of a transitory character—having only a certain mission to fulfil, provided it succeeds in gaining the collaboration of the present Parliament—political circles are still in search of a so-called neutral personality to form a fresh Cabinet which would enjoy the support of practically all political parties as well as of the present parliamentary majority. In this connection, besides M. Flondor's, two more names have been circulated this week, those of M.M. Jorga and Maniu. Negotiations in this direction, however, have been deferred until after the holidays. On the other hand, the Liberals are still striving to come to power alone, and lately they have been declaring openly that this event is not far off. But the whole situation depends on how the present Cabinet is received by Parliament when it reopens on January 17. M. Také Jonescu is far from idle in persuading Members of Parliament to accord him their support.

Modification of the Censorship Law.

In compliance with the King's desire, expressed in his Speech at the opening of Parliament, that the exceptional measures should be removed as far as possible, the Minister of the Interior has now issued a decree-law abolishing censorship throughout the country with the exception of the military zones along the frontier lines, where martial law is still in force. The new regulation, however, maintains a preventive censorship for publications attacking the Crown, the present form of Government, the Army, or Allied States, and for publications which incite to revolt or disturb public order.

A certain section of the Press claims that this new regulation, while it somewhat alleviates the conditions existing up to now in the new provinces, has a certain restricting effect on the Press in the Old Kingdom, where hitherto the censorship had been completely removed long ago.

The British Colony and the New Year.

Over 100 members of the British Colony celebrated New Year's Eve by a dinner which took place at the *Elisée Restaurant* on Saturday evening, December 31. The British Legation was represented by Mr. E. Millington-Drake, First Secretary of the Legation. A very cheerful and congenial atmosphere prevailed throughout the evening.

Visit of King Alexander.

It is announced that King Alexander of Yugoslavia will be the guest of the Roumanian Royal Family at Sinaia during the coming Orthodox holidays. He is expected to arrive in Sinaia on Sunday morning, January 8. In some circles this visit is connected with the rumoured betrothal of King Alexander and Princess Marie. It is further remarked that King Alexander

chose to arrive in time for the celebration of Princess Marie's birthday, which is on Monday, January 9.

On the other hand it is reported that King Alexander will be accompanied by the Yugoslav Premier, M. Pashitch, and that during their stay in Roumania they will amicably settle various important questions which are still pending between the two countries.

General News.

Prince George and Princess Elisabeth of Greece, accompanied by M. Soutzos, "Maréchal" of the Athens Court and Major Lividis, Aide de Camp to the Diadoch, arrived in Bucharest on Monday evening, January 2.

The Roumanian Royal Family and their guests will spend the Orthodox Christmas Holidays at the Sinaia Palace "Pelishor."

GREECE.

Athens, December 31.

Good News.

Excitement ran high yesterday when soon after noon special editions of the papers announced that Great Britain had lifted the financial blockade on Greece and had given a free hand to British banks and other financial institutions in England to grant a loan of £15,000,000 to this country. Although up to the time of writing there is no official confirmation of this news, which, it appears, was quoted from the *Daily Telegraph*, a slight improvement of the Drachma was immediately manifested, resulting in a marked decline in the value of bank shares.

Admiral Condouriotis' Condition.

Although Admiral Condouriotis' condition has shown much improvement during the last week, the doctors have not yet permitted him to leave the hospital. In the course of his statement made a few days ago, the Admiral said he was convinced that his would-be murderers were not soldiers who had been refused assistance. He added that the Relief Committee distributed money and various commodities to all those entitled to them, and treated everybody alike without enquiring into their political sentiments. Needless to say the assailants have completely vanished.

Athens University.

Athens University is running the danger of being left without any professors, or at least with a number of professors quite inadequate for its requirements.

Soon after the Venizelist Government was deposed, the new Minister of Education, M. Zaimis—himself a professor of Athens University—dismissed about twenty-five professors, all of whom were Venizelists. Only twelve months have elapsed since, and M. Zaimis now proposes a second combing which, if carried out, will deprive the University of its best professors, and thus seriously jeopardise the future of the premier educational institution in Greece. A protest meeting organised by the students outside the University was broken up by the police.

It should be added that since M. Zaimis has been in power about 75 per cent. of the teaching staff have been transferred from one school to another, in many cases hundreds of kilometres apart, causing no little annoyance and inconvenience. As many of the masters thus transferred have refused to leave their own district, some of the schools have been left without teachers and have had to close down, whilst others are seriously handicapped by shortage of personnel.

An Incident at the Catholic Church.

An unfortunate incident occurred at Piraeus last Saturday night. During the celebration of the midnight Christmas Mass at the Catholic Cathedral of St. Paul, a group of young lads stood outside the Church and started singing a popular refrain taken from one of the songs of a musical comedy which had an enormous success last summer at Athens. The refrain is, to say the least of it, irreverent to the Pope.

A Greek Catholic, named Antoine Ragoutsis, went outside the church and remonstrated, whereupon the lads attacked him, and one, armed with a bayonet, stabbed him. The unfortunate victim was immediately taken to hospital, but died shortly afterwards, after for-

giving his aggressor. The funeral took place on Monday, and was followed by large crowds.

As a result of this incident the Catholics of Athens have submitted a memorandum to the Minister of the Interior requesting him to issue orders prohibiting in future the singing of the popular refrain referred to above.

Winged Invaders.

The farmers in the provinces of Larissa, Trikkala, and Carditza have sent a telegram to the Minister of Agriculture informing him that thousands of wild ducks and legions of other birds have invaded the country, causing enormous damages to the crops. The farmers have appealed to all the sporting societies to assist them in exterminating the winged invaders. One farmer went so far as to make an offer of 10 drachmae per head of wild duck.

General News.

According to reports from Crete the situation there has somewhat improved as a result of the vigorous measures adopted by the authorities and the arrival in the island of considerable regular forces.

The Crown Prince and his wife, Princess Elizabeth, have left Athens for Bucharest, where they will stay during the Orthodox Christmas and the New Year.

4,000 Greek and Armenian refugees from Cilicia arrived this week at the Piraeus. They will be distributed in various towns of Old Greece.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Zagreb, January 5.

The Sebenico Incident.

People are satisfied with the firm attitude taken up by the Government on the Shebenik (Sebenico) incident. The Press sees the Italians' motive, which is on a par with their policy of ruining Fiume in order to save Trieste, which has suffered so much since it has been in Italian hands. The papers reproduce with satisfaction quotations from the French Press likening Italy's ultimatum to the famous one sent by Austria in July 1914, and they add the comment that if little Serbia of those days was not afraid of the great Austro-Hungarian Empire, Yugoslavia to-day need not worry about a country like Italy. The Treaty of Rapallo has been ratified by both parliaments, and Shebenik is purely Yugoslav territory. Belgrade will not discuss the matter with Rome until the Italians withdraw and carry out their obligations under the Treaty which they are trampling under foot. In the same connection, the Zagreb papers comment on the hypocritical speech of the Italian delegate at Washington, to the effect that Italy has reduced her army, not from financial reasons, but to contribute to the atmosphere of peace in Europe, which has a truly Machiavellian ring, coming from the people who terrorise the Slav element in their territory, burn their villages, insult and murder Frenchmen in Venice and Fiume, and bombard the open town of Shebenik.

A Sensational Trial.

A sensational trial is going on at Tuzla in Bosnia, where 355 miners are accused of various offences in connection with the strike of December 22, 1920, when some were entangled in the Bolshevik plot of that date. Many took arms against the police and gendarmerie, and the Public Prosecutor demands the capital sentence against quite a number of them. It is to be hoped that the ringleaders will suffer exemplary punishment, but that the mass, who are probably simple and ignorant men, who were misled by the demagogues and Bolshevik agents, will be set free.

Zagreb, January 10.

The Royal Betrothal.

It is announced that King Alexander is betrothed to Princess Marie of Roumania, and the utmost gratification is felt on all sides at the news. There have been so many contradictory rumours regarding His Majesty's engagement and so many announcements in the Press, that public opinion was becoming somewhat sceptical about them. Hopes were at one time raised that a matrimonial alliance would be formed with Great Britain; and later a Bourbon Princess was referred to

in the papers as a probable bride for the King. The latter suggestion was not too popular, for the Bourbons, after all, represent the same tradition as the Hapsburgs, and they are no longer a reigning dynasty. The Yugoslavs in general and the Serbs in particular, though extremely democratic, are staunch monarchists; and the young Sovereign who has shared all the trials and miseries of his Army is, deservedly, most popular. As my letters will have shown your readers, he had won golden opinion in the new provinces, where the people have been astonished to hear their monarch address them in their own tongue.

His Majesty's choice is a most happy one. The Princess is charming in herself, and represents a neighbouring and friendly people with whom the Yugoslavs have much in common, and against whom they have never fought. Moreover, no change of faith is involved, and the bonds of the Little Entente will be tightened. The fact that her Royal Highness is English on her mother's side will also serve to increase the sympathy which already exists between Great Britain and Yugoslavia.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, January 9.

Another Change in the Cabinet.

Yet another change has taken place in the Cabinet. M. Dashkaloff, Minister of Commerce, becomes Minister of the Interior, vice M. Radouloff, who takes M. Dashkaloff's place at the Ministry of Commerce. The change was made suddenly, on account of the Communal Elections, which are due to be held on February 19. The Minister of the Interior plays an important part in elections, and M. Dashkaloff is recognised as the leading Government figure in this respect. He is an assiduous public speaker, and has spent most of the winter travelling around the country. In his new post he will be able in a still greater degree to influence the voters in favour of the Government.

Elections will be held in practically every village in the country, and embodying as they do 90 per cent. of the rural and 70 per cent. of the total population, they will provide an important test of the Government's popularity. Three parties will compete for the peasant votes: the Agrarians, Communists, and Bourgeois. These three groups are all very active in their electioneering propaganda, and the Bourgeois are especially optimistic regarding the results they expect to obtain. As six weeks have to run before the elections it is too early to prophesy as to the result, but the Agrarians should have a majority in at least half of the Communes, whilst the other half should be divided equally between the other parties.

The Government and Sofia University.

The conflict that has arisen between the Government, represented by M. Omartchevsky, Minister of Education, and Sofia University has not died the natural death that appeared likely. After M. Omartchevsky had caused the removal of the seals which had been placed on the rooms of the Treasurer and Secretary of the University, the Minister drew up a law which will take away from the University practically all the independence it has hitherto enjoyed. This law will be deposited at the Sobranye when the latter resumes its sittings at the end of January. In addition, M. Omartchevsky has threatened to fine the Rector, M. Miletitch, a quarter of his salary for three months, for having defied Government authority, and in the meantime the Minister has taken into his own hands the payment of the Professors of the University. The University Authorities have written to the Minister, who is also the Censor, to ask permission for their point of view to be printed in the local press; if permission is refused they state they will cause their arguments to be privately printed and distributed. This threat is equivalent to a total defiance of the Government, and if carried out will probably bring matters to a head. Impartial circles are busy discussing whether M. Omartchevsky will yield, or

whether he intends to pursue the matter to the bitter end. Opinions are divided as to his attitude, but on the whole it is thought that a compromise will be arrived at. It is not likely that the Government will care to be embarrassed with this somewhat absurd dispute, when they have elections and other more important things to think about. The conflict, which originated round the question of three defunct letters of the Bulgarian alphabet, has, however, assumed such grave proportions that it will require tact and leniency on the part of the Government to settle the affair satisfactorily. Up to the present it has not worn a political aspect, but it is possible it may do so any day, as the Bourgeois parties are all quite agreed to take the side of the University. The University Students are also behind their Rector in this "literary dispute", and have intimated that they will leave the University if any repressive measures are taken against their chiefs. The matter is capable of further and more interesting developments.

A Shocking Murder.

Bulgaria had her full share of murders, political and otherwise, during 1921; and the sixth of January, 1922, has provided yet another and perhaps the most noteworthy of all. Many versions are afloat as to the way in which the murder was perpetrated, but the following account, which was given me by an eye witness, appears to be reliable. At about 11.30 p.m. on the 6th, MM. Slavoff, Damianoff, and a third man were sitting at a table at the Panac or Grand Hotel drinking beer and smoking cigarettes. M. Slavoff is the Prefect of Petritch, a town in South West Bulgaria, M. Damianoff is a brother of an Agrarian Deputy, whilst all of the men were or had been connected with the Housing Commission at Sofia. The three men picked a quarrel with a certain Athanasoff, a retired Army Officer, who had also been connected with the Housing Commission. The Officer was entirely correct in his behaviour, says the eye witness, until one of the three men made an especially insulting remark. At this Athanasoff drew his revolver and without any warning shot the three men. Damianoff and the third man were killed outright, whilst Slavoff died of his wounds a few hours later. A waiter was also hit, and is lying in hospital severely wounded. Athanasoff then walked out into the night, to give himself up to the police the following day. As far as can be ascertained there are no political motives underlying the crime.

The Radoslavoff Trial.

This trial has now been adjourned until the end of January in order to give Counsel and Jury a well earned rest. The Court has been sitting for three months and has covered about half its work. So far the most interesting evidence, as far as England is concerned, has been that given by M. Nedelko Athanasoff, now President of the Sobranye, and formerly Minister of Railways. M. Athanasoff related how in company with M. Stambolisky and M. Draighieff he visited the British Legation a few days before Bulgaria declared war. Sir Henry Bax-Ironside, the British Minister, he declared, spoke to the Agrarians in a discouraging tone of voice, and amongst other things said: "It is well to remember that England has made war many times and has never been defeated. She will not be defeated now. If Bulgaria takes Germany's side, Russia may forgive her, but England never will." Sir Henry's first sentence was quite correct, and up to the present his second also holds good.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, December 27.

The Legislative Council.

The election of two Maronite priests to seats in the Legislative Council gives occasion, but not the slightest justification, for abusive attacks by the Greeks. At the first election they failed, it may be remembered, because it was found that Canon Newham, who seconded their nomination, was not on the list of qualified electors. The paper *Aletheia* (Truth), which, with others, objected to any non-Greek standing as a candidate, observed that their election would not have been without compensation,

as it would have introduced a topic of mirth into the melancholy atmosphere of the Council. They have been alluded to as "Ethnological Eunuchs," "Hermaphrodites," Levantines, &c. Canon Newham also came in for sneers and vituperation. The new satirical paper *Peirasmos* makes much fun of the new members and of the Council as now constituted. In one cartoon the Maronites are depicted marching to the Council in their ecclesiastical robes, one of them leading a donkey. The Greeks, who refuse to offer themselves as candidates object to anyone else who has a perfect right to do so coming forward. Anything more petty and puerile than their present dog-in-the-manger attitude cannot be conceived. But as regards the part that is now being played by the Greek element one can only say that it is the logical outcome of the liberty that has been allowed during the last 40 years. Greeks, for example, have been allowed to carry and display *ad libitum* the Hellenic flag which (first as Ottoman and lately as British subjects) they are in no way entitled to use. The local Government in reply to numerous warnings and representations as to the results of this much-abused freedom have been invariably directed to reply that no notice was to be taken unless "a breach of the peace" were threatened. Thanks largely to the good sense of the Turkish element there has hardly ever been any collision. But in no other country in the world would, in analogous circumstances, such license have been permitted; and the results are now apparent. No one who knows Cyprus can be in the least surprised at the present situation.

Under the heading "English despotism," the *Aletheia* recently protested against the action of the Commissioner of Papho, who very properly forbade Greek Scouts to carry the Hellenic flag, when marching in and out of the town. What, it was asked, would Sir Baden Powell, who founded the Scout Movement, have thought of such a prohibition? All the papers and "union" speakers in fact now affect to talk as if they were actually Hellenic subjects.

The Greek Church Schism.

The question of the validity of the election of Mgr. Meletios Metaxakes, as Ecumenical Patriarch, is much discussed, and the result of the meeting to be held at Salonika (on December 25) is awaited with keen interest. The seven Bishops (out of twelve who constitute the Holy Synod) have telegraphed to the Archbishop of Cyprus, giving their reason for declining to take part in the Constantinople Election, and state that they will communicate the results of the convocation of the Hierarchy of the Great Church to Cyprus and to the other autocephalous Churches.

Theft at Nicosia.

Last week a Greek stranger was given a room at a hotel at Nicosia. About 2 a.m. a Greek named Paidouses, who was staying at the hotel, heard the door of his room being closed. Getting up he found he had been robbed of £13. He rang the bell for a servant, and as no one appeared, went downstairs to look for one, but without success. On returning he saw a light in the room next to his own, and on looking in found the stranger awake, and charged him with the theft. The latter admitted it, and said he would find the money in his own great coat pocket. The thief, on hearing M. Paidouses go downstairs, had replaced £8 in the pocket. The latter demanded the remainder, which was also returned. By this time other persons had been aroused, and it was found that Mr. De Boulay, Government Auditor, who was at the hotel, and M. A. Mavrogordato, of the Government Service, had also been robbed. The police were sent for and arrested the thief. It was found that he was one Kyriakos Hajjipavlou, who had served for years in hotels in Egypt and Smyrna, and that he had recently committed other thefts at a hotel at Larnaca.

ASIA MINOR.

Smyrna, January 3.

A Foolish Attack.

The sailors of the Greek warship *Lymnos* have been causing much trouble for the Greek High Commissioner,

M. Sterghiades, during this festive season. A few days ago they broke into a Frenchman's shop and threatened him with knives to make him stop his band playing the *Marseillaise*; and even when a Greek military officer intervened to quell the disturbance the sailors refused to obey, and also threatened their officer. The French Consul took up the matter and insisted on apologies being made *en due forme* by the Greek authorities, but before this was done another band of Greek sailors attacked the French Consulate and smashed some windows in the Consulate. M. Sterghiades is absent from Smyrna, so there may be an unfortunate delay in placating the French Consul who is very much incensed at these outrages.

A Surprising Result.

The first football match in the Smyrna League, between the "Armenians" and the "Barbarians" (the British team) ended in a sensational victory for the Armenians, who played on their own ground, by 5 goals to nil.

Smyrna, January 4.

The Incident Ended.

The unfortunate incident between some drunken sailors of the "*Lymnos*" and the French consular authorities has been arranged to the entire satisfaction of the French Consul, M. Destribats. The four sailors responsible for the outrage have received the maximum punishment, and the Greek authorities have apologised *en due forme*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

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

GREAT BRITAIN AND TURKEY.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—In the midst of distractions and matters of interest at home, in Ireland and at Washington, the Near Eastern problem has been largely overlooked by the British Public, and by politicians and by business men in particular; yet, the relations of the British Empire with Turkey, and the reaction of those relations on our 120 million Moslem subjects, and the effect of these on trade and unemployment are of the utmost importance.

Now, if Mr. Lloyd George at Cannes really wishes to see trade revive and reconstruction commence, although he may not be able to do anything immediately with regard to Russia, Poland, Austria, etc., he could by a stroke of the pen, open up a great market to British trade, and at the same time reduce our commitments and risks in many directions. All this can be done by a change of policy towards Turkey. The Turks were never whole-heartedly in the War against us, and for generations there was a traditional relation between this country and the Ottoman Empire. Asia Minor is a vast region with which we did a most valuable trade in the past, especially in textiles; and the openings in which the trade and commerce might be revived in the future are very great. Its soil is fertile, mineral wealth is very considerable, the Turkish peasant population is hard-working, enlightened and peaceable, and in spite of the events of the last few years the Englishman has a great prestige in these regions; yet, with a blindness and foolhardiness, which in normal times would have destroyed a Government by this time, the present Coalition Government has persisted in supporting the Greeks in their campaign of annihilation of their hereditary enemies in Asia Minor. To the Greeks the war is racial and religious; it is the sort of war which the world cannot afford to tolerate in these days. They are the aggressors—they have failed, and failed dismally, yet we have continued to give them open and covert support and to egg them on in this atrocious campaign.

Independent observers have described the atrocities committed by the Greek troops, and whatever the massacres by the Turks, they could not have exceeded the cruelties of the Greeks in frightfulness. Now the Greeks have failed finally.

France has always been opposed to the support of Greek Imperialism, and has quite rightly hastened to make peace with the Turkish Government. France is the second greatest Mohammedan empire in the world; and we are the first; to both of us it is absolutely necessary that we should be on good terms with the Khalifate and treat the Turks with justice. So much for Asia Minor! We are losing trade there and wasting money; and this is causing unemployment in Britain.

But what of India? There our treatment of Turkey has aroused most antagonistic feeling among devout Moslems. Our Moslem subjects in India number over 90 millions. In the past they have always been loyal supporters of the British Raj against Hindu extremists. To-day our policy in supporting the Greeks and our general attitude against Turkey have thrown them into the arms of Ghandhi, and for the first time in the history of British India the two creeds are united against us; the results are non co-operation, boycott of British goods, unrest and disturbance. This affects trade terribly and leads to great expense for extra troops etc.

Our task in Egypt and in Mesopotamia is made more difficult for the same reason. A complete change of policy towards Turkey is required, and if Mr. Lloyd George and his advisers would be content for once to eat their own words and acknowledge their mistake in the past, they could do more for unemployment in this country by that one act than all the talk and Conferences between now and Doomsday.

I am, etc.,

J. M. KENWORTHY.

House of Commons, Westminster.

January 11, 1922.

ENGLAND AND ISLAM.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—I returned to England a few weeks ago from India, and I am shocked to find how little English people seem to realise the immense importance of the Turkish Question to the welfare of the world in general and the British Empire in particular. Even our statesmen still indulge in the Gladstonian folly of talking as if "Christians" only were deserving of consideration in the East.

It is not too much to say that the terms of the Treaty of Sèvres sent a thrill of horror through all Asia which had watched with anguish the long series of attacks and calumnies from Europe of which the Turks, an Asiatic race, had been the victims; and that horror has been steadily upon the increase until now. It is emphatically not a question of a mere territorial re-adjustment between Turkey and Greece. It is—or ought to be—a question of our reconciliation with the Islamic world.

England made certain solemn public promises during the war to Turks and Arabs and, which is worse, to Indian Muslims, her own people; which promises have all been broken in favour of secret understandings with some European, so-called "Christian" Power; with the natural result that England, once respected in the East, is now abhorred. It is not even now too late for England to regain her old prestige, if she will keep those promises. Otherwise farewell to our good name in Asia.

I am, etc.,

MARMADUKE PICKTHALL.

January 12, 1922.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

British India.

The *Morning Post* on January 12 resumed its attack on Mr. Gandhi. It begins an article thus:—

We do not know if the British public realise that the visit of the Prince of Wales to India has been a failure. When the project was first mooted we ventured to warn the Government that it was to court disaster, and the disaster came. The Government cannot plead that they were not sufficiently warned. They knew already that the Duke of Connaught, when he visited India, had been grossly and repeatedly insulted. They knew that preparations were being made to repeat those insults and outrages upon a larger scale. They were warned of what was certain to happen by many experienced officials, some of them of the highest rank. The heads of several of the most important Provincial Governments in India warned Lord Reading of what would happen and were snubbed for their pains. The Prince went. When his Royal Highness entered Bombay, the main gateway of British India, he found the city at the mercy of a seditious and truculent mob and an organised Terror. His welcome took the shape of bloody riots, in which many lives were lost. Up-country the welcome was no better. It is notorious that where he did receive an ovation the welcome was organised in the teeth of a formidable opposition. Then Lord Reading, who had been blind to all signs and portents and deaf to all warnings beforehand, flew to the opposite extreme and sent panicky orders to Allahabad. The local government made wholesale arrests, with the result that the tide of sedition was for the moment stemmed. But immediately these good results were achieved the Viceroy veered round again and made it known that he intended to throw up the sponge and enter into a compact with Gandhi. Then came Bengal, and the Prince in Calcutta was the centre of a desperate struggle between sedition and loyalty. Everywhere, except in the native States, the friends of the British Empire in India have been so abandoned by the British Government and so intimidated by its enemies, that they hide their heads and either conceal or change their sentiments. The Viceroy may now pretend to take stern measures; but it is merely a pretence. And what is the sense of pretence? And what is the sense of pretending where Gandhi, the head and front of the sedition, is still at large? If the Government were in earnest they would arrest Gandhi and put him on his trial. If they allow Gandhi to continue to lead this movement, what is the sense in prosecuting his followers? There are only two conclusions to be drawn, either that the Government of India is afraid of Gandhi or is secretly aiding and abetting him.

It continues with comments upon "conspirators" against the British Government who are still at large, saying that by allowing such a condition of affairs to obtain we "are riding for a fall in India;" and it concludes:—

Now we have no hopes from the Government on this subject. The Prime Minister is committed to Mr. Montagu and to Lord Reading. We do not know the nature of the bond, but so much at least is certain. They have so arranged matters that the Prince of Wales is insulted in every city of British India—India which a few years ago could be guided

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with a silken thread. They have notoriously failed, yet they will be allowed to remain and work further mischief if the matter be left to the Government. We address our appeal in this matter to the general public, but particularly to all those connected with our export trade in India, now abandoned to the organised terrorism of a boycott by men of whom the Government is afraid, or with whom the Government is unwilling to quarrel.

. If the policy of weakness and surrender—or worse—which allows this to be done is to be revised Mr. Montagu must go from the India Office and his friend Lord Reading must be recalled from India. And that will not happen unless the British public make it happen.

Turkey, Russia, and Constantinople.

The *Yorkshire Post* of January 10 contains an article called "The Question of Constantinople." It begins by remarking the possibility of renewed fighting in Anatolia in the spring between Greeks and Turks, and shows how the Kemalists are taking political steps to support their military movement. It mentions specifically the Turco-Ukrainian Treaty, which, it says, is obviously designed to secure the Kemalists from interference from South Russia, and to provide them with future support in regard to Constantinople. It continues:—

Not only do both Governments agree as to their future with other Powers, but a specific clause is said to deal with the question of the Straits and the Black Sea, which is to be settled by the States concerned themselves, the settlement to be based upon the inviolability of Constantinople as the capital of the Turkey. The Soviet Republic of Ukraina, with which the Kemalists desire to conclude this agreement, is not the Soviet Government of Moscow but may be considered a branch of that parent Government, and the diplomatic equalities of Lenin may be discerned in the document.

The allusion to Constantinople is specially significant. It will be remembered that whilst Article 36 of the Treaty of Sèvres laid down that the rights and title of the Turkish Government—which, by the way, was not the Kemalist Government—over Constantinople should not be affected; nevertheless the Allied Powers expressly reserved the right to modify these provisions should Turkey fail to observe the provisions of the Treaty. In other words the retention by the Turks of Constantinople was made conditional upon their good behaviour, and upon their faithful observance of the whole of the provisions of a Treaty which greatly curtailed their powers and restricted their territory. The creation of a zone of the Straits and the establishment of Inter-Allied Commissions at Constantinople, among other measures, had the effect, moreover, of placing the capital under the more or less direct jurisdiction of the Allies, and of reducing the power of the Caliphate in its own capital city to a mere shadow. The Kemalists have always fought against these restrictions, and proclaimed their intention of freeing Constantinople from the humiliating position designed for it by the Allies, and there is no doubt that they have gained great prestige and influence by their bold attitude in this respect as compared with the necessarily quiescent one of the nominal Government at Constantinople. That they should reaffirm their policy of the independence and inviolability of the city in this treaty with a Russian Government is a sign of their greater feeling of power as the result of their successful political and military campaigns.

Although no Soviet Government can be wholly in touch with a Turkish and Mussulman Administration, and sooner or later Russians and Turks must fall apart, each is so useful to the other in present circumstances that their outwardly unnatural alliance may hold good for some time to come, during which incalculable harm may be done to the cause of peace and to the interests of the Allies.

MUSICAL NOTES.

ON GRAMOPHONE RECORDS.

One has long ceased to await with tense expectation the records made by "star" artists, for human stars do not often maintain a high artistic level, but in the "Celebrity" vocal records which "His Master's Voice" have recently made there is really astonishing distinction. The old reproach that the voice was the instrument which came out worst on the gramophone is completely falsified, for the last list of records contains some which are almost miraculously perfect. First of these I myself put Chaliapin's singing of Koenemann's "When the King went Forth to War." This is one of the finest records I have ever heard, for it reproduces with incredible accuracy the chiselled and individual beauty of the great Russian's voice. One nearly persuades oneself, as one hears him (and in imagination sees him) sing, that this is a great song, so great is his conception of it. And the other record by him—Moussorgsky's "Song of the Flea"—is wonderfully typical. It inevitably must be compared with Vladimir Rosing's more realistic rendering, but there is difficulty in giving preference to either, so unique are both. To those who have not heard Chaliapin I warmly recommend these two records.

A *coloratura* singer who is extraordinarily popular with the British public, though she is now in America and has not yet been to this country, is Galli-Curci. One is tempted to say from her records alone that she is in her rôle unsurpassable, so amazingly finished is her technique. Here she is represented on two records—in the "Polonaise" from Thomas' "Mignon," and in "Sempre libera degg'io folle gaire" from Verdi's "La Traviata"—and in both the mastery of her voice is remarkable.

Caruso is heard in an Halévy aria, and in the first few notes the spell of that vanished voice is cast around. Its magnetism is indescribable, but once heard his voice will never be forgotten. This record needs a soft needle, for into the merest thing Caruso threw his inimitable passion, and though in this he does not open his flood-gates wide, he achieves certain climaxes.

One of the most distinguished records is that made by Battistini in Donizetti's "Voce fatal di morte." His is a singularly beautiful voice, and the first part of the record is worthy of him, though towards the end, there is, perhaps, a slight tailing-off.

There is another Verdi record—"Dio, che nell'alma infondere" (from "Don Carlos")—sung by Martinelli and de Luca. It is an excellently prepared record, the blend between tenor and baritone being unusually good, and if the technical performance of the duet is in one place a little imperfect, it is easily overlooked in the rich magnificence of Martinelli's voice.

It is a pity that a drop in this high level of records should be caused by an English singer in an English song—Kirkby Lunn in Elgar's "Like to a Damask Rose" for though the reproduction is only too faithful, Elgar's is a poor song, and moreover, not too well sung. But some people will like it. Similarly with a "Faust" duet, sung by Walter Hyde and Robert Radford—"Be Mine the Delight"—though in this case it is well sung. There are some who like "Faust" whole, and some who like it in excerpts; but there are also those who like it not at all. Very possibly those who admire this record will also care for a duet from Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise"—"I waited for the Lord"—sung by Alma Gluck and Louise Homer. The soprano's voice is a fine one, and here it comes through with crystal purity, but though the contralto's diction is equally excellent, the *timbre* of her voice is imperfectly reproduced—why, I do not understand, because in all other respects the record is superb.

A very "pretty" record and one that will certainly become popular is that made by John McCormack and Kreisler in Rachmaninoff's "When Night Descends." The clarity of this is notable, and the balance between voice and fiddle exquisitely maintained. Indeed, the record is a triumph of craftsmanship.

Andante.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

A DOCTOR IN SERBIA.

"MY BALKAN LOG." By J. Johnston Abraham. (London: Chapman and Hall. 15s. nett). Illustrated.

"My Balkan Log" records the experiences of a surgeon serving with a British Red Cross medical unit in Serbia in 1914-15. Arriving in the country in October, 1914, the hospital to which the author was attached was established at Uskub where it remained some months until, with the death or invaliding home of most of the doctors and orderlies, it ceased to exist as an organised body. It will be seen that the book covers the period of the first invasions of Serbia by the Austrians, and of the terrible Typhus epidemic which so greatly handicapped our gallant Allies in their splendid fight for their country. The book tells the story of those strenuous days as seen from the standpoint of a little band of English hospital workers at the base labouring day and night for months at their gruesome trade in the face of every conceivable difficulty, and although none of them during their stay at Uskub appear to have experienced even the trials of an air raid or heard a shot fired in anger, the risks they took daily where Typhus stalked through the land were such as might put a severe strain on the nerves of the stoutest fighter.

The horrors special to the Typhus epidemic, to say nothing of those associated with the ordinary work of the military surgeon in war time do not suffer in the telling at the hands of the author, whose Zolaesque descriptions of all things horrible that came his way give his book a certain pre-eminence in frightfulness over all the many medical war books inflicted on the public in the past seven years. The lay reader will find in this "Balkan Log" so many passages recalling the professional conversations between Bob Sawyer and his student friends which made such a profound impression on Mr. Pickwick that he may begin to doubt whether the surgeon of to-day is so greatly the superior in refinement of his predecessor of a hundred years ago as is generally believed—anyhow he might well doubt whether even Bob Sawyer at his best could beat the following passage which is typical of our author when he waxes lyrical over the day's work, a thing he does not once but many times in the course of his realistic narrative:—

Sometimes we had curious surprises. I can remember one of the first; a leg I tried to save by gouging a long gutter in the Tibia for Osteomyelitis. Our old major came along as I was doing it, shook his head and said "amputation." But I was determined to save the leg. I dressed the man myself for three days. Then he disappeared one morning; his bed was empty

and no one knew what had become of him. I went to look at the ten bodies lying in the mortuary but he was not there.

Presumably the author's object in writing this book was to bring home to the public the horrors of war as viewed from the standpoint of an English surgeon suddenly called upon to practise his craft under mediaeval conditions in an improvised hospital in a small Serbian town. If this assumption is correct, there is no denying that he succeeds admirably in producing the desired effect, and in the minds of such of his readers as have not to some extent shared his experiences in the great war the pictures of misery and suffering he paints with such a wealth of colour can hardly fail to produce feelings of the most painful description. But one may well ask was it necessary to lay the paint on quite so thick? Some millions of the author's fellow-countrymen were engaged for four years in this dreadful business of killing and maiming. Many of them saw sights in the field even more horrible than came the way of the doctors and nurses in the military hospitals, but it is rarely they can be induced to describe them, and even among the doctors reticence about such things is the rule rather than the exception. Realism loses its point when it is employed in depicting things familiar to the majority. Zola was justified in writing "La Débâcle" if only to remind a generation clamouring for war of some of its painful realities, but in days when, surfeited with horrors, we are all trying our best to forget the evil things the war forced on our notice, one is apt to resent the efforts of writers who seek under the excuse of art to revive them in our memories in all their naked horror.

The author's descriptive powers are, however, not entirely devoted to the hospital side of his experiences—he takes us occasionally out of the wards into the fresh air and shows us something of Serbia and Serbian life. It does not amount to much, for it is obvious that his opportunities for studying the country and the people were necessarily very limited, but such as it is it gives the book a certain interest it would not possess if he had restricted himself severely to the recording of the daily experiences of himself and comrades within the four walls of the hospital in which they laboured. That his sympathy with the gallant little nation in whose service he worked so devotedly in its time of trial is sincere and heartfelt is clear in every line he has written, but while it is apparent that he likes the Serb it is no less so that he has only succeeded in viewing him from the outside and having failed to discover his soul is not entirely convinced of its existence. The rites and ceremonies of the Orthodox Church, often referred to in this book, garish and tawdry as they may appear to Western eyes, are nevertheless the media by which great eternal truths are presented to the people of the Near East in the only language in which they become intelligible to them—the language of symbolism. It is a language conveying nothing to the materialist; hence many things admirably described by the author are given to us just as examples of the quaint ways of the foreign folk with whom he was brought into contact in Serbia. The thing seen is faithfully presented, the thing signified is invariably ignored.

The author is at his best when he is telling us about the men and women who shared his arduous life with him in Serbia. His character sketches are admirable, and his power of giving the reader a sense of personal acquaintance with the members of the little hospital community supplies his book with perhaps its chief attraction. He impresses us as a man with a genius for friendship, and a strong sense of comradeship, generous to a fault in his appreciation of the work of his associates, even if his estimate of the magnitude of their achievements suggests a somewhat deficient sense of proportion. Even if this book had never been written, the world would have learnt long ago that the work of the British Red Cross units in Serbia in the opening phase of the great war was wholly admirable and that it was carried on amidst appalling difficulties. It in no way detracts from the credit of their achievements that they

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pale into insignificance besides those of Colonel Hunter's sanitary mission which in its grim campaign against the Typhus horror established a record in the annals of preventive medicine. Typhus inevitably reminds us of the louse, the ancient human parasite who after coming well into the lime light during the war has now mercifully retired into his pristine obscurity. It was inevitable that we should hear a great deal about him in this book, but making every allowance for the author's natural desire to bring home to this little enemy of mankind his manifold crimes, we really think he might have spared us that full page illustration of "Serbian soldiers hunting for lice." If a photograph of British soldiers engaged in such a filthy task had ever been published it would have been bitterly resented not only by their friends and relatives but by the general public, not wholly deprived of their sense of decency by the great war.

A CRITIC OF ENGLAND.

"THE TURKS AND EUROPE." By Gaston Gaillard. (London: Thomas Murby and Co. 12s. 6d. net.)

This book is a careful account of events in Turkey from the Armistice of Mudros in 1918 up to about a year ago, and of the relations between that country and the Peace Conference. Copiously illustrated with extracts from speeches, newspapers, and diplomatic correspondence, it is a very comprehensive summary of a period which is tangled in its motives and obscure in its details.

The subject is treated from a point of view which is at once novel and prejudiced, for the author is a most confirmed Turcophil and a very hard critic of England.

Without denying that the Turkish nation has much of which it can complain—the too long delay before any terms were presented to end the state of war, and the abortive nature of those terms when they were at last presented in the Treaty of Sèvres—one feels that M. Gaillard is in the position of an advocate defending a cause, in which there are many details that it were better should never see the light of day or bear the searching questions of an accomplished barrister.

For the present deplorable situation in the Near East, the Powers must take a very large measure of blame, and in their policies and manoeuvrings, France has had a full voice and share. It is neither seemly nor politic that two such Allies as France and England have been should wrangle publicly when their time of trial is over. If M. Gaillard accuses England of being inconsistent, stupid, and self-seeking, it is not inconceivable that others have imagined those same faults in the policy of France. To say that the actions of any one nation, or of any of the anti-Turkish movements within the Turkish Empire of 1914, are entirely to blame for the events which succeeded, is neither impartial nor just. On either side there must be, and are, many faults; but the author's attitude, that any or everybody except the Turkish nation is responsible, must be due to either prejudice or ophthalmia.

To take a single example, Armenian Nationality first arose as a living question when Turkish Government was a synonym for bad Government—when, granting the whole of the author's conception of Russian hegemony, any change could have been only for the better. This happened during the last century, when the spirit of nationality, together with many other spirits of more or less doubtful value, was made a subject of everything but unselfish support. Some nationalities, the Italian for instance, won out and became kingdoms or republics. They did not do it without exterior support. The Armenians found support in Russia, for Western Europe was too busy to do more than hear them and utter a few words of sympathy.

Subsequent events contained much to be regretted, but had the reviewer himself been an Armenian, he would have struggled hard to own a rifle, and also to have joined hands with the Russians in 1915—an attitude much applauded by the Allies at the time. And if the Armenians "did not behave like innocent little lambs" in March 1920, there was much that was both human and understandable in their action, even

if it were entirely unethical. Asia Minor has neither police nor law courts to adjust differences; consequently those differences are settled promptly and finally, with all the decision of a wild, primitive country. After all, if M. Gaillard had been in Lorraine in 1914, and could have procured a rifle, surely he would have kept it, and if Allied troops other than French had advanced past where he was hiding, he would probably have joined them, if he had been unable to join his own Army. Also he would probably have felt just as bloodthirsty as the Armenian, if those near to him had suffered in one of the "unfortunate incidents" which, in Northern France and Belgium, shocked Western civilization. Yet they were very insignificant compared with what happened in Anatolia.

This is to take a single point out of many with which one could disagree in this book. That it is a careful summary of events is undeniable, and it is particularly interesting in that it affords much guidance to understanding an attitude of mind which caused, on more than one recent occasion, considerable surprise in England.

The question of the Near East is a vexed one; it is one that seems almost impossible of solution. But it is certain that no solution will be found in supporting one of the many parties concerned to the exclusion of all consideration for the others. To be impartial is difficult, as will be admitted by anyone who has lived in the Near East: to be without suspicion of bias is well nigh beyond human power; to become so frankly partizan as M. Gaillard is dangerous.

We are sure that in supporting the Turks with so much prejudice, the author has done harm to a people with whom much sympathy must be felt.

IN INDIA AND AFGHANISTAN.

"EAST IS EAST." Stories of Indian Life. By Major-General T. D. Pilcher, C.B. (London: The Bodley Head. 7s. 6d. net.)

These three stories by General Pilcher leave us in no doubt as to his knowledge of India and its diverse peoples, and he has the gift of sharing that knowledge with his readers in picturesque descriptions of men and places. As a story-teller his powers are decidedly limited, and he unfolds the incidents of his plot in a jerky, mechanical way, with no oiling of the machinery.

"A Matter of Degree" a really only a string of loosely connected events used to illustrate the old Indian proverb "Trust a snake before a harlot. Trust a harlot before a Pathan. Trust a Pathan before a Brahman."

"Samson and Delilah" is a tale of Afghan revenge, which is very well worth reading for the account of the wanderings of Afzul Khan through India to find purchasers for his merchandise. It is inevitable that the reader should be reminded of "Kim," but this does not make General Pilcher's narrative any the less interesting. In "A Romance of Jetana" we follow the adventures—supposed to have taken place some year ago—of Surgeon Captain Michael Macnamara of the Indian Medical Service, as resident in a Native State, where the Rajah is a minor, and there are three chief enemies at Court ready to plot against the Irishman and to undermine his influence. It is always satisfactory to see the hero of a story refusing to fall into the traps laid by his subtle adversaries and to leave him triumphant over them.

The interest of this book lies not in the stories, which are of no real value, but in the conviction which the author inspires of the reality of his understanding of Indian life.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.**To-Day.**

January 19 (New Style).

January 6 (Old Style).

Gumada I, 21, 1340, A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Tebet 19, 5682 of the Jewish Calendar.

M. Nicolas Emile Lahovary, First Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, left London last week for Bucharest.

Lord Killanin, who is at present in Egypt, will return to London at the end of this month.

M. Pantchow Doreff, Counsellor at the Bulgarian Legation, has returned to London from Vienna.

The Queen of Roumania and Princess Ileana of Roumania are expected to arrive in London next month.

Lord Long and the Bishop of Gibraltar have arrived at Malta in H.M.S. Surprise.

The Marquis of Salisbury and his daughter, Lady Beatrice Ormsby-Gore, have arrived at Barbados.

M. F. Nano, the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, has taken 58, Brompton Square, for the winter.

M. Titulesco, the newly appointed Roumanian Minister to England, is lying ill at Bucharest.

Sir Herbert and Lady Samuel have arrived at the Winter Palace, Luxor.

Major-General Sir W. S. Brancker has returned to London from Irak.

Sir Herbert and Lady Vernon and family left by P. and O. steamer Narkunda last week for Egypt and Palestine, and expect to return in April.

The Prince of Wales has given to the Zoological Gardens the collection of animals presented to him by the Maharaja of Nepal.

M. Jaroslav Cisar, specially attached at the Czecho-Slovak Legation, has returned to London from the Continent.

Sir John Norton Griffiths, M.P., and Lady Norton Griffiths have arrived at 34, Lennox Gardens, where they will be until Easter. (Telephone, Kensington 3217).

Earl Granville, the newly appointed British Minister to Denmark, will leave London at the end of the month with Countess Granville for Copenhagen.

Our Port Said Correspondent announces (December 31) that a son has been born to the Chaplain and Mrs. Johnston.

Canon Buchanan, vicar of Holy Trinity, Hull, hopes shortly to spend about four months in Palestine and Egypt, studying in particular mission work.

Sir Marshall and Lady Reid left by P. and O. steamer Narkunda last week for Egypt, the Sudan and Palestine, and expect to return to Epsom at the end of March.

Professor van Tyne, of the University of Michigan, has arrived in Calcutta, in order to study Indian political conditions with reference to the development of the new Constitution.

The marriage took place on December 22, at Princes Row Registry Office, between Major T. B. Minniken, 76th Punjabis, Indian Army, and Mrs. Dorothy Ross Bell.

Major F. H. Humphreys was received in audience last week by the King and kissed hands upon his appointment as his Majesty's first Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Kabul.

Lady Winifred Gore has left the Flag Staff House, Bangalore, where she has been staying with Lord and Lady Ruthven, to visit General Lord Rawlinson and Lady Rawlinson at Flag Staff House, Delhi.

M. Michel B. Boeresco, the Roumanian Minister Plenipotentiary and Chargé d'Affaires, left London last week for Bucharest. M. Frederic Nano will act as Chargé d'Affaires during the absence of M. Boeresco.

Mr. H. C. A. Eyres was received on January 13 in audience by The King and kissed hands upon his appointment as His Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in Albania.

The coronation of King Alexander of Serbia will take place at an early date after his return to Belgrade, at the conclusion of his visit to the King and Queen of Roumania, in about two weeks.

The marriage was celebrated on January 5, at Lahore Cathedral, India, between Captain Ronald A. C. Hill, Indian Police, younger son of Colonel Arthur Hill, R.E., retired, and Mrs. Hill, and Shelagh, only child of Mrs. Ore Deas.

Lord Northcliffe has left Madras for Delhi upon a few days' visit to the Viceroy. From Delhi he will proceed to Bombay, where he will be the guest of Sir G. A. Lloyd, Governor of Bombay. He is due to sail for England on January 21.

The marriage was celebrated on November 30, at Delhi India, between Douglas Hendrie Currie, 18th-19th Lancers, Indian Army, and Maud Vernon, youngest daughter of the late Lt.-Colonel G. W. Anson, of Garvock, Sevenoaks, Kent.

The King of Roumania has conferred the Order of Charles I. upon the King of Serbia, and the latter has decorated King Ferdinand with the Order of Kara Georgevitch with Stars and Swords, and has conferred a similar decoration with Swords upon the Crown Prince of Roumania.

M. Georges Creziano, of the Roumanian Diplomatic Corps, whose brother is secretary at the Legation here, is engaged to Helen, daughter of M. and Mme. Butculesco (Lady in Waiting to the Queen of Roumania). The wedding will take place in Bucharest at the end of this month.

The marriage was celebrated on January 4, by the Resident Chaplain, at the Church of the Epiphany, Port Said, Egypt, between A. C. E. Anthony, M.Inst. C.E., M.Inst.E.E., Haifa, Palestine, and Audrey, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elliott, Therlestane, Hampton Hill, and late of Naini Tal, India.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place early in March, between Lieutenant-Colonel J. S. Bogle, D.S.O., retired, Indian Army (late Queen Victoria's Own Corps of Guides), and Margaret Iris, widow of Major Charles Herbert Mallock, D.S.O., R.F.A., of Cockington Court, Devon, and daughter of Mr. and Lady Grace Bazley-White, of 50, Lexham Gardens, S.W.

On the occasion of New Year's Day (Old Style), the Roumanian Students' Association held a festival on January 14, at the Roumanian Legation, Cromwell Place, at which M. Nano (Chargé d'Affaires) presided. Monsieur M. Becza, lecturer at King's College, gave a short discourse on "Christmas and New Year in Roumania," the folklore, music, and dances being illustrated

by the students, all in national costume, as were many of the audience. Mlle. Laura Zaganescu, a Roumanian singer, well known in Paris, sang. The festival concluded with the singing of the English and Roumanian National Anthem. Services in celebration of New Year's Day, were held at the Greek Church, Moscow Road, and at the Russian Church of St. Philip, Buckingham Palace Road.

APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS.

M. Charles Maskens, Counsellor at the Belgian Embassy, has been appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Bulgaria.

M. N. Misu, a son of M. Mistu, who during the war was Roumanian Minister in London, has been appointed Secretary to the Roumanian Legation.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. Hugh Lansdown Stephenson, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S. to be a member of the Executive Council of the Governor of Bengal, in succession to Sir Henry Wheeler, K.C.I.E. C.S.I., I.C.S., whose term of office will expire in April 1922.

OBITUARY.

The death took place on January 11 of Major-General Sir Reginald Salmon Curtis, late of the Royal Engineers. He first saw service in the Sudan in 1891, and four years afterwards took part in the Ashanti Expedition, in which he served as Director of Telegraphs.

The death is announced of Lieutenant-Colonel Henry P. Bell, late 44th Merwara Infantry, Indian Army, and 8th (Service) Battalion Leicestershire Regiment. He served in Burmah in 1891, taking part in the Wuntho Expedition and receiving the medal with clasp. He had also a clasp for operations in the Chin Hills.

The death has taken place of Major-General Sir Walter George Augustus Bedford. Sir Walter saw service in the South African War, when his work earned him mention in despatches and the C.M.G., while in the Great War his work as Director of Medical Services of the Forces in the Dardanelles and Egypt gained him a further mention and the C.B.

The death has occurred of Sir William Matthews, K.C.M.G., a past President of the Institution of Civil Engineers and a harbour engineer of world-wide repute. Examples of his work can be found in the harbours of Gibraltar, Malta, Cyprus, Ceylon, and many other places. He sat on many Commissions, notably the International Technical Commission on the Suez Canal in 1908.

The death has occurred of Mr. Thomas Gibson Bowles, a notable man who had a varied career. Among his many services were those during the military operations in Turkey which ended in 1878, after which year he did good work in the formation of the Stafford House Committee for the relief of distressed Turks, for which he received from the Sultan the Order of the Mejidie.

The death has occurred of Colonel Sir John Godfrey Rogers. Sir John joined the Army Medical Department in 1871, retiring in 1892. He first saw service in the Afghan War in 1878-81, and subsequently served in the Egyptian and Nile expeditions, with the Sudan Frontier Field Force (1885-6), and as principal medical officer with the Suakin Field Force in 1888-9. He was principal medical officer of the Egyptian Army for nine years from 1883, and later held the appointment of Director-General of the Sanitary Department of the Ministry of the Interior, Egypt, for seven years. Sir John, who gained the D.S.O. in the Sudan, was created a K.C.M.G. in 1898. He was also a Knight of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem and a Pasha in Egypt.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Haj Amin el Hussein, the Mufti of Jerusalem, has been elected Rais el Ulema for Palestine. Four other notables have been elected as a council to administer under the presidency of the Rais el Ulema all Moslem religious funds and courts.

Djehal Beddine Avis Bey, former Vice-President of the National Assembly, has been appointed representative of the Angora Government in Rome instead of Djami Bey, who has been relieved of his office.

A Paris message states that Algerian tribesmen, who recently had 150 camels stolen by Tuareg raiders, followed the thieves across the Tunisian Sahara, overtook the Tuareg on the Tripolitan frontier, and gave battle. The Algerians killed 20 of their foes, sustained only three casualties, and recovered their camels.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 1922.

THE PEASANT AND THE TARIFF.

A fiscal commission is now perambulating India, charged with the duty of preparing the way for the formulation of tariff principles suitable to the country in the new political conditions. With the general activities of the Commission we are not greatly concerned. Judging by the condensed reports which reach us from India, its experience is similar to that of other bodies of its kind. It is getting a few facts and an amorphous mass of opinions. Its members are learning by dint of painful iteration that most consumers want low prices, that most merchants desire a large turnover, and that most manufacturers aim at buying materials cheap and selling their products dear: they are also realising the difficulties felt by ordinary people in justifying by arguments the beliefs and prejudices on which they have been nourished; and they are destined to realise in due course that their labours will have but little influence on the balance of opinion. To comment on such normal features would be a waste of time; and if we refer to the Commission at all, it is with the object of drawing attention to one feature of its proceedings which is very far from normal, and which is of real significance for the near future. The Commission is not merely concerned with a tariff on imports; it is being pressed to recommend export duties sufficiently heavy to check the sale abroad of the staple products of the country, and, for a time at least, to reverse the established balance of trade; in other words it is being brought face to face with the deep-seated, secular antagonism between the country and the town; between producers and exploiters, between the peasants and their parasites, which underlies the whole history of India. About four-fifths of the population spend their lives in producing food, and while they eat most of it themselves, all of them have a margin for sale, which, small though it may be, provides them with clothes and anything else they can afford to buy. Their interests therefore require that food should be dear: the small minority of town-dwellers desire on the contrary that food should be cheap; and, if India had really progressed as far as some of her active politicians suppose, the suggestion of using the tariff to keep prices low would be scouted as utterly impracticable, because it is opposed to the obvious interests of the great majority of the people. In fact, however, the peasants have not yet found their voice; the cry for dear food has scarcely been raised in public, though a whisper is often heard in the villages; and for the moment the town-dwellers have the field practically to themselves, as the reports of the Commission's proceedings abundantly testify.

For these ardent advocates of export duties, there is this to be said, that they have history at their back. In India the towns have exploited the country throughout the centuries. Travellers of many nations visited India before the establishment of British rule, and the two facts that stand out most prominently in their accounts are the cheapness of food in the towns, and the miserable poverty of the peasants in the country. The relation between these two facts is obvious; the whole economic system, and also much of the energy of the administration, was directed to feeding the towns below

cost; and, speaking generally, the object was attained, but at the cost of a serious deterioration of the national character, a deterioration which gave us the peasants of the last century, so impoverished that they had lost even the hope of improving their position. These conditions may be said to have persisted until the new era inaugurated by the opening of the Suez Canal, when it became commercially possible to move surplus food from India to Western Europe. The development of trade during the last half century has resulted in a gradual levelling-up of Indian prices, but the process has taken time; it may indeed be said that India has come into line only during the last two years; and many of her prominent politicians have as yet failed to realise the significance of the change. Their attitude was clearly stated to the Commission by one witness, who asserted that the people of India had a right to get wheat at a half-penny the pound. Translated into accurate language, the assertion is that four-fifths of the population are bound to supply the remaining fifth with food on the basis of 20 shillings for the quarter of wheat, when the workers in other countries have to pay 50 shillings or more; and if advocates of this view were pressed to give a reason, they would doubtless say that things had always been so. From the beginning of history the peasant has been exploited in the interests of the town; therefore, the argument runs, exploitation should continue to the end of the chapter.

To Indians who take this attitude we appeal for reconsideration. India is moving, and must move, with the times, and the argument from history is at the best dangerous. The question is one of the future rather than the past, and the new environment, economic as well as political, calls for a readjustment of the point of view. On the political side, there is the obvious fact that the peasants outnumber all the other classes of the population; even now their votes suffice to control the legislatures, and, when the franchise has been extended, their preponderance will be beyond dispute. Possibly after the next election, probably after the next election but one, their control will be a reality. Is it then worth while to press for an exploitative tariff at the present juncture? When the peasants learn their power, they will brush all such measures angrily away, and the men who devised them are likely to be involved in the ruin of their handiwork. Surely the wiser course is to use the present period of transition to make the preparations necessary for the new régime, not to attempt the hopeless task of showing up a tottering edifice which must in any case shortly be demolished. And if such political considerations condemn the attempt to impose an export tariff, the economic argument is even stronger. The true lesson to be drawn from the past is that the secular exploitation of the peasant has been a disastrous failure. It explains most of the evils from which India is suffering to-day, the lack of enterprise, the preference for a parasitic life, and the essential poverty of the country. To make India rich, it is necessary, and at the same time it is almost sufficient, to foster and develop the new mentality which has begun to appear among the peasants. They are less ready to be exploited than they were; the task of statesmen is to teach them to refuse to be exploited at all, but rather to insist that the towns shall lend their brains and energies to the common object of producing enough wealth for all. The first step towards that object is to secure to the peasant the reward of his toil, and thereby furnish him with the incentive to increased exertion; that condition involves access to the markets of the world, untrammelled by tariffs or other artificial hindrances. It may be true that much of the peasant's share is at present intercepted by middlemen; that is not, as some people urge, an argument for neglecting his interests, but rather for improving the economic organisation, so that he may eventually come by his own. The aim of every patriotic Indian should be to equip the land with a free, energetic, and prosperous peasantry, and the conclusive objection to an export tariff is that it must operate to depress the peasantry even below their present level.

THE FINANCIAL AFFAIRS OF THE GREEK PATRIARCHATE OF JERUSALEM.

(By a Student of Eastern Politics.)

Considerable interest has lately been roused in England in the financial affairs of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem, by questions which have been asked in the House of Lords, and by the recent "Official Statement by the Palestine Arab Delegation" (Nov., 1921) which says that "the Wakf properties of the Greek Orthodox Church, with which the Turks never interfered. . . are being offered for sale by a Commission appointed by the Administration in such large lots that only the Zionists can buy them, while if they were divided up into smaller lots they would find Arab purchasers" (p. 10). A clear presentation of the facts of the case is therefore due to the public in England, where the deepest interest in, and sympathy for, the Church has always been felt.

The importance of the Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem lies not in the number of its adherents in Palestine, but in its unique position as being the headquarters of the autocephalous Church of the country where the Founder of Christianity appeared. The position of Jerusalem as a place of pilgrimage for many centuries has resulted in the Church becoming the object of countless charitable bequests, and amassing considerable property at Jerusalem and throughout Palestine. From very early days it has possessed estates which are *ab antiquo* the property of the Fraternity of the Holy Sepulchre or its dependent monasteries. These lands are considered Wakf, that is property dedicated in perpetuity for charity or for religious objects or purposes. The constitution of wakfs requires the registration of properties in the Religious Courts, as well as in the Government Land Register Offices. The peculiar provisions of the Ottoman Land Code, still in force in Palestine, dealing with this class of property, are based upon the Islamic Law, which lays down the principle that such property cannot be alienated except by the exchange of the property concerned for other property. A complicated legal procedure is involved, which was modified (in so far as Mohammedan Wakfs are concerned) by introducing evasive legislation which allowed certain classes of wakfs to be sold whilst remaining in the nominal possession of the mosque or charitable institution concerned. This modification of the principles of Islamic Law was effected many centuries ago, and has enabled Mohammedans to obtain actual, though not final, possession of large tracts of certain classes of wakf property. Though the same system of legislation is applied also to Christian wakfs, the creation of religious endowments subject to conveyance and inheritance has never been practised among Christian communities. The point is of importance as by a recent Ordinance, the High Commissioner has modified the legal status of wakfs belonging to the Orthodox Patriarch (wakfs held *ab antiquo* by any monastery excluded) whereby they may be sold under certain conditions.

The acquisition of property was considerably increased in the nineteenth century, through the growing popularity of Jerusalem as a centre of pilgrimage, from 25,000 to 35,000 pilgrims visiting Palestine annually. Their generosity enabled the monks of the Fraternity of the Holy Sepulchre to acquire private fortunes, with which property was usually purchased, the Canon of the Church allowing, and even encouraging, the monks to acquire immovable property which on their decease

passes to the Church. It was customary for the Patriarch of the period to transfer such properties into his personal name and not to register them as wakf. The major portion of the lands around Jerusalem belonging to the Patriarchate have been so acquired, and cannot be considered in the legal sense as "lands held in perpetuity for religious endowments." In Asia Minor, Cyprus, Greece, Roumania, and Russia, there are also large properties; whilst in Bessarabia the Patriarchate possessed up to the beginning of the War estates yielding an annual revenue of £30,000.

The serious financial position of the Church in Palestine first assumed prominence in 1914 when an investigation became imperative. An eminent Greek financier then ascertained that the liabilities of the Patriarchate amounted approximately to £150,000. The deficit was the result of unproductive estates, the practice of meeting current expenditure by continuous borrowing, and the lack of any financial knowledge among the members of the Fraternity. The sale of the Bukovina estates reduced this debt by some £65,000, but the financial reforms then introduced were paralysed by the absence of any authoritative financial administration. By the end of 1914 the debt had increased to £222,000. The estimates for 1914 gave the receipts as approximately £62,000 against an estimated expenditure of £80,000, the deficit being covered by borrowing at high rates of interest. Of the receipts, £40,000 represented rents of property in Russia and Bessarabia (then a part of Russia), and £20,500 donations of Russian pilgrims to Jerusalem. The outbreak of war naturally stopped the greater portion of the Patriarchate revenues, and at the time of the British Occupation in 1917 the debt had reached the enormous figure of £500,000. Loans at ruinous rates of interests were contracted, and the members of the Community were encouraged to invest their savings or to realize their property for the Church's benefit. Property of the Patriarchate was sold at low figures without concluding legal transfers through the Government Land Register Offices, and, generally speaking, the bare necessities of living at this period were obtained on credit against bills and notes of hand.

Such was the position when the British occupied Southern Palestine, and on the re-establishment of the Civil Courts by the Military Administration numbers of appeals were entered for the immediate settlements of these debts contracted by the Church. The Chief Administrator being repeatedly petitioned to allow justice to take its course, it became necessary to protect the Patriarchate from legal proceedings by the declaration of a special moratorium. A representative of the National Bank of Greece visited Jerusalem, and arranged for the payment of a subsidy by the Bank to the Patriarchate. Subsequently a proposal was made that the Bank should take charge of the financial affairs of the Church throughout Palestine and pay its debts, on condition that its movable and immovable property was handed over to the Bank to be administered and disposed of at the latter's discretion. The Military Administration, being a temporary Government, was not in a position to agree to this proposal, which involved questions of ecclesiastical control, and was moreover strenuously opposed by the Arab Orthodox laity as tending to increase Hellenic influence in Palestine.

The position was further complicated by a serious dissension in the Synod, in July 1920, some of the chief members of which "refused to recognise the authority of the Patriarch, demanded his deposition," and appealed to the other Orthodox Churches for support.



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BY APPOINTMENT.

"The financial affairs of the Patriarchate" being in the state described, and both sides "having appealed to the High Commissioner, His Excellency appointed a Commission to enquire into the matter and to make a report." (Official communiqué).

(To be continued.)

THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT CLERK: EGYPT.

(Being a tragic reminiscence of the pernicious Egyptian Government practice of paying its small-salaried servants monthly).

'Tis the FIRST of the month, and the Syrian clerk
Feels his dignity rise with th' occasion;
He has just drawn his pay, O, the gay little spark!
As an act that required no persuasion.

'Tis the FIRST of the month; in the café he sits,
And delights those piastres to cuddle,
As politely accosts he his boon native wits
With, "Ut fuddl, Effendim, Ut fuddl." (I).

'Tis the EIGHTH of the month; still more coffees he'll sip,
And his thoughts are in no wise depressing,
As he curls those three hairs on his sleek upper lip,
Which undoubtedly need some addressing.

'Tis the NINTH of the month, and a *rahat lakum*,
Our Effendi's *al fresco* may vary,
As he dreams of the Turkish Delights that but loom
For the young and the bold, and the wary.

'Tis the TENTH of the month; as his chief passes by,
He will rise and *Salaam* with effulgence,
And a wink that might cause Father Nile to run dry,
Or shed tears of a fruitful indulgence.

'Tis the TWELFTH of the month; any psychologist,
Who knows aught of the Pharaohs and Khalifs,
May now note a suspicion, a cloudlet, a mist,
Cross that brow lately reckless of bailiffs.

'Tis the TWENTIETH day; now the pavement he haunts,
When he ceases his Miri-proud (II) labours,
And his tarboosh's tilt, on those coffee-less jaunts,
Has an angle less sure of its neighbours.

'Tis the TWENTY-FIFTH day; by such progress bored stiff,
On a café chair flops he, my Masters!
And a sighing and sipping of water, vows, "If
There's an Allah, there's mafeesh (III) piastres."

Let a curtain be drawn o'er the days that remain,
O'er that nightmare of torture and leisure—
Though there may be mosquitoes in Egypt, her pain
Is a trifle compared with her pleasure.

A.G.B.

I.—Welcome, esquires, welcome.

II.—Government—proud. It may still be said that, with the exception of military and police services, all young Egyptians would rather have £6 a month "under Government" than £12 a month outside.

III.—There is none, or "Napoo."

IMPERIAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN INDIA.

Last week, under the auspices of the Overseas Club and Patriotic League, with Sir Ernest Birch in the chair, Sir Michael O'Dwyer, late Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, delivered a lecture on "Our Imperial Responsibilities to India and how we are discharging them." He said that some people in the sacred name of self-determination were asking that we should clear out of India as soon as possible. That was, in his view, an absolutely false conception of our responsibilities, based on ignorance, and action on those lines would be a crime against humanity. There might be an artificial resemblance between India and Ireland, but there was no real parallel between the conditions of the two countries. In Ireland we had been endeavouring to restore a system of government which existed down to the Union. In India, on the other hand, an endeavour was being made to establish a system which had hitherto been alien to all Oriental peoples, and which had never succeeded.

RAILWAYS IN PERSIA.

At the Royal United Service Institute on January 12, with General Sir Edmund Barrow in the chair, Mr. Frank Grove, M.I.C.E., lectured to the Central Asian Society on the proposed railway from the Mesopotamian railhead at Khanikin (on the Persian frontier, 100 miles north-east of Baghdad) to Teheran, via Kermanshah and Hamadan. A survey of the route has just been completed by Mr. Grove for Messrs. Pearson, the well-known contractors, on behalf of the Persian Railways Syndicate Ltd., who have entered into an agreement with the Persian Government for the construction of this and other railways. The lecturer described the resources of the country traversed and pointed out that Persia, though its population probably exceeded ten millions, was at present almost entirely devoid of railways. Without cheaper transport economic development was impossible. Mr. Grove also gave an account of his journey along a possible route for a branch line from Hamadan to the Persian Gulf via Ispahan, the Bakhtiari country and Ahwaz.

Mr. Grove told an amusing story regarding the delights of travel in Persia. In the robber-infested mountains between Sultanabad and Ispahan he and his companion were provided with a guard of 12 sowars and an officer. The party split up into two sections, and emerged from the hills by different routes about three miles apart. Coming in sight of one another, each party suspected the other of being robbers, and made a great show of galloping across the plains to a strategic point, and then blazing away at a range of two miles or so, until the mistake was discovered.

INDIA'S EARLY HISTORY.

Last week, under the auspices of the Royal Historical Society, Mr. F. W. Buckler gave a lecture on "The Political Theory of the Indian Mutiny." The lecturer traced the rise of the Mahratta power, the decline of the Mogul Empire, and the end of the Mogul line in the person of Bahadur Shah, who by banishment atoned for his association with the mutineers in 1857. Mention was made of the usurpations of the East India Company, Lord Dalhousie's dealings with the feudatory States, the annexation of the province of Oudh, and finally the Mutiny, which sealed the fate of the East India Company. The Mutiny, Mr. Buckler observed, was the corollary of the second Mahratta war.

The India Office announces that Varian Kunnath Kunhamed Haji, the principal leader of the insurgent Moplahs, in Malabar, was captured on January 6 with 21 of his followers. Although actually taken by the police his capture was the result of constant military pressure.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

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The International Economic Conference.

As a result of political developments in France the outlook with regard to the international economic conference is at present somewhat obscure. That there should be any further delay in arriving at an agreement on measures to remedy the exchanges would be most regrettable. M. Poincaré, the new French Premier, is believed in some quarters to favour a return to the old fashioned diplomatic methods of negotiation instead of the conferences that have been held at various centres since the war. If by so doing there is a prospect of obtaining speedier results then there is everything to be said for the change. But *prima facie* a round table conference would seem to be a simple and more rapid medium. Whichever it is to be it is to be trusted that the authorities on both sides of the Channel realise that the problem of the exchanges requires immediate treatment if there is to be any prospect of any great development of trade with the Continent this year.

The A.-P. Issue.

The question whether the Anglo-Persian Oil Company would or would not include Ordinary shares in their new issue next week, which has imported quite an exceptional interest to the issue, has now been answered in the affirmative. Besides a large issue of Preference shares there will be 600,000 Ordinary shares, half of which will be open to public subscription at the price, it is understood, of £3½ per share. In this instance no words of mine are likely to influence the investing public. There is bound to be an enormous demand for the Ordinary shares, and I shall be greatly surprised if the list is not largely over-subscribed within an hour or two of its opening. It will be interesting to see the opening movements when the share is officially quoted. At £3½ the return at the present rate of dividend would be a fraction over 6 per cent., but the potentialities of the company suggest that the rate cannot fail to be greatly increased in the coming year, and at the price the shares obviously represent an excellent holding.

Imperial Bank of Persia.

A very satisfactory report is forthcoming from the Imperial Bank of Persia for the year ended September 30. The net profits show an increase of nearly £8,000 at £88,200, while with the amount brought in higher the available balance amounts to £117,200 as compared with £108,100. With the first dividend of 5s. per share the distribution for the year will be the same as the previous year, 8s. per share free of income tax. The reserve receives £30,000 as before, while £10,000 is allocated to bank premises account as against £5,000 and the carry forward is £32,000 as against £29,100.

Cox and Co.

The balance sheet of Cox and Co., the Army bankers, which has just been issued, shows that the expansion of the bank's operations resulting from the war is being well maintained. Compared with the balance sheet of March 31 the totals show a considerable advance though they are well below those recorded a year ago.

The deposits amount to £18,348,000 as against £17,771,000, while cash and cash at call amounts to £6,224,000, as against £5,442,000, or roughly over 33 per cent. of the deposits.

Imperial Bank of India.

The first report of the Imperial Bank of India covered the first five months of the bank's operations, and that now available is for the half-year ended December 31. The net profits for the six months amounted to Rs.62,27,800, and with the amount brought forward the available balance is Rs.72,41,900, out of which a dividend at the rate of 16 per cent. per annum is to be paid, the carry forward being Rs.12,74,600. For the previous five months the profits were Rs.58,14,792, and the dividend was at the same rate as that now proposed.

London County Westminster and Parr's Bank.

The results obtained by the London County Westminster and Parr's Bank in 1921 show a considerable decline on the figures for the previous year as was only to be expected in view of the trade depression. The net profits are £747,800 lower at £2,167,845, but this is far more than counteracted by the fact that this time the directors have not been under the necessity of writing down investments. The dividends are the same as for 1920, though they absorb slightly more on account of the issue of more fully-paid shares, the allocations include £500,000 to the contingent fund, and the carry forward is £519,708 as compared with £460,914.

Motors in Persia.

A correspondent who has recently returned from Persia has given me some interesting details of the growth of the use of motor cars there. He was in Teheran a year or two ago, and only a few motor cars were to be seen then. Now, however, the number is in three figures, and is increasing. Unfortunately British companies are not getting the trade, and at the present time Italian cars predominate. Conditions in Persia at the present time are not very favourable, but a little enterprise in that direction by British motor car manufacturers would be distinctly worth while, for the would-be Persian buyer desires quality, and if he is shown a good car he is not likely to pass it over for an inferior make.

Commentator.

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REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, January 6.

State Embargo on Wheat and Rye.

Owing to the reluctance on the part of the farmers to deliver the corresponding quota of wheat and rye required for the needs of the Army and the population, as well as the quota intended for export through the State, the Government has now issued a decree placing an embargo on all available stocks of wheat and rye and the bye-products of same. Thereby the State has the sole privilege of purchasing these cereals at the fixed maximum prices, which prices, however, have been lately increased. The price for wheat, for instance, has been raised by 4,000 lei per waggon (10 tons).

Higher Postal Rates.

From January 1 on the postage on foreign mail has been raised, as follows:—Letters up to 20 grammes 3 lei, and for every additional 20 grammes a further 1.50 lei; post cards—1.80 lei; printed matter, for every 50 grammes or fraction 0.60 lei (maximum weight 2 kilogrammes); samples up to 100 grammes 1.20 lei, for every extra 50 grammes or fraction a further postage of 0.60 lei (maximum weight 500 grammes); newspapers, magazines, etc.: for every number or 50 grammes, 0.60 lei. All the above, when registered, will bear an extra postage of 3 lei.

Payments to Foreign Creditors.

At the last Council of Ministers the question of merchants' debts to foreign creditors was again debated, and on this occasion the decision was taken to adopt the views of the former Government, which was to modify Article 44 of the Commercial Code in the sense that the Tribunal should be empowered to grant a term of grace for the payment of any debt, external as well as internal, provided the debtor pays 20 per cent. of the total amount due and offers for the balance a guarantee which will be determined by the Judge. Exception, however is made in regard to debts, in the which—in agreement with the creditor—the debtor shall have furnished a conventional guarantee of at least 50 per cent. of the amount due. As this is only a proposal, it is liable to undergo changes before it becomes law.

New Governor of Banca Nationala.

The much discussed question as to who would be appointed Governor of the Banca Nationala, which post became vacant on December 31, was settled at the last moment by the appointment of M. M. Oromolu, who has

hitherto held the portfolio of Industry and Commerce in the present Cabinet. The other vacant positions of Vice-Governor, Director, and Auditor have been filled by M. M. T. Capitanovici, G. Stroescu, and L. Sculy-Loghotheti respectively.

Miscellaneous.

The Customs Department of the Ministry of Finance has decided to reduce the export taxes on the following articles; Coal to 100 lei per waggon (10 tons); timber 150 lei per cubic meter, and meat 500 lei per waggon. The export of raw hides is now free of restrictions.

The local Press announces that the British Committee for Agricultural Assistance to the Allies is making the following donation to Roumanian farmers: 90 milch-cows, 30 bulls and 60 calves of the very best breed as well as 500 fowls.

The time for the handing in of the declarations of tax-payers in connection with the new fiscal law has again been extended from the 1st to the 20th of January, for all persons residing in the country, while for foreigners who are liable to be taxed in Roumania and are residing abroad the time for these declarations has been limited to February 15.

M. I. Stoian, former Director of the Banca Natiunei, who has been under arrest for the last two months in connection with the embarrassment of the above-named bank, has now been released on bail of 200,000 lei.

M. Gh. Lucasievici, the present Minister of Agriculture, is acting *ad interim* as Minister of Industry and Commerce.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Zagreb, January 5.

The British representative has visited the Ministry of Commerce at Belgrade to discuss the question of postponement of foreign debts. The papers state that he expressed himself as very gratified with all he saw and heard and stated that the commercial and industrial circles in Belgrade have produced a very favourable impression on him, and that he will endeavour to influence the business world at home in favour of new long-term credits for Yugoslavia.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, January 9.

A Diplomatic Demarche.

At the beginning of last week the chiefs of practically all the Foreign Missions in Sofia made a protest to M. Stambolisky regarding the new laws and taxes which the Government proposes to levy on limited companies.

M. Tourlakoff, Minister of Finance was present at the meeting, and after the Prime Minister had a made short speech M. Tourlakoff explained the new laws as they would affect foreign capital. No report of his speech has reached the Press, but it is understood that a further enquiry will be made into the question before the new laws are actually put into force. One Allied Minister is of opinion that if the laws are passed as they now stand foreign capital will be definitely barred from entering the country. In the light of Bulgaria's present financial condition such a result would be deplorable.

With regard to the Piraeus-Athens-Peloponnesus Railway Company's Four per Cent. Bonds, the Bank of Athens now announces that coupon No. 20, due January 2, 1922, will be paid on presentation at 22, Fenchurch Street, E.C. 3, free of Greek income-tax and duty on transferable securities. In accordance with instructions received from Athens, holders of coupons No. 19, who had lodged them with the Bank of Athens, and received last year payment less 1s. od., representing the tax and duty, will be refunded the deductions upon application.

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Oil Notes and News.

THE CRISIS IN THE GROZNY PETROLEUM INDUSTRY.

(From a Correspondent.)

At first sight the output of Grozny petroleum seems to have been progressing very favourably up to the spring of 1921. The increase seems to have been especially rapid during the first months of 1920. This development of the Grozny petroleum industry in Soviet Russia was exceptional, and the condition of all other industries, both producing and manufacturing, was steadily getting worse.

The Soviet economists triumphantly point to the Grozny petroleum industry as one which has been conducted on the Bolshevik economic system. This was the only nationalised group of industries which was apparently making progress. The opponents of the Soviet economic system have been regarding the Grozny petroleum industry with some doubt, being unable to find any explanation of the large output. In May Grozny yielded 150,400 tons of oil, an unprecedented output which exceeds even the monthly production for 1916. May, however, was an exceptional month. The report on the work done at Grozny in June and July, published in the Soviet papers, shows some alarm as to the stability of the good results obtained there, and the report proceeds to give an explanation of this successful progress. It appears that in the summer of 1921 nature came to the aid of the Bolsheviks. The success of the Grozny production is ascribed exclusively to the increased activity of the "fountains." These yielded 63 per cent. of the total output, whereas before the war they supplied only some 8 or 10 per cent. of the total. There was hardly any boring or pumping done, and the depth-bored was only 5 per cent. of that for 1915.

Every "fountain," however, is bound to get exhausted just as a time must come when the supply of oil in the old wells will come to an end. The more experienced Bolsheviks understand that production cannot depend on "fountains" alone, and that without drilling the industry must retrogress. Indeed, as early as June the "fountains" began to spout intermittently and by October their output fell to 100,700 tons (*Ekonomicheskaja Zhizn*, December 3). Notwithstanding this decline in the "fountain" output, not only were boring operations not increased, but less work was done than before. Instead of the estimated 450 *sazhens* per month (as against 2,000 *sazhens* per month in 1915) in July only 107 *sazhens* were drilled, and 55 *sazhens* in August. Such a decline in drilling was principally due to the shortage of labour. The workmen cannot remain because the Soviet organisations in charge of the petroleum undertakings do not pay them their wages. For instance, in September the workmen received only two days' rations (*Ekonomicheskaja Zhizn*, October 21). Such an unsatisfactory issue of rations may have been due to the bad harvest all over the corn-producing area round Grozny. Of course it is possible that owing to the incessant guerilla warfare in the Northern Caucasus it was exceedingly difficult to transport grain. The guerillas in every way prevented the transport of grain by rail.

It appears, however, that not only do the workers employed in an industry of such great importance to the Bolsheviks get no bread, but they do not receive even the promised wages payable in paper roubles. On October 1 the July paper money wages were still in arrears (see above-mentioned issue of the *Ekonomicheskaja Zhizn*). The Soviet Government is now no longer able to print a sufficient amount of paper money. In these circumstances the wonder is not that the workmen are leaving but that any work can be carried on. "Meanwhile, the workmen and employees," says the *Ekonomicheskaja Zhizn*, "are upholding their State at the expense of their own organisms." Of course, they cannot last long.

In the present state of affairs in Russia the Grozny petroleum industry, like all others, is doomed. The Bolsheviks do not want to give it up to private enterprise. Besides, at present who cares to invest his money in undertakings in Soviet Russia and especially in South Russia, to wit, in the Northern Caucasus, where fierce civil war is raging? The whole of the Caucasus has not made peace with the Bolsheviks. Part of the population has simply retreated to the mountains and makes raids on the Bolsheviks from there. The other part has remained at home, and has nominally submitted, but the representatives of the Soviet Government dare not show themselves in such localities without an armed escort, as they are liable to be simply destroyed at the first opportunity. There is no regular communication between Grozny and the part of Novorossisk, to which materials might be brought from abroad. All trains have to be escorted by a strong guard to prevent the local population from stopping them.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting	Parity Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ..	Piastres to £....	97½	97.7-16
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	96.50-98 00
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	300-320
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	770-785
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3.13.16-1.3.15.16
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3.13.16-1.3.15.16
Brussels.....	Francs to £	25.22½	53.55-53.85
*Bucharest ..	Lei to £	25.22½	525-575
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	680-710
New York....	Dollars to £	4.86 2.3	4.22½-4.23½
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	51.10-51.50
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	250-260
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	95.50-96.50
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	590-630
Teheran	Krans to £	50	51
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	11,750-13,000
Warsaw	Marks to £	20.43	11,500-12,750

* Nominal.

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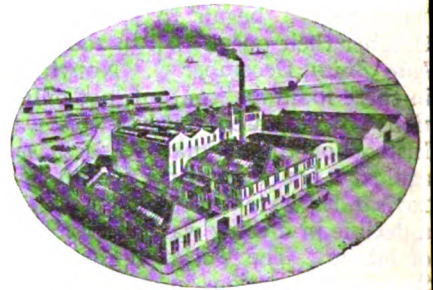
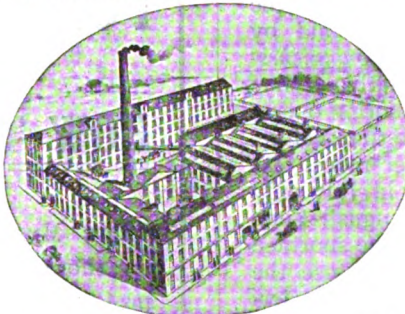
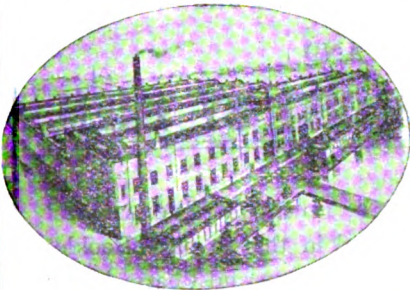
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Engineering Topics.

By Our Engineering Representative.

High Tension Fuses.

It is not generally known, even amongst engineers in charge of central stations for the supply of electrical energy, that fuses are still being used to protect high pressure circuits. In the past quite a number of patented fuses have been brought out for use on circuits carrying current at pressure at and above 6,000 volts, but very few of them proved successful. Those which depended on their length for their positive action were soon found wanting and abandoned, after which that type which had as one of its component parts a steel container loaded with carbonic acid gas under high pressure had a certain vogue. The principle of this fuse was that as soon as the metal part of the fuse was melted by the sudden overload, a hole was pierced in the "sparklet" bomb and the arc was blown out by the rush of escaping gas. This type failed several times in action and is now seldom used. The introduction of an oil fuse in which oil was used for quenching and breaking the arc was a little more successful. It is a matter of history that this type, used on a certain big switchboard, caused very serious trouble on one occasion, the entire board blowing up.

Circuit Breakers.

Automatic switchgear of the circuit breaker type then came into fairly general use, but, as a central station engineer recently pointed out, switches may be designed to open at currents of 100 or 200 amperes but should the fault be a bad one and the full rush of current takes place before the throw-off mechanism can act the switch may find itself trying to deal with thousands of amperes. In a recent issue of the *Electrical Review* he points out that cases have been known, in these circumstances, where switches have blown up and have left little behind to tell the tale. The super-station has brought its own troubles, amongst which is the effect of short circuits. The heavy cost of switchgear is another, as many people are finding out to their sorrow. Electricity, as he rightly says, lives on finance, and it does not matter how perfect the technical part may be if the scheme does not pay.

A New Device.

The natural result of the slight uncertainty of action in connection with circuit breakers has been that engineers have again turned their attention to the subject of fuses for high tension work. One of the latest and apparently most successful patterns, judging by the exhaustive tests it has just undergone is an oil immersed fuse suitable for use with heavy currents at pressures up to 15,000 volts alternating. The fuse has a breaking capacity of some 25 times its normal current, which is considerable. Unlike certain types of oil fuse which have been tried and found unsuccessful, the fuse is not by any means of undue length, and it is totally immersed in oil instead of being so constructed that the act of "blowing" draws it below the liquid.

Working on entirely independent lines another firm of electrical engineers have replaced the oil usually used by a non-inflammable liquid, and in this it seems that a decided move in the right direction has been made. It is difficult to see why oil should have become so popular for this class of work, as at a very much lower temperature than any "blowing" fuse, any oil will volatilise and form an explosive gas should any air or oxygen containing compound be present. The new fuse referred to is short, and is so fixed in a glass tube that it keeps a strong spring in a state of extreme tension. This spring by means of a plunger holds back the non-inflammable liquid from the fuse and the whole is just a piece of sound but original engineering work. The moment an overload occurs the fuse parts, and the spring released pulls the severed end of the conductor apart, thus drawing out the arc. At the same time, the liquid held beyond the plunger is driven, with great force, into the gap, and at once extinguishes any arc that may be formed. The liquid is, of course, of non-conducting qualities and it is said that fuses of this kind can be designed for working on pressures up to 110,000 volts.

High Speed Blue Printing.

One of the latest introductions for use in the drawing office is a photo-printing machine for facilitating the production of blue prints, and it is safe to say that it marks a greater advance in development than has been made hitherto. It is of that type in which a sheet of sensitised paper is drawn, with its negative in the form of super imposed tracing paper, across a glass plate which lies between it and the light source, but the novelty lies in the fact that both the light and the printing paper are extremely close to the glass so that the printing process is remarkably rapid. So quickly can printing be done that no fewer than 130 double-elephant blue prints can be made in 60 minutes. This far exceeds any rate previously reached. When dealing with what is known as gallic paper, which has a tendency to become sticky when over heated the rate of printing is reduced to about 45 copies per hour, but even that comparatively slow rate is far in excess of anything that has been done previously. The light source is a new type of arc lamp in which the carbons are arranged so that no shadow is cast and the arc throws an uninterrupted light in a downward direction, and the machine is driven by a small electric-motor taking about 200 watts.

Electrically Driven Ship.

Considerable interest has been taken by engineers in a cargo vessel, recently sent out from a British yard, in which electricity is used as the driving power. All the necessary cargo winches, cranes, and hauling gear are also operated electrically and electricity is used for lighting and heating purposes. Electric fans are fitted where required to keep the air cool and pure.

The installation consists of two boilers which burn ordinary steam coal under a forced draught and supply steam to two large steam turbines directly coupled to two electric power generators. These occupy positions which in the ordinary way, would have been occupied by the port and starboard turbine sets, driving propellers through lengths of shafting. Several improvements are fitted to the turbines, amongst which may be mentioned an improved form of condenser, a new type of feed water heater and electrically driven pumps for dealing with the condensed water and for maintaining a vacuum.

These turbines run at 4,200 revolutions per minute and the electrical generators give out ample power at a pressure of 900 volts. The current is 3-phase, alternating and is carried to alternating current motors fixed in the stern of the vessel and direct coupled to the propeller shafts which are of just sufficient length, to pass through the thrust blocks. The propellers revolve at a speed of 70 revolutions per minute and under full power, the speed of the vessel is 12 knots.

One of the chief advantages is that the speed and steering of the vessel can be carried out and regulated from the bridge by means of a couple of handwheels which operate the gears and control the speed of the motors. A smaller steam driven engine provides electric power at 100 volts for lighting and other purposes and this also could be controlled, if desired, from the bridge. By this arrangement not only is considerably more space available for cargo carrying but a much smaller engine room staff is required.

H.M. Acting Consul-General at Algiers reports that the exportation from Algeria of a further quantity of barley up to a total of 30,000 metric tons (exclusive of the quantities exported to France) has now been authorised.

H.M. Commercial Secretary at Bucharest reports that in virtue of recent Decisions an export tax of 0.10 lei per litre has been fixed on wine exported from Roumania. Such wine is exempt from commission tax, whilst the barrels used in the export are free from both export and commission tax.

It is officially announced that permission has been granted for exportation from Tunis, without special authorisation, and until further notice, of logs of walnut wood, rough, squared, or sawn.

H.M. Commercial Secretary at Constantinople reports that the export from Turkey of salted fish is now permitted.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

MOTOR SHIPS.

(By Our Engineering Representative.)

It is common knowledge that throughout the whole of the past year there was a certain depression which culminated in a veritable slump in the shipbuilding world, but in spite of bad trade all records were eclipsed in the construction of motor ships. As a matter of fact the production of oil-engined vessels in 1921 was more than double that of any previous year. Figures recently compiled show that during the twelve months under review the tonnage completed amounted to 333,475 dead weight capacity, and in addition 239,850 tons were launched but not completed during the later months of the year. Engineers will be chiefly interested in the fact that Diesel engines of a total horsepower of 126,500 were installed in these vessels, whilst nearly 100,000 indicated horsepower is in-course of construction for the ships as yet incomplete. It is pointed out by the *Motor Ship* that the year 1921 was noteworthy in several other directions. The first two motor passenger liners ever built were placed in commission, ships of 14,000 tons were built, and engines up to 3,200 indicated horse power were turned out of the shops. A number of large single-screw oil engine vessels were placed in commission, a fact which indicates the high degree of confidence now placed by the shipowners in marine internal combustion engines, as hitherto it has been customary to fit twin-screw machinery in these craft. There is every reason to believe that as soon as a revival in ship-building takes place, an event which cannot now be long delayed, a boom in Diesel-engined vessels will ensue.

DANUBE HARBOUR WORKS.

Contract Given to French Firm.

The announcement just made that French firms have obtained the contract for the building of the Danube harbour works and warehouses at Budapest (says the *Liverpool Journal of Commerce*) is giving some irritation in commercial circles here. British firms could have secured this work without any trouble, and undoubtedly by it would have found a considerable amount of employment in trades in this country in which the outlook is far from hopeful. Our contractors, however, seem to be so overawed by the labour unrest that they have not gone to the extent of examining the security offered; yet, if this was good enough for the largest French firms, it would have been good enough for us. This is a case where a combination of adverse influences have so stultified enterprise that no serious attempt has been made to get the business; and herein lies a lesson for both capital and labour.

The tobacco crop in Transylvania and the Banat has yielded 2,000,000 kgs. this year.

SHIPPING DEPRESSION.

Messrs. Turner Davidson and Co., Ltd., whose prognostications as to shipping last year were thought in some quarters to be unnecessarily gloomy, state in their review for 1921 that shipping values have gradually receded during the year. Low prices have been accentuated by the sale of German tonnage at cut throat prices and by the throwing upon the market of various fleets of steamers which have been compelled to liquidate. The depression has been increased by the forced sale of new steamers contracted for which the owners have been unable to complete. The German sales are practically over, and the bulk of the contracted boats have been disposed of. There is no guarantee, however, owing to the continued depression of the freight market, that more fleets, especially those purchased at high prices, may not be thrown upon the market. The air has been sufficiently cleared to encourage some owners to purchase new tonnage on the basis of about £8 per ton, and good second hand steamers at from £5 to £6 per ton, though admittedly they see no prospect of profitable trading at present. Until trade sufficiently improves to induce the large proportion of laid up tonnage to resume business, owners of pre-war boats cannot hope to do more than make ends meet. Japan has been a purchaser of good British built boats of 15 to 20 years old at round about £3 10s. per ton. They have also relieved many liner companies of still older tonnage that were for all practical purposes useless here. The prospects for shipbuilding concerns is worse than ever. Existing cost of wages and material do not permit of ordinary tramp tonnage being built at under £12 per ton, which is of course, prohibitive. In the absence of orders it is only a question of time before a great many yards must close down.

OIL TANKERS AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

In order so safeguard shipping and other property from damage resulting from the outbreak of fire on vessels having a cargo of petroleum or its products, the following instructions have been issued at Constantinople.—Beicos and Pasha Bagtche Bays are to be inspected frequently to see that the lighters or vessels with petrol or fuel oil cargoes are not in too close proximity to one another. The operation of filling tins (which require sealing by heat) from bulk cargo or oil or benzine should be carried out in a separate lighter or on shore. Vessels carrying out this operation should be at least 20 metres apart, and no other lighter with oil in bulk should be nearer than 40 metres. Tins, after being filled and sealed, should not be kept in the same compartment of the lighter where the operation takes place. Owners of craft lying in Beicos or Pasha Bagtche Bays should carry out these instructions as soon as possible. All vessels with cargoes of petroleum and its products should be moored between Karaja Burnur and Injir Reef. If it is desired for vessels to moor to the land above the between points, permission should be obtained from the owner of the land in writing, and brought to this office to enable an official permit to be granted, otherwise vessels will be heavily fined.

GREEK TRADE IN 1920.

The total imports of Greece during 1920 amounted to: 2,131,038,928 drachmae as against 1,608,329,928 drachmae in 1919; showing an increase for the year 1920 of 522,709,000 drachmae. Imports at the Piraeus for the Athens and Piraeus markets amounted to 1,132,902,337 drachmae as against 809,004,637 drachmae in 1919.

The exports for the whole of Greece amounted to 644,112,647 drachmae, a decrease of 82,220,525 drachmae as compared with 1919. The exports from the Piraeus amounted to 77,835,321 drachmae, a decrease of 23,453,509 drachmae as compared with 1919.

We understand that a delegation from the Roumanian Ministry of Finance has left for Paris with the object of negotiating the sale of 2,700 kgs. of gold in bullion belonging to the State and obtained from the Transylvanian State Mines.

At the monthly meeting in Paris of the Suez Canal Co., held on Monday last, Lord Inchcape was unanimously elected chairman of the London committee in succession to the late Sir Thomas Sutherland.

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Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Manaar for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, January 21) ; s.s. Malancha for Calcutta (Birkenhead, January 28) ; s.s. Malakuta for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, February 4) ; s.s. Mahratta for Calcutta (Birkenhead, February 11).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Lancashire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, February 1) ; s.s. Somersetshire for Rangoon (Middlesborough, February 4).

Byron Steamship Line.—S.s. Maid of Crete for Patras, Piraeus, Constantinople, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, Braila, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, January 30) ; s.s. Maid of Hydra for Patras, Piraeus, Constantinople, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, Braila, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, February 13).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Brescia for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, and Catania (Swansea, February 6) ; s.s. Cypria for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, and Batoum (Glasgow, February 9).

Ellerman Line.—S.s. Cressado for Gibraltar, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas and Varna (Liverpool, January 21) ; s.s. City of Oxford for Gibraltar, Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, January 21).

Ellerman's "City" Line.—S.s. City of Cairo for Calcutta (Birkenhead, January 20) ; s.s. Trafford Hall for Bombay (Birkenhead, January 23) ; s.s. City of Sparta for Calcutta (Birkenhead, February 4) ; s.s. City of Marseilles for Calcutta (Birkenhead, February 20).

Ellerman's "Hall" Line.—S.s. Kasenga for Bombay, Karachi, and the Punjab (Liverpool, January 31).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—Steamers sail fortnightly for Malta, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz, and Braila.

Glen Line.—S.s. Glenogle for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, January 26) ; s.s. Glenapp for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, February 9) ; s.s. Carnarvonshire for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, February 23).

Harrison Line.—S.s. Author for Calcutta (Liverpool, January 26) ; s.s. Explorer for Calcutta (Liverpool, February 11).

Henderson Line.—S.s. Henzada, for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, January 25) ; s.s. Bhamo for Port Said, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, February 8).

Holt Line.—S.s. Anchises for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, January 24) ; s.s. Antiochus for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, January 26) ; s.s. Mentor for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, January 26) ; s.s. Troilus for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Swansea, January 28) ; s.s. Rhesus for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Swansea, February 2).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Incemore for Piraeus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, February 11).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. Bosnian for Algiers, Malta, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, February 4).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Morea for Bombay (London, January 20) ; s.s. Sardinia for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, January 27) ; s.s. Karmala for Bombay (London, January 27).

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. Tanfield for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, January 21) ; s.s. Mandala for Bombay and Karachi (London, January 27) ; s.s. Morvada for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, February 3) ; s.s. Nevasa for Bombay and Karachi (London, February 10) ; s.s. Chilka for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, February 17).

Prince Line.—S.s. Highland Prince for Tunis, Malta and Alexandria, (Manchester, January 25) ; s.s. Merchant Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria and Syrian Coast, (Manchester, February 4) ; s.s. Stuart Prince for Malta, Alexandria and Syrian Coast, (London, February 4).

TENDERS INVITED.

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

(Particulars of tenders marked (D.O.T.) are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street S.W.1.)

Egypt.

Sundries.—The Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of (1) proprietary articles ; (2) sundries (including bottles, demijohns, droppers, and baths for eyes, ointments, pots, etc., etc.) ; (3) dressings ; (4) crude drugs and heavy chemicals ; (5) fine chemicals ; (6) galenicals and packed articles. Representation by an agent resident in Egypt is essential. January 20 (D.O.T.).

Drugs.—The Director of Stores, Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of drugs required for the period of six months from April 1, 1922. January 20.

General Stores.—The Director of Stores, F.D.A., Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of consumable general stores such as ropes, nails, locks, leather, soap, brushes, etc. January 21.

Marine Articles.—The Director of Stores, F.D.A., Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of marine articles office and rest-room furniture, and tools, etc. January 24.

Marine Boiler.—The Secretary General, Ports and Light-houses, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of a new multitubular marine boiler of the following description :—Diameter 11 feet ; length 10 feet ; two corrugated furnaces. Boiler working pressure 180 to 200 lbs. per square inch. Built to Lloyds rules 100 A1 and supplied with all accessories as per specification. Offers will remain valid for one and a half months from March 1, 1922.

Cotton Waste.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo Station, invites tenders for the supply of 100 metrical tons of coloured cotton waste. March 10.

Bulgaria.

Telephone Instruments.—The Bulgarian Department of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones invites tenders for the supply of 2,000 telephone instruments for table use, with local battery and magneto. Also for spare parts for these instruments. Tenders to be presented at the District Office of Finance, Sofia by February 20. (D.O.T.).

Rails and Accessories.—Tenders are invited by the Director-General of Railways and Ports for rails, bolts, fishplates, etc. The total quantity of the material required is 5,808 metric tons. Tenders are to be submitted to the Directeur Général des Chemins de Fer et des Ports de l'Etat Bulgare, Sofia, Bulgaria. A deposit of 5 per cent. is required to qualify tenders, of which 1 per cent. must be deposited in the National Bank of Bulgaria in Sofia before the adjudication, and the certificate of receipt attached to the tender, whilst at the same time a declaration is required to the effect that the remaining 4 per cent. will be deposited when the adjudication is made. January 24. (D.O.T.).

Porcelain Insulators.—The Bulgarian Department of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones, invites tenders for the supply of 100,000 porcelain insulators. Tenders to be presented at the District Office of Finance, Sofia by January 25. (D.O.T.).

Telephone Accessories.—The Bulgarian Department of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones invites tenders for the supply of the following parts for telephone exchanges, viz. :—Subscribers' line indicators, 2,200 ; indicators, end of conversation, 600 ; jacks, 2,500 ; plugs, 1,500 ; connecting pieces, 2,000 ; connecting pieces, switchboard, 20,000. A deposit of 5 per cent. of the total amount of tender is called for by way of guarantee. Local representation is essential. Tenders to be presented at the District Office of Finance, Sofia, by January 30. (D.O.T.).

Materials for Bulgarian Department of Posts.—Tenders are invited by the Bulgarian Direction of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones for the supply of the following material :—(1) Porcelain insulating tubes for telephones (1,000), insulating tubing (impregnated paper), for telephones. (2,200 metres), Ebonite caps (1,700), and insulated copper wire (1,000 metres) ; (2) Various electrician's small tools (include 900 pairs pincers, 20 brazing lamps, 100 soldering irons, 1,500 bits, and 300 axes) ; (3) Bronze in plates and bars, iron and steel plates and bars and insulating materials. Tenders will be opened at Sofia, District Department of Finance at 4 p.m. on March 8, in the case of (1), February 27, in the case of (2), and February 14 in the case of (3). Each tender is divisible. (D.O.T.).

Yugoslavia.

Jute.—The Belgrade Railway Direction invites tenders for the supply of 100 metric tons of jute required for cleaning purposes. Tenders will be received at the Economic Department of the Railway Direction, Belgrade (Ekonomiska Odeljenja, Železnica Direkcija, Belgrade), and samples must be submitted by the tenderer. Delivery is to be of 50,000 kilos within two months and 50,000 kilos within four months from the date of signing the contract. Tendering firms will be required to deposit, if an S.C.S. subject, 20,000 dinars, others 40,000 dinars. January 30 (D.O.T.).

India.

Canvas, etc.—The High Commissioner for India invites tenders for the supply of chain, iron galvanized, for signal levers ; and engine turntables. January 31.

Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Prices Generally Lower.

(From Our Own Correspondent).

Monday Evening.

Sugar.—A quiet tone has been in evidence throughout the week. West Indian crystallized has been firm at 40s., while Czecho-Slovakian has shed 6d. at 17s. 6d. White Java has shown a weaker tendency being 6d. lower at 46s. 3d., while Cuban 96 per cent. January-February has firmed up eighteenpence to 14s. White sugar quotations are :—January-February, 18s. ; March-May, 18s. ; August, 18s. 1½d.

Coffee.—The market has been steady for home trade descriptions and the demand has been maintained. Little business has been passing for the export trade. Jamaica has been done at 150s. Costa Rica has risen to 135s., an increase of 5s., Indian is 6s. up at 116s., and Nairobi has remained firm at 104s. The futures market has been weak. Quotations are :—March, 50s. 6d. ; May, 51s. 6d. ; July and September, 52s. 6d. ; December, 52s. 6d.

Tea.—The market has been very active for all grades of Indian tea, with prices for clean and common grades higher. The demand for Ceylon tea is rather poor, but Java and Sumatra tea has been in large request with all grades dearer.

Rice.—Nothing of importance has happened during the week and prices have remained steady. Carolina rice has been done at 30s., while Saigon and Burmese are both quoted at 18s.

Almonds.—There are very few almonds on the market, but prices for both Jordans and Valencias are harder.

Oilseeds.—Indian linseed has been in poor request at 17s. 6d., a decline of 6d., La Plata has improved, being 6d. up at 17s. Rapeseed has been slow, with Toria 1s. 3d. down at 16s. 3d., brown Cawnpore at 18s. 3d., and bold Ferozepore at 18s. are unchanged. Cottonseed is unsteady with Indian 1s. down at 8s. 9d., Egyptian black is 1s. 3d. lower at 11s. 9d., while Egyptian Sakellaridis has shed a like amount at 11s. 3d.

Oils.—Firmness has prevailed. Linseed oil at 30s. is the same.

Rape oil is unchanged with the crude variety at 45s., and refined at 50s. There is no improvement in the prices of cotton oil, with refined remaining at 45s., Egyptian crude at 37s., and deodorized at 50s. Turpentine has advanced 9d. at 72s.

Oilcakes.—Linseed cake has been done at 286s. per ton. Cottonseed cake is quoted at 180s. ton, palm kernal at 120s. ton, and Arachis at 210s. ton. Cottonmeal has come to business at 270s. ton.

ASIA MINOR FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended December 31 :—

Sultanas.—The total estimated arrivals to date amounted to 166,390 bags as against 92,205 bags for 1920. The total estimated sales are 157,390 bags as compared with 85,205 bags for the corresponding period of last year, and the estimated stock unsold totals 9,000 bags as against 7,000 bags.

Figs.—A few small lots reached the market and were promptly bought up for shipment to Egypt.

Shipments.—Sultanas are being loaded on the s.s. Siptah for Liverpool and s.s. Borodino for London, sailing next week.

Markets.—Business in sultanas restricted owing to the holidays. Prices are very firm with advancing tendency. Exchanges weak at 70 with prospects of further decline. Brokers' estimate of the statistical position to December 31 is as follows :—Total sales Smyrna, about 391,000 kintals ; total sales Vourla, Chesme and Carabournou, about 137,000 kintals ; stocks remaining in Smyrna and in all parts of the country about 55,000 kintals ; total, 583,000 kintals ; making total estimate of the yield, 321,000 tons.

EGYPTIAN CROPS.

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

Maize (Nili).—Unfavourable atmospheric conditions during the period of growth have affected the crop and delayed maturity. Harvesting was retarded by rain. The yield is expected to be considerably below the average.

Wheat and Barley.—The cold weather and the heavy rains which fell during the month have somewhat affected late sowings. In some places fields remained flooded for several days before they could be drained. On the other hand the early sown crops have to some extent benefited by the rain. The chief operations of the month were sowing, manuring and watering. Sowing has been somewhat earlier than normal. Cut-worm was reported on wheat from Asyut, Girga, Qena, and Aswan, but the damage is reported to be very slight. The conditions of the crops is, on the whole, not unsatisfactory.

Beans.—This crop too, has suffered a little from rain which caused some flower shedding. Flowering was general during the month under review, and pods have formed in some early sown fields in middle and upper Egypt. Broom rape was reported from Giza, Minya, Girga and Qena provinces. The conditions of the crops, as a whole, are not satisfactory.

Helba.—The early sown crop was in flower. Cutting the green crop has already begun. The crop is healthy.

Lentils.—Sowing was completed during December. The crop is in flower, and its condition is good.

Onions.—Transplanting has been completed. In some localities this operation was retarded by rain. The plants are growing well.

Bersim.—The first cut was being taken as well as the second in some of the early sown fields. The rain which fell during the month has had a good effect on the crops. No enemies have been reported, and the crop is in a satisfactory condition.

Sugar-cane.—Cutting for direct consumption was in progress. Some harvesting for sugar factories has been done in Minya province. Attacks of Stem-borer (*Sesamia cretica* an *scus* Mealy-bug are reported. The condition of the crops has been very slightly improved since November.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the week ended December 20, amounted to £12,169 ; total for year £281,750. For the corresponding period of last year receipts amounted to £14,472 and £13,626 respectively.

A PERMANENT INCOME OF £500 PER ANNUM

can be obtained, after the fifth year, from a five-acre orange orchard in South Africa. Few investments offer such excellent results with security of capital. The outlay involved is only £125 p.a. for five years, or cash £562 10s. od., and the following are a few brief features of the scheme :—

1. The actual results obtained by the South African Prudential Co. show even better figures than above.
2. The Directors are well-known public men in South Africa.
3. The investor is the actual freeholder of his five-acre orchard.
4. There is an unlimited market for all the oranges grown.
5. All management work can be undertaken for a small percentage of profit
6. The scheme is available for both investors and intending settlers.

Experts state that nothing over five miles from a railway station is a good commercial proposition. No point on the Prudential estates is beyond 2½ miles from a railway station.

Oranges from the Estates have been exhibited at the Union Government Trades Commissioners' Department, Trafalgar Square, S.W., and at the Royal Agricultural Show Derby, last June.

Full particulars, plans, etc., from Dept. 33.

SOUTH AFRICAN PRUDENTIAL LTD.,
79, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.4.

OPIUM MARKET.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows under date December 30 :—

We issued our last circular on opium on November 5 last since when 267 cases changed hands at prices ranging from 7s. to 8s. per lb. *c.i.f.* for the low talequale grades, and 9s. 6d. to 10s. 6d. for the usual Extra Carahissar druggists and soft high render. The weather since last September has been very propitious for the sowings, but it remains to be seen under the present disturbed state of the country what the acreage under cultivation is at present; some fear it will be much less than last year, which scarcely rendered 1,500 cases. Most of above purchases have been shipped to the Continent, but we learn that a lot has gone to Piraeus (Greece) to be transhipped to the Far East. Very few cases have gone to England and the States. The exchange is now 720 piastres per pound sterling for cheque on London, and dollars 0.58 per Turkish pound. The arrivals are 971 cases against 881 at same date last year, and our stock in first and second hands is now 1,383 cases. Some 20 cases have been shipped lately on consignment to New York by a speculator; the average render of this opium is about 12 per cent.

ROUMANIA'S AUTUMN SOWINGS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, January 6.

According to the figures of the Ministry of Agriculture, the extent of this year's autumn sowings (in hectares) is as follows (the figures in brackets representing the totals for 1920):—Wheat, 1,445,000 (2,488,335); rye, 1,635,000 (265,379); barley, 75,000 (65,000); colza, 67,000 (14,200).

The wheat crop of 1921 for the whole country yielded 10.8 hectolitres per hectare on a sown area of 2,488,335 hectares.

Towards the end of December the following grain prices have been quoted at Constantza:—Maize: 310 to 380 lei per 100 kilogrammes; barley, 290 to 365 lei per 100 kilogrammes; oats, 290 lei per 100 kilos; colza-cake, 190 lei per 100 kilos.

CURRENT PRICES.

General Produce.—Bacon: (Continental), 122s. 6d. cwt.; (Canadian), 106s. 6d. cwt.; (American), 102s. 6d. cwt.; butter: (Danish), 165s. cwt.; (Australian), 97s. 6d. cwt.; (New Zealand), 116s. cwt.; cheese (Canadian), 96s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 85s. cwt.; lard, 70s. cwt.; eggs (Danish), 32s. 6d. per 120; (Styrian), 22s. 6d. per 120; chillies, 162s. 6d. cwt.; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 6½d. lb.; cocoa, (Ceylon, good to fine), 102s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 150s. cwt.; (East Indian), 130s. cwt.; (Central American) 171s. 6d. cwt.; (Jamaica), 67s. 6d. cwt.; (Mocha longberry), 113s. cwt.; (Santos, superior), 61s. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochin), 67s. 6d. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 11½d. lb.; pepper (Singapore black), 3½d. lb.; (Muntok, white), 7½d. lb.; pimento 2½d. lb.; raisins (Valencias), 32s. 6d. cwt.; sultanas (Smyrna), 115s. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 83s. cwt.; currants (Amalias), 59s. cwt.; sugar: (Tate's cubes), 51s. 3d. cwt.; (Lyle's granulated), 46s. 1½d. cwt.; (Mauritius crystals), 42s. 9d. cwt.; (West Indian crystallized), 38s. 9d. cwt.; (centrifugal), 12s. 3d. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 1½d. lb.; rice (Rangoon, No. 2), 14s. 9d. cwt.; (bran, Rangoon), £5 8s. 3d. ton; cinnamon (firsts), 1s. ¼d. lb.; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 3½d. lb.; tea: Indian (common to good common), 1s. 2½d. lb.; (medium to good) 1s. 8d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 9d. lb.; Ceylon (common to good common), 1s. 1½d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 8d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 9d. lb.; Java (common to good common), 8½d. lb.; wheat (English white), 47s. 9d. qr.; (Australian), 53s. 3d. qr.; barley (malting), 50s. 3d. qr.; barley (feeding), 39s. qr.; oats (English), 32s. qr.; oats (La Plata ex-ship), 20s. 3d. qr.; maize (La Plata), 35s. 3d. qr.; flour, 40s. sack.

Metals.—Aluminium, £122 10s. ton; antimony (English Regulus), £35 ton; bismuth, 7s. 6d. lb.; copper (standard), £65 13s. 9d. ton; copper (electro), £74 ton; gold bars, 97s. 11d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 110s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 101s. 3d. ton; galvanised sheets (24 G), £17 5s. ton; lead (soft foreign), £24 8s. 9d. ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 1½d. unit; molybdenite, 33s. 9d. unit; nickel, £190 ton; platinum, 387s. 6d. oz.; plumbago, £20 ton; quicksilver, £10 7s. 6d. bottle; silver bars, 34½d. oz.; spelter (G.O.B.), £27 6s. 3d. ton; tin (standard), £107 17s. 6d. ton; wolfram, 11s. 6d. unit; zinc sheets, £34 10s. ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 19s. 9d. box.

Chemicals.—Acids: Boric, 66s. cwt.; oxalic, 8½d. lb.; citric, 2s. 2½d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 4½d.; ammonia (sulphate), £15 1s. 6d. ton; arsenic (white powdered), £40 10s. ton; benzole (standard), 2s. 5½d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £15 10s. ton; borax crystals, 31s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 121s. 3d. cwt.; Potassium: Bichromate, 8d. lb.; chlorate, 6d. lb.; caustic, £33 ton; nitrate, £37 10s. ton; permanganate, 10½d. lb.; prussiate, yellow, 1s. 1½d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £15 5s. ton; Sodium: Crystals, 140s. ton; bi-carbonate, £11 5s. ton; bi-chromate, 6½d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £9 3s. 3d. ton; chlorate, 3½d. lb.;

caustic (70 per cent.), £23 2s. 6d. ton; hyposulphite, £15 10s. ton; prussiate, 8½d. lb.; nitrate, £14 5s. ton; glycerine (crude, 80 per cent.), £80 ton; glycerine (industrial, 120 per cent.), £110 ton; lemon oil, 3s. 1½d. lb.; quinine, 3s. ¼d. oz.; red lead, £39 5s. ton; white lead, £42 5d. ton; white ground lead, £51 15s. ton; sulphate of copper, £28 15s. ton; sulphate of iron, 75s. ton.

Hides and Skins.—Ox and Heifer (first), 90 lbs. and up, 8½d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 8½d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs. 8d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 7½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 6½d. lb.; (second), 90 lbs. and up, 7d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 7d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs. 6, 7-8d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 6d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under 4½d. lb. Cows (first), 60 lbs. and up, 6d. lb.; Bulls (first), 5½d. lb.; (second), 4d. lb.; Kips (first), 6, 3-8d. lb.; (second), 5, 3-8d. lb.; (third), 3d. lb. Calcutta Market.—Prices in rupees per 20 lb.:—Arsenic hides (cows). Agras, 8.0 to 17.0; Durbhangas, 4.8 to 8.8; Patnas, 4.8 to 8s., Salted cows: 3.0 to 7.8. Arsenic hides (buffalo): 3.0 to 6: Skins: Calf, 8.0 to 10.0 per 20 lb.; goat, 245 to 280 per 100 pieces. Bombay Market.—The hide and skin market is dull. The quotations are in annas per lb.:—Dressed buffs, 8 to 13; cows, 9 to 14. Goat and sheepskins, 1 to 1.12 rupees per lb. Sixty-nine bales of cow hides were despatched to London, with a quantity of goat and lamb skins.

Miscellaneous.—Cotton: (American), 11.40 lb.; (Egyptian Sakel), 20.30d. lb.; Oilseeds: Linseed (La Plata), £16 15s. ton; rape (Toria), £17 15s. ton; palm kernals, £18 1s. ton; Oils: Linseed, £29 10s. ton; olive (Levant), £77 10d. ton; palm, £38 7s. 6d. ton; rape (crude), £45 10s. ton; soya, £34 5s. ton; petroleum, 1s. 4½d. gallon; petrol, 2s. 1d. gallon; fuel oil (ex-tank), £3 15s. ton; coconut (Ceylon), £42 5s. ton; cotton (crude), £37 5s. ton; ground nut, £44 5s. ton.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at the 30th November, 1921, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£E
Share Capital.....	2,925,000
(300,000 fully paid Shares of £10 each.)	
Reserve Fund:	
Statutory Reserve	1,462,500
Special Reserve.....	585,000
Current, Deposit and other Accounts	11,082,204
Egyptian Government	679,521
Sudan Government	124,170
Mixed Tribunals	1,716,542
Bankers Accounts	440,135
Cheques and Bills payable.....	213,651
Acceptances, as per contra	91,768
Sundry other Accounts	1,184,280
	£E20,504,771

	£E.
Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government	6,933,303
Sundry Securities	199,404
Advances on Merchandise	2,513,820
Advances on Securities	2,281,745
Advances otherwise Secured	465,467
Sundry other Advances	877,789
Egyptian Government.....	814,481
Clients Liability for Acceptances	91,768
Bills of Exchange	1,550,796
Local Bills Discounted	210,757
Buildings and Furniture.....	288,630
Money at call and at short notice	955,500
Bankers Accounts	922,167
Sundry other Accounts	557,103
Cash:	£E.
Notes	1,677,638
Gold	22,240
Silver, Nickel, etc.	142,163
	1,842,041
	£E20,504,771

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£E.	£E.
Notes Issued		36,400,000
	£E.	£E.
Gold	3,339,573	
* British Treasury Bills	14,860,427	
		18,200,000
Securities:		
Egyptian Government Securities & Securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government.....	426,716	
British Treasury Bills, & National War Bonds	17,773,284	
		18,200,000
		£E36,400,000

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

Company Notes and Reports.

British Burmah Petroleum.

The report to July 31 last states that the balance transferred from revenue account amounted to £168,560, to which have been added difference in exchange £9,966, agency fees £3,049, dividend on shares in Rangoon Oil Co., Ltd., £14,346, interest and discount £24,498, and transfer fees £950, making a total credit of £221,378. Against this have been debited sundry charges in Burma, Bombay and London, £70,577, debenture interest £35,012, and depreciation £22,455, leaving a surplus of £93,334. Adding balance brought in £14,403, surplus on realisation of investments, £9,829 and refunds in respect of taxes £64,294, the disposable profit is £181,860, appropriated as follows: Interim dividend of 6d. per share, paid July 8, 1921, £62,268; sinking funds accounts, £43,497; additional 2½ per cent. interest on second mortgage debenture stock, £1,156; leaving a balance of profit of £74,940. The directors recommend a balance dividend for the year at the rate of 12½ per cent. per annum, free of tax, payable Feb. 28, to holders on the books, January 17. This dividend will absorb £62,268, and the year's dividends will then amount to £124,536, representing 12½ per cent. free of tax, as compared with £190,266, free of tax, for the preceding year.

Including the dividend of £14,346 received from the Rangoon Oil Co., Ltd., the total sum to be handed to the trustees of the first and second mortgage debenture stocks respectively amounts to £43,497. Up to July 31, last, the trustees had purchased for redemption first mortgage debenture stock of the nominal value of £252,328, which has since been increased to £255,167 stock, and further purchases will be made with the sum of £39,346 now payable to them. With the funds placed at their disposal by the company the trustees of the second mortgage debenture stock have purchased for cancellation £31,512 of stock, and at date of this report there remains £43,488 out-standing, notice to redeem which on June 30 next has been given.

The expenditure at the refinery charged to capital account on this occasion is £20,443, and at the field £51,607. The directors have set aside for depreciation £22,455, in addition to £76,922 expended at the field on drilling and well sites charged to revenue account. From the financial point of view, the past year has been a disappointing one, the high cost of production and the marked decline in prices having made it impossible to achieve results comparable with those of the two previous years.

The company's revenue was also affected by shortage of crude oil production, due to the interruption of development work during the war period; and, in addition, the profit derived from exchange showed a falling off of over £100,000 as compared with last year; but it is satisfactory that since May last the production has increased to such an extent as to warrant the expectation that there will be a sufficiency of crude to meet the full requirements of the refinery. A large throughput and increased refining profit may therefore be anticipated during the current year. Various improvements at the field and in the refinery made during the year will also contribute to improved results, and the company's liability to excess profits duty terminated in July last.

During the past year exceptionally heavy payments fell to be made for field and drilling equipment, and for alterations at the refinery, constituting a serious drain on the company's cash resources. The importance of proceeding with the development of another of the company's oil reserve territories in Burma further increased the desirability of providing additional working capital. This was satisfactorily accomplished by the creation and issue in December of £600,000 8½ per cent. second mortgage debenture stock, redeemable at 105 per cent. on or before Nov. 30, 1936. The funds thus provided will enable an extended plan of operations to be proceeded with.

The company's interests in Egypt and Argentina are being actively developed, and recent results attained in the Comodoro Rivadavia Field in Argentina by other concerns operating in that field render the prospects of success for the company's interests there increasingly encouraging. A participation has also been secured in promising oil territory in the Punjab.

Meeting, Cannon-street Hotel, January 24, noon.

Imperial Bank of India.

The net profit of the Imperial Bank of India for the half-year ended December 31, was Rs.62,27,800, while Rs.10,14,100 was brought forward. A dividend at the rate of 16 per cent. per annum is proposed, free of tax; Rs.10,00,000 is placed to reserve

Rs.5,00,000 is transferred to pension fund, and Rs.12,74,600 is carried forward.

London County Westminster and Parr's Bank.

The net profits of the London County Westminster and Parr's Bank for the year ended December 31, were £2,167,845, while £460,914 was brought forward. A final dividend of 10 per cent. is proposed on the £20 shares, and 6½ per cent. on the £1 shares, making total dividends of 20 per cent. and 12½ per cent. respectively for the year. The sum of £500,000 is placed to contingent fund; £250,000 to bank premises account; £200,000 to rebuilding account; and £519,708 is carried forward.

Cox and Co.

The balance-sheet as at September 30 last shows: Capital, £650,000; reserve fund, £600,000; current, deposit, and other accounts, £18,348,365; acceptances for customers (per contra), £815,110—£20,413,475. Cash at bankers and on hand, £5,431,147; cash at call and at short notice, £792,781; bills receivable, £1,410,032; documentary bills negotiated, £1,301,035; Treasury bills (British and colonial), £324,755; British Government securities, £769,750; Indian, colonial, and other securities (including 308,182 "A" shares of £1 each, 10s. paid in Cox and Co. (France), Ltd., and 10,000 shares of 500f. each 100f. paid in Banque de Commerce), £640,244; advances to customers and other accounts, £8,295,012; liability of customers for acceptances (per contra), £815,110; bank premises, £626,910; balance of items in transit between head office and branches and exchange adjustments, £6,100—£20,413,475.

East Indian Railway.

To meet the wishes of the Government of India, who desire to avoid unnecessary clerical labour, the board have agreed to detailed accounts of the undertaking being prepared yearly instead of half-yearly as hitherto. Only sufficient accounts have therefore been prepared in India for the half-year ended September 30, 1921, to enable the amount of surplus profits to be arrived at. Gross receipts, Rs. 7,55,35,034, an increase of Rs. 26,44,447; working expenses Rs. 4,30, 41,291, an increase of Rs. 48,07,056; net earnings, Rs. 3,24,93,743, a decrease of Rs. 21,62,609. Percentage of working expenses on gross receipts, 56.93 against 52.45. The net earnings for the half-year, including the South Behar Railway, together with the sum received for working the Delhi-Umballa-Kalka Railway, amounts to Rs. 10,06,903. After deducting net revenue charges there is a divisible surplus of Rs. 1,22,50,734, the company's share of which is Rs. 3,98,007. This at contract rate of exchange has produced £33,167. After payment of the dividend authorised at the annual general meeting held in July last, the balance in the surplus profits account enables the directors to recommend a dividend (subject to English income-tax at 4s. 9d. in the £) of 15s. 1d. per cent. on the capital represented by deferred annuity and deferred annuity class "D". This, with 4s. 11d. per cent. received from Secretary of State for India, will make £1 in all, in addition to the guaranteed interest of £2 per cent. Meeting, Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., January 25, 12.30 p.m.

Imperial Bank of Persia.

The report of the Imperial Bank of Persia for the year ended September 30, last states that the profits for the period mentioned, after making provision for expenses of management and general charges in London, and at chief office, branches and agencies, income tax, corporation tax and bad and doubtful debts, amount to £88,195 13s. 2d., to which has to be added £29,051 9s. 8d. brought forward from last account, making a total of £117,247 2s. 10d. From this sum, £5,291 14s. 9d., the amount due to the Persian Government in terms of the Concession, has to be deducted, leaving £111,955 8s. 1d., which the directors have dealt with in the following manner:—First interim dividend for the year, at the rate of 3s. per share, paid June 15, 1921 (free of income tax), £15,000; transfer to reserve account, £30,000; transfer to bank premises account, £10,000; second interim being final dividend, at the rate of 5s. per share, paid on December 29, 1921 (free of income tax), £25,000; carry forward to new account, £31,955 8s. 1d.—£111,955 8s. 1d. The directors record with the deepest regret the death, on December 21, 1921, of Mr. A. O. Wood, C.B.E. The retiring directors are Mr. E. A. Chettle and Sir Hugh S. Barnes, who, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election. Meeting, Cannon-street Hotel E.C., January 23, 12.30 p.m.

Stock and Share Markets.

GILT EDGED PROMINENT.

Activity in Oil Shares.

(From Our Own Correspondent).

London, Monday Evening.

A very much better tone has been in evidence during the past week, and to-day, as a result of the belief that the political outlook generally is more settled, gilt-edged stocks and some of the speculative groups have displayed something akin to buoyancy. The position certainly seems more favourable than it was a few days ago, but these are admittedly uncertain times, and it requires considerable courage to prophesy more than a few days ahead. A further reduction of the Bank Rate which is very probable would give a fresh impetus to the investment tendency, but the most powerful factor in the coming weeks is likely to be the Budget, for if the expectation of a reduction of taxation is realised it is bound to make an enormous difference to the market.

Next week the first of the important new issues that are pending is to make its appearance, this being the Anglo-Persian issue. It is believed that it will consist of 2,000,000, eight per cent. Preference Shares and 600,000 £1 Ordinary shares at £3½ half of which will be allotted to the Burmah Oil Company. For the other half there ought to be remarkable competition, and I shall await with considerable interest information regarding the extent of the over-subscription to the issue. What will come along after the Anglo Persian issue is at present uncertain, but there are quite a number on the tapis, and as the investing public has shown every sign since the new year of being in a good mood there is not likely to be any undue delay in bringing them forward.

Gilt-Edged Strong.

Turning to the markets Gilt-edged show a considerable improvement on the week, and close well above the previous levels. Consols are 1½ up at 51½, war loan fives have gained ½ at 93 1-8, while the Conversion Loan is 1 3-16 up at 67 9-16. The India 7 per cent. Loan has improved ¼ to 104½. In Near Eastern securities which rank with British Government funds Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per cents are unchanged at 70½, Greek Guaranteed 2½ per cents 1898 are the same at 63½, while Turkish Guaranteed 4 per cents are 1½ up at 73.

After being dull in the first part of the week the Foreign market is to-day rather steadier on the improvement in the political situation. French Fives are 2 down at 41½, while German 3 per cents are 5-16 down at 3 1-16. Italian Rentes are rather better at 21½. Japan 1905 Loan is 87, while the 1910 issue is 62. Greek stocks have been fairly firm, though in some cases prices have not been maintained. The 5 per cent. 1881 Loan is 36, the 5 per cent. 1884 Loan is 35, while the 4 per cent 1910 Loan is 30.

Industrials Firm.

Industrials attracted somewhat more attention than usual during the week, though the volume of business was still very restricted, and price changes in consequence are not important. The tone generally, however, was notably firm. Tobacco shares have been in some steady demand round about the previous levels. There has also been activity in Textiles. Coates are 2 5-8 a decline of 1-32 on the week, while Courtaulds have gained 1s. at 37s 10½d. In Iron and Steel shares Armstrongs are 3d. down at 14s. 9d., while Vickers are 4½d. lower at 8s. 4½d. Guest Keens have shed 1s. at 30s. 6d., while Babcock and Wilcox are 2 15-32.

Shipping securities have been fairly firm. P. and O. Deferred are 2 down at 30s, Cunards are 3d. up at 18s. 9d., while Furness Withys are 3d. down at 24s. 9d.

More hopeful advices from the Rand gave rise to an improvement in Kaffirs to-day. Gedulds have been a strong feature, closing at 2 13-32. In the diamond group De Beers are 10.

Oils Active.

The news that the Anglo-Persian Oil Company intended to issue Ordinary shares has had a tonic effect on the oil market, and business has been much brisker than in the previous week. Burmahs have, of course, been a strong spot, and close 1 1-8 up at 7, while Mexican Eagles at 3 27-32 show a rise on the week of 15-32. Among Egyptians Anglo-Egyptian B are 1-16 up at 1 15-31 while Oilfields of Egypt are 7-32. In the Roumanian group Phoenix after improving as I anticipated, fell off as the

result of profit taking, and close unchanged at 11s. 6d. Roumanian Consolidated are unchanged at 9s., Dacia Romanos are 11-16, and Steaua Romanas are 11s. 3d.

Banks Steady.

Among banking descriptions Agricultural of Egypt 3½ per cent Bonds are ½ up at 54 5-8, while the 3 ½ per cent. Guaranteed Bonds have gained 5-8 at 56½. Imperial Ottoman Banks are unchanged at 8½, Ionian Banks are ½ up at 4½, while Bank of Athens remain at 2. National Bank of Egypt are unchanged at 19. Chartered of India are 1-8 up at 15 7-8, while National of India have gained ½ at 37½. P. and O. Banking Corporations are unchanged at 11 7-8, Imperial of Persia are 4½, while Bank of British West Africas are 4½.

Among Land Shares Béhéras at 8 7-8 have shed 1-8, while Béhéra Prefs at 3 5-16 are 1-8 up. Egyptian Delta Lands are 4½ down at 7s. 6d., while Gharbichs are unchanged at 1 9-16. New Egyptians are 1s. 10½ up at 26s. 4½, while Union Foncières are 1-16 lower at 2 5-8. Sudan Plantations are 3-8 up at 2 7-8.

Rubbers Featureless.

There is no change to report as regards the rubber market. The rates for the raw commodity have inclined to dullness, with the result that the share market has been on the heavy side, many of the shares being practically down on the week.

GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

The report of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company for the half-year ended September 30, shows, including State lines, gross receipts, Rs. 6,35,09,196, decrease Rs. 29,49,734; net Rs. 28,65,938, decrease, Rs. 1,31,75,748. The net revenue excluding State lines) amounted to Rs. 22,28,955, decrease, Rs. 1,24,11,153; total interest charges, Rs. 1,66,44,204; balance of net revenue (deficit), Rs. 1,44,15,240. Meeting, 48, Copthall-avenue, E.C., January 20, noon.

BRITISH BURMAH PETROLEUM.

A considerable decline in profits is shown in the report of the British Burmah Petroleum Company for the year ended July 31 last, the credit balance being £221,378 as against £526,353. An important factor in this result was the decreased gain on exchange at £9,966 as compared with £112,085. The available total is £181,860 as against £359,955. This time there is no allocation to the reserve, the dividend is 12½ per cent. as against 20 per cent. for 1920, and 17½ per cent. for 1919, and the carry forward is £12,673 as against £18,624.

The Bucharest Municipality has signed a contract with a Belgian syndicate for the erection in the spring of 1,000 cheap dwellings in the suburbs.

According to a recent Paris report the Creusot Works have obtained a concession for the construction of a commercial port in Budapest and a monopoly for the construction of docks and warehouses for 50 years, after which term the State will become proprietor of all the installations.

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SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

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

Constantinople, January 2.

The financial crisis that has developed here as a result of the suspension of payments by one of the financial establishment and the fall in the exchange have put a stop to all commercial transactions. It would be difficult to indicate the prices for colonial produce, and raw materials which have fallen without considering the prices in connection with the financial needs of each merchant. The dominant note of the market is depression.

Sugars have fallen £2 per ton from last week's rate.

Flour. The arrivals of the week amount to 33,000 sacks from America; our stocks are about 180-200,000 sacks. Although the market has been heavy last week's prices have been maintained as a result of the demand for the Black Sea littoral and South Russia.

Wheat.—500 tons have arrived from Australia and Bulgaria for our milling industry.

LANCASHIRE COTTON DIVIDENDS

Out of 87 Lancashire spinning mills having a total paid up ordinary share capital of £9,825,000, fifty have not been able to pay a dividend for the quarter ended December 31 last. Six concerns have made a distribution at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, and fifteen 10 per cent. per annum. The dividend for the remainder varies from 11 per cent. to 30 per cent per annum, and the average per company works out at 5.17 per cent per annum, absorbing £113,300. Altogether the mills contain 7,800,000 spindles. The average dividend for the previous three months trading for the same companies was 5.46 per cent. per annum. In June the figure was 5.06 and at the end of March 7.96, whereas twelve months ago the average was 18.95 per cent. per annum.

In addition to the above companies 25 have issued reports for the six months ended December 31, 1921. These mills which have an aggregate spindleage of nearly two millions, and a total paid up ordinary share capital of £2,353,000, have paid an average dividend per company of 4.63 per cent per annum, requiring a sum of £37,200. Fourteen of the firms have not been able to make a distribution to shareholders. Last June the average was 5.35 per cent. and a year ago 16.8 per cent. per annum.

The address of the Steaua Romana (British), Ltd., has been changed to 5, Angel Court, Throgmorton Street, E.C.2.

A Reuter's message from Delhi, states that the Legislative Assembly has accepted the resolution of Sir P. Sivaswamy Aiyer in favour of the formation of a mixed committee to propose measures for the recruitment of Indians as executive and engineer officers in the Royal Indian Marine, to encourage shipbuilding to establish a nautical college and to construct dockyards in India.

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Reserve	-	£1,250,000

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Cotton & Cotton Goods.

The Prospects of the Cotton Industry for 1922.

By Sir Charles W. Macara, Bart.

At the moment when those engaged in industry are looking forward with mingled hopes and fears to the prospects for trade in the opening days of the new year, it would not be amiss, perhaps, if out of a ripe experience I were to give a few of the reasons why I consider that the future may be faced with cheerfulness and confidence.

If my remarks have reference chiefly to the state of things in the cotton trade, I cannot think that they will on that account be less acceptable or less interesting to those engaged in other trades, seeing that the industry of cotton occupies the premier position in the list of exported English manufactures, and that directly or indirectly the welfare of many millions of people in this country, great numbers of whom live far beyond the confines of Lancashire are involved in the success or otherwise of the greatest of our textile trades.

Most people are aware in a general way that one of the reasons for bad trade in Lancashire during the past eighteen months is that India, England's largest customer for cotton goods, has been buying very little in the way of textiles, and they have been told that a so-called Indian reformer, named Ghandi, has been largely responsible for this state of things owing to having encouraged the natives to boycott imported cloth, and in particular goods that have been made in England. In the place of these English-made goods, it has been given out that the natives were being taught to spin and weave by hand, and in consequence of these revived handicrafts and the rapidly expanding trade in the mills of India, the outlook for the staple Lancashire trade was reported to be very black indeed.

Facts for the Jeremiahs.

The remarkable thing about these statements is that it was not the man in the street alone who swallowed them for gospel truth, but that many people in the trade who ought to have known better had begun to believe the tales of the pessimists, and to see nothing ahead but irretrievable disaster.

Fortunately the facts do not support these gloomy prognostications; indeed, had people but taken the large view they would have seen that their fears were groundless from the start, for Lancashire, as I shall have no difficulty in showing, is bound to come to the top again, and will, before many months have passed, have almost forgotten her present troubles in an unbounding prosperity. I am as confident as one can be of anything in this world that the croakers will be confounded, and for the simple reason that England, to use the common phrase, holds all the cards in her hand. It is to this country that India as well as China and other great users of cotton goods will be obliged to come if their teeming millions of population are to be clothed. Not only can India not supply her wants in this commodity, but there is no likelihood of her being able to do so for generations to come.

I have always made light of the Ghandi agitation, for I am a practical man, and am not led away with political cries either in India or elsewhere. I know, for instance, how utterly impossible it is for India to supply her own wants, and I know also that no other country in the world but England has the means of making up the deficiency. Agitators or no agitators, India is bound, sooner or later, to turn to Lancashire for help if the majority of her population is to be clothed at all.

The blame for thinking otherwise lies with that section of the press which trades in sensationalism rather than hard facts. At one moment one is reading that Japan is robbing us of our Indian markets, and at another that fifty new mills are being erected in India, and soon the natives of that country will have no use for cotton goods manufactured in Lancashire. One is just as true as the other. Japan has not the machinery to do it, and India will not be able to add appreciably to her spindleage for long years to come.

Let us analyse India's position more closely. India, as we all know, has manufactured cotton goods from time immemorial, and from the cotton she grew in former days she made cloth of an excellence unequalled anywhere in the world. This material, of the finest texture and beautifully embroidered, was hand-spun and hand-woven, took a tremendous time to complete, and when finished was only within the reach of the richest in the

land. Partly through improper seed selection and partly through bad cultivation, the cotton from which that beautiful and expensive material was made was allowed to deteriorate, and then, with the advent of the power-loom, England came along with a good and much cheaper fabric which came within the reach of rich and poor alike.

Some 85 or 90 years ago India herself began to manufacture cotton goods by power, and little by little she trained her spinners and weavers and added to her machinery until she has mills now containing about seven million spindles, and weaving sheds which contain a larger number of power-looms than these spindles can supply, the overplus having to rely on England chiefly for the yarns they consume. What the alarmists are asking us to believe is that India with these mills and the hand looms she has started is now almost in a position to supply the entire wants of a population numbering over 300,000,000.

An Enlightening Comparison.

How absurd this is, can best be grasped by making a comparison with the state of things existing in the cotton trade so far as England is concerned. The population of the British Isles is something under 50,000,000 and it requires the output of twelve of our sixty million spindles to supply this number of people with cotton goods. Consequently, if the home trade in this country calls for the product of twelve million spindles, how is India, with little more than half the spindles we need for our own use, to supply a population seven or eight times as large? The thing is ridiculous on the face of it.

Moreover, what so many people forget is that a great part of the goods which Lancashire makes for Indian consumption is not of the class which is made in the mills in India. It is finer stuff altogether, and it is doubtful, even if the natives had the requisite skill, whether it could be spun and woven by machinery in such a climate as they have in India.

A prominent native textile expert, Mr. K. Sanjiva Rao, engaged by the Government of Bihar and Orissa, bears striking testimony to the fact that India cannot provide herself with the finer quality of the goods she requires. In an official article quoted by the *Manchester Guardian* he is reported as saying:—

"The tastes of the people are rapidly changing as the standard of comfort rises, and there is an increasing demand for finer qualities of yarn and cloth, for which at present they have to look to foreign countries for supply. They cannot, at least in the near future, expect the Indian mills, whose hands are already full with the production of coarser qualities, to manufacture these, for, in the first place, India cannot produce long staple cotton necessary to spin yarn of finer counts; and secondly, India has not yet acquired that skill and ability which Lancashire has achieved in course of the last century and a quarter.

"One can feel confident that before long the average annual increase in our requirements may be expected to be no less rapid than it was before the war. Apart from the fact that cloth is wanted in continually increasing quantities for backward communities, a large number of our aborigines are yet to be clothed. Even taking the lowest estimate, India's demand in the course of the next ten years is likely to increase to 5,000 million yards of coarse cloth, besides 2,500 million yards of finer qualities, a total increase of 50 per cent. The finer varieties of cloth will have to be imported, as now, but there is no reason why they should do the same in the case of the coarser ones."

The Machinery Problem.

But supposing for a moment that the climate is suitable for the making of the finer as well as the coarser kind of goods, what are the prospects of India being able to equip herself with the means of manufacturing all the cloth she requires? Where is she to get the labour she would require within any reasonable period? People talk very glibly of putting up fifty more mills, but do they consider the cost of the erection of these buildings and the difficulties of filling mills with the machinery at the present time? You cannot by taking thought add a million or two of spindles to your equipment, and especially since the war caused such a piling up of arrears of work in the textile machinery making shops, I calculate that through depreciation and destruction in war time, the cotton trade of the world must be wanting as many as 30,000,000 spindles to bring it up to the productive capacity we had in 1914, and if this is so, what chance

is there for the equipment of new mills? My own firm has waited two years for delivery of machinery for only one section of a mill, and we were supposed to have been exceptionally favoured.

Remember, too, that India has taken nearly a century to get 7,000,000 spindles, and in years when there was no difficulty in obtaining all the machinery one wanted, Lancashire, also, now that shorter hours have brought about a reduction of output, will want more mills—the number required must be between 300 and 400 to make up for what has been lost—and she will be a rival with India for the services of the already over-burdened textile machinists. Where, then, is there much chance for expansion in India for a long time to come, even if she has money in abundance and labour ready to call?

(To be concluded).

MANCHESTER REPORT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Friday.

Taking the market as a whole the tone during the last week has been quiet but steady. The political situation throughout the world is very disturbed, and many firms are still feeling the tightness of money. It is anticipated, however, that these detrimental influences will gradually be removed, and there is every hope of more business in the near future. Fluctuations have occurred in raw cotton rates, which have naturally proved rather disconcerting. With regard to cloth not very much has been done with the outlets of the Near East. The political situation in Egypt is still very unsettled, but the latest advices received in Manchester indicate that the situation out there is gradually improving, but at the same time buyers at the moment are not disposed to enter into contracts of any importance. Quotations for Egyptian yarns have been irregular, but on the whole spinners have lost no ground. Users have only purchased sparingly. The best of the outlets with regard to cloth has been China, and some encouraging transactions have taken place in bleaching descriptions, shirtings and fancies. It has been a disappointing week for shippers to India, and only a few sales have been registered. Calcutta has been the most disappointing. Isolated transactions in shirtings and light cloths have taken place for Karachi, Bombay and Madras. Buyers for South America have not been altogether idle. The business for the home trade can only be described as having been scrappy. Prices for American counts have been well held. Users have only purchased in small lots. The undercurrent of demand for export numbers has kept up very well.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended January 11.—

The enquiry for spot cotton showed some improvement during the past week, but actual business resulting still continues to be on a small scale only. Various outside influences, particularly rumours of financial troubles, have had a somewhat depressing effect on the market, and, in the absence of increased support from the trade, prices have sagged slowly but steadily. Practically all kinds of Egyptian cotton have been asked for, and the feature of the week has been the widening that has taken place in Egypt, between Sakellaridis and Upper. This has been caused by the U.S.A. having stopped purchasing in Egypt for the time being, and the consequent breaking of the Upper basis. So far, little notice of this has been taken here, and many holders are still sticking grimly to this class of cotton. Scarce cotton has been in considerable request, mainly for Continental averaging, and a few small lots have changed hands. But it is more than a "few small lots" that are required at present if prices are to improve, or even to be maintained at their present level, and bearing in mind the weight of cotton actually in sight, some drastic change for the better in the general conditions of the trade is required, and required quickly, if a general backsliding is to be prevented. Manchester reports continue in a fairly hopeful strain; the same large enquiry continues both for India and China, and China really seems to be taking some goods; but India is apparently still holding off. Prices received from any quarter where actual business has resulted, are still wretchedly low, and this perhaps is the most disquieting feature of the situation. It remains to be seen whether or not the Indian boycott will

"fizzle out," and if it does, whether the people of India are prepared to pay the prices asked for goods manufactured from cotton at current prices. Considering everything, prices here are keeping extraordinarily steady. C.i.f. business has been very quiet. Quotations are reduced $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb. all round. Fully Good Fair Sakellaridis to-day 20.75d.

COMPANY MEETING.

ASSOCIATED COTTON GINNERS OF EGYPT.

The following is the report of the directors, with statement of accounts as at August 31, 1921, submitted to the shareholders at the sixteenth ordinary general meeting, held at Alexandria on December 22:—

We have pleasure in placing before the Shareholders, for their approval, our 16th annual report together with the audited accounts to August 31, 1921. The quantity of cotton ginned in our factories during the year 1920-1 was cantars 645,260.75 against cantars 789,254.12 in 1919-20. During the season ending August 31, 1921, we did not steam press. Owing to the slow movement of the cotton crop the factories of the company had to be maintained in activity for a period of eleven months i.e. from September, 1920 to July, 1921. This situation was abnormal, the cotton season usually not exceeding six months. Owing to the prolonged period during which our factories had to be kept in activity our expenses in general have been much higher. The following are the results to August 31, 1921.

	L.E.
Factories	55.546
Less: Sundry repairs and renewals in the factories	4.217
	51.329
Add: Interest earned	3.306
	L E 54.635
Less: Expenses and Management at head office	4.523
Sundry expenses	2.207
Insurance premiums	2.274
Commissions	134
	9.138
Less: Depreciations on Buildings and machinery	7.024
„ on Egyptian Unified Debt 4 per cent. at 64 3-4	355
„ on Stores	13.521
Special Reserve for contingencies	1.000
	21.900
	23.597
Less: Statutory reserve 10 per cent.	2.360
Dividend, as per Statutes, 6 per cent. to shareholders	21.060
	23.420
Leaving a balance of	177
We have therefore to deal with the following amounts:	
Statutory dividend of 6 per cent.	21.060
Above-mentioned balance of	177
Amount brought forward from last year	19.229
of which your board propose to distribute as dividend to the shareholders one shilling and threepence per share, making	21.938
and to carry forward	18.528

Your board has sold a parcel of land at Mehalla Kibir on favourable conditions and brought a plot of land at Kafr Zayat to enlarge the approach to our Ex-Zervudachi's factory in that town. Mr T. A. F. Critchley retires by rotation and is eligible for re-election. You are now asked to approve and adopt the report and balance sheet for the year ending August 31, 1921, as presented. You have also, to appoint auditors for the ensuing year, and to fix remuneration. Messrs. Russell, Harris and Co. offer themselves for re-election.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 559—Vol XXI.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 1922.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Genoa Conference.

As yet we can estimate with little exactitude the results likely to accrue from the forth-coming Genoa Conference, for so far we have seen only the lime-lit stage-managers shouting over the European proscenium their vague and rather contradictory directions. Wide but loose cries proclaiming the interdependence of friend and foe—which may lead to reconciliation, but not certainly to security—vie with the hoarse but precise utterances demanding above all things safety—which may lead to isolation—and however much the respective spokesmen may profess their willingness to arrive at a common end, it is difficult to predict for their show a long run. To our own Prime Minister, for instance, we certainly ascribe an intention of establishing business arrangements with Russia, and of other modifications of former Allied policy; while the French Premier is emphatic in his refusal to assist at Genoa unless there is no calling in question of the stipulations of the Treaties.

Hopes and Fears.

Of any final or universal benefits from the Conference we are frankly sceptical, for though from our own Near Eastern point of view we surely believe, as our Constantinople Correspondent in a recent letter pointed out, that Russia holds the key to the situation, and that without her co-operation little of permanence can be achieved, our hopes of Russian statesmanship are low when we read of the view of M. Trotsky on Genoa. We observe that this man in an interview to a *Daily Herald* correspondent in Moscow said, *à propos* of the attitude of Russia towards the question of Reparations and of the revision of the Versailles Treaty:—"Reparations and the Versailles Treaty are mere usurers' demands. . . . The Treaty has already been revised by facts. The invitation to Genoa is in itself a revision of the Treaty." If this is to be the spirit in which those nations outside the Allies are to conduct, or attempt to conduct, the affairs of the Conference, we fear theirs will be a vain unanimity; and in any case, when one has everything to gain and nothing to lose, to talk as Trotsky talked is not only monstrous impudence but crass folly. Were his schemes realized for levelling the ground so that cosmopolitan enterprise might be more easily undertaken, it is possible that we should experience far more of those "usurers' demands" which the Bolshevik leader affects to detest.

Peace for Greece?

Signs multiply daily of a settlement in the Near East, and yet no concrete proposals come to hand. M. Gounaris is at the present time in London, negotiating in busy anxiety for a loan, and is reported to be willing, for the sake of a settlement, to sacrifice much of the ground gained by Greek troops; and M. Poincaré in his recent speech re-asserted the determination of France to prevent the resumption of hostilities (which unless prevented would take place about the end of March) between Greek and Turk (his ulterior and professed motive, however, being the making easier of the exercise of the French mandate in Syria). What is at the moment obscure is the personal intention of Mr. Lloyd George. The weight of British opinion on this matter seemingly does not count with our Prime Minister; it is apparently useless to point out to him that that sweet path of roses on which he set out when the Greeks occupied Smyrna is not only hedged with barren thorns, but is also a blind road. However, his virtuosity is, we know, constantly capable of a retracing of steps, and an eventual settlement will probably be made with the Angora Convention as basis; meanwhile there is little to do but dolefully and yet prayerfully ask "How long, O Premier, how long?"

M. Take Jonescu Resigns.

The Cabinet completed only a month ago by M. Také Jonescu has resigned, and Roumania has now a new Government under M. J. Bratianu. M. Jonescu was faced by so many and so great difficulties that a politician so experienced as he can hardly have had any great hope of coming through them successfully, especially as King Ferdinand was opposed to a dissolution of Parliament and fresh elections. Our Bucharest Correspondent's letters have made it clear that the cross currents were numerous and strong; but the dislike of the various parties for what they regarded as a Cabinet which put a slight on the Constitution seems to have been sufficiently widespread to unite them in pulling it down, even though it was generally understood that it was little more than a stop-gap. On the opening of the Chamber M. Také Jonescu asked for the support of Parliament for the Electoral and Finance Bills, but he failed to get it. The party of General Averescu, with which he had until lately co-operated, brought forward a 'no confidence' resolution, which was carried by a large majority (190 votes to 81), and there was nothing for M. Jonescu to do but to resign.

Roumania's First Task.

The fact that the new Cabinet was constituted with so little delay that it was able to take the oath on the evening of January 19, shows how well prepared were the Liberals for the contingency which thus arose. Whether a party Government will be able to serve the country as well as would one embracing all parties—such as King Ferdinand is understood to have desired so strongly—the Roumanians themselves can best tell. In any case, since Roumania has many problems to solve, some of them crying aloud for prompt tackling, it is much to be hoped that the new Government will devote itself to national rather than party interests, that it will hold out the olive branch to its opponents, and that a truce at any rate may be secured, in order that all parties may devote their energies to the disposal of their country's difficulties. The mere fact that in spite of Roumania's natural wealth and the strong position in which she stands after the war, the Leu should stand so low as it does on the exchanges should surely be sufficient incentive to Roumanians of all parties and of all classes to pull together strongly until the situation improves in this respect.

"Pistol-Running" in Palestine.

A case of attempted smuggling of arms at Haifa is reported to have caused much excitement among the Arabs, who regard it as going to prove that Bolshevism is penetrating the country under the cloak of Zionism. About a hundred cases, it seems, were recently being landed at the port mentioned when, owing to an accident one was broken, and subsequent examination showed that it had false sides, which concealed some automatic pistols and cartridges. In the ordinary course the cases would have passed through without any examination, as they were described as containing "agricultural implements" and—possibly with some sense of humour!—"beehives," and were exempt from Custom dues. But, naturally, after the first accidental discovery the whole batch was examined; with the result that over 300 automatic pistols and 15,000 rounds of ammunition were secured. A prominent Jew, "head of the Co-operative Workmen's Association" has been arrested, and the police are reported to be following up other clues. The incident is not, perhaps, very serious in itself; but it is unsatisfactory to learn that three men whom the police had wished to arrest in connection with the matter were able to make good their escape owing to a warning, said to have been given them by a telegraph clerk. That seems to point to a fairly careful and efficient organization. If the "co-operative workmen" should by ill fortune become involved, or if it should turn out that the smugglers had been "running" anything larger than pistols, the affair might have very serious consequences.

The Egyptian Situation.

As our Cairo Correspondent's letters show, the belief that Sarwat Pasha would have both the courage and the ability to form a Cabinet has been steadily gaining ground in Egypt; and when our Correspondent's latest letter was sent off it was thought that an announcement on the subject might be made at any minute. Up to the time of writing no news of any such announcement has reached this country, but there have been for some time unmistakable indications that Sarwat Pasha has been taking soundings in various directions, and it is now understood that he has put forward definite proposals to the British Government, with a view to making

possible his acceptance of office. Very rightly, the nature of those proposals is kept quite secret, and we can therefore only express the hope that they may be of a character that will render them acceptable. Meanwhile the Egyptians are showing greater moderation than might have been expected, and the better educated among them appear to be realising that while Great Britain desires to go as far as she can towards meeting their views she does not mean to be hustled.

The Shah of Persia.

The Shah of Persia, it is announced, is coming to Europe on a visit, for the sake of his health. The announcement comes rather suddenly and out of the blue, as it were, and his Imperial Majesty's departure from his capital follows extraordinarily close upon it. For if he keeps to his programme, he will leave Teheran for Baghdad the day before these lines are published. He is expected to be away from Persia for six months, and during his absence the Valiahd will act as Regent. That is to say, the Valiahd, who has been in Europe some months, has been recalled urgently to take up the Regency, and a Persian noble is to act as Regent's Regent until his arrival. That is the extent of the information available at the time of writing. Which countries in Europe the Royal traveller will visit, and which, if any, of his Ministers, will accompany him we do not know. We can, therefore, only express regret that his health should necessitate the journey, and wish him a safe return after a pleasant change.

The Prince in India.

Last week marked the completion of another stage in the Prince of Wales' long journey through India. He has now seen the East and the South, and turned his face northwards by way of Hyderabad. In Burma his welcome was unalloyed; but in Madras the experience of Bombay was to some extent repeated, the enthusiasm of the crowd being broken into by displays of organised lawlessness, which however were promptly repressed. The descriptions which have come to hand from these and other provinces lay stress on the progressive nature of the Prince's reception; contrary to all Indian precedent, the climax comes at the moment of departure, while the only anxiety relates to the day of arrival in new scenes. Making every allowance for the influence of the Prince's personality, these unusual features must still be taken mainly as evidence of the extent and the intensity of the campaign of intimidation organised by the irreconcilables. In almost every city which has so far been visited, ordinary citizens have at first been afraid to display their genuine feelings. Where the visit has been short, there has been no time for a change; where it has extended over some days, people have realised that it is safe to express their loyalty, and have gained courage on seeing the disorderly element suppressed. It would be still more satisfactory if they had taken a more active part in the suppression, but events at Calcutta suggest that things are moving in that direction as quickly as could have been expected.

Political Developments.

The political situation has shown some development since last we wrote of Indian affairs. The suggested round-table conference has not taken place, and at present it is rather out of the picture, but the mugwumps, to use an ugly but expressive term, have held a conference to see whether a conference is possible, and they have learned that the thing could be done, provided the extremists' terms were granted in full as a prelimin-

ary. Mr. Gandhi accordingly has given the Government nearly a fortnight in which to surrender, and is even reported to have called off for the moment the strike of revenue-payers, which has already been started in a few localities. The central legislature, on the other hand, has rejected resolutions proposed in both houses for the holding of such a conference, and it is probably safe to infer that the Government will now feel itself sufficiently sure of support to maintain the attitude which it adopted last month. The choice lies between suppression of intimidation and surrender to the men who use it as a weapon; the issue is becoming plain even to those Indians whose political vision has been slow to clear; and, though no close forecast can be made at present, the chances appear to be that the support given to the administration will increase rather than diminish as time goes on.

The Attitude of the Legislature.

It cannot be said that the majority by which the Legislative Assembly supported the Government was so decisive as to give entire satisfaction to the friends of India in this country. The subject cannot be examined in detail until the division-lists arrive, but apparently a small majority of the unofficial votes cast was hostile, while nearly half the private members either abstained from voting, or stayed away from the debate. The high proportion of absentees on a question vital to the future of the country is perhaps the most significant feature. The prospect would be gloomy indeed if we could infer that nearly half the members were indifferent as between Lord Reading and Mr. Gandhi, but it is much more probable that the lack of moral courage, so long familiar among Indian politicians, was responsible for most of the abstentions, and it is mainly on this ground that we suggest the likelihood of a gradual increase in the support given to the Administration. Timid legislators will usually follow Mr. Pickwick's advice, and shout with the largest crowd; and, glancing back through the centuries, we must agree that in India that course is justified by history.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Monday evening

Voces et Praeterea Nihil.

Last week was a week of political oratory, party manoeuvres, comings and goings, and declarations of faith. The upshot is that Parliament is postponed from January 31 for a week, that the General Election is postponed indefinitely, and that the Coalition remains in a state of coalescence.

As to the speeches, are they not reported in *The Times* and elsewhere? Some acute critic has remarked that the things which statesmen do not say are far more important than the things they do say; and another observer has enunciated the paradox that politics is like matrimony—the real tragedies are not in the quarrels that take place, but the disagreements that are silently averted. All of which means I suppose, that nobody has got entirely his own way. The Unionists are pressing for the dissolution of the Coalition; the Lloyd George Liberals are organising themselves into a National Liberal Party. The former are disappointed because the Coalition continues, but pleased that the election is off; the latter are sorry there is no election, but rather elated with their new party plumes, and the assurance that Mr. Winston Churchill will lead them when the Prime Minister is too busy.

The reform of the House of Lords is also postponed. There was never anything in it. The Conservatives want the restoration of the Peers' veto, but they felt it

would never do to ask for that *tout court*, as both Liberal and Labour would refuse; the cry of reform was therefore introduced. But the Conservatives are never quite happy as advocates of reform, and while they were agreed about the veto, no two men were agreed as to the principles of reform. Some play has been made with the idea of an Imperial Senate. But to establish a Senate is in effect to abolish the House of Lords, which is the last thing the Conservatives desire. Consequently nothing will be done for the present, and nobody cares twopence.

From the speeches of Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Chamberlain we learnt nothing except that the Government is a very good Government, and that members of the Cabinet have an infinite admiration for each other; there was just a faint hint, too, that nobody else would do quite so well. This is a disease that always attacks statesmen in office for some years—an *idée fixe* of their own indispensability. Mr. Balfour had it, Mr. Asquith caught it in turn, and the bacillus seems to be active in Downing Street again.

The future rôle of the Government is to be economy at home, and peace abroad. Mr. Lloyd George intends to work hard as the pacificator of Europe; English politics will be delegated to his principal lieutenants. The foundations of the new Europe are to be laid at Genoa in March—if M. Poincaré permits; retrenchment is to be the watchword at home, with the possibility of a reduction of taxation in the forthcoming budget. After that, according to present official calculations, it would be only decent to have a General Election to give us an opportunity of showing our gratitude.

Whenever it does come, an election will be a leap in the dark, for the electorate had no real choice in 1918, and the new franchise will be effectively exercised for the first time at this next contest. As to its result, those who know most are the first to admit that they know least; and a prediction now would probably look absurd in six months' time. At the moment the National Liberals (*née* Coalition Liberals) are up and the Unionists down; Labour also has its tail between its legs. It has plenty of candidates, but money is short, the Trade Unions are hard up, their membership is low and dispirited. All the omens are for the return of the Government, unless they make some ridiculous mistake, by a smaller majority; in which case Mr. Lloyd George will secure a lease of power until 1927.

Another Irish Pact.

Reports good and bad have come from Ireland recently. On the sinister side is the admission that a fresh outbreak of lawlessness has occurred, which may tax all the energies of the temporary government at Dublin to put down. To the credit side of the account is the publication of an agreement between Ulster and the Free State. Ulster secures the lifting of the ban on her trade, which was gravely embarrassing her industries; and the boundary Commission, which has agitated her politicians, not without reason, is also to be revised. The two States are also to go into the question of a joint council afresh, in order to find some more satisfactory solution.

The agreement does credit to both sides, and is a step towards reconstruction as important as the December treaty for a Free State. It will possibly displease Die-Hards in both camps, but it indicates a decline of the fanatical party spirit which has been the ruin of Ireland, and it attests the growth of the saner method of compromise.

Lincoln in Danger.

A large crack has appeared in the north-west tower of Lincoln Cathedral, and there are several smaller cracks in the interior walls. It is believed that the noble fabric, which may be seen for miles around, can be saved if the work of repair is put in hand at once, but the position is urgent, as every storm palpably increases the damage and weakness. It is said that £50,000 is required to save the building, and an appeal has been issued for contributions. I cannot doubt that it will be liberally responded to.

The L.C.C. Election.

Preparations are making for the London County Council election early in March. The Municipal Reformers (Conservatives) and Progressives (Liberal) have again formed a compact not to fight each other where the Labour Party is contesting the seat; the Labour Party in London municipal politics is apparently more extreme than its counterpart in national affairs. Indeed, it is said to be near to the Communist platform; at any rate, it professes an advanced Socialism.

The real danger facing all parties is the indifference of the electorate, which has been steadily growing. Twenty years ago the fight between Progressives and Moderates, as the Municipal Reformers were then called, meant enthusiasm, cheers and counter-cheers, rotten eggs and a high poll; since 1907, when the Municipal Reformers ended the long dominance of the Progressives, the number who took the trouble to go to the poll has diminished. At the last election only 17 per cent. of those entitled to do so voted.

The result of the election will probably have some influence on the enquiry now being conducted into the reform of London Government, and the possibility or advisability of enlarging the boundaries of the L.C.C. Several of the outlying boroughs have petitioned against being incorporated in the County, as was anticipated; but the enquiry is as yet only in its initial stages, and it has so far been conducted with a politeness that speaks volumes for the lack of public interest.

The Problem of Lunacy.

Another enquiry is being held into the treatment of lunatics, consequent on certain charges made last year by a medical officer. The official case is that "permanent mental disease can be prevented by early treatment," and that "asylums really are but hospitals for persons suffering from mental diseases." Both statements have been attacked. If the former is true, it is asked why the patient in an incipient stage of the disease is sent to an asylum at all; if the latter, it is asked why people do not mind going into a hospital whereas they hate being sent to an asylum.

The answer is too easy. So long as the public draw a distinction between physical and mental disease, a man will not mind admitting that he has been cured of appendicitis or rheumatoid arthritis or some similar trouble, but he will be rather diffident of confessing that he has been cured of insanity. And while it is true that a great amount of permanent mental disease can be prevented by early treatment, it must always be recollected that a large number of those in asylums have been insane or idiotic from birth. Here there is no possibility of prevention. A further large percentage is of feeble-minded or persons of bad ancestry, who have failed in the battle of life. It is possible they could have been cured, but they can only remain cured on condition of being more or less isolated and cared for. They are unequal to the wear and tear of daily work.

As to the treatment of lunatics, I believe it to be generally good. But it must be remembered that many of them are exasperating, and some are offensive and dirty in their habits; and I doubt whether the care of mental disease attracts quite the same high type of nurse as one finds in the ordinary hospital. I once went to an asylum (as a guest for an afternoon, *bien entendu*) and I must admit that I pitied the nurses more than the lunatics.

Rain and Influenza.

It has rained so steadily these last few days, with snow, hail, sleet, and blizzards by way of change, that the drought which lasted all 1921 seems at last to have vanished. It was time; for a good many places are now being rationed for water. It will take at least a month's wet to make up the deficiency, for the deep-level reserves of water are almost exhausted in the South of England, and unless we get the rain before the spring the position will be difficult. The summer rains are usually absorbed by vegetation, and during the warm weather we live on the reserves accumulated during the winter. For that reason we are for once not grumbling over the leaden skies.

The influenza epidemic is steadily increasing, but it cannot be ascribed to the wet, since it began in December, which was remarkably dry. The deaths have mounted in London from 14 in the week ending December 10, to 551 in the week ending January 14, and it is much the same in the other great towns. It is not of a severe type, and for that reason people are liable to neglect it with serious or even fatal results.

The Week's Books.

"The Secrets of a Savoyard" (Jarrold) by Mr. Henry A. Lytton, comes pat at a time when the Gilbert and Sullivan operas have been revived with enormous success. It is full of amusing stories, of which I will quote only one. An actor at rehearsal sat down so clumsily that he broke a chair. "I said," remarked Gilbert, "Sit down pensively, not expensively."

"Last Days in New Guinea" (John Lane) by Captain C. A. W. Monckton, is extraordinarily interesting for its revelation of the native mind. Sorcerers, for example "would sometimes be hauled before a Court by indignant chiefs charged with some manifestly absurd and impossible crime, such as causing a virgin in a distant village to produce still-born twins, or the moon to alter its course and colour, with consequent devastating influence on a certain crop." The accused would plead guilty; when the magistrate remonstrated that he could not possibly be convicted on the evidence, the sorcerer would persist in his plea—for if and when convicted "he would establish his reputation as a man capable of marvellous things, a man to be feared and conciliated with gifts." It paid to be condemned.

"The Menace of Money Power" (J. Cape) by Charles P. Isaac, advocates the removal of State restriction on the issue of credit and the growth of note-issuing banks, in other words, free trade in money. It is a study in unorthodox economics which would probably make any professor of political economy faint.

OCELLUS.

THE NEW ROUMANIAN CABINET.

Upon the resignation, following a want of confidence resolution, of M. Také Jonescu, the new Government at Bucharest was constituted as follows:—

Premier and Minister of War ..	M. Jonel Bratiano.
Finance	M. Vintyla Bratiano.
Interior	M. Vaitoianu.
Foreign Affairs	M. Duca.
Industry	M. Sassu.
Education and Ad Interim Commerce	M. Angelescu.
Agriculture	M. Constantinescu.
Public Worship and Ad Interim Public Works	M. Banu.
Labour	M. Marzescu.
Justice	M. Florescu.
Bessarabia	M. Inculetz.
Bukovina	M. Nistor.
Minorities	M. Zigrea.
Communications	M. Mosoiu.
Transylvania	M. Cosma.

BRITISH GENDARMERIE FOR PALESTINE.

The Colonial Office has issued the following statement:—

As part of the general scheme for the reduction of Imperial expenditure in the Middle East, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in consultation with the Palestine Government, has decided to raise a small force of British gendarmerie for service in Palestine. The force, which will consist of about 700 officers and men, will be added to the existing police and gendarmerie forces in Palestine, but will be recruited and administered separately. It will be trained and armed as a military police force, and, while normally employed upon purely police duties, will be available for use, in case of necessity, as a military force.

Special arrangements will be made to recruit this force from existing units to be disbanded during the current year. No applications should be addressed to the Colonial Office.

FREEMASONRY AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

On December 27, Mr. W. E. Drakeford was installed as Worshipful Master of the Oriental Lodge. This Lodge is under the English Constitution and its number is 687. During the war the activities of the Lodge ceased, owing to the death or departure of many of its members, but after a hard struggle it was able to start again in 1920, and is now making satisfactory progress.

THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

From Our Own Correspondents.

EGYPT.

Cairo, January 7.

The Situation Quiet.

During the past week the political ebullition has subsided. There have been one or two nasty incidents, doubtless connected with the political feeling, but there is no evidence to show that these shots at men in positions of authority were not mostly inspired by personal animosity. Zaghoul Pasha and his colleagues have gone, and little is being said about their departure. Madame Zaghoul has signified her intention of carrying on her husband's work, and a local paper has referred to her as "Egypt's Joan of Arc," adding the pious hope for a better fate for her than her French predecessor! The local Press is full of rumours about the possibility of the formation of a Cabinet in the near future, but as late as this morning I have been officially assured that there is no tangible foundation for these rumours. In other words, Egypt is dull, politically and commercially, though socially there is considerable activity in Cairo and the beauty spots of Upper Egypt.

The Chances of A Settlement.

Well-informed circles are of the opinion that a position has arisen whence a settlement may be evolved. They point out that it was necessary, before any real business could be discussed, that the extremist and obstructive elements among the Egyptians should be compelled to realise that there must be a limit to Egypt's ambitions. A message from Palestine has advised that the extremists in that country have been deeply impressed by the timely display of firmness in Egypt, and it may safely be said that the same remark is applicable to Egypt. The recent events have driven the Egyptians into each other's arms, but there is every indication that the hitherto unequivocal opponents of any statesmanlike settlement have been dominated by the more rational sections among the Egyptians. The clear recognition by Great Britain of Egypt's right to independence, and the equally clear admission by the Egyptians that Britain has a right to certain guarantees, have facilitated the formation of a basis for an arrangement. The British Government needs to display tact; neither a mailed fist policy nor one of weak submission will get us anywhere. But the happy medium is bound to bring satisfactory results.

Madame Zaghoul.

There are those who see in Madame Zaghoul the strongest opponent to a reconciliation. That Madame Zaghoul cannot be expected to display any spirit of conciliation in the prevalent circumstances is obvious, but at the same time the men who were advising her husband have either been chased off the political stage, or they have amalgamated with the strong committee of prominent Egyptians who hitherto stood behind the Adly Cabinet. The latter have swamped the Zaghoul ranks, and thus Madame Zaghoul either must co-operate with them or must play a lone hand, depending upon the lower agitators for assistance. There is also the fact that she is a woman, which, in a Moham-medan country, is a very heavy handicap. As a figure in contemporaneous history she may command admiration; but as a leader of the Die-hards she is not a material factor in the situation to-day.

The Report on the Alexandria Riots.

One of the most important documents lately published has been the report of the Military Court of Enquiry upon the Alexandria riots. The Egyptians naturally resent it deeply, but they have been forced to realise that it is a fact, and that the spirit which it has so clearly delineated is one of the most insuperable bars to the attainment of complete independence. What effect it has had in other parts of the world is immaterial in this respect; it has convinced the Egyptians that the world will insist upon proper guarantees, and this belated realisation is the most satisfactory feature of the

momentary position in Egypt. Incidentally, the Egyptians have protested against its publication at this juncture, on the grounds that "such publication was liable to stir up partisan feeling." That shows the way the wind was being blowing.

A Dastardly Attempt.

Last Thursday morning, as Badr ed-Din Bey, the Director of the Criminal Section of the Public Security Department, was on his way to his office, a tall cadaverous Egyptian waited for him near the Ministry, and shot him in the right lung as he passed. Badr ed-Din Bey, although badly wounded, turned on his assailant, drew a revolver, fired at him and struggled after him, at the same time calling upon passers-by to arrest the miscreant. The bystanders all looked the other way, and the Bey, exhausted, fell. He was taken to the hospital, and the latest bulletin advises that "he is still living." It sounds ominous. Badr ed-Din was fired at in the same locality six months ago, but on that occasion the shot missed him. He was prominent in the prosecution against the members of the "Vengeance Society" in 1920, and last year he directed the efforts of the authorities in maintaining order during Zaghoul's trip up the Nile. Because he has been such a faithful servant in an unpopular position, he to-day lies at the point of death from an assassin's bullet! Every effort is being made to arrest the criminal, but to date he is at large.

The Vernacular Press.

The authorities, having a difficult and delicate task to perform, are not countenancing any inflammatory talk in the vernacular Press. During the week the *Minbar*, lately the leading organ of the Zaghoul party, was suppressed for an indefinite period for the publication of articles likely to impede the military authorities in the execution of their duty. The rest of the native Press is now maintaining a much more moderate tone. One of their editors has confided to me that the editorial department would be gratified at the re-imposition of the Press Censorship, as a number of the more hot-headed spirits are constantly invading the editorial sanctions and demanding the insertion of fiery articles against the British. The editors dare not comply, and so are placed in an awkward position, which the Censorship would eliminate. On the other hand, the re-imposition of the Censorship would give rise to other complaints.

Stagnation of Business.

There is considerable talk about the boycott of all British goods by the Egyptians, and in the provinces an attempt has been made to boycott the Egyptian Markets Company, Ltd., but, on the whole, no serious attempt has yet been made to embarrass either British shops or British banks. A warning has been sounded by some of the more sensible Egyptians concerning any attempt to deluge the native Bank Misr with a large number of accounts, the Egyptians pointing out that the Bank has not yet established the necessary machinery to use a large sum profitably, while retaining the money for short calls. Business, generally, however, is absolutely stagnant. It has been so bad for such a long



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time that even old and well-established firms are feeling the pinch. There is hope, however, that as soon as the present crisis is over, there will be a much brisker period. Hope, at the moment, is about the only thing left.

Cairo, January 14.

Hopes of a Cabinet.

Except when riots are actually in progress in Egypt, news is always just round the corner. Such is the position this morning, because the only real news at the moment concerns the formation of a Cabinet, and it is currently rumoured in well-informed circles that an official declaration on the subject will be made this evening—or to-morrow. To the student of politics, recent developments which have led up to the position are rather interesting, because they involve three quick changes of local public opinion in practically as many weeks. But as both sides have been following a policy of rank opportunism, these changes are not altogether surprising. It is unanimously believed now that Sarwat Pasha will form a Ministry, and that most of his old colleagues in the Adly Cabinet will resume portfolios.

When the Egyptian Official Mission returned from London with no agreement, and dispirited, there was at once a wave of antagonism to Great Britain throughout Egypt. It seemed as if the British Government would have to revise its policy, or accept responsibility for the government of Egypt for an indefinite period. The Egyptians, on the whole, were not disposed to violence. Then Zaghloul and his colleagues were arrested, and there was an ebullition of lawlessness on the part of the riff-raff, which signified growing bitterness against England. But as the troubles died away the Egyptian leaders began to reconsider the position. They had become convinced that, on broad lines, British policy would remain firm, but they thought that perhaps, as the price of their co-operation with the British, they could secure a number of further concessions. They have played that game, and no great surprise will be felt locally if Sarwat Pasha is able to form a Ministry upon terms which, to speak tactfully, permit of a further reconciliation of Anglo—Egyptian aims.

A Brighter Outlook.

If this reconciliation does not permit the assumption on the part of the Egyptians that it is necessary merely to stand aside and sulk to gain their points against England, but, on the other hand, facilitates the formation and general acceptance by the Egyptians of a working Cabinet, the outlook will be infinitely brighter than it has been for years. It is highly probable that Sarwat's Cabinet will not have the full support of the Egyptians as a whole; but when it is recalled that at a time when popular excitement was seething—on the occasion of Zaghloul's return last year—the Adly Cabinet was able to impose itself upon the Egyptians and deal efficiently with its obstructive opponents, there is every reason to believe that a Sarwat Ministry would be able successfully to employ the same tactics. The Oriental, individually and collectively, will yield once he realises that he has met his master. The danger exists when he has reason to think that his opponent is afraid of him.

The most significant development during the week, and one almost certain to have a material bearing on the course of politics in Egypt during the future, was the resignation of Abdel Aziz Bey Fahmy, one of the most capable Egyptian politicians, from the reconstituted *Wafd* or unofficial Egyptian Delegation, formerly headed by Zaghloul. The Bey, who had always opposed Zaghloul's policy of extremism, was ill when the *Wafd* took its decision to publish a manifesto demanding, among other things, the return of Zaghloul and his companions. When he had recovered, he at once wrote to the *Wafd* and tendered his resignation, nominally on the ground of ill-health, but, so those acquainted with the inside position allege, really because he could not be a party to an agitation for the return of the exiles. It is probable that the resignation will be followed by one or two others, for the same reason. These men will have a strong following, as there is considerable annoyance at this obviously untimely demand.

The Extremists.

Yet it is likely that the Zaghloulist elements of the *Wafd* will remain parties to the agitation. Therefore, a split must come soon, and probably when the formation of the new Cabinet is announced. In all likelihood those who objected to Zaghloul's policy will follow the Cabinet, provided a satisfactory basis is obtained, whereas the Zaghloulist element will be bound to remain in opposition. It will be noticed that the question is one of personalities rather than conflicting policies—but then that is what politics really amount to in a country such as this. And if the divergence of opinion did not come on this point, it would be sure to arise on something else. The problem is not whether there will be an opposition, or whether there will be an overwhelming opposition, but whether Sarwat can secure a basis that will allow the influential sections to give him the necessary support. If he can obtain a few strong lieutenants, he will be able to make his Ministry master of the situation.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Belgrade, January 16.

Montenegrin Activities.

Italy is continuing her machinations. The old Montenegrin official gazette *Glas Crnogorska* continues to appear in Rome, as the "official organ" of "H.M. King Michael I" and "Milena the Regent." A recent number appealed to all Montenegrins abroad to return to their country in as large numbers as possible to carry on the struggle there. This is, of course, dictated from Rome. The next manifestation was more serious, for M. Yovanovitch, the Yugoslav delegate at the League of Nations, has been obliged to contradict the report of the massing of Serbian troops on the Albanian frontier, and to declare that his Government had allowed the League's Commission to pass on to Serbian territory. This *démenti* was provoked by a report coming from Albania, obviously inspired from Rome, conveying false statements.

A Remarkable Demonstration.

There recently died at Sushak an old veteran of the war, Bogdan Stefanovitch, who was a volunteer in the Yugoslav regiment on the Salonika front. His parents are at present in the south of Serbia, and were unable to attend the funeral, but the Serbs and Croats of the neighbourhood came in their thousands and offered a touching tribute to the dead warrior, and sincere manifestations of their patriotism. Be it noted that these were practically all Croats, unaffected by the demagogic utterances of Stepan Raditch. It is interesting to note that great numbers of Croats from Fiume wished to cross the demarcation line to pay their last respects to the dead hero, but it goes without saying that the Italian authorities took good care to prevent them.

A Case of Espionage.

While the Italians are busy in the South-West, the Hungarians are carrying on the old game in the North. A sensational case of espionage has been reported from Subotitsa, which now appears to be of greater significance than was at first believed. The interesting part is the fact that a convent near Sombor was the headquarters of the spy organisation, though the strings were pulled by Magyar irredentists, chiefly lawyers, at Subotitsa. The nuns had frequent opportunities of travelling and took advantage of this to convey into Hungary detailed reports on the position in Yugoslavia.

Tribute to Molière.

The Serbs are very appreciative of French literature, and yesterday at the temporary theatre in the old Riding School the Society of the Friends of France and the Society for Modern Languages and Literature celebrated the Tercentenary of Molière. Unfortunately the matinée began at 2.30, with the consequence that the public came crowding in half an hour or more late, which made it almost impossible to follow the lecture of Serbia's most brilliant literary authority, Prof. Bogdan Popovitch. This was followed by an excellent

performance in French of a scene from the "Ecole des Femmes" and one in Serbian translation of "Les Fourberies de Scapin."

Monsieur Chataigneau, Prof. of French languages, Belgrade University, made a short speech, which was much appreciated by his audience, which was composed exclusively of lovers of French literature. It is unfortunate that the National Theatre could not have been used; for the acoustic properties of the old Riding School leave much to be desired.

GREECE.

Athens, January 7.

The Raising of the Financial Blockade.

The possibility of concluding a loan, of which I spoke in my last letter, caused a small panic on the Athens Exchange. Bank shares and securities depreciated considerably, and the Drachma immediately began to rush upwards. On Friday morning before the arrival of the telegram announcing the raising of the financial blockade by Great Britain, the pound sterling was worth 114 drachmae on the open market. On Saturday morning nobody would buy at 98. From early Monday the banks were invaded by people selling sterling and dollars as fast as they could. It is estimated that from Saturday to Wednesday the Syndicate of Banks bought 2,300,000.

In view of this rapid depreciation of securities and the panic created thereby, the Committee of the Stock Exchange requested the Government to authorise an extraordinary liquidation. This, however, was refused by the Minister of Finance, who said that such a measure was contrary to regulations, and that the closing of the Stock Exchange even for a day, would further increase the panic. The brokers, therefore, themselves proceeded to arrange a voluntary liquidation with their clients, and to the settling of the accounts. Only two brokers were unable to fulfil their engagements, one with a deficit of 50,000 drachmae, and another with 300,000 drachmae.

On Wednesday afternoon, however, the panic subsided on the increase of prices of Government securities, and bank shares and foreign exchange became steadier, showing a slight decrease in value as compared with those of the previous week. Consequent upon this, a marked tendency to purchase exchange was noticed, especially in the sterling. The market has now resumed its normal activities.

The whole affair would appear to have been an exaggerated optimism with regard to the granting of a loan, the first news received out here being a definite statement to the effect that such a loan had actually been granted, and in view of this it was naturally concluded that the value of the Drachma would appreciate. When, however, more definite news came through as to what had actually transpired, it was realised that Great Britain had raised the financial blockade as far as she was concerned, and authorised financiers to grant a loan, to consist chiefly of purchases of goods of British origin and to the extent of 15,000,000 Drachmae. It was readily understood that Great Britain was only one of the three signatories to the financial blockade, and that without a similar raising of the blockade on the part of the other two signatories, no real appreciation in the value of the Drachma could result.

The New British Minister.

On Tuesday last by the mail steamer from Brindisi, Mr. Lindley, the new Minister for Great Britain to the Greek Government, arrived in Athens. The *personnel* of the Legation, the Consul-General for Great Britain, and the authorities of the port of Piraeus went on board to greet him. Later, accompanied by the *Chargé d'Affaires*, Mr. Bentinck, Mr. Lindley visited Monsieur Cartalis, temporary Minister for Foreign Affairs, and handed in his letters of credence.

A Catastrophe.

The Royal Hellenic Navy has had one of its finest ships temporarily put out of action as the result of an explosion caused by the mishandling of a bomb on the

T.B.D. 'Leon' whilst lying at anchor in the port of Piraeus.

According to the official *communiqué* issued by the Ministry of Marine, it would appear that at 10.45 a.m. on Wednesday, January 4, the explosion took place in the submarine torpedo compartment, resulting in the complete destruction of the stern of the vessel. The T.B.D. 'Ierax' and the cruiser 'Psara' anchored close by also suffered slight damage. Unfortunately several deaths were caused not only on board the 'Leon' but also on boats lying near, by the flying fragments, and also on the quay side. It is of course impossible to give the exact number of victims, but up to the present it has been ascertained that 17 officers and sailors were killed and 13 wounded. The number of civilian casualties is not known.

The funeral of the victims took place at the Piraeus on the following day. Amongst those present were Colonel Yanicostas, representing the King, Prince Paul, the Chief of the British Naval Mission to Greece, Admiral Smith, the Council of Ministers, the members of the British Naval Mission, and the Military and Naval Attachés of the Foreign Legations. Following the cortège were Greek, Roumanian and Italian bluejackets.

It is stated that the work of repairing of the 'Leon' will take at least two months, the expenditure being estimated at about 100,000 drachmae. Fortunately the boilers and most of the armament have not been damaged.

Greeks and Albanians.

It is reported that the Albanian Catholic Bishop, Fan Noli, who has installed himself in the Greek Metropole at Korytsa, has commenced expelling the Greek clergy. The Albanian Bishop has even seized and confiscated the property of Greeks. Teachers and professors of Greek schools and gymnasiums are said to have been compelled to resign and seek posts in Albanian schools. Parents who refuse to allow their children to attend these schools are prosecuted, and in general the situation of the Greek population is represented as insupportable.

The Commission of the League of Nations met the Delegation of the High Epirotes at Roulias, a small village on Greek territory, where a letter from the Metropolitan and a memorandum on the subject of atrocities and expulsions were handed to it.

General News.

Prince Christopher and Princess Alice have returned to Athens from Cannes and Corfu respectively.

King Constantine has received the Committee of the various political Syllogues, who presented His Majesty with the address which was published on the occasion of the anniversary of his return to Greece.

A general meeting of the Union of editors of Athens newspapers has decided to celebrate a requiem mass for the repose of the souls of journalists killed in the recent operations in Asia Minor.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, January 15.

A United Front.

It is the custom of the Bulgarian Journalistic Society to publish every New Year a newspaper, called *Le Journal des Journaux*, which discusses the most important question of the day. This year, Western Thrace was the subject selected, and the opinions of the leaders of the various political parties was given. Concerning the claim of Bulgaria to be granted free economic outlet to the Aegean Sea, there was complete agreement, and to a foreigner who has become accustomed to the continual party strife this unanimity was somewhat refreshing. The points of view of MM. Stambolisky, Gueshoff, Malinoff, Sakasoff, Kosturkoff, and Gnedaiëff, the chiefs of the Agrarian, Nationalist, Democrat, Socialist, Radical, and Liberal parties respectively, need not be dealt with individually, as they all tend towards the same end. They repeat the right of Bulgaria to have an economic outlet, and ask when the Allies will consider their claim. It is said that the Allies will hold

a conference on Near Eastern affairs at Constantinople in March, and that the question of both Eastern and Western Thrace may then be discussed. This will surely be a propitious moment for regulating this question of an economic outlet. Only a few days ago a wireless message from Athens announced that the Greeks were considering plans for the construction of a harbour at Dedeagatch, and as this port is named in the Second Treaty of Sèvres as being a possible outlet, the message is of some import.

Dedeagatch at present is worth very little, being an open roadstead which can be used only during two-thirds of the year; and even then lighters have to be employed. Its only advantage lies in the fact that the railway runs down to the water's edge. Nevertheless its geographical position renders it the most desirable outlet for Bulgaria, as the territory lying in the south-west corner of Bulgaria is the most fertile, and also contains the great majority of important industries which export their produce. Kavalla is the only alternative to Dedeagatch, but this port is in Macedonia, and at present the railway passes through Drama, a town some thirty miles inland, over the hills.

Choice of a Delegate.

Whether Bulgaria's outlet be at Dedeagatch, Kavalla, or some other port, it is necessary for her to take steps in order that, if she be given a chance of stating her case, she may state it clearly and well. Hitherto M. Stambolisky himself has always represented her at important Conferences, and it is probable that he will be the Bulgarian Delegate to the Economic Conference at Genoa. It is doubtful whether he will be able to absent himself again from Bulgaria to attend a Near Eastern Conference, always assuming that Bulgaria is allowed to attend. It is, therefore, a question of who should represent Bulgaria. The Agrarians are not rich in Ministers who speak foreign languages, and in addition they do not possess any men who have a real knowledge of foreign affairs. If Bulgaria is allowed to take part in a Near Eastern Conference, her point of view will have to be put forward with great tact and discretion. The Diplomatic Corps still counts a few professional diplomats in its ranks, chief among whom is M. Stancioff, the Bulgarian Minister in London; and it would be a wise step on the part of the Government if they were to consider the advisability of allowing one of these specialists to put forward Bulgaria's case. There are, of course, in Bulgaria several prominent politicians who possess the necessary requirements, but these men belong almost exclusively to the Opposition parties, and it is not likely that the Government would be willing to make use of their services.

Colonel Nicoloff Acquitted.

It may be remembered that Colonel Nicoloff, the kind benefactor of the British prisoners of war in Bulgaria, was arrested last September. According to information received from trustworthy sources, the charges at first levied against the Colonel stated that he was too pro-British during the war. Afterwards, following a petition made by the British Colony in Sofia to the Prime Minister, it was found that he was charged with other crimes. In any case, it is very gratifying to Colonel Nicoloff's numerous friends to hear that he has been completely exonerated from every charge, barring one, brought against him. The one charge refers to a Government mill, which he is alleged to have closed in order to benefit thereby a mill in which he himself held an interest. He was fined 40,000 levas (£70) on this charge, but he has lodged an appeal. It is significant that nearly all the witnesses who were due to give evidence against him failed to appear at the trial. Colonel Nicoloff has received many letters and telegrams of congratulation from his English friends.

General News.

The Democrats and Radicals engaged in *pourparlers* with the object of forming a Coalition. It is said that the Radicals insist on the point that the Nationalists should not form part of this Coalition.

There have been no new developments during the last

week in connection with the Government-Sofia University dispute.

At the end of January an Italian Chamber of Commerce will be opened at Sofia.

ALBANIA.

Tirana, January 15.

The Authors of the Ministerial Crisis.

The Chamber of Deputies has decided to form a High Court for the purpose of trying those responsible for provoking, by their *coup d'état* on December 7, the recent ministerial crisis. Those chiefly concerned are Hasan Prishtina, Hodja Kadri, and perhaps Mustapha Kruja also. The first two of the accused are deputies of the prefecture of Drin, which was occupied by the Serbs in 1921, and where for the legislative elections the votes of refugees had to be taken. The whole region has now been evacuated, the elections of the past year have been annulled, and new elections will shortly be held for the ten deputies to whom the prefecture is entitled.

The Budget.

The Chamber is engaged in warm discussion over the Budget of 1922. The general tendency is towards economy, as promised by the President of the Council himself, Jafer Ypi, when he sketched out his programme before Parliament.

Foreign Engineers.

The economy effected in the ordinary expenses ought to be set apart for works of Public Utility; for the whole country claims "reparations" and the establishment of the means of communication. To make an effective start to this work twenty-six engineers have been summoned to Albania, of whom fourteen are Austrian and twelve Italian.

Great Britain's Minister.

The nomination of Mr. Eyres as Minister Plenipotentiary of Great Britain has produced throughout Albania expressions of thankfulness, so loved and respected by all is the name of the new Minister. They remember with gratitude the courage with which Mr. Eyres faced the rigours of the climate when he inspected the regions occupied by the Serbs. Mr. Eyres had to make a report on his visit—and a detailed one, judging by the very sympathetic passages which Mr. Fisher read before the Council of the League of Nations on November 17.

The Recognition of Albania.

Following the five Great Powers who recognized *de jure* the Albanian Government in the session of November 9 of the Conference of Ambassadors at Paris, the Belgian Government has likewise recognised Albania. And following this example comes Roumania, who has just recognised officially the Albanian Consul who is at Bucharest.

Frontiers Commission.

The technical delegates who will demarcate the southern frontiers of Albania have been already designated. The British delegate is Colonel F. L. Giles; General Telini has been nominated by Italy; and Commandant Perret by France. The Commission meets at Paris on the 18th inst., and at Florence on the 25th inst., for the purpose of studying certain documents concerning the Albanian frontier which are in the possession of the Italian Government. Thereafter the Commission will come on to Albania, where its arrival is eagerly expected.

The Albanian Orthodox Church.

As I have mentioned in an earlier letter, the Albanian Orthodox Church is to be made anotonmous—an autocephalous Church. Fan Noli, the Albanian bishop, whose diocese up to the present has been in the United States, is now at Kortcha, where he is engaged in organizing the Orthodox clergy. Already Divine Service is conducted in the Albanian language throughout the prefecture. These steps on the part of the Albanian clergy should not give rise to any complications, but should help to smooth away some of the difficulties that surround a very thorny question which threatens to disorganise the Œcumenical Patriarchate of Constanti-

nople. The Albanians remain outside the struggles that have begun at the Phanar, having decided to break away from the latter.

TURKEY.

Constantinople, January 10.

The Conference of Cannes.

In connection with the Conference of Cannes and the Allied scheme for the re-establishment of peace in the Near East, it is a striking fact that the Turkish Press generally is apparently attaching little importance to the project. It is as if it were a foregone conclusion that the attempt to restore peace will be a failure like the Conference of London in March last year. If sentiment be disregarded, and facts alone considered, it will be realised that the Turkish Press has very good reasons for its attitude. Mustapha Kemal himself, and most of the leaders of the Angora Government have emphatically stated that they cannot even discuss the slightest modification of the National Pact. If further confirmation were required, it has been provided by the conclusion on January 2, of a treaty between the Angora Government and the Ukraine Soviet Government. Article 4 of that Treaty is practically identical with Article 5 of the Russo-Turkish treaty concluded in Moscow on March 16, 1921, which provided for the settlement of the Straits question by the States bordering upon the Black Sea. As has already been pointed out, while it may be a matter of indifference to the Allies what particular flag flies over Smyrna, the Straits question is a matter of very great importance indeed. Hence the real problem, so far as the Allies are concerned, is not the territorial question at issue between Greece and Turkey, but the Straits question at issue between the Allies, particularly Great Britain and Russia. The issue has once again been made clear upon the eve of a conference convened by the Allies for the purpose of restoring peace, and once again Russia has proclaimed that the only road to permanent peace lies through Moscow.

The Constitutional Conflict.

The attention of readers of *The Near East* has been drawn on more than one occasion to the importance of the conflict between the Angora Government and the Imperial authority. It would appear that this conflict, which fell into abeyance during the Greek offensive, has once again been revived. The deputy for Mersina, Selaheddin Bey, recently introduced a bill for the reformation of the Angora Government on the lines of responsible parliamentary government as existing in Europe and America. This bill, as a result of Mustapha Kemal's personal opposition, was rejected by the Great National Assembly, and the Angora Government is elaborating a project of its own, which the Assembly will be asked to approve. As the scheme is being drawn up by representatives of the majority in the Assembly, there is little doubt that it will become law, so far as Anatolia is concerned. Little is known concerning the details of the scheme, but its general principles provide for the abolition of the administrative prerogatives of the Sultan. When moving the rejection of the measures mentioned above, Mustapha Kemal made a speech which lasted four hours, and in terminating he clearly foreshadowed the intention of the Angora Government to abolish the authority of the Sultanate. He stated that the Great National Assembly was in no sense a provisional assembly, nor were the laws it had promulgated, provisional measures; the people had acquired complete sovereignty and could only be deprived of that sovereignty by the means used to secure it. In these circumstances it will be interesting to see how the Central Government will act in regard to the formation of the delegation which will be invited to represent Turkey at the forthcoming Conference. The Angora Government maintains most emphatically that the Central Government has no right whatever to speak on behalf of the nation, since the Angora Government is the sole and supreme legal government, and there is every indication that this attitude will not be modified in any way.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, January 9.

The Chief Justice.

No Chief Justice during the period of British rule has enjoyed to a greater extent, and deservedly so, the sincere esteem of the people of Cyprus, than the present Chief of the Judicial Department, Sir Stanley Fisher, who, has recently received the honour of Knighthood. An interesting ceremony took place on January 3, in the High Court of Nicosia, when the British, Greek, and Turkish Judges, the King's Advocate, and the members of the Bar, assembled to express their gratification and offer their congratulations. Sir Stanley was addressed by the King's Advocate, M. P. Constantinides and M. Th. Theodotou. The speech of the latter, which was warmly applauded, was as follows:—

"My Lord, H.M. the King of Great Britain, through the title which he has bestowed upon you, has awarded honour in your person to British justice, on account of which the British nation may justly pride itself. British justice is one of the pillars which uphold the British Empire; and those ministers of justice who convincingly and scrupulously carry out their duties render great services to their country. But apart from the honour which has been justly conferred upon you, know that you possess another, and no less honourable distinction, namely the unanimous and unqualified esteem of the Cypriot people, on account of the assiduity, integrity, and impartiality with which you carry out the high duties of your office."

Sir Stanley, who was much moved, expressed his warm thanks.

General News.

A feast has been celebrated at a Greek Club, the "Love of the people," in honour of M. N. Katalanos, who was expelled from Cyprus last year, for seditious conduct, and who is now at Athens. An Abbot, professors, and others were present. Speeches were made, and a poem by a Greek bard was recited. Telegrams of greeting were sent by the Club, the Committee of Education, editors of papers, and other admirers.

The High Commissioner is not likely to proceed to England before February or March.

On January 2 a fire broke out at Government House, but it was extinguished before much damage had been done by servants and police on the spot.

The export of olive oil is now allowed.

THE EVACUATION OF CILICIA.

(From An Occasional Correspondent in the Levant).

As far as it is possible to judge of the situation from this rather distant point of observation, it is already being realised in France, that the Franco-Turkish Agreement was the outcome of short-sighted political opportunism. The ostensible reason given in the official version, that is the alleviation of an intolerable military burden, serves but to emphasize the political myopia of the authors, inasmuch as it betrays a weakness that even a second rate Power would have striven to cover at any cost. Great Britain, though distracted by many formidable problems at home and abroad, stoutly resisted the clamours of a section of the Press and of a faint-hearted opposition for the complete withdrawal from Mesopotamia on the mere ground of economic expediency; because she felt she had no right to abandon to its fate a country that she had just liberated, and which had not had sufficient time to organise its defence against a dangerous hostile neighbour. But the position in Mesopotamia bears no comparison with that of Cilicia. In her recent action there, France has completed her moral bankruptcy in the East.

If, however, the alleviation of the military burden were but a pretext, and the real reason was the dealing of a counterblow to England by setting up Kemal against Faisal, it constitutes a still greater proof of the inanity of such policy. England, whose interests in the East far outweigh those of France, must have been

feeling seriously incommode by the Anglo-French Agreement that she had to conclude under the stress of war; and nothing could have given her greater reason for rejoicing than to see France, by an incomprehensible political "gaucherie," set her free from the moral chains of such a highly inconvenient entente. France is beginning to awaken, perhaps too late, to this immeasurable blunder, and it is amusing to see how she is now trying to retrieve the fatal step.

The fact is that French policy, in both Syria and Cilicia, was a tangled mass of contradictions, and the Franklin-Bouillon pact has only set the seal to such a policy in Cilicia. In Syria French policy has been vacillating between the Christians, the Druses, and the Moslems, with the inevitable result that, by taking up and dropping each of these elements in turn, France has lost the sympathy and confidence of all. In Cilicia it has been oscillating similarly between the Greeks and Armenians and, latterly, the Turks, with the self-same result.

The account of refugees from that unhappy region reveals the hardly credible fact that the panic was in great measure caused by French officials themselves. Some, through a real sense of chivalry and humanity that could not tolerate the shedding of French blood in vain, and the betrayal of the sacred trust of the lives of Christian populations; and others in the hope of retaining their high salaries and the opportunities of making handsome profits, egged on the Christians to threaten a wholesale exodus, hoping thereby to force the hand of the Government, and to stop the evacuation. It was, however, playing with fire. The feelings of the Christians were already in a highly inflammable state, and the result has been the utter ruin of that once rich province. Even many of the non-Turkish Moslems of Adana, and most of the Moslem Fellaheen of Tarsus, who had been made to demonstrate for the French and to sign petitions begging for their mandate, have taken to flight, through fear of eventual Turkish vengeance.

Some idea of the economic dislocation and loss that resulted from the evacuation is given by the fact that out of 17 industrial establishments at Adana (flour mills, ginning, spinning, and weaving factories), two or three only, owned by Turks, remain working; and that all the commercial houses of the Greeks, who dominate the trade of the country, and the majority of the Armenian firms are closed down. At Mersina one big flour mill, two ginning factories, and three or four cottonseed oil presses, as well as all the workshops and little foundries run by Armenians are said to have closed down. At Tarsus one big spinning and weaving works owned by a Greek, and four or five ginning factories are said also to have closed down. There remains a weaving works owned by an Egyptian.

The Banque Française de Syrie, having, according to report, advanced amounts estimated at between 300,000 and 400,000 Turkish pounds against goods stored in the merchants' own warehouses, has been able as a French firm to get orders for the refusal of passports to those merchants who had received advances against such goods. In spite, however, of this precautionary measure, the Bank, will it be feared, sustain some loss in this connection. The foreign banks in Cilicia have by the wholesale exodus of the Armenian and Greek populations, been suddenly faced with the difficulty of the depletion of their staffs, most of their *personnel* having been recruited from among these two elements, especially the Greeks. 25,000 tons of cotton goods, rice, sugar, etc., are said to have been shipped from Mersina to Smyrna, Constantinople and Beyrout.

Adana is said to be practically depleted of its Christian inhabitants. The population of this town was formerly estimated at from 60,000 to 70,000 souls. Since the Armistice there was such a large influx of Christians, especially Armenians, that the population has almost doubled; but since the order of evacuation it has suddenly dwindled to about 30,000. This large deficit is, however, being slowly covered by the influx of Turks. Even some of the Moslems of non-Turkish origin and many of the officials who have served under the French have left Adana.

A letter from Mersina conveys the interesting and significant item of news that the Turks, who are now in control of all the administrations save the passport office, and who have hoisted the Turkish flag in the town, are preventing postal communication with Palestine and Egypt. Another letter says that the Post Office now is in a fearful muddle. France may soon discover that the Young Turk is a very awkward ally, addicted to the commission of follies for which she may have to stand the consequences.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

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

"UN NAVIRE ANGLAIS EN CILICIE."

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—It is now almost a year since you did me the honour of publishing one of my letters in your interesting and valuable paper, and I feel it my duty, on account of an article published in the *Matin* of December 2, under the above heading, to trespass again on your courtesy. I think that infantile tirades of this kind in the present state of feeling between us and our Allies should be discouraged by all liberal minded men both French and English. But as I am particularly mentioned in the article in question, it is only right that I should have an opportunity of replying. The article in question illustrates the petty jealousies which have all along characterized the attitude of a small clique of Frenchmen, with regard to their alleged rights and interests in Cilicia.

As a matter of fact, beyond a few religious educational establishments, which before the war were not officially acknowledged by the French Government, the French have no interests in Cilicia, unless that pernicious 1916 Agreement made between M. Picot (who was born in Constantinople) and the late Sir Mark Sykes under circumstances never yet brought to light, can be called an interest. The writer of the article has been badly misinformed as to the number of British subjects in this province, for as a matter of fact they number some forty or fifty, or did when I left; and on the contrary, there are actually only three Frenchmen who are residents there, one of whom is a Levantine while the other two are married to Armenian wives. Only one owns any property; the others have only the property of their wives, who are Turkish subjects in the eye of the law of the country.

The French Government however, have one big right in Cilicia which we hope will not be overlooked: the right to make good the terrible devastation caused by their occupation of a once rich province. The beginning of this duty they have already performed by withdrawing their army and handing over to the former owners.

By the Angora Agreement the French have wisely altered the boundary of Cilicia and Syria to very near its original and ethnological position, and thus restored to the Turks one of the richest parts of the province of Adana, inhabited almost entirely by Turks. This also is an act of justice which I am sure will be rightly appreciated.

It seems a thousand pities that we could not have come to some arrangement with France in the beginning of the Armistice, whereby we could have handed them Palestine in exchange for the Mandate for Cilicia. France would have then had a compact territory to develop and organize, and we could, I feel sure, have come to some sound arrangement with the Turks, whereby we could have helped them to reorganize their country and settle down after the upheaval of the war. I am convinced that an arrangement of this kind, would have

been acceptable to the Turks ; in fact, they would have welcomed it. If this had been done, a battalion of British troops in the capital of each Vilayet for a few months until the Turks got settled down and demobilized, would have been all that was necessary and not a drop of blood need, or would, have been shed.

It must have been obvious to our Government at the time of the Armistice, that a beaten Turkey could not possibly re-arrange her Government and settle down without some outside advice and practical assistance, and at that time the whole of the Turks with the exception of a few members of the C.U.P. practically brought up in Germany were ready and longing for some sort of temporary British control, as they were disgusted with the iniquities of the few who dominated the old Government and exploited the country for their own and Germany's profit. I was convinced at the time that our Government knew this and would act accordingly ; but as time went on it became apparent that this was not so. Thus, this fine opportunity of creating permanent peace with Turkey, and securing the punishment of the real culprits of the War, was allowed to escape us, and by unreasonable delays, by the occupation of Cilicia by the French with Armenian levies, and the subsequent atrocities on unarmed and innocent Turkish families the maladministration and persecutions of those who for the present shall be nameless, and by open statements that Cilicia would be Armenian, suspicion gradually crept into the minds of the Moslems. Next followed the Greek occupation of Smyrna and the subsequent regrettable incidents, and then the occupation of Constantinople.

The whole country was then convinced of the sinister motives of the Allies, and there were not wanting those who assisted and propagated this belief ; and the sequel is what we see it to-day ; and it will remain as it is, or get worse, unless we can see things in the proper perspective and alter our policy of attempted coercion.

Let our Government follow the wise lead of the French and hold out the hand of friendship to the Turks ; acknowledge the Kemalist Government, which is the only Government in Turkey to-day with any power of organization ; be generous and sporting to a beaten nation whom they have all along misunderstood ; and try kindness for the sake of humanity and the sake of the hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, who will have to pay the penalty of a harsh and uncompromising attitude towards a fine race of fighting men.

I am, etc.,

PERCY CHRISTIAN.

Famagusta, Cyprus, January 4.

(The article in *Le Matin*, to which Mr. Christian refers, announced that a British warship was being despatched to Mersina, and added, ironically, that it had been assured that this move did not mask any warlike intentions, and had no aim save the protection of British subjects in the Adana Vilayet. It went on to state that according to its own information there were only three such subjects in all in the region referred to. These three are then described as : Mr. Percy Christian, the holder of a forest concession in the Taurus, who had withdrawn to Cyprus a year earlier ; N. Rickards, son of a Turkish father and an English mother ; and Kasim Bey, an Egyptian who was on the best of terms with the Turks. The British bluejackets, therefore, *Le Matin* suggested, would have an easy task : the defence of the memory of two British subjects and of a Turcophil Egyptian. It concluded its extraordinary note by expressing the hope that our sailors would not, in order to kill time, take any other burden on themselves.—Ed., N.E.)

THE INDIAN MUSEUM.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—The Indian Section of the Victoria and Albert Museum, housed in the eastern wing of the Imperial Institute, has an influential Committee headed by Sir

C. McLeod, a Deputy Keeper with Assistant, and a full staff of attendants. Yet nothing whatever is done to popularise its contents ; and it is quite unknown to the public. Visiting the huge building on a fine Saturday afternoon, I found a dozen people wandering aimlessly through a succession of halls filled with magnificent specimens of manual arts and crafts. No official was present, to explain the marvels exhibited in exhaustless profusion. In the Natural History Museum small parties are personally conducted through the various departments, and listen with keen interest to lectures describing life in its myriad forms. It is surely of equal importance to give the British public some idea of the arts and crafts in our great dependency. The example set by the authorities in Cromwell Road might well be followed by those of the India Museum. If the Deputy Keeper's time is fully occupied, this cannot be said of all the members of the Committee. I suggest, therefore, that they should take turns in serving as cicerones on Saturday and Sunday afternoon.

I am, etc.
F.H.S.

January 19.

MUSICAL NOTES.

GRAMOPHONE RECORDS.

Before coming to the directly popular kinds of record which "His Master's Voice" Company have sent me, I must mention one or two the merits of which I am more confident in appreciating and upon which there was no space in the last two weeks to remark.

A record that is to be treasured is the Elman String Quartet in Mozart's Quartet in E. Flat. It is a beautiful piece of playing, perfect alike in sense of tone-gradation and in finish, and will be a delight to the ever-increasing lovers of Mozart.

Mischa Elman, a fiddler known in England as well as anywhere else, has an excellent record in an arrangement by himself of Beethoven's "Country Dance." It contains a few tricks dear to the modern technician of which Beethoven himself would perhaps not have approved, but it is a most distinguished piece of playing. The irresistible verve and individuality in the use of *rubato* so characteristic of Elman, are here in abundance, and the record is a most attractive one.

One of the most charming of all these records is the double-sided one containing arrangements for 'cello and pianoforte by Cedric Sharpe of two old English airs—"The Ivy Green" and "Under the Greenwood Tree." Mr. Sharpe's beautiful tone is perfectly reproduced ; his arrangements are chaste and apt ; the tunes are both delightful ; and the soloist himself poises the graceful melodies exquisitely.

Miss Marjorie Hayward is a sensitive fiddler, and she has here a record of two pieces which peculiarly suit her temperament—Cui's "Berceuse" and a "Slumber-song" of Haydn Wood. The first was originally written for pianoforte alone, but, like some of Chopin's nocturnes, it gains by being arranged for violin and pianoforte. Miss Hayward plays it with very delicate purity. The second is a pleasant enough trifle, but it is rather short-breathed, and there is poverty of idea in the pianoforte accompaniment.

A record certain to attain that popularity which to me is inscrutable is that containing two songs by Edna Thornton—the traditional Irish "I know my love" and Hamish MacCunn's "Lie there my lute." Mme. Thornton is, of course, a fine singer, but though her first song is clear, it is for me too arch and broken in line ; and though the second is well sung, it is a poor composition, with a painfully unoriginal accompaniment.

Finally, there is the record containing Handel's "Revenge, Revenge," and "The Mahogany Tree," both sung by Robert Radford, the English bass. The first is a spirited and clear piece of singing, but not very notable ; and on its back is an amazing consort. This song, by Herbert Sharpe, is the ordinary type of ballad,

full of routine movement, and full of *clichés*. The prominent accent of its triple time keeps its impulse dutifully, but it is a strange partner to Handel. It should be noted that, like so many of the poorer types of song, this song has a chorus, which on the record is sung so thinly and poorly that one wonders whence its performers were gathered.

Popular.

I now approach, with some hesitation because of my plain ignorance on the subject, and with a sense of rather irresponsible fun, the popular records, which consist mainly of dance music, military band music, shop-ballads, and music-hall ditties. Of all the list of records now under consideration I certainly prefer the first and last types.

All the records hereafter mentioned are double-sided, and when two pieces are named together, it means they are on the same record.

First of all we take the things played by the "Queen's" Dance Orchestra. Two waltzes—"Sweet and Low" and "Silver Star"—are neither of them very attractive; the first has a common tune and is poorly orchestrated, and the second, though it is better played, has also no variety in its instrumentation. A better record is that containing two one-steps—"The Bull-Frog Patrol" and "Come Along," for in the first are most intriguing little tumbles in the melody, and moreover, all the instruments are worthily busy. It is consistently effective. The second is played well, but it is really much ado about nothing. Variety is the soul of the Fox-trot, and it is the neglect of the axiom that makes "Beautiful Faces" monotonous; in its partner, however, a One-step called "Why?" there is much better stuff in the filling-out parts, and the way in which the tune is tossed from one instrument to another is quite attractive. The best record (I am not speaking now from the point of view of reproduction) of this orchestra is that containing "Circulation Waltz" and "Gossiping Fox-trot." The first is a really excellent dance, extremely well-played, with an un-hackneyed and continuously onward movement: the Fox-trot is effective in parts, but at other times is mediocre.

In my opinion the best of these Dance Orchestras is the Benson Orchestra of Chicago. They have two records here containing "My Sunny Tennessee," a Fox-trot, and "Ma," a one-step; and "Tuck me to sleep in my old 'Tucky home," a fox-trot, and the "Wabash Blues," another fox-trot. The band plays with most extraordinary slickness and raciness, and is frankly exciting. The first is a simply topping tune, with a most appealing middle portion for fiddle and pianoforte alone, and such perfection of discipline as ought to

make the delights of its almost original syncopation known as far as the ball-rooms of Baghdad. The kick and verve of these two pieces are irresistible (until of course repetition stales, as it will all such things as we are considering). And in the other two fox-trots there is an engaging variety in the instrumentation, while the way in which the melodies are drawled out and slurred is genuinely amusing.

In the same category, but not in the same class, are the two records made by Paul Whiteman and his Ambassador Orchestra. "Have you forgotten?" a medley fox-trot, is a sentimental tune relieved only by the cleverness of its treatment, but its partner, "Second-hand Rose," a fox-trot, contains very pleasing syncopation. The other two fox-trots,—"Sweetheart" and "In a boat" lack freshness and spice generally.

Another not very exciting record is that made by Eubie Blake and his Shuffle along Orchestra, with a one-step, "Bandana Days," and a fox-trot, "Baltimore Buzz." Next to getting a good tune the most important thing is to provide interest in the padding, and neither of these pieces avoids monotony in this respect.

The three military band records are made by the Coldstream Guards and contain respectively "Corinella" (by Markham Lee) and "Fragrance-Entr'acte"; "Jolly Boys" and "Christmas Gems"; and parts of Offenbach's "La Vie Parisienne." The first is commonplace and academical in conception, and, too, a tendency to *rallentando* is sadly over-indulged; while the second, though well-performed, had but one idea. The second record would make anyone ignorant of the potentialities of the military band wonder what musical value it can have. Pot-pourri is well enough in its way, but it satisfies only the superficial.

In praise of ballads I am going to say nothing, because, as my readers well know, I believe them to be the curse of England; but I will jot down a few notes on the records containing them. In "The Call" and "The Street of Quiet Windows," both sung by the lady-tenor, Ruby Helder, there are all the stock-in-trade tricks. Of "Roadways" and "The Sun-God," sung by Peter Dawson, one can only say that the first is very Hermann Löhrish, and the second, by W. G. James, is pseudo-oriental, with a parade of force and no reality. But either of these songs is preferable to "The Haunted Gardens" and "A Japanese Love-Song," sung by Ruby Heyl, which have no distinction whatever from any point of view. "Starshine" and "Tea Leaves" as sung by Walter Glynne are very dull; and the only really distinguished record of all these ballads is that made by Carmen Hill in "At Parting" and "Oh, promise me." This mezzo-soprano has a delightfully pure and clear voice, and though she here sings for effect, her methods are justified. From the ballad point of view this last record is an excellent one.

Andante.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

"Spanish" influenza has broken out in Constantinople.

One result of the persecutions to which the Christians belonging to the old Assyrian Church have been subjected has been a considerable increase of these Christians in the United States. Some attempt is being made to minister to their spiritual wants in the new country to which they have gone. The Bishop of the Assyrian-Nestorian Church in Mesopotamia recently ordained six candidates to the priesthood in St. James's Church, Chicago. There are 10,000 Assyrian-Nestorians in America.

Further investigations in Ceylon coastal waters have led to the discovery of new pearl oyster banks between Negombo and Chilaw.

At the suggestion of the Government of Palestine, a "Palestine Promotion Society" is to be formed for the purpose of fostering the tourist traffic and improving and extending hotel accommodation and means of transit.

The *Sudan Times* reports that Mek Kwal Rob, chief of the Dinka tribes on the Bahr el Arab, south of Kordofan recently paid a visit to Khartoum. This was the first visit he has made to the capital, and he was much pleased with what he saw. He was received by the Governor-General before returning to his country by way of Kordofan.

It was announced in Paris last week that the Ambassadors' Conference had approved the instructions given to the Allied Commissioners, who are to delimit the frontiers of Albania.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

A NATURALIST IN CENTRAL AFRICA.

"OUT OF THE WORLD—NORTH OF NIGERIA. EXPLORATION OF AIR." By Angus Buchanan, M.C. (London: Murray, 16s. net.)

Captain Buchanan made the expedition of which he gives an account in this volume on behalf of Lord Rothschild in order "to link up the chain of Zoological Geography across that portion of Central Africa which lies between Algeria in Northern Africa and Nigeria in West Africa." For nine months, from January till September 1920, he explored, travelling without any European companion from Kano through French Nigeria and the deserted mountain region of Air and back again, and secured many specimens of animals, birds and insects which were new to the Zoologist. The chapter in which he explains his methods of finding, stalking, shooting, and then—before many hours of the desert heat has passed—skinning and setting his specimens, gives a clear idea of a task requiring a very high degree both of skill and endurance. He gives interesting descriptions of the French forts where he rested on his journey to the North. Zinder, where the country begins to be desolate and the population scanty, is 140 miles from Kano. Near Tanout, 85 miles farther on, he camped in a belt of country where ostriches are found, and tried in vain to shoot one, with the assistance of an aged native, a famous local hunter. Aderbissinat, besides protecting the caravan route, guards a precious store of water. Here the bush ends and the true desert begins and the inhabitants of Air—the Tuaregs—claim it as the beginning of their country. Travelling through the desert from Aderbissinat to Agades, Captain Buchanan suffered from fever, and it was with relief, and after a great effort that he reached Agades, and was met by the officers stationed there with the hospitality which he found in all the French forts. We are shown Agades very deserted, very far in the wilderness with the primitive structure both of the Sultan's "palace" and the European officers' mess-room. It is difficult to obtain supplies so far away from civilisation, and it was said to Captain Buchanan of the Sengalese troops and of their officers "We have men there who are strong; but oh! they are not fat."

Between Tenout and Agades, a distance of 169 miles, there is no native village. From Agades the low foothills of the mountains of Air are visible and the explorer set out from there in the company of the Chief of Baguezin, leaving a great part of his baggage behind. The country changed gradually from the sand of the Sahara to "brown-grey rock" and after making many difficulties the Chief, Mineron, led him over the Pass to the mountain stronghold of Baguezin. The hunting over the precipitous rocks in which the author took part with Mineron was dangerously exciting, and on his return journey he was amused to hear that the Chief had described him as climbing the rocks "like the Ragindouchi (wild sheep)."

Leaving his camp equipment at Baguezin, Captain Buchanan spent fifteen days exploring Northern Air. After Timia, which he found beautiful and where he saw signs of rare industry among the inhabitants, he found the country absolutely barren and empty. He could find no definite explanation of the deserted villages, with "confident gazelles resting in the street places," which give such an added air of sadness to the land. At Assodé, the most northerly point reached in this expedition, there is a ruined mosque, containing a great store of Mohammedan literature. The danger to life in these parts was shown by the fact that when Captain Buchanan and his native followers returned to Timia, they found that it had been raided by a band of robbers, who had made off with the camels and left several of the inhabitants wounded. On the return journey south from Agades the rainy season had begun, making a great difference in the appearance of the country. Only one of his native followers, the faithful John, remained with him all through the expedition. He was engaged at Lagos, and at Lagos with tears in his eyes he saw his master sail away.

The snapshots illustrate the story well; we particularly like the one showing some wild men whom the author saw in Northern Air. There is a list of new species and subspecies discovered during the expedition.

We recommend this book to all who are interested in stories of travel. It is a straightforward account of a difficult and solitary undertaking perseveringly carried out—and it is not only because Captain Buchanan tells us that he and his camels travelled for over 1,400 miles, that we are left with a vivid sense of the vast distances and boundless empty spaces of the Sahara.

GEORGIA AND THE BOLSHEVISTS.

"LA GEORGIE SOUS LA DOMINATION DES ARMEES BOLCHEVISTES." (Paris, Octobre, 1921. Edition de la Presidence de l'Assemblée Constituante de la République Georgienne.)

This pamphlet is a damning indictment of Bolshevik imperialistic methods, and is not spoilt by an excess of propaganda. After a brief period of freedom of three years, when the Georgians, richer in theory than practice, applied the boldest experiments in socialism, their fair country was overrun by the Bolsheviks, whose scorpions are more fierce than were the whips of the Tsarist régime.

There is the familiar picture of utter suppression of liberty of any sort, of loot, rapine and devastation, of a cruel and crushing bureaucratic tyranny, of destruction of national life, of a virtual destruction of industry, of famine and disease.

All labour is conscripted. Between March and July 1921, prices rose from 5,000 to 10,000 per cent: the daily wage is 1,000 roubles, which is the price of 50 grammes of bad bread, less than that of an egg, while to earn the price of a pair of shoes would take three years. There is an absence of almost all commodities, and especially of medicines, for almost everything has been removed to Russia, including almost the entire railway stock, both rails, locomotives and trucks, of the country.

It is a military tyranny naked and unashamed, which in a few months has reduced this rich country to a desert.

SUDAN DIRECTORY.

We have from time to time wished for a Sudan Directory, and at last the wish is gratified. The Sudan Advertising and Publishing Company has produced the first Directory ever published in the country, and, we are glad to say, has produced it very well. The volume contains over 700 pages, is well printed and strongly bound; and as far as we have been able to test it at this distance, appears to be trustworthy and helpful. The system of tag-indexing certainly simplifies the task of running a reference to ground, so to say; and the information contained is varied and useful. In addition to the names and addresses of the ordinary directory there are sections dealing with Administrative Ordinance and Regulations, Health, Irrigation, Railways and Steamers, etc., etc.

BOOK RECEIVED.

"The Sudan in Evolution: A Study of the Economic, Financial and Administrative Conditions of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan." By Percy F. Martin, F.R.G.S. With a Foreword by General Sir Reginald Wingate, Bart., G.C.B., G.C.V.O., etc. (London: Constable and Co. 42s. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.**To-Day.**

January 26 (New Style).

January 13 (Old Style).

Gumada I, 28, 1340 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.

Tibet 26, 5682 of the Jewish Calendar.

Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Arbuthnot have left Mentone for Algiers.

Prince Nicolas of Roumania returned to town from Norway last week.

Brigadier-General A. Asquith and the Hon. Mrs. Asquith have left Cairo for the Sudan.

Nasserol Molk, ex-Regent of Persia, has arrived in London from France.

Lieut.-General Sir John and Lady Du Cane have come back to town from the Riviera.

Mr. Alex Devine has returned to England from Italy and the Riviera.

Sir Arthur and Lady Crosfield have returned to London from Switzerland.

M. Boeresco, Roumanian Minister in London, has arrived in Paris.

Lord Oranmore and Browne and the Hon. Dominick Browne have returned to London from Dublin.

Mrs. F. W. Hughes, of Sydney, N.S.W., has arrived from India per steamship Mantua, and is staying at the Knightsbridge Hotel.

Mr. H. A. MacMichael, D.S.O., Assistant Civil Secretary, arrived in Khartoum on January 2 on return from leave.

M. M. B. Gavrilovitch, Attaché at the Yugoslav Legation, and Mme. Gavrilovitch have taken up their residence at 20, St. George's Court, W.2.

A marriage has been arranged, to take place shortly, between Captain J. C. Williams, Co. Kildare, Ireland, and Mafda Gordon Canning, only daughter of the late F. W. Gordon Canning, of Pursa, Chumparun, India.

The Aga Khan, who was unable to continue his journey to India in November owing to ill-health brought on by an accident, embarked for Bombay in the P. and O. mail steamer Macedonia at Marseilles on January 20.

Lady Brownlow and the Hon. Sarah Cust have taken their departure for Gibraltar, where they will be joined by Lord Brownlow, who is the guest of Admiral Sir William Nicholson in his Majesty's ship Barham.

The Earl of Lytton, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for India, has left London for Murren, Switzerland. He will return to England in the first week of February, and will leave Marseilles for India on March 10 to take up his duties as Governor of Bengal.

An engagement is announced between Humphrey Bateman Moore, youngest son of Dr. G. E. Moore, Redcroft, Maidenhead, and Dorothy Norah Stringfellow, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Stringfellow, Claremont, Exmouth, and Bombay.

The engagement is announced between Thomas Anthony Freston (17th Cavalry and I.C.S.), elder son of Mr. H. W. Freston, Oakleigh, Alderley Edge, and Winifred Reynolds, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Reynolds, Longview, Harrogate.

The marriage was celebrated on January 19, at St. Paul's Cathedral, Valetta, Malta, between Arthur Gordon Kekewich, of the Royal Garrison Artillery, and Eileen Mary (Mollie), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur D. Thorpe, of Hastings.

The King has granted licence and authority to Mr. A. Houtum-Schindler to wear the decoration of "Second Class of the Order of the Lion and the Sun (Persia)," which was awarded for "valuable services as 'Directeur de la Caisse Centrale de la Trésorerie Générale' at Teheran."

The relatives in London of Colonel Dodge, D.S.O., who was arrested by the Bolshevik Extraordinary Commission at Batoum on December 9, have received a telegram stating that Colonel Dodge has safely reached Constantinople, and was to leave for England by train not later than January 25.

Among those who left London on January 19 by P. and O. express for Marseilles, there to embark in the P. and O. steamship Macedonia, were the Earl and Countess of Carnarvon and Lady Evelyn Herbert for Port Said, and Sir Percy and Lady Newson and Sir Henry Belfield for Bombay.

Mr. Montagu, Secretary of State for India, will preside at a meeting of the Indian Section of the Royal Society of Arts to-morrow afternoon, January 27, when a paper on "The Timbers of India and Burma," by Mr. Alexander L. Howard will be read. The chair will be taken at 4.30 o'clock.

The engagement is announced between Beryl, daughter of Colonel J. S. E. Western, C.B.E., late Punjab Cavalry and General Staff, and of Mrs. Weston, and Lieutenant Thomas Murray Oswell, Royal Navy, son of Commander T. J. Oswell, Royal Navy, and Mrs. Oswell, of Warren, Hombury St. Mary, Surrey.

Mrs. Carey Evans, elder of the Prime Minister and Mrs. Lloyd George, concluded her visit to her parents last week, and left the Premier's official residence in Downing Street for her return journey to India. Mrs. Carey Evans, with her two little girls and their nurse, sailed from Tilbury, on January 20.

Reuter's Agency learns that M. Gounaris, the Greek Prime Minister, who returned to London from Cannes on January 15, expects to leave here in a few days for Athens via Paris, where M. Baltazzi is staying at present. M. Gounaris is here in connection with the loan of £15,000,000 recently authorised by the British Government to be privately raised in this country, and negotiations are now proceeding.

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APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS.

The King has appointed the High Commissioner for Irak (Major-General Sir Percy Zachariah Cox) to be Commander-in-Chief as well as High Commissioner.

His Majesty has given directions for the appointment of Mr. William Thomas Porter and Mr. Gaulterus Stewart Schneider, K.C., to be Puisne Justices of the Supreme Court of Ceylon.

The *Sudan Times* announces that Mr. R. Wedd, Assistant Director of Lands, has been appointed Advocat General in place of His Honour Judge N. G. Davidson, at present in Baghdad.

As reported in our Tirana letter this week, Albania was recently recognised by the Roumanian Government, and Mr. Basile Lazarides-Dogani (former Under secretary of State in Albania in 1914 and now Secretary of the General Direction of the Banque de Crédit Roumain) has been appointed Honorary Consul of Albania in Roumania. The Albanian colony in Roumanian is an important one, and there was great need of a Consulate.

It is announced that Mr. Clarmont Percival Skrine, Assistant Political Agent in the Chagai district of Baluchistan, has been appointed Consul-General at Kashgar, Chinese Turkestan. Mr. C. P. Skrine, son of Mr. Francis H. Skrine, the distinguished writer and reviewer, entered the Indian Civil Service in 1911, and has been Vice-Consul at Kerman, Consul for Kerman and Persian Baluchistan, and in 1919 was an Under-Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign and Political Department.

Captain Henry D. King, C.B.E., D.S.O., V.D., M.P., Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, has been appointed a R.N.V.R. Aide-de-Camp to the King, in the place of Captain the Duke of Leeds, A.D.C., Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, resigned, to date January 2. Captain King gained the D.S.O. for his distinguished and gallant services with the Royal Naval Division in the Gallipoli operations. He was twice mentioned in Sir Ian Hamilton's despatches, and highly commended for his work during the period of General Sir Charles Monro's command from October 1915, to the evacuation in January, 1916.

OBITUARY.

The death has occurred of Colonel John Biddulph. Colonel Biddulph at the age of eighteen joined the 19th Hussars, and nearly the whole of his military career was spent in India. He served in the Indian Mutiny campaign, and was subsequently for many years in the Political Department. He retired from the Service in 1895. Colonel Biddulph was a great traveller, a very keen sportsman, and a zealous numismatist. He was the author of several works, including "The Tribes of the Hindoo Koosh," "The Nineteenth and Their Times" (as accounts of the four cavalry regiment of the British Army that have borne the number 19) and an attractive little volume on "Stringer Lawrence," who was known as the Father of the Indian Army.

The death has occurred of Viscount Bryce, O.M., G.C.V.O., in his eighty-fourth year. To readers of "The Near East" he will chiefly be remembered by his life-long defence of the Armenians against Turkish oppression. He had travelled in the country of the people whose cause he so strongly pleaded, but he leaves only one book on that land, "Transcaucasia and Ararat." But all the Christians of the East will cherish his memory, for both in and out of Parliament he spoke on their behalf. His wider work as a man of letters and an agent in the making of Anglo-American friendship does not fall within the scope of our comments.

EGYPTIAN WOMEN'S PROTEST.

In common with other journals we have received a telegram dated Cairo, January 21, and signed on behalf of the "ladies of Egypt" by Hoda Chaaoui, threatening that unless certain conditions, which are set forth at length, are complied with, the ladies of Egypt will boycott everything that is English—merchandise, merchants, artisans, functionaries, doctors, pharmacists, dentists, &c.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 1922.

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRAK.

If Dean Stanley's old lady were alive to-day, it is doubtful whether she would find "that blessed word Mesopotamia" quite "so comforting" as she did at the time when she secured immortality for herself. Indeed, if she read half the hard things about that country and our occupation of it that an important section of our Press seems never to tire of printing, the poor old soul would probably substitute a quite different adjective for "blessed," and would almost certainly never wish to hear another word about the Land between the Rivers. Yet recent reports indicate that Mesopotamia, or Irak, is settling down to the ways of peace and looking forward to more stable conditions and greater prosperity than it has enjoyed for many centuries. Trade is improving generally, and with the awakening of confidence, the Arab of the towns is beginning to exhibit something of the enterprise that distinguished him before the irruption of Hulaku Khan and his hordes stamped out all enterprise save that of the soldier. The Busreh of to-day is at least as great a port as that from which our boyhood's friend Sinbad set out on his marvellous voyages; its wharves and quays are no less busy than those of the Abbasside days, and it could show Sindbad some things in the way of dredging, lighting and buoying that would doubtless surprise him as much as did the Great Roc. Baghdad, the capital, has changed beyond all recognition from the state of comparative apathy and decay in which it existed before the war. Those who knew it at the close of the last century listen with wonder to travellers recently returned thence, who speak of its electric light, its ice plant, its railway stations, its motor cars, its street of trim cottages with little gardens that remind one of English homes, and the hundred and one other innovations and improvements. And the same tale holds good of most of the country outside the cities. Hillah, the ancient Babylon, has so far advanced that at least one British firm has found it worth while to establish a branch business there; and we hear of electric lighting and other undertakings in places which less than twenty years ago contained hardly a score of houses, and where travellers found it hard to obtain accommodation of any kind at all. At Ur, which it was considered dangerous for Europeans to visit in Turkish days, there is now a railway station; and the Desert, formerly traversed only by the slow-moving caravan or comfortless *arabanah*, has been crossed and recrossed by the swift and often comfortable motor-car.

The Irak of King Faisal is, then, a very different land from the sadly neglected and ill-administered Irak of

Turkish days. But, we may be told, railways, motor-cars, electric lighting and the other things mentioned are, after all, evidence only of material progress, parts of the scaffolding of civilization rather than of civilization itself. What evidence is there of any change beneath the surface? Naturally, it is more difficult to secure, but it is there; and competent observers who knew the people of Irak long before the war and have lived among them many years tell us that though the Arab may still be much as he was, there are signs of change, of improvement in some respects, in him also. At Nejef, Kerbellah, Kufa, and one or two other places, an ultra-conservative spirit may still survive, and a tendency to fanaticism may be very easily observable; but elsewhere there is progress, if slow, and even the Desert Arabs have assimilated at least a few modern ideas. The case, referred to recently in *THE NEAR EAST*, of one of the most important and most independently-minded, of the Tribes, the Muntafik, allowing themselves to be persuaded into paying their taxes, instead of forcing their collection at the cannon's mouth, is, to those who know the country and remember what the Muntafik country was under Turkish rule, full of hope. We should not dare to predict that the Arab will never look back—to be frank, we quite expect that he will—but there are signs of progress already, and we hope, and believe, that the country will continue to move forward, though its advance may well be intermittent at first. In any case, a start has been made in the right direction.

Taking this view, we deprecate strongly the very persistent attempts made, and still being made, to stir up in this country a popular demand for immediate withdrawal—the policy of scuttle, in fact. Great Britain has freed the country from its long bondage, and she cannot seriously contemplate allowing it to fall once more into the hands of the Turks. She is responsible for Faisal's election as King of Irak, and she cannot allow him to fall a victim to tribal intrigues or to the vindictive feeling of Damascus—or Paris. We do not want a modern version of the story of Zaid, the descendant of Ali, who was invited by the men of Kufa to lead them in their struggle for freedom, and then treacherously abandoned by them. The Kufans of those days had no reputation to lose; but that cannot be said of Great Britain. Yet we observe that one of the latest writers on the subject, in *The Times*, advocates an immediate withdrawal, regardless of "honour," "pledges," and "prestige." (The inverted commas are his, and their presence is not without interest.) Now, we are told, is the golden moment to evacuate; but what makes it so is not made clear, to us at all events, in the articles, though we have read them attentively, and find ourselves in agreement with the writer on many points. It is easy to pick holes in our policy in Irak, but that is no reason for abandoning the country and its people either to conquest by the Turk or to anarchy brought about by intrigue set afoot in the West. What is wanted is not withdrawal, but an early carrying out of some of our promises that still await fulfilment, and possibly a closer interest shown by the British Parliament in the situation as it is and as it promises to develop. With rumours and reports of "Pan-Arab" ambitions we need not immediately concern ourselves, though all movements of the kind require careful watching. For our own part we believe that a Confederation of Arab States is an object worth bearing in mind and worth helping forward as occasion offers; and in such a confederation the Nejd and Ibn Saud could, we feel sure, play a useful part. But it is not for Great Britain to take a leading part in endeavouring to bring it about: that is work for the Arabs themselves. To be successful our work in Mesopotamia must be carried on with the single aim of doing it well for its own sake.

THE EGYPTIAN QUESTION.

*(From an English Resident.)**Port Said.*

Recently an employer in Egypt was asked by one of his workmen what he should do with two bricks that he was holding. "Go and throw one at Zaghloul and the other at Adly," was the testy reply. The workman did not do it, but the order represents the feeling of many in Egypt, who are thoroughly sick of Egyptian politics.

The Delegation has returned, having accomplished little except eliciting the maximum terms that the British Government are disposed to grant. In spite of the elaborate attempts by interested parties to obscure the issue, the main questions are fairly simple. The Egyptian, who for three thousand years or more has been governed by foreigners with varying degrees of severity, has had in the last two generations a personal liberty unknown before. His head has been turned by fallacious reasoning on "self-determination" lines, and he now clamours for a nebulous abstract which he calls "independence," which interested persons who hope to get into positions of authority have told him will be to his advantage. Again it is indisputable that some of our politicians have told the Egyptian that we are going to clear out of Egypt, and leave him to his own sweet will here. Probably the more farsighted have made a mental reservation, that we should leave Egypt if and when the Egyptians were able to take over the control of affairs. Other types of politician have no doubt wished us to leave Egypt because it would make a weak link in the Empire; for the Empire and all it stands for seem to arouse in them a deep loathing.

To come to the other side of the question, Egypt, in itself is of little intrinsic value to the Empire. As long as no other country stepped in and erected a tariff or other legislative wall to prevent English spinners buying Egyptian cotton at market rates, it would not matter to us who ruled Egypt. What gives Egypt its importance to the British Empire is the existence of the Suez Canal, which is an absolutely vital link to us as a nation and a company of nations.

The Egyptians themselves have acknowledged the necessity of the Canal being under our control and protection, and it appears as if the recent negotiations failed because of the divergent views regarding what constitutes adequate protection. The Egyptian idea seems to be that we should have a garrison along the Canal bank: the British contention is that we should have garrisons at Cairo, Alexandria, and other necessary points in the Delta as well.

Early in the late war the Turks attacked the Canal, and although everything was in our favour they succeeded in holding up traffic for two or three days. The authorities then began to realize that we could not protect the Canal by sitting on the banks; so our armies eventually pushed on up to Alexandretta, five hundred miles away on the north-east, and we fought the Senussi at Sollum, two hundred miles to the westward. What was the reason of this "far-flung battle line?" It was to protect the Suez Canal. What were the defences of London during the war? They were Verdun on the south and Scapa on the north. So, to talk as a leader writer in a great London daily, recently did about considering that "the War Office went too far in insisting on the maintenance of troops in the interior of Egypt, whereas the demand for security could be met by stationing troops in the Canal Zone," is the height of ignorant fatuity; and it seems to me that such suggestions could only be made by someone who was deliberately trying to mislead uninstructed opinion at home, or whose mind was still in the days of bows and arrows and had never heard of long range artillery or motor-transport.

There is another side to the question, not primarily a military one, but even more important still, and that is the water supply. Few people realize that there is no water in the Canal Zone, and that every drop consumed

there has to be brought by an open canal from the Nile near Cairo, and that a hostile mob with explosives could in ten minutes cut off the water supply of the Canal zone. This means that the towns of Port Said, Ismailia, and Suez would be left without water, to say nothing of the garrison in the Canal Zone. It is not generally known in England that when the Turks and Germans made their attack on the Canal in 1915, owing to the possibility of a few men getting across and cutting the water supply, the ships in Port Said were told to fill every available tank, and to be prepared to condense for all they were worth. It may be argued that the Egyptians would never damage the Fresh Water Canal, as their own people who were supplied by that particular canal would suffer as well. But no one who knows the Egyptian mentality thinks that that would have much weight when he is a certain mood; and as Belbeis, which is forty five miles from the Suez Canal, is the last big town that the Fresh Water Canal passes through on its way to Ismailia, there is plenty of room for it to be cut on its way there without affecting any very great number of Egyptians outside the Canal Zone. This water question alone is sufficient to necessitate a garrison in Cairo and other parts of the Delta.

Some at least of the Egyptians have complained that the terms of the agreement rejected by Adly was not as generous as the Milner proposals. Whether they are, or are not, is beside the question for the moment. But the Egyptian has no reason to complain, for when Lord Milner came out here he was boycotted and every obstacle was put in the way of his finding out the truth; and whenever the Nationalists got wind that any members of the Commission were to visit any particular place, bands of student hooligans preceded them, to warn and intimidate the population against having any communication. Most Europeans in Egypt think that many of the Milner proposals would have been unworkable, e.g. the one that gave Britain the right to use the Egyptian railways in time of war or national peril. The opinion of railway officials themselves is that by the time the railways had been under Egyptian control for a couple of years, there would be little railway left. Probably one or two special trains would be kept in repair to take Ministers from Cairo to their country estates, but little else would be moving.

Zaghloul Pasha has told the people that he is out for complete independence, and it has been cleverly insinuated to the masses that the bulk of Egypt's income goes to pay the European employees of the Government, and that when they get Independence, all this will be saved, and consequently the Egyptian will have little or no taxes to pay. Adly Pasha is possibly more alive to the realities of things, but he has been obliged to promise the people at least as much as Zaghloul, and consequently he has not been able to accept, without what would be looked upon as a complete *volte face*, what the British Government feel they can offer, and what his own better judgment must tell him is all that can be given.

People in England hear of the political agitation in Egypt, and imagine it really means something, not knowing that it is carried on almost entirely by school-boys who play truant whenever they feel like it and call it "a political strike"; by students who don't study; and by lawyers who may possibly know something about law but are entirely ignorant of order. Imagine, say, the boys attending a Council school at Hull, tele-

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graphing to Mr. Lloyd George, demanding his resignation or the boys in the lower forms at Eton refusing to attend classes because one of the masters was a Coalitionist or a Radical; or the undergraduates from Oxford mobbing a Minister on his way to the Palace to consult with the King regarding the formation of a new ministry, and telling him that if he did not go home they would "do him in," with his family—and the Minister in question, knowing the police could not or would not protect him, thinking there was enough in the threat to make him turn back and go home again! Or picture the lawyers of the country holding up the business of the courts by a five days' strike, and incidentally inflicting great loss and inconvenience on their clients, because of some purely political question. Yet this sort of thing happens in Egypt, and is called "the manifestation of the sacred will of the Egyptian nation in its desire for Independence."

I have not touched on the lesson of the Alexandria riots last spring, when the Egyptian Government was powerless or unwilling to protect life and property. But I hope I have done something towards showing that the time for the "independence" which a certain small section of the population is clamouring for, is not yet.

THE FINANCIAL AFFAIRS OF THE GREEK PATRIARCHATE OF JERUSALEM.*

(By a Student of Eastern Politics.)

(Concluded.)

The Commission was appointed in January, 1921, to consist of Sir Anton Bertram, Chief Justice of Ceylon, and Mr. H. C. Luke, Assistant Governor of Jerusalem. It included amongst its terms of reference a consideration of measures for the liquidation of the Patriarchate debts. It recommended the appointment of a Government Commission to exercise financial control for a time, "with a view to putting in order the finances of the Patriarchate and preserving it from bankruptcy." The report of the Commission (just published) deals with ecclesiastical as well as financial questions, and is an able and copious document. The current revenues are estimated at not more than £E22,000 per annum, which is obtained from house rents in Jerusalem, Jaffa, and Ramleh, the greater portion of which have already been collected for three years in advance: whilst the expenditure necessary for the maintenance of the Fraternity of the Holy Sepulchre and of such charitable work as is now undertaken is estimated at £E61,800. It will easily be realized that unless steps are taken immediately to save the Patriarchate of Jerusalem is doomed.

The Patriarchate estates in Bessarabia have already been mentioned. These vast properties were administered by the Imperial Russian Government on behalf of the Church, and it is certain that their income would go a long way towards readjusting the financial position of the Church, so far as annual requirements are concerned. Unfortunately, at a time when every pound is of urgent necessity, the Roumanian Government has expropriated these properties under the provisions of the Agrarian Law of March, 1920. It remains to be seen what compensation will be obtainable from Roumania, but at the present rate of exchange of the leu it cannot go very far.

In September the High Commissioner appointed a Commission of Control. The Bertram Report recommended that it should consist of three Christian members, but at the request of the Patriarch and the laity two others were appointed, one representing His Beatitude, and the second after consultation with the Orthodox laity. The Commission is responsible for the payment of debts and the discharge of the obligations of the Patriarchate "in such order and in such instalments as in its uncontrolled discretion it may determine." The Ordinance constituting the Financial Commission em-

* The first portion of this article was published in "The Near East" of January 19.

THE IDEAL CAREER

MANY Civil Servants, Mining Engineers, and commercial men in the Near and Middle East contemplating retirement from their present duties (whilst still in the prime of life) are confronted with the difficulty of selecting some suitable outlet for their energies in a climate which is free alike from the climatic disadvantages of the tropics and the severity of that of the British Isles.

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powers it to contract loans on the security of any immovable property, to assume control of all revenues, in consultation with the synod to regulate the annual budget, and to assume the administration of any department, property, or operation of the Patriarchate. It may "sell any immovable property belonging to the Patriarchate or hold in the name of any person on its behalf, or for its benefit," provided that the property concerned is not attached *ab antiquo* to any monastery. All sales must receive the special authorisation of the Patriarch in Synod.

As far back as the beginning of 1919, the Patriarch had commenced negotiations with the Jewish land development company for the sale of considerable properties around Jerusalem, consisting of lands acquired comparatively recently by monks, on whose decease they had reverted to the Church, which cannot be regarded as *wakf*. Before the appointment of the Financial Commission some six plots were disposed of around Bethlehem, and others had been sold but not legally transferred, the purchasers obtaining Letters of Possession, a practice common in Eastern countries. In July the Patriarch had signed the deed of sale of the lands above mentioned to the Jewish company, and the Commission, upon its formation, was faced with an accomplished fact which required only the High Commissioner's ratification to make the deed a legal instrument. The Commission was able to arrange that the sale should not take effect until the public had been given an opportunity of making offers for the property in question and better terms were obtained for the Patriarchate. A list of sites offered for sale, which had received the sanction of the Synod, (including the particular sale referred to above), was published in the press of Palestine, Egypt, Syria, and Cyprus, thus ensuring that wealthy Orthodox churchmen throughout the Near East should be cognisant of the fact. The plots for which a genuine and advantageous offer had already been received, were offered for sale as one lot, but some dozen other properties were advertised as being divisible into small building lots. It is understood that up to the present no offers have been received for any of the properties, excepting the plots already under negotiation for sale to the Jewish company.

The Arab press in Palestine, while criticising the sale of lands to the Jewish company, has been unable to offer any constructive criticism. It has requested the Government either to buy this particular lot, or to lend the Patriarch sufficient money to pay off his debts; but like most Governments nowadays the Palestine Government is not overburdened with spare cash. It is difficult to see what other course the Government could have adopted to remedy matters, and while the purchase of one group of properties by the Jewish company will scarcely cover 75 per cent. of the debt, there remain large unproductive properties belonging to the Patriarchate, amounting in value to approximately £2,000,000. Meanwhile the debt is steadily increasing.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Egypt.

"The Egyptian Question," says Sir Valentine Chirol in an article entitled "The Egyptian Deadlock" contained in the *Fortnightly Review* for January, "may be primarily, and as to the methods of settlement, an Anglo-Egyptian question, but in its reactions upon the Eastern world, and even beyond it, it is far more than

that." And he goes on to say that the British Government is here confronted with the same fundamental issues as in Ireland, though the respective negotiations with the two countries have been carried out in very different atmospheres. He then traces briefly the history of Britain's connection with Egypt from the War to the present day, giving due weight to the Milner Report. Towards the end of his article Sir Valentine comes to the breakdown of the negotiations between Lord Curzon and Adly Pasha, on which he says:—

The rock on which the negotiations were shipwrecked was sheer militarism, and it is no secret that, whilst the Foreign Office was disposed to take a broader view of the political factors in the problem, the view that prevailed was that of the War Office, backed by Mr. Churchill, who, when he was in Cairo last spring, did not disguise, even in conversation with Egyptian Ministers, his hostility to the recommendations of the Milner Commission. Not only has the War Office view prevailed on the question of the army of occupation, but Lord Allenby's note, setting forth the policy of His Majesty's Government, breathes altogether a very different spirit from the Milner Report. Its tone is one of masterful reproof and sometimes of petulant irritation. The recital of England's great services to Egypt during the long period of reconstruction after 1882, and of her sacrifices in the war against Turkey, is perfectly legitimate, though perhaps needlessly self-righteous. Much is made of the security and prosperity of Egypt during the war, but not a word of recognition is given to the loyal co-operation of the Egyptian Ministers, of whom Adly was one, nor to the many and onerous and valuable services rendered by the Egyptian people, including the Egyptian army, which contributed materially to the success of the military operations conducted from the Egyptian base.

Some people believe in the intrinsic potency of such a "firm declaration of policy." But how many "firm declarations of policy" have we not had, since the Armistice, in the Near East and the Middle East and all the world over, and how many of them have not been successively jettisoned? If, rightly, insistence on the Protectorate, after the Milner Report and the failure of the London negotiations, is regarded more than ever by Egyptians of all classes as a breach of all our assurances in the past, what value are they likely to attach to Lord Allenby's renewed assurance that, if Egypt will only behave herself, she will get the recognition of her independence some day or other? Even his more immediate promise "to provide for the ever-increasing development of native talent" by employing a larger number of Egyptians in every branch of the administration, "and notably in the higher branches hitherto too extensively filled by Europeans," is one which has been too often made and never kept to have much value in Egyptian eyes. As to the abolition of Martial Law, of which Lord Allenby holds out the prospect, subject to an Act of Indemnity being passed and put into operation, how is any Egyptian Legislature to be got together now that would not regard it as its first duty to protest against the whole policy set forth in the British note?

Before concluding on a note that is by no means hopeful, the author makes an interesting comment upon the puzzled attitude of those whose instincts impel them to

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support the British Government's measures :—

What is, no doubt, at the back of many Englishmen's minds is the belief that the Egyptians are still utterly unfit for self-government and the fear that, if we relax our hold, there will be revival of all the old abuses of indigenous administration and probably of internal disorders which would give other foreign Powers a pretext for asserting for the protection of their own interests and communities the rights of interference we should have ourselves surrendered. That such a danger might exist cannot be a together denied. But the authors of the Milner Report rightly considered it a lesser danger than that of driving the Egyptians into irreconcilable hostility by a definite refusal to fulfil the expectations raised by our own repeated promises and by all our professions of policy during and since the war, and indeed by all the still older traditions of British statesmanship. Nor, in view of the far greater material and moral ascendancy of Great Britain in Europe since the war, as well as of the ease with which at any time British reinforcements can be poured into Egypt, could we be precluded from exercising our obvious right of re-entry if the worst came to the worst and a situation were again to arise, calling, as in 1882, for foreign intervention.

Abyssinia.

Very little is written nowadays on the subject of Abyssinia, chiefly on account of the prevailing ignorance upon present-day conditions in that country. But in its issue for January 18 the *Westminster Gazette* prints the first of three articles, written by "two Correspondents lately in Abyssinia," on "Abyssinia To-Day," this being subtitled "The Home of Slavery." It begins :—

Abyssinia is the only remaining free and independent native State in Africa. It is also the last home of open slavery. In its capital, Adis Ababa, there are more slaves than free men. The British Legation itself is full of slaves, owned by the Legation servants, who would not take service if they were not allowed to bring their chattels with them. The Legation compound is British soil, yet not only do slaves who enter it not become instantly free, but if they have escaped from their owners, their owners can and do enter it without hindrance to recapture them. That is an odd enough fact ; but a still odder one is that a great many of these slaves are British subjects captured by slave-raids into British territory. Slave-raids, however, require rifles and ammunition, and as France, England, and Italy have bound themselves under the Arms Convention of 1919 not to supply munitions to the Abyssinians, it is only America who is now importing, or seeking to import, arms into the country—arms destined mainly to fill the great Abyssinian slave-markets. At this moment a large consignment of American cartridges and automatic rifles is lying at the French port of Jibuti, awaiting the consent of the French authorities to its transport into the interior, and there is reason to believe that the French authorities, not being very much in love themselves with the Arms Convention and fearing an "incident" with the American Government—which probably knows nothing at all of the affair as yet—may shortly give their consent.

The authors then briefly recount the great work that the Emperor Menelik, builder of Adis Ababa, did for Abyssinia. Upon his death in 1913, however, the country fell to pieces, and already it "has relapsed into a state that approaches barbarism." For instance—

The roads have been left unrepaired, the bridges have crumbled, the water mains have become choked up, the mills are mostly out of order, except a few which have been sold to foreigners, the hospital is in ruins, the school has practically ceased to function, and the great trunk telephone

system is monopolised by the present Regent for his own private use. The Central Government exercises no authority that is worth mentioning at a greater distance than ten miles from the Palace ; and in the capital itself the inhabitants enjoy little or no security either for their persons or for their possessions, so that even the Legations have to be constructed more like forts than like private residences.

The articles continues with a description of the corruption and decay now ripe in Abyssinia, where there is now, especially in the provinces, "no pretence of the maintenance of order." In short—

there is nothing in Abyssinia that can be described as "order," and as for the "law," it is quite useless to appeal to it unless the complainant is rich enough to purchase the justice he seeks, and even then it may still be useless if the defendant happens to have a powerful protector. In further articles we shall describe Abyssinian "justice" more fully and the obstacles which it places in the way of the European trader. Also we shall describe the nature and extent of the slave trade as we have ourselves witnessed it.

The conclusion consists of a statement of the fact that, but for a few historical details, the authors of these articles are relying on nothing but their own first-hand information.

ARTICLES TO NOTE.

"Abyssinia under Menelik and after," by G. E. Underhill ; and "River Control in Mesopotamia," by Evelyn Howell, C.S.I., C.I.E., in the *Quarterly Review* (January).

A number of Indian Nationalist Congress Volunteers started on January 20 to parade the streets of Calcutta in procession ; 101 of them were arrested by the police.

Information has been received from Teheran to the effect that the Shah has appointed Mushir-ed-Dowleh Prime Minister of Persia in succession to Kavam-es-Sultaneh.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

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The Trade Outlook in Egypt.

The present commercial position in Egypt is dealt with by our Cairo Correspondent in a message which appears in another column. He emphasises the point that as long as the present uncertainty prevails there can be no development. That is the crux of the whole position. No business man is going to launch out until he can see his way clear before him, and so long as there is any possibility—however remote—of untoward happenings there can be no question of the increased business activity which was expected about this time. Stability is what Egypt requires above all else, and until that fact is realised by responsible Egyptian opinion the present stagnation is bound to continue.

The Tourist Season.

The most satisfactory feature of the present position is that the tourist season has not suffered so much as might have been feared. Of course it has been affected to some extent, but our Correspondent points out that the firm measures taken by the authorities have had the effect of reassuring intending visitors to Egypt, so that a fair influx of tourists is expected during the latter half of the season. It may be hoped that the moral of this will be appreciated. In the most favourable conditions Egypt could not have looked for anything approaching a pre-war season on this occasion, but if in the future she is to be able to look regularly on the tourist season as the assured source of revenue that it was before the war it is obvious that the conditions must be such as to attract tourists and not to drive them to other and quieter resorts.

The Trade Ship.

The programme of the tour of the British Trade Ship which is to begin her Odyssey in the early autumn of 1923 would seem to be open to some criticism. The outward journey is by way of South America, and the vessel will return by the Suez Canal touching at Malta and Gibraltar on the way home, thus apparently as at present arranged not visiting any of the great distributing centres of the Levant and the Balkans. If this is the case the promoters of the enterprise will be making a great mistake. Admittedly conditions at the moment do not favour trade with the regions in question, but there is ground for hoping that the exchanges will before long improve, and when that happens these markets will offer a great field for British enterprise, and they certainly ought not to be neglected by any undertaking which aims at the development of British trade.

The Indian Market.

Sir Charles Macara's article on "The Prospects of the Cotton Industry for 1922," the concluding portion of which we publish this week, should give considerable comfort to those concerned with the industry who had come to hold the opinion that recent developments were bound seriously to affect our trade in cotton goods with India. The fact is that because efforts have been made since the war to develop India's industries there

has been a tendency to jump to the conclusion that India would soon be able largely to supply her requirements. But any such assumption is unfounded. It is impossible in a brief space of time to accomplish the work of generations, and one would think it would be obvious that there are too many ifs in connection with industrial developments in India for any undue pessimism as to the outlook.

The Outlook.

Of course, as time goes on, India is bound to supply her own requirements to an increasing extent, but India's requirements, it must be remembered, will certainly expand, and this development should provide ample scope for the activities of both Lancashire and India. It certainly would do if things remain as they are at present. Now, as it is aptly pointed out in a recent report, India and Lancashire compete against one another in very few lines of cotton goods. Naturally there is no saying what may happen in the distant future, and that need not concern us. Sir Charles, it may be noted, sums up the present position by saying that "not only can India not supply her wants in this commodity, but there is no likelihood of her being able to do so for generations to come."

Roumania's Oil Production.

It had been expected that once the reconstruction of Roumania's oilfields was well under weigh that progress would be rapid and continuous. This has unfortunately not proved the case, the reason being that in common with all other undertakings in the country the oil industry has been handicapped by the lack of transport facilities. The returns of the oil production for 1921, while showing a distinct advance on those for 1920—the figures being 1,160,885 tons as against 1,034,019 tons—cannot be regarded as other than disappointing in the circumstances. The most satisfactory feature of the statistics is the great improvement in the production during the closing months of the year, and with the progress now being made with reconstruction it is possible therefore to look forward with confidence to the attainment of the pre-war output at a not very distant date.

Commentator

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Commerce and Industry.

REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

EGYPT.

Cairo, January 14.

Commerce and the Political Crisis.

There is general hope here on every side that Sarwat Pasha will be able to form a Cabinet. In the present stagnation the country is losing ground in every way. It is small consolation to the business firm facing ruin to know that the *impasse* was inevitable. And it is patent to all concerned that as long as the political crisis hangs like a noxious vapour over the community there can be no development. The only uncertainty has been the question of the extent of the political changes and the possibility of troubles. With a well-defined Anglo-Egyptian policy accepted by both sides both of these uncertain factors would disappear, and the commercial circles in Egypt would be able to progress from the cross-roads of doubt and hesitation where they have halted for weary months. The boycott movement, introduced by an overture of much talk, has never threatened to become really serious, and the feeling that the crisis was approaching solution has deadened the interest in it of even the Egyptians themselves.

The Cotton Position.

Meantime the cotton market continues steady at a fair level—high enough to pay for the cost of cultivation and leave a little over. Some of the bigger landowners, their fingers burnt by playing with fire when the boom-fever was at its worst, are agitating for a Government guarantee of a minimum price. But the fellahin, in the mass, are content with the present price. Their contentment is proved by the fact that of late they have been beseeching the powers that be to sanction greater cultivation this season, in place of the one-third of the area to which the cultivation has been restricted. I understand that their request cannot be complied with, though there are those who think it should be granted, as it is manifestly unfair to compel the Egyptian cotton-growers to stint their production when America is piling up a swamping surplus. The most significant fact connected with the steadiness of the cotton market is that it has given an impetus to the stock and share market, which, in turn, has resulted in greater business, a slight easing of money, and a consequent slight activity in business circles. Given a political settlement quickly, business in Egypt will pick up rapidly.

The Tourist Season.

Cairo and Upper Egypt are now never without their contingent of tourists. We are approaching the end of January, when the big parties are coming, and accommodation has been fully booked—and could, I hear, have been sold over and again for February. The early spring is a perfect time for a holiday in Egypt, and all indications point to a few weeks' feverish gaiety, with the parties from the big liners leading the revels. For a short period the fate of the season hung in the balance, but the prompt and timely firmness of the authorities, followed by the complete restoration of normal tranquillity and the eradication of the trouble-making elements, has guaranteed the remaining months of the season and every hope is entertained that the briskness of the end will atone for the slackness of the beginning.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, January 15.

The Supplementary Budget.

The figures for the Supplementary Budget for the financial year April 1, 1921 to March 30, 1922, have just been published. The total sum amounts to 364,865,000 levas. The Civil List, Sobranje, Cabinet, and Supreme

Administrative Court receive 13,681,000 levas; Public Debt, 37,922,000; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 52,667,003; Ministry of the Interior (A), Police, 8,824,000; and (B.), Health Department, 29,780,000; Ministry of Education, 4,802,000; Ministry of Finance, 19,870,000; Ministry of Justice, 19,164,000; Ministry of War, 64,400,000; Ministry of Commerce, 52,502,000; Ministry of Agriculture, 12,830,000; Ministry of Public Works, 2,328,000; Department of Compulsory Labour, 10,270,000; Department of Railways and Ports, 20,874,000; Department of Posts, Telegraphs, and Telephones, 15,305,000; Accountants Court, 185,000; and Miscellaneous Expenses, 460,000 levas.

M. Tourlakoff, the Minister of Finance made the following statement in regard to the Supplementary Budget:—"The necessity for a Supplementary Budget had been caused by the slender credits previously voted, and also by the rise in the cost of living. The State Budget for the financial year 1921-1922 had provided for expenses of 2,900,000,000 levas and receipts of 2,127,000,000 levas a deficit of more than 700 million levas. By means of increased receipts this deficit had been reduced to 103 millions. If we add the supplementary credit, i.e. 364,865,000 levas to the above deficit, we get a total deficit of 467,865,000 levas. Fortunately we shall be able to reduce some of the expenditure provided for in the ordinary Budget, and at the same time we shall be able to increase our receipts. Firstly, the sum of 240 million levas put aside for the Army will not all be required owing to the inability of the Government to recruit more than a few thousand volunteers. Secondly, the expenses incurred in Customs and other State Departments will be reduced, and I consider that the total deficit will not amount to more than 270 million levas. As to receipts, the increased Customs Tariffs, the income tax, and the sum of 75 million levas, being the Government's share of the profits realised by the National Bank, will all go to swell the State Funds. As a last resort, there is the 100 million 6½ per cent. Internal Loan, due to be opened on January 15. In any case we shall not borrow from the National Bank, because we are determined to avoid having to print any more bank notes."

One economy under consideration is the closing of of certain of the Bulgarian Legations abroad. It is probable that London and the Hague will be combined, Berlin and Vienna, Paris and Brussels, and Prague and Budapest.

ASIA MINOR.

Smyrna, January 10.

"Salonicuting" Smyrna.

British merchants are beginning to realise that Smyrna, commercially speaking, is slowly but surely sharing the fate of Salonika; being, in fact "Salonicuted." The export trade is perhaps the first to "go under." One of the oldest export companies, which was in pre-war days a highly prosperous concern, has decided to liquidate its affairs; another has been compelled to reduce employees' salaries by 50 per cent.; a still prosperous company has reduced salaries by 35 per cent.; and a company in which are invested the greater part of the pre-war savings of the colony is not yet in a position to pay interest on its debenture bonds, still less on its shares. Until the railways are freed from military operations and the guerilla warfare ends in the agricultural districts there is little hope of the export trade improving. On the contrary as things go, it is more than likely that it will become gradually less.

Importers, who had a fairly good time for the first two years after the Armistice, have had considerable difficulty

in making ends meet during 1921. One of the oldest British companies has had to show a small loss on the year's trading; whilst most of the post-war concerns have simply faded away. So long as the Greek Military Base in Smyrna was buying, and paying for supplies, many importers did a satisfactory business; but since the Base received orders—3 months ago—not to buy in Smyrna, and has not been able to pay for last year's purchases, the import trade is stagnant. At the present rate of exchange—Ps.700 to sterling—it is impossible to purchase in the United Kingdom. The same remark applies to purchasing from the United States; and hence the bulk of the imports of Smyrna now come from the European Continent.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting	Parity of Exchange	Latest. Quotations.
Alexandria ..	Piastres to £....	97½	97.7-16
Athens	Drachmae to £....	25.22½	96.60-97.50
Belgrade	Dinars to £....	25.22½	307
Berlin	Marks to £....	20.43	845-880
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3.13.16-1.3.15.16
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3.13.16-1.3.15.16
Brussels	Francs to £....	25.22½	54.35-54.80
*Bucharest ..	Lei to £....	25.22½	525-575
Constantinople	Piastres to £....	110	660-690
New York....	Dollars to £....	4.86 2-3	4.20½-4.21½
Paris	Francs to £....	25.22½	51.95-52.10
Prague	Kronen to £....	24.02	223-230
Rome	Lire to £....	25.22½	96.25-97.00
Sofia	Leva to £....	25.22½	625
Teheran	Krans to £....	50	51
Vienna	Kronen to £....	24.02	13,500-15,250
Warsaw	Marks to £....	20.43	13,500-15,000

* Nominal.

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Egypt.

Marine Boiler.—The Secretary General, Ports and Lighthouses, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of a new multitubular marine boiler of the following description:—Diameter 11 feet; length 10 feet; two corrugated furnaces. Boiler working pressure 180 to 200 lbs. per square inch. Built to Lloyds rules 100 A1 and supplied with all accessories as per specification. Offers will remain valid for one and a half months from March, 1, 1922.

Cotton Waste.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo Station, invites tenders for the supply of 100 metrical tons of coloured cotton waste. March 10.

Bulgaria.

Telephone Instruments.—The Bulgarian Department of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones invites tenders for the supply of 2,000 telephone instruments for table use, with local battery and magneto. Also for spare parts for these instruments. Tenders to be presented at the District Office of Finance, Sofia by February 20. (D.O.T.).

Telephone Accessories.—The Bulgarian Department of Posts, Telegraphs, and Telephones invites tenders for the supply of the following parts for telephone exchanges, viz.:—Subscribers' line indicators, 2,200; indicators, end of conversation, 600; jacks, 2,500; plugs, 1,500; connecting pieces, 2,000; connecting pieces, switchboard, 20,000. A deposit of 5 per cent. of the total amount of tender is called for by way of guarantee. Local representation is essential. Tenders to be presented at the District Office of Finance, Sofia, by January 30. (D.O.T.).

Porcelain Tubing, etc.—The Bulgarian Direction of Posts, Telegraphs, and Telephones invites tenders for the supply of the following material:—(1) Porcelain insulating tubes for telephones (1,000), insulating tubing (impregnated paper), for telephones. (2,200 metres), Ebonite caps (1,700), and insulated copper wire (1,000 metres); (2) Various electrician's small tools (include 900 pairs pincers, 20 brazing lamps, 100 soldering irons, 1,500 bits, and 300 axes); (3) Bronze in plates and bars, iron and steel plates and bars and insulating materials. Tenders will be opened at Sofia, District Department of Finance at 4 p.m. on March 8, in the case of (1), February 27, in the case of (2), and February 14 in the case of (3). Each tender is divisible. (D.O.T.).

Bulgaria.

Telephone Pole-line Hardware.—The Bulgarian Postal Authorities invites tenders for the supply of telephone pole-line hardware (4 pin carriers for insulators, bolts, etc.). Tenders, accompanied by a deposit of 5 per cent. of the whole amount to be addressed to the District Office of Finance, Rue Rakovski, Sofia. Tenders may be submitted for each or all of the items required. March 21 (D.O.T.).

Telephone Materials.—The Bulgarian Postal Authorities invites tenders for the supply of:—(1) 3,000 Junction pieces for Batteries; (2), 200 kgs. of watch makers oil; (3) 5 kgs. graphite (in grains); (4) 500 kgs. hydrochloric acid; (5) 5,000 kgs. lead; (6) 50 kgs. solder ("etai au colofane"). Tenders accompanied by a deposit of 10 per cent. of the total amount of the tender to be addressed to the District Office of Finance, Rue Rakovski, 102, Sofia. Tenders may be submitted for one or more than one, or all of the items, and delivery is required within four months. March 27. (D.O.T.).

Telephone Accessories.—The Bulgarian Post and Telegraph Authorities invites tenders for the supply of:—1, Lamp fuses; 2, Cartridges fuses for protection from lightning; 3, 3 amp fuses; 4, line Annunciators; 5, Carbon lightning arresters. Tenders must be accompanied by a deposit of 5 per cent. of the total amount and may be submitted for each or all of the items, and should be addressed to the District Finance Office at Sofia. March 15. (D.O.T.).

Yugoslavia.

Jute.—The Belgrade Railway Direction invites tenders for the supply of 100 metric tons of jute required for cleaning purposes. Tenders will be received at the Economic Department of the Railway Direction, Belgrade (Ekonomska Odeljenja, Zeleznica, Direkcija, Belgrade), and samples must be submitted by the tenderer. Delivery is to be of 50,000 kilos within two months and 50,000 kilos within four months from the date of signing the contract. Tendering firms will be required to deposit if an S.C.S. subject, 20,000 dinars, others 40,000 dinars. January 30 (D.O.T.).

India.

Chains, etc.—The High Commissioner for India invites tenders for the supply of chain, iron galvanized, for signal levers; and engine turntables. January 31.

The Corporation of Calcutta invites tenders for the supply and laying of 30 miles of riveted steel pipe, 60in. to 33in. in diameter.—March 16.

Engineering Topics.

By Our Engineering Representative.

Bolts and Nuts.

A complaint recently reached me regarding the quality of ordinary bolts and nuts as supplied for general work over the counter. The statement was made that it was next to impossible to get these of standard sizes, and as this seemed remarkable I went round to a number of retailers and purchased odd bolts and nuts, of Whitworth sizes, to test the complaint. I did this in London, in Swansea, and Cardiff, and in Sheffield, and found, as I imagined would be the case, that all were exactly to standard sizes, were interchangeable, and were of a uniform height, quality, and finish. My correspondent, however, had stated positively that he had bought nuts which were too large or too small for the bolts, that he had bought bolts on which he could not even start nuts, and also bolts on which the nuts would "slip on." He added that he generally had either to "tap" out the nuts or to run the dies down the bolts. I have now got to the bottom of the trouble which appears to be that my correspondent has been so unfortunate as to possess machinery in which the bolts or nuts that require occasional renewing are of mixed British and American origin. Now an American nut is slightly smaller—I believe by about one-hundredth of an inch—than the British standard nut, and it consequently follows that whilst such a nut would have to be forced on to a British bolt, a British nut would be slack on an American bolt.

A Light Car Test.

I have received from the makers of the A.C. light car a copy of a certificate from the Royal Automobile Club relating to their 11.8 h.p., four cylinder standard production, which was the subject of an observed trial for flexibility. Trials of this kind in the past have generally been carried out on 6-cylinder cars of high horsepower, but the A.C. seems to have done remarkably well. The test was through the most crowded of London streets, and a most difficult course was traversed, all on the top speed. Without the slightest change of gear the car was then taken down to Brooklands, and circled the course at well over 44 miles per hour. Still without changing gear the engine was then throttled down until a man, walking at a moderate pace, could keep ahead of the car. Now that is really a very fine performance, and although it is not new, I think it is the first time it has been carried out on an 11.8 h.p. engined car. Everyone knows that these little engines can develop immense power and speed by reason of the comparatively high number of revolutions they make per minute, but it has never before been demonstrated so vividly that they are as docile as a big 6-cylinder on top gear.

Sparkling Plugs.

During last year I made some exhaustive tests on various British makes of sparking plugs, such as K.L.G., Lodge, C.A.V., Forward, etc., and was surprised at the uniformly good results I obtained. Details have reached me of the re-designed Lodge priming plug in which the height, which militated against its use in some engines, has been reduced so that it is now barely a quarter of an inch longer than the standard models. I have never tried this particular design so can say nothing as to the claims made in regard to easy starting. I note, however, that the design now approximates very closely to the standard 3-point plug. The insulator is of Steatite, and the priming tube has been slightly increased in bore to facilitate the flow of petrol into the cylinder. The priming valve has also been greatly improved, ensuring gas tightness, and the design is now such that it is impossible for the valve to stick. The use of this plug, fitted in place of a plug of the usual type, enables liquid petrol to be introduced into the cylinder, and on engines where no priming taps are fitted this is a great boon as piston and rings are freed from gummed oil and it is an easy matter to turn the engine over. Further than that, however, the ad-

mission of petrol by way of the sparking plug means that petrol is just where it is wanted when the spark occurs. In the neighbourhood of the spark there is a rich mixture, no matter how poor it may be elsewhere in the ignition chamber, and consequently there is said to be no difficulty in starting the engine at the first pull. It is claimed that the use of this plug, on cars fitted with electric starting sets, increases the life of the starting battery and also reduces the strain and wear on the starting gears. I notice, further, that the double-pole and two-ignition plugs made by the firm have been reintroduced. The use of a double-pole plug in conjunction with an ordinary plug in the same cylinder head provides two sparks simultaneously, which will give increased power to the engine should the ordinary plug be in a pocketed position. By means of the two-ignition plug either battery or magneto ignition, or both, can be used at will. I hope some day to have an opportunity of visiting the Rugby works of this company and of describing the methods of manufacture in these columns.

Non-Magnetic Iron.

The new type of iron, of high specific resistance, which has been placed on the market under the above name, and which is intended for electrical use has an exceptionally low degree of permeability which renders it valuable where there is a danger of undesirable eddy currents. It appears that the permeability of this iron is no higher than that of brass, and tests which have been carried out with most delicate instruments show that its value in that respect is 1.03 as compared with 1.00 for air. So far as resistance to the passage of electrical energy is concerned it is nearly 50 per cent greater than that of ordinary cast iron, some comparative figures, in micro-ohms per cubic centimetre, being 140 for the new iron, 95 for cast iron of the ordinary quality and 7.5 for brass. It appears also that the effect of change of temperature on this resistance is far less than in the case of cast iron, and the iron becomes slightly less permeable as its temperature rises. There is no difficulty in machining this iron, and it can be melted and cast as easily as any other grade, and presents the same appearance. Its mechanical strength is about the same as that of cast iron, but it is slightly more malleable, and I understand that the cost of casting varies from 50 to 100 per cent. more than that of castings of ordinary iron, according to size and difficulty of moulding and pouring.

Preventing Oxidation.

A new process has been devised for preventing the surface oxidation of metals or alloys exposed to high temperatures, a problem on which chemical engineers and metallurgists have been working for some time past. In the method referred to the metal or alloy is placed in a retort which is filled with finely divided aluminium, and the whole is brought to a red-heat, and allowed to remain in that condition for some time. The aluminium will penetrate the surface of the metal to any desired depth, this depending on the length of time the metal or alloy is allowed to remain exposed to its action. The result of exposure at high temperatures after this treatment is that the surface becomes covered with a uniform coating of aluminium oxide, and it is stated that metal treated in this manner will withstand a temperature of 900 degrees cent., before oxidising, a phenomenon which occurs at about 600 degs. cent. with untreated metals. The result of the treatment is that such metals as copper, nickel and brass can be made immune to certain acids, and iron and steel can also be treated successfully by the new process. Exhaustive tests under working conditions show that rolled, wrought, drawn, or pressed metals take a more satisfactory coating than castings, and it goes without saying that any rolling, grinding, hammering, or machining must be done before the metal or alloy is subjected to the treatment.

Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Sugar Dealer.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Monday Evening.

Sugar.—A firmer tendency has been the feature of the week. Home refined has gained 6d. all round, prices now being fixed at 52s. for Tate's cubes, 52s. 3d. for coffee crystals, and 46s. 9d. for mineral water sugar. Imported sugars have appreciated, West Indian crystallized having risen 1s. to 41s., and Czecho-Slovakian also 1s. at 18s. 6d. Stocks are very limited of Java and Natal Crystals, supplies being almost exhausted. White sugar quotations are :—January—February, 18s. 9d. ; March, 18s. 9d. ; May, 18s. 7½d. ; August, 18s. 9d.

Coffee.—A variable tendency has prevailed. Supplies of Nairobi are short, and prices are high. Jamaica has been firm at 150s. Costa Rica has shown an increase of 5s. at 140s., while Indian is 6s. down at 110s. The futures market has been steady. Quotations are :—March, 50s. 6d. ; May, 51s. 6d. ; July, 52s. 3d. ; September, 52s. 3d. ; and December 52s.

Tea.—The lower grades of Indian tea have been in marked request. Prices have been firm for all kinds of Ceylon tea, while Java and Sumatra have been in good demand at moderate prices.

Rice.—Prices being so high for Spanish Japan rice, buyers are turning their attention to Egyptian. An increasing demand for Honduras Carolina rice has been a noticeable feature during the week. Burmese and Saigon are both quoted at 18s.

Dessicated Coconut.—A little more business has been passing. Spot stocks are lower, and shipper's forward quotations are steady.

Almonds.—Supplies are scarce and quotations for Jordan almonds are firmer.

Green Fruit, etc.—Prices for oranges are higher, the demand being fair. Lemons have come to business better and steady prices are being maintained. Exceptional prices are being asked for Valencia onions, and there is little hope of a decline, unless supplies are increased.

Oilseeds.—Indian linseed has risen 6d. to 18s., and La Plata shows no change at 17s. Rapeseed has been steady with Toria at 16s. 3d. ; Brown Cawnpore at 18s. 3d. ; and bold Ferozepore, at 18s. Cottonseed shows signs of improvement with Indian, 3d. up at 9s., Egyptian black 9d. up at 12s. 1d., and Sakellarides 3d. up at 11s. 6d.

Oils.—Prices are slightly higher. Linseed oil has been firm at 30s., while rape oil has risen with the crude variety 3s. up at 49s., and refined 1s., up at 51s. Cotton oil has shed 2s. in all cases with refined at 43s., Egyptian crude at 35s., and deodorized at 48s. Turpentine is 3d. down at 71s. 9d.

Oilcakes.—Linseed cake has come to business at 300s per ton, an increase of 24s. Cottonseed cake at 180s ton is unchanged as also palm kernal at 120s. ton. Arachis cake is quoted at 220s. ton, a rise of 10s, while cottonmeal has gained 20s. at 290s. ton.

The following information has been received by cablegram from the managing agents of the Indo-Burma Oilfields (1920) at Rangoon :—Yenanma Field—Well No. 28, 788ft. trial balings 12 barrels in 24 hours. The pipe-line has been in operation since January 5. Padaupin Field—Well No. 4 struck oil sands, 1,784 ft. ; total depth drilled, 1,790 ft. ; still in sands oil flow; estimate the yield at strong 100 barrels per day; drilling stopped to save oil pending completion tanks. The managing agents state that 500 barrels of oil should be produced every day as from January 31, and production should rapidly increase.

CINNAMON PRODUCTION.

The current number of the Bulletin of the Imperial Institute contains an interesting article on cinnamon, its sources, production and trade. The article gives a detailed account of the production of the bark in different parts of the Empire as well as in foreign countries, and a description of the aromatic oils yielded by cinnamon and related trees. The finest cinnamon bark is produced in Ceylon, where the Portuguese found the tree growing wild when they arrived in the Island in 1505. Since that date Ceylon has been famed for this spice, but owing to the small financial return it gives to the growers, much of the area under cinnamon in the Island has been replaced by the more profitable coconut and Para rubber. Ceylon cinnamon, moreover, has had to compete, particularly in the Continental markets with a cheaper product of coarser flavour from the Far East. Cinnamon bark reaches this country in two forms : the ordinary "quills," used as spice, and "chips," which are distilled for the production of cinnamon oil used in medicine.

The leaves of the cinnamon trees yield an entirely different oil from that of the bark ; this oil contains eugenol (the characteristic constituent of oil of cloves) which is employed in the manufacture of vanillin, the well-known flavouring agent. Cinnamon eaf oil is produced largely in the Seychelles.

SUDAN PRODUCE.

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

Gum.

Kordofan Province.—The amount of gum sold in El Obeid market during November was 1940 kantars as against 568 during the same month last year. The average price was 869 mms. per kantar. 846 kantars were sold at Nahud at an average price of 120 mms. 172 kantars were sold at Um Ruaba at 550 mms. per kantar as against 41 kantars last year. 94 kantars were sold at Rahad at 525 mms. per kantar as against 185 kantars last year.

Wheat, etc.

Darfur Province.—Wheat was sold in El Fasher market at LE.2 per ardeb of 300 rottles (135 kilos).

Berber Province.—The price of wheat rose to LE.3.500 per ardeb of 420 rottles (189 kilos) and barley to PT.120 per ardeb of 315 rottles (142 kilos). The price of maize was PT.130 per ardeb of 380 rottles (171 kilos).

Dura.

Nuba Mountains Province.—Dura crops promise well on the whole.

Blue Nile Province.—Dura brought into Maradas in ardebs of 300 rottles (135 kilos) as follows :—Medani, 2,626 ardebs ; Hassa Heissa, 5,340 ardebs. Highest price 375 mms. per ardeb ; lowest price 321 mms. per ardeb.

Darfur Province.—In El Fasher market, dura was sold at PT.71 per ardeb of 300 rottles (135 kilos).

Berber Province.—Prices, per ardeb of 380 rottles (171 kilos) ; White dura LE.1.500 mms. ; red dura, LE.1.500 mms. ; Feterita, dura, LE.1.200 mms.

Fung Province.—Market prices of dura per ardeb of 300 rottles (135 kilos) in Singa, PT.40 highest, and PT.30 lowest.

Sesame.

Kordofan Province.—34 ardebs of sesame were sold in El Obeid market in November at an average price of LE.1.091 mms. per ardeb of 330 rottles (148 kilos).

Kassala Province.—The sesame crops in the South of the Province have been reaped and assessed. The crop is a poor one, from August 1916 to the end of July 1921.

Oakey's SILVERSMITH'S SOAP, for Cleaning and Polishing Silver, Electro Plate, &c. Tablets, 61
WELLINGTON "WELLINGTON BLACK LEAD" in Solid Blocks
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Dates.

Halfa Province.—A report states that about the middle of the month a few merchants arrived at Wadi Halfa from Egypt to purchase dates. At first they were only able to purchase the balance of last year's crops—about 1,500 sacks. About the middle of the month there was a brisk demand in Sukkot and Mahas districts and approximately 2-3 and 1-3 the crops of these districts respectively were sold at from 132 to 150 Pt. for Barakawi and L.E.2 for Gondeila. The Mahas crop is estimated at 6,500 sacks. 7,300 sacks in 47 boats were dispatched to the 2nd Cataract from these districts—three boats were wrecked with the loss of about 530 sacks. At the end of the month the market again became dull and prices in the South fell rapidly.

Rainfall and Cultivation.

Darfur Province.—Heavy rain fell in Eastern Darfur district on October 16. Rains reported on five days in Zalingei District and there was a heavy storm on October 25.

Mongalla Province.—Rains in Kagul registered 220 mms, rain falling on 12 days. This is the heaviest fall in any month of the current year. In Mongalla 58.2 mm. on eight days as against 92 mm. on 10 days in 1920. In Tombe, 25.9 mm. on four days.

Halfa Province.—The Dameira crops have all been harvested with most satisfactory results. Natives are busy preparing their land for the shitwi crops.

Kordofan Province.—Crops are generally speaking fairly good, but will be considerably less than last year.

ASIA MINOR FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., Smyrna report as follows for the week ending January 7 :—

Sultanias.—The total estimated sales to date amounted to 167,010 bags as against 92,485 bags for 1920. The total estimate sales are 158,010 bags as compared with 85,485 bags for the corresponding period of last year, and the estimated stock unsold totals 9,000 bags as against 7,000 bags for last year.

Shipments.—The following steamers are now loading with sultanias and figs:—S.s. Borodino for London, with 20,404 boxes of sultanias; 43 cases of figs, and 161 bags of figs. This steamer has 250 cases of sultanias and 500 bags of figs also on board for Hull. S.s. Brescia for Liverpool, with 18,889 boxes of sultanias and 380 bags of figs, and s.s. Siptah for Liverpool with 8,927 boxes of sultanias. Of the above shipments, about 16,000 boxes are for the account of the C.W.S. of Manchester.

Markets.—Sultanias are firm with advancing tendency. There are many enquiries on the market, but dealers are reluctant to sell, and the majority are holding off for higher prices. Exchanges are weak having touched 660 at one moment, gradually recovering to 690-5. Prospects point to a generally higher level of values being established, stocks of sultanias being very reduced and held in strong hands. Stocks of figs are about exhausted, the occasional odd lots coming to market being eagerly bought at extreme prices for shipment to Egypt.

The annual "Cotton Diagram" of Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson, which has just been issued, gives in a clear and concise form the fluctuations in the rates of the various grades of cotton. It also gives details of the cotton crops during the period, and particulars of the changes in the Bank rate.

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CURRENT PRICES.

General Produce.—Bacon: (Continental), 125s. cwt.; (Canadian), 105s. cwt.; (American), 97s. 6d. cwt.; butter: (Danish), 177s. 6d. cwt.; (Australian), 102s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 118s. cwt.; cheese (Canadian), 95s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 86s. cwt.; lard, 67s. 6d. cwt.; eggs (Danish), 86s. per 120; (Styrian), 21s. 6d. per 120; chillies, 162s. 6d. cwt.; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 6½d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 102s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 150s. cwt.; (East Indian), 130s. cwt.; (Central American), 117s. 6d. cwt.; (Jamaica), 67s. cwt.; (Mocha long-berry), 113s. cwt.; (Santos, superior), 61s. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochín), 67s. 6d. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 11d. lb.; pepper (Singapore black), 3½d. lb.; (Muntok, white), 7½d. lb.; pimento, 2½d. lb.; raisins (Valencias), 125s. cwt.; sultanias (Smyrna), 115s. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 83s. cwt.; currants (Amalías), 59s. cwt.; sugar: (Tate's cubes), 51s. cwt.; (Lyle's granulated), 45s. 10½d. cwt.; (Mauritius crystals), 43s. 3d. cwt.; (West Indian crystallized), 39s. 6d. cwt.; (centrifugal), 13s. 9d. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 1½d. lb.; rice (Rangoon, No. 2), 14s. 9d. cwt.; (bran, Rangoon), £5 8s. 3d. ton; cinnamon (firsts), 1s. ½d. lb.; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 3½d. lb.; tea: Indian (common to good common), 1s. 1½d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 7½d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 9d. lb.; Ceylon (common to good common), 1s. 1½d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 8d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 9d. lb.; Java (common to good common), 8½d. lb.; wheat (English white), 48s. qr.; (Australian), 53s. 9d. qr.; barley (malting), 45s. 6d. qr.; barley (feeding), 41s. qr.; oats (English), 34s. qr.; oats (La Plata ex-ship), 26s. 3d. qr.; maize (La Plata), 36s. 3d. qr.; flour, 40s. sack.

Metals.—Aluminium, £122 10s. ton; antimony (English Regulis), £35 ton; bismuth, 7s. 6d. lb.; copper (standard), £65 11s. 3d. ton; copper (electro), £73 10s. ton; gold bars, 97s. 4d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 95s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 98s. 9d. ton; galvanised sheets (24 G), £16 7s. 6d. ton; lead (soft foreign) £24 1s. 3d. ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 1½d. unit; molybdenite, 31s. 3d. unit; nickel, £190 ton; platinum, 387s. 6d. oz.; plumbago, £20 ton; quicksilver, £10 7s. 6d. bottle; silver bars, 34½d. oz.; spelter (G.O.B.), £26 15s. ton; tin (standard), £167s. 7s. 6d. ton; wolfram, 11s. 6d. unit; zinc sheets, £34 10s. ton; tin plates (20 by 24), 19s. 3d. box.

Chemicals.—Acids: Boric, 66s. cwt.; oxalic, 8½d. lb.; citric, 2s. 2½d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 4½d.; ammonia (sulphate), £15 1s. 6d. ton; arsenic (white powdered), £40 10s. ton; benzole (standard), 2s. 5½d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £15 10s. ton; borax crystals, 31s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 121s. 3d. cwt.; Potassium: Bichromate, 8d. lb.; chloride, 5d. lb.; caustic, £33 10s. ton; nitrate, £42 10s. ton; permanganate, 10½d. lb.; prussiate, yellow, 1s. 1½d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £15 5s. ton; Sodium: Crystals, 140s. ton; bi-carbonate, £11 5s. ton; bi-chromate, 6½d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £9 3s. 3d. ton; chloride, 3½d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £23 5s. ton; hyposulphite, £15 ton; prussiate, 8d. lb.; nitrate, £14 5s. ton; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £80 ton; glycerine (industrial, 1260 per cent.), £10 ton; lemon oil, 3s. 1½d. lb.; quinine, 3s. ½d. oz.; red lead, £39 5s. ton; white lead, £42 5s. ton; white ground lead, £51 15s. ton; sulphate of copper, £28 10s. ton; sulphate of iron, 75s. ton.

Hides and Skins.—Ox and Heifer (first), 90 lbs. and up, 8d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs. 8d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs. 7d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs. 7d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 6½d. lb.; (second), 90 lbs. and up, 7d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 6,6-8d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs. 6½d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 7d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 6½d. lb.; (second), 90 lbs. and up, 7d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 6,7-8d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 6½d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs. 6d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 5d. lb. Cows (first), 60 lbs. and up, 6d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 5,7-8d. lb.; cows (second), 60 lbs. and up, 5d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 5d. lb. Bulls (first), 5½d. lb.; (second), 4½d. lb.; Kips (first), 6,3-8d. lb.; (second), 5,3-8d. lb.; (third), 3½d. lb. Calcutta Market. Prices in rupees per 20 lb.: Arsenic hides (cows): Agras, 8.0 to 13.8; Durbhangas, 6.0 to 8.0; Patnas, 5.0 to 6.0. Salted cows, 3.0 to 8.8. Arsenic hides (buffalo), 3.0 to 6.0. Skins: Calf, 8.0 to 10.0 per 20 lb.; goat, 245 to 280 per 110 pieces. Bombay Market. Prices in annas per lb.:—Dressed buffs, 8 to 13; cows, 9 to 14. Goat and sheepskins, 1 to 2 rupees per lb. Sixty bales of cow hides and 183 bales of lambskins were despatched to London during the week.

Miscellaneous.—Cotton: (American), 11.00 d. lb.; (Egyptian Sakel), 18.75 lb.; Oilseeds: Linseed (La Plata), £17 12s. 6d. ton; rape (Toria), £16 2s. 6d. ton; palm kernals, £18 3s. 9d. ton; Oils: Linseed, £30 10s. ton; olive (Levant), £77 10s. ton; palm, £39 5s. ton; rape (crude), £44 10s. ton; soya, £34 15s. ton; petroleum, 1s. 4½d. gallon; petrol, 2s. 1d. gallon; fuel oil (ext-tank), £3 15s. ton; coconut (Ceylon), £41 5s. ton; cotton (crude) £37 ton; ground nut, £44 5s. ton.

CZECHO-SLOVAKIAN OIL PROSPECTS.

New boring operations carried out in Czecho-Slovakia have proved more successful than was at first anticipated, and a bed of oil has been struck which was under such pressure, probably from gas, that the oil was forced above the surface to a height of nearly 170 ft. in a constant stream. So great was the flow that it was three days before the bore could be capped, and extreme measures had to be taken to prevent the neighbourhood being flooded, the reserve reservoirs being inadequate to deal with the stream.

Company Meetings.

IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA.

Strong Financial Position.

The thirty-second ordinary general meeting of the Imperial Bank of Persia was held on January 23 at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., Sir Hugh S. Barnes, K.C.S.I., K.C.V.O. (the Chairman), presiding.

Mr. Sydney Rogers (Manager and Secretary) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman, in the course of his speech, said:—

During the year under review the import trade, both through the Gulf Ports and via Baghdad, has been active. But so far the export trade has shown very few signs of revival. This is the main cause of the falling off in the total in our balance-sheet of bills receivable. Needless to say, it is of great importance to the prosperity of the country that an effort should be made to stimulate the export of Persian commodities, as at present the balance of trade is heavily against Persia. According to the figures received for the year ended 20th March, 1921, the total imports amounted in value to 482,000,000 kranis, or approximately £9,500,000 sterling, of which no less than £7,500,000 represents British and Indian trade.

The evil effects of over-trading during the short-lived boom immediately following the war have been to a great extent disclosed during the past year, and I am afraid there is still a good deal of clearing up to do generally. The heavy fall in the price of manufactured goods and the enormous stocks accumulated in foreign markets, shipped at the time prices were greatly inflated, have had the effect of locking up a very considerable amount of capital, with the result that stagnation in trade has followed, and the restriction of credit has brought about for us as for others, a smaller turnover.

The total of the balance-sheet for the year under review stands at £7,172,369, and, compared with the figures of the preceding year, £8,260,996, shows a reduction of £1,088,626. Our note circulation has risen from £670,204 to £733,327, while deposits are down from £3,228,336 to £2,805,374. Bills payable, endorsements and adjustments, are smaller this year, showing a reduction from £3,378,404 to £2,616,712. This is mainly owing to slightly better facilities and greater rapidity of communication in Persia, and a return to more normal conditions.

The net profit for the year shows an increase from £80,242 to £88,195, and permits us to carry forward £31,955, as against £29,051 brought in. This result is obtained after paying to the Persian Government £5,291, against £4,000 of last year, the interim and final dividends aggregating 8s per share, and the allocation of £30,000 to reserve account. Although we have this year transferred £10,000 to premises account, this item shows on the assets side a reduction of only £5,302. This is due to some necessary expenditure on new premises. Cash in hand at bankers and in transit stands at £3,055,204, as against £3,339,574, a reduction of £284,369. Investments are slightly lower at £1,499,172, compared with £1,535,222 last year; these have in accordance with our usual practice, have been adjusted at the lowest quotations of the day on the 20th September last. Bills discounted, loans and advances at £1,872,801, however, show an increase compared with £1,738,789, which was the figure of last year. Since the 20th September a rather large advance to the Persian Government, made against special security and included in the figures given, has been repaid. Bills receivable at £695,073 show a considerable reduction on the previous figures of £1,591,989. I hope that in the future trade recovery to which we look forward this item in our balance may improve. Our reserve account now stands at £310,000. In view of the serious depression in trade I think we are fortunate in being able to place so considerable a sum to this account again this year. But we are not satisfied with the total reached, and hope that we may be able to continue to add to it yearly in the future.

In conclusion, I think you will agree with me that the accounts disclose a strong financial and liquid position, which will enable us to take advantage of all opportunities which may offer good openings for new business, and I have much satisfaction in adding that this position is arrived at after having made every provision necessary for bad and doubtful debts.

The Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. W.A. Buchanan seconded the motion.

Sir J. D. Rees spoke at some length upon the importance of studying the Mohammedan subjects of the Empire, and of arriving at a just and generous peace with the Turkish Empire in the interests of trade.

The motion was carried unanimously, and the retiring officers were re-elected.

THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY COMPANY.

Review of Half-Year's Working.

The One-Hundred and Forty-fourth Half-yearly General Meeting of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company was held on January 20 at the company's offices, 48, Copthall-avenue, London-wall, E.C.

Sir Charles H. Armstrong (chairman of the company) in the course of his remarks said:—When I addressed you six months ago, at our last half-yearly meeting, I was not very sanguine as to the prospects of the current year, but I must admit I did not anticipate that for the first six months to September 30 last the result would be so very unfavourable. The explanation is an excessive and, I hope an abnormal expenditure, due largely to a serious increase in the cost of our coal supplies. Finding, as we did some months ago, that we were not receiving from the Bengal coalfields as much as we had been led to expect, and as our stock was running dangerously low, we were compelled to buy additional supplies in this country, in South Africa, and elsewhere, so that we might have a sufficient stock during the monsoon months and more or less up to the end of the year. Our coal bill is likely, therefore, to be a heavy item in future, although, I hope, not as expensive as it was in the early part of the period now under review.

Our gross receipts during the six months were Rs.6,35,00,000 and our gross expenditure Rs.6,06,00,000, leaving a sum of only Rs.28,66,000 as net earnings. After bringing into account interest on capital expenditure and other charges, there was a deficit of Rs. 1,44,000,000 as against a deficit in the corresponding period of last year of Rs.2,77,000, the net difference between the two periods being Rs.1,41,00,000.

During the period under review we collected on behalf of the Government of India Rs.34,00,000 on account of surtax, in addition to our gross receipts. This tax, which was rather hurriedly imposed at the last Budget, and which cannot be defended from any point of view, continues until March 31. From April 1 it is intended to bring into operation a higher scale of rates, and this to some extent ought to improve our position next year, but I am doubtful if the advance will be sufficient to cover our greatly increased expenditure.

During the half-year we have not been able to make any progress with our suburban electrification project, an urgent and very necessary work in connexion with the Bombay development scheme. All preliminary work has been completed, and we are quite ready to go ahead when the necessary funds can be found, but from the latest news to hand no funds for this purpose are likely to be allotted for some years. If, as is likely, the Government of India, are unable to help us, it would not, I think, be difficult to arrange a satisfactory financial transaction in this country by which payments would be spread over a period of several years, but an arrangement of this nature would need, of course, the sanction of the Secretary of State. The importance of this work is very urgent, as it would not only reduce the cost of working, but would be of material assistance to Bombay in the years to come in helping to move expeditiously its rapidly increasing population, which will have to live at some distance from the city. Offers of the character I have referred to have been made to us already, and we have also had similar offers in connexion with the supply of rolling stock, of which we are badly in need.

There are no resolutions to be dealt with at this meeting, other than one for the adoption of the report and accounts. The guaranteed interest of 1½ per cent. for the half-year was distributed in December as usual.

Mr. J. E. Dallas (managing director) seconded the resolution, which was unanimously carried.

Cotton & Cotton Goods.

THE PROSPECTS OF THE COTTON INDUSTRY FOR 1922.

(Concluded.)

By Sir Charles W. Macara, Bart.

Anyone who knows the facts knows that the difficulty which the labour question presents in India must itself make progress very slow, and especially if the native mills are to invade the finer section of trade which Lancashire has made so peculiarly her own. There is no stability about Indian labour. The operatives are drawn from an agricultural population who have but a transient interest in mechanical industry, and consequently the prospect of getting a sufficiency of highly-skilled workpeople is very remote.

Lancashire, on the other hand, has the inherited skill of generations to fall back upon, and can rely on operatives who have no equal in the world. And not only is the ability of our workers unmatched, but it is a well-known fact that it takes the combined efforts of three workpeople in the East to equal the output of one Lancashire mill operative.

With such advantages as Lancashire has in the way of production and skill, it is easy to see how impossible it is for India to compete, and perfectly puerile to think that Gandhi with his out-of-date hand-loom crusade can have any but the most insignificant effect upon the situation. He might as well try to fight the modern weapons of war with bows and arrows.

Where Gandhi Might do Real Service.

India may, and doubtless will, develop slowly, as in the past, her cotton trade in the future and to this Lancashire has not one word of discouragement to offer, but for the present she is totally incapable of doing without the assistance which Lancashire alone can give. Mr. Gandhi may be sincere in his intentions, but what he is doing at present is simply to stand in the way of the natives getting the cotton goods which Lancashire can supply her with more cheaply than anyone else.

If Mr. Gandhi wishes to do a real service to India and to his fellow-countrymen, he could best do it by encouraging the growth of more and better raw cotton. India, I have always held, could supply Lancashire with as good cotton as ever America produced if she properly organised and cultivated her crops—better by far than any other country in the British Empire. Would it not be a fine ideal to associate the two countries in a great cotton bond of fellowship, India to use her magnificent soil and climate for the production of raw material of the first class, and England, which has so many advantages on the manufacturing side, to exchange the cotton goods in which she excels for the cotton India could raise?

The Indian Natives' Best Friend.

This suggestion by no means precludes the native mill-owners of India from making all the cloth it is possible to make in that country, for, as Mr. Rao has been quick to see, cloth will in future be "wanted in continually increasing quantities for backward communities, and large numbers of aborigines yet remain to be clothed." That is the situation exactly. There is abundance of work for both Indians and Englishmen in supplying the wants of India, and there need be no jealousies or restrictions on either side. It is one of the truisms of the cotton trade that the more cotton goods are known and the more they are required, and it is a most noteworthy fact that in most countries where English textile machinery has been introduced, the people who have begun to manufacture for themselves have called more and more for the products of Lancashire spindles and looms. It is a mistake to imagine, therefore, that Lancashire has the slightest feeling of antagonism towards Indian manufactures; all that we ask is a fair field and no fiscal disadvantages, and we ask this as much in the interests of the native of India as ourselves. One thing that Mr. Gandhi and his friends should keep before them continually is the fact that every advance in Indian import duties means an increased hardship to the native population, for the profits of protection go to the enrichment of the factory masters of their own country, and not to the cheapening of the clothing worn by the poorest of the people.

Lancashire Still Supreme.

Therefore, I repeat that it is a total impossibility for India to get the goods she require in her own country. The hand-loom which Gandhi relies upon cannot hope either to compete

with the power loom or make up the huge deficiency there would be if Lancashire cotton goods were banned; and the slow progress made in developing Indian mills in the past shows how little is to be expected for many years to come in the way of meeting the demand. Granted that there is an acceleration in mill building, the progress must be painfully slow owing to the fact that the textile machinists of Lancashire, upon whom Indian mill owners depend almost wholly, are so overwhelmed with arrears of repairs, renewals, and extensions to home mills that they can give little attention to orders from other parts of the world.

Taking all these circumstances into consideration, I say that there is a vast deal too much made of the competition which India can offer either by power or by hand, and that Lancashire is in no danger of losing that supremacy in the cotton trade that she has won by the sheer grit and merit of her sons and daughters, aided by a climate which is unmatched in any part of the world for special purposes of producing cotton goods of the highest quality.

The Re-Capitalisation Bogey.

From what I have written above, it will be seen that those engaged in the cotton trade in England need have no fear of losing their most important market, nor can I see anything else which is likely to bring permanent injury to the staple Lancashire industry if our affairs are managed with wisdom and foresight. The troubles we have had to meet during the past twelve to eighteen months have been altogether exceptional, and have been brought about by the extraordinary conditions caused by the war, and the mal-administration of those who have been responsible for the Government of the country during the past half dozen years.

One has seen it stated in the press and elsewhere that "over capitalisation" was responsible largely for the state of things we have had of late. To make statements of this character is to display the utmost ignorance of the trade and the causes which have been at work. I have followed the re-capitalisation movement very closely, and I make bold to say that it is this re-capitalisation which has been the salvation of the industry. The enhanced value of mills and machinery made it highly necessary to put concerns on a new basis, while it had been obvious to anybody who has studied the matter that had our mills not been re-capitalised, they would in a comparatively few years have paid away all their capital in excessive war taxation.

Mills Still Worth Double Their Cost.

This has been demonstrated in the cases of the few exceptions which have refused to re-capitalise. They have found themselves with nothing to replace their machinery, and have been obliged to raise money either by means of "call" or in some other way. Far from prices paid for cotton mills being too high, I do not think that buildings and machinery can be replaced to-day for double the price paid for the most costly of these concerned.

It is only necessary to give in support of what I say the figure of the cost of building mills before the war and at the present time. In pre-war days it was possible to build a ring spinning mill for about two guineas a spindle, and a mule mill for 25s. a spindle. At the present time a ring mill cannot be put up at less than seven pounds a spindle, while a mule mill will cost fully five pounds.

Stick to Your Shares.

The lesson to be drawn from the state of things I have here set forth is one of encouragement to all who are either engaged in or connected with the industry. Prosperity is undoubtedly returning, and I have great confidence that before long both the workers and those who have invested their money in the trade will again reap their reward. It is unlikely that the world in future will be satisfied with a reduced standard of clothing, and seeing that cotton, it is estimated, clothes nine-tenths of the people of the world, and is by far the cheapest of clothing, and that before the war the trade was developing at the rate of four million spindles a year, I cannot but be fortified in my opinion that cotton will soon come into its own again.

I would, therefore, bid workers to be of good cheer, and advise shareholders whenever possible to hold fast to their shares, so that they may be compensated for the lean times we have gone through of late. The cotton trade is one of the

soundest and best organised we have in this country, and cannot but do well again when it has freed itself from all the harassments and troubles brought upon it by the war.

MANCHESTER MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Friday.

Trading in the market during the past week has been on a very limited scale, and the tone has been extremely quiet. The fluctuations which have taken place in raw cotton rates with a lowering tendency resulted in buyers being less disposed to place orders with spinners and manufacturers. We keep hearing the story that the outlets abroad are all bare of Lancashire piece goods, and that it will not be very long before a real buying movement commences. The buying power of our customers abroad is not of the same extent as a few years ago, but if the financial stringency was not so acute then perhaps we should witness a broadening of demand. Not much cloth inquiry has been about for Egypt and the Levant, and only a few miscellaneous sales have been registered. Better advices have been received from Constantinople. Egyptian spinners have met with a slack demand, and producers tend to lose ground. Quotations have been rather easier. There has been a distinct slackening off in the piece goods demand for China, and it is apparent that our customers have satisfied their immediate wants. Whites and fancies have been in most request, but no mention has been made of any contracts of weight. Not much activity has been displayed by shippers to India, and only a few sorting up lots have been sold for Calcutta and Madras, chiefly in light bleaching descriptions. In the American yarn section the tone has been dull, and prices have favoured buyers. Only a patchy offtake has been registered. Some small orders have been booked in export numbers for India, but less business has been about for China.

COTTON PIECE GOODS EXPORTS.

In 1921 the shipments of cotton cloth from Great Britain amounted to 2,902,659,000 square yards, which without exception is the smallest figure for more than fifty years. The last occasion on which the total was less than this was in 1869, when the aggregate only reached 2,868,630,000 yards. In 1913 which was the highest record, the exports were 7,075,558,400 yards. The poor showing which last year's total makes, however, confirms the reports of the low stocks held by traders abroad, and this in itself may be considered a hopeful factor in the trade outlook.

When values are dealt with, however, the record year was 1920 when the sum raised by the export of cotton piece goods was £315,733,164. The total in 1921 was £137,168,336. Last year the average price per square yard was 11.34d., compared with 17.08d., in the previous year, which of course was the high record. In 1913 the figure was 3.32d., with 5.44d., in 1917, and 12.18d. for 1919.

An interesting feature so far as quantities are concerned is that in 1914, the largest consumer of Lancashire cotton products—India—bought 45 per cent. of the total, but there was a gradual reduction to 22 per cent. in 1919. By 1920, however, the figure had risen again to 31 per cent. and the upward movement was maintained last year, when the proportion was 38 per cent.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows under date January 18:—

Lack of trade support has been the feature of the past week, and in its absence our market has continued the steady sagging movement to which we drew attention in our last report. Today, for the first time, an attempt at a halt has been made, in face of the strength displayed by Alexandria, and quotations were raised 25 points, presumably in sympathy with the futures market. Alexandria, in fact, is a tower of strength just at present, and we can only hope that this strength is justified. As might have been expected, Lancashire has lost all confidence in the current value of raw cotton, and spot buying during the week has fallen off to the most meagre dimensions. The small

enquiry was of a fairly general character, with Fully Good Fair Brown cotton rather to the fore. Tokar cotton continues to find an outlet, and it is becoming apparent that the better staple lots are gradually disappearing. There is a very large stock here, however, of the "fair average staple" variety, and it is known that a considerable line of the latter cotton has recently been tendered, the allowances obtained varying roughly from between 400 and 450 points off contracts. As a result, holders of Tokar cotton will find it increasingly difficult to obtain good prices until this docket cotton has been disposed of.

Manchester reports have not been very cheerful on the whole, and that centre appears to be going through a particularly bad period of depression and apathy. The hopes entertained that India would soon be making her buying power felt are very slow of realisation, and the one bright spot is China, who is apparently continuing the good work which was begun last week. The customary reports concerning the wretched prices obtained by manufacturers continue. The stock in Great Britain at the end of last week showed a decrease of about 8,000 bales on the previous week's total, while the average takings by spinners in this country continue to average between 5,000 and 6,000 bales per week. C.i.f. business has been only on moderate lines, taken all round. Sales, 1,300 bales (includes 230 bales Sudan). Quotations of Sakellaridis are reduced 125 points, those of Brown and Upper 75 points. Fully Good Fair Sakellaridis 19.50d.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated January 9:—Weather Forecast.—It is probably that the rainfall of north-west India in January, February and March, and that of the west of United Provinces of Agra and Oudh in January and February, together with snow-fall on neighbouring hills, will be in excess. Condition of Crops. January 6—In Bengal, spring crops fair and rain desirable. In Bombay, there have been heavy and untimely rains in many parts of Bombay Karnatak, which are doing damage to standing crops considerably; otherwise no change. In Central Provinces, sesamum very good, wheat, gram, and linseed, good. Punjab prospects unchanged. More rain has fallen in the north-west of Punjab, to the great benefit of wheat crops, but rain is required in central east and south-east of Punjab. January 9—In Assam, cotton poor, otherwise prospects unchanged. Markets.—Cotton.—January 5—Bombay cotton market, weak. Fine M.G. Oomras, Rs. 456 December-January, Rs. 443 March. Piece-goods.—Bombay piece-goods market unchanged. Jute.—January 7—In Calcutta jute market advices from consuming markets indicate much easier tone and rates about 10d. down. Gunnies quiet. Rice.—January 6.—Special Straits quality rice Rs. 380 for December new crops. Shellac.—T.N. Rs. 150. No change in bank rates. Freight.—Holland British India Line now offer to book cargo for London at 5s. under Conference net rates and propose making London first port of call. Conference rates remain unaltered.

A further cable dated January 16 states:—

Condition of Crops.—January 13—Bengal crop prospects unchanged. Rain much needed for spring crops. In Bombay Karnatak recent rain has damaged rice, jawar and standing wheat crops and seriously pulse crops. Rust feared in wheat crops; prospects of other crops unchanged. In Khandesh, wheat seriously damaged and rust feared. Sind crops generally unchanged. In Central Provinces, wheat suffering somewhat on light soils, but prospects of other crops unchanged. North-east of United Provinces of Agra and Oudh wheat and grain normal; sugarcane good. January 16—Assam crop prospects unchanged.

Markets.—January 12—Bombay cotton market dull. Fine M.G. Oomras Rs. 389 March. Bombay cotton arrivals from September 1921 to January 6, 1922, 1,049,000 bales as compared with 568,000 bales in the same period of last year. Bombay piece-goods market unchanged; local goods in fair demand. Calcutta jute and gunny markets very quiet. At tea sale on January 10 selection was good; strong market for common teas, which advanced about one anna. For all teas up to Re. 1 market very firm. Above that prices lower, the finest selling at two to three annas below previous rates. Dusts steady. 484,874 packages sold to date at an average price of nine annas 11 pies per lb. Special Straits quality rice, Rs. 392.8 for December new crop. Shellac.—T.N., Rs. 155. No change in bank rates.

TEXTILE MACHINERY SHIPMENTS IN 1921.

One of the few British industries which is not suffering from a dearth of orders is the Lancashire textile machinery trade, and most firms are quite unable to accept business for early delivery.

The exports from the United Kingdom last year were 156,995 tons, representing a value of £25,148,832 against 63,314 tons costing £9,153,773 in the previous year, and 178,074 tons worth £8,281,848 in 1913.

With such a boom in this trade it is not surprising that values tend to appreciate. In 1913 the average price per ton was £47, but in 1920 the figure was £145 whilst last year the average was £160.

Buyers in Eastern countries were responsible for over 60 per cent. of the total quantity shipped abroad in 1921. India alone took 38 per cent. Japan 14 per cent., and China 10 per cent. Of the European markets, France with 15 per cent. was the most important.

TURKISTAN STEAMSHIP CO.

The Turkistan Steamship Co., Ltd., has been registered as a private company with a nominal capital of £100,000 in £1 shares (50,000 preference and 50,000 ordinary). The objects are to adopt an agreement with Frank C. Strick and Co., Ltd., and Gray Dawes and Co., and to carry on the business of ship-owners and brokers, chartering agents or brokers, insurance brokers, managers of shipping property, freight and salvage contractors, carriers by land and sea, forwarding agents, marine and marine accident insurance, &c. First directors :—Sir Duncan Carmichael, 122, Leadenhall-street, E.C., merchant; G. T. Hotblack, 122, Leadenhall-street, E.C., merchant.

CHAMPION REEF GOLD MINES.

The statutory report states that the company was incorporated on October 31, 1921, with a capital of £260,000, divided into 520,000 shares of 10s. each. In accordance with the reconstruction agreement dated November 3, 1921, the shares were issuable credited with 4s. per share as paid, being part consideration for the sale and transfer of property from the Champion Reef Gold Mining Co., of India, Ltd. (in liquidation). Up to January 13, 1922, 512,512 shares have been allotted; 1s. per share has been called up on 512,505 shares, amounting to £25,625 5s., making them 5s. per share paid; and £665 11s. 1d. has been received on account of future calls; 10s. per share has been received on seven subscribers' shares, and £62 17s. has been received on shares applied for, but not yet allotted. The issue of shares was over-subscribed. The allotment of the balance of 7,488 shares will be made in due course. Preliminary expenses are estimated to amount to £6,000. Meeting, 6, Queen-street-place, E.C., January 31, noon.

Czecho-Slovak enamel ware manufacturers, who have been attached to the German Enamel-ware Syndicate, have now formed their own association.

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FOUNDED 1863.

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

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B. KERESTEDJIAN
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} Sub-Directors.

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(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

EGYPT.
Alexandria. Calro.
Miansourah, Minieh,
Port Said.**PALESTINE.**
Jerusalem.
Jaffa.
Caiffa.**CYPRUS.**
Nicosia. Larnaca.
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Paphos.**SYRIA.**Aleppo.
Alexandretta.Beyrout.
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The Bank has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of Credit granted.

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Stock and Share Markets.

DEMAND FOR INVESTMENT SECURITIES.

Oils Inactive.

(From Our Own Correspondent).

London, Monday.

During the past week activity has been mainly confined to the investment group which has again made a very good showing. A contributory factor to the strength of the gilt-edged group was the withdrawal of the 5½ per cent. Treasury Bonds and the substitution for them of 5 per cent. Bonds. Generally speaking conditions have favoured the markets, and the more optimistic view now being taken as to the economic outlook has not been without its effect. If only the Powers would get to work without delay and elaborate a scheme for remedying the adverse exchanges it would be possible to look forward to the future with a very considerable degree of confidence. Unfortunately the prospects of this at the present time seem rather uncertain.

An indication of the excellent state of the financial position here is to be found in the rapid success of the week's new issues. Admittedly they have all been particularly promising, but then it is possible to recall cases in recent months of equally good issues which were neglected. It points very plainly to the return of confidence to the investor. Naturally there is a tendency to take advantage of the favourable position, and we are promised quite a crop of new issues in the next few weeks. There is still no news as to pending Near Eastern Loans, but it should not be long now before something is heard regarding them.

Gilt-Edged Buoyant.

The gilt-edged market developed considerable strength during the week, and gains are to be recorded all along the line. Consols are 1½ up at 53, War Loan Fives have gained 3-8 at 93½, while the Conversion Loan at 68½ is 1-3-16 up. Indian stocks which had not hitherto shared in the buoyancy of the gilt-edged group, have also been in demand, and are substantially higher. The 7 per cent. Loan is 2 up at 106½, the 3 per cent. Loan is 54, and the 3½ per cent. Loan is 61½. In Near Eastern securities which rank with British Government stocks Turkish Guaranteed 4 per cent. 1855 are 1½ up at 74½, Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per cents. are unchanged at 70½, and Greek Guaranteed 2½ per cents. remain at 63½.

The foreign market has been somewhat dull and featureless. French Loans have been weak, War Loan Fives closing ¾ down at 40½. German 3 per cents. at 3 have shed 1-16. Italian Rentes are unchanged at 21½. Japanese stocks have been fairly steady. The 1905 Loan is ½ up at 87½, but the 1910 issue has shed ½ at 61½. Chinese stocks have been weak. Brazilians have been firm on American buying, while Mexican securities especially Utility issues have been in marked request. Russians have fluctuated considerably, and close on a weak note as a result of a good deal of selling during the week, inspired presumably by the belief that there is no prospect of appreciable improvement in the near future.

Greek securities have been firm. The 5 per cent. 1881 Loan is 1 up at 37, while the 5 per cent. 1884 Loan has gained 2 at 37. The 4 per cent. 1910 Loan is unchanged at 30, the 5 per cent. Funding Loan is 35, and the 5 per cent. 1914 Loan is 39.

Industrials Steady.

On the whole a fairly steady tone has ruled in the Industrial market. As usual in these times, however, the volume of business has been of the scantiest description, and price changes in most cases are not of any great importance. Tobacco shares have been rather a strong feature. Bats are 65s., and Imperial Tobacco are 63s. African and Easterns have been a firm spot, closing at 35s. Crosse and Blackwell issues have been noticeably hard, the Ordinary being 7s. 6d. Among Telegraphs some activity has prevailed in Radios and Marconis.

There has been little change in Textiles. Coats at 2,21-32 show a gain of 1-32, while Courtaulds are 1½d. down at 37s. 9d.. Iron, Coal, and Steel securities have been variable. Armstrongs are 9d. down at 14s., Vickers have shed 7½d. at 7s. 9d., while Guest Keens are 3d. lower at 30s. 3d. Babcock and Wilcox are 1-32 up at 2½, while Lamberts are 1,27-32.

Shipping securities are about the same. P. and O. Deferred are unchanged at 30½, Cunards remain at 18s. 9d., while Furness Withys are 3d. up at 25s.

Mines have been quiet and dull for the most part. Geduld's have again been a feature, and close 3-32 up at 2½. Diamonds have been harder on support from the Continent, and De Beers are ¼ up at 10½.

Oils Dull.

There has not been much doing in the Oil market during the week, and prices in some cases are slightly lower. Burmahs are 1 down at 6, the cause presumably being that buyers at the end of the week would not be entitled to a preferential allotment in respect of the new Anglo-Persian issues. Mexican Eagles are 3-32 down at 3½. For some time now this share has moved within fairly narrow limits, and potential buyers are obviously waiting for better news from Mexico. At its present price I regard the share as a fair speculative purchase, and one which should within a few months show a fair profit. Trinidad issues have been active, Centrals advancing to 4,1-8. In my view Centrals are another promising purchase for a profit in the near future, while there are possibilities about Kern Rivers which now stand at 19s. 6d.

Among Egyptians Anglo-Egyptian B have shed 3-32 at 1,3-8, while Oilfields of Egypt at 3-16 are 1-32 lower. Gemisah are 7s. 7½d. In the Roumanian group Phoenix, as the result of further profit taking, close 6d. lower at 11s. Roumanian Consolidated are unchanged at 9s. Dacia Romanos remain at 11-16, while Steaua Romanas are 3d. down at 11s.

Banks Firm.

Among banking descriptions Agricultural of Egypt 3½ per cent. Bonds are unchanged at 54-5-4, while the 3½ per cent. Guaranteed Bonds remain at 56½. Imperial Ottoman Banks are unchanged at 8½, while Ionian Banks and Bank of Athens remain respectively at 4½ and 2. National Bank of Egypt are 1-8 up at 19,1-8. Chartered of India remain at 15,7-8, but National of India are 1-16 up at 37,13-16. P. and O. Banking Corporation are 1-8 up at 12, Imperial of Persia have gained ¼ at 5, while Bank of British West Africa are unchanged at 4½.

Land shares have been rather dull. Béhéras are again 1-8 down at 8½, but Béhéra Prefs are the same at 3,5-16. Egyptian Delta Lands have shed 3d. at 7s. 3d., but Gharbiehs are unchanged at 1,9-16. New Egyptians at 25s. 3d. are 1s. 1½d. down, while Union Foncières are the same at 2,5-8. Sudan Plantations have shed ¼ at 2,5-8.

Rubbers Dull.

The feature of the week has been the decline in the price of the raw commodity to 9½d. or under 2d. more than the lowest figure reached last year. Naturally the share market has been dull in consequence. The movement of the raw commodity is probably only a temporary feature, and the indications point to a gradual appreciation in price. Stocks here, it must be remembered are slowly but very surely going down. Once conditions are favourable for the resumption of Continental buying there will be a vast change in the position. In the meantime shareholders will find cause for encouragement in the efforts now being made to extend the uses of rubber. *En passant* I should hesitate to say that share values, may not go a little lower, but there will not be much in it, and I should say that the time is not far distant when a few purchases might be made to advantage. The difficulty, of course, is that nobody likes to lock up money in indefinitely, and it is so obvious that some time must elapse before we shall again be able to speak of buoyancy in the Rubber Market.

Among Miscellaneous descriptions Alexandria Waters are 6,7-8 Egyptian Markets are 17s. 9d., and Egyptian Salt and Sodas are 13s.

CONSTANTINOPLE LOAN AGREEMENT.

With reference to Article 13 of the Deposit Agreement dated November 9, 1921, in regard to the Constantinople Municipal Five per Cent. Loan, 1909, Messrs. Baring Brothers and Co., notify that as over two-thirds of the total issue of bonds have been deposited the committee has decided to make the agreement operative and to authorise the return of bonds deposited duly endorsed. The endorsed bonds are now ready for exchange for the relative interim receipts which should be presented through the intermediary of a London bank or other London agent. Messrs. Baring Brothers and Co. is authorised for the present to continue to receive deposits of bonds under the agreement and to return them duly endorsed.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

MOROCCAN FISH FOR FRANCE.

The fishing experiment of the big trawler, Jules Elby, equipped with the latest freezing apparatus, in Moroccan waters, which has now returned to Havre, have not been very satisfactory, says the *Journal of Commerce*. Receipts amounted to 130,000 francs, whereas expenses for the 32-day voyage reach 150,000 francs, from which it is concluded that big trawlers are only suitable for the Dogger Bank. In the catch were 7,000 cod, but most of it was lobster and similar fish. For the first time in Havre the cargo was sold upon sample, and the method was not entirely satisfactory, for it was found that the freezing plant had not preserved all cases of fish in an equal degree, and in consequence much that was sold as one class of goods had to be taken back and resold later at a smaller price.

FRENCH SHIPPING ACTIVITIES.

Greater activity is noticeable in the Messageries Maritimes and other French lines, serving the Near and Far East from Marseilles now that political troubles appear to be less acute in Egypt. A considerable tonnage of building materials will be sent from France shortly to Syria, according to the *Journal de la Marine Marchande*. It is, on the other hand, to be remarked that freights from Marseilles to the Far East are firmer, among the articles which are being exported being wines for Japan and China, *articles de Paris*, soaps and perfumes, and trinkets of French manufacture.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

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

Anchor Line.—S.s. Elysia for Bombay (Liverpool, February 4).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Malancha for Calcutta (Birkenhead, January 28); s.s. Malakuta for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (leaves London, February 4); s.s. Mahratta for Calcutta (Birkenhead, February 11); s.s. Stockwell for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, February 18); s.s. Mahrona for Calcutta (Birkenhead, February 25); s.s. Anchoria for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, March 7).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Lancashire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, February 1); s.s. Yorkshire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, February 15).

Byron Steamship Line.—S.s. Maid of Crete for Patras, Piraeus, Constantinople, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, Braila, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, January 30); s.s. Maid of Hydra for Patras, Piraeus, Constantinople, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, Braila, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, February 13).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Cypria for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, and Catania (Swansea, February 6); s.s. Brescia for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika,

Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, and Batoum (Glasgow, February 9).

Ellerman's "City" Line.—S.s. City of Sparta for Calcutta (Birkenhead, February 4); s.s. City of Marseilles for Calcutta (Birkenhead, February 20).

Ellerman's "Hall" Line.—S.s. Kasenga for Bombay, Karachi, and the Punjab (Liverpool, January 31); s.s. Kentucky for Karachi and the Punjab (Liverpool, January 31).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—Steamers sail fortnightly for Malta, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz, and Braila.

Glen Line.—S.s. Glenogle for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, January 26); s.s. Glenapp for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, February 9); s.s. Carnarvonshire for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, February 23).

Harrison Line.—S.s. Author for Calcutta (Liverpool, January 26); s.s. Explorer for Calcutta (Liverpool, February 14).

Henderson Line.—S.s. Bharno for Port Said, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, February 8).

Holt Line.—S.s. Antiochus for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, January 26); s.s. Mentor for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, January 26); s.s. Machaon for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, January 26); s.s. Teiresias for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, February 9).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Incemore (first steamer of the season for the Danube), for Piraeus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, February 11); s.s. Pomaron for Piraeus, Syra, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, February 18).

Moss Line.—S.s. Siptah for Gibraltar, Malta, Piraeus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Sulina and Constantza (Liverpool, January 28); s.s. Hatasu for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, January 28).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. Bosnian for Algiers, Malta, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, February 4); s.s. Egyptian for Mellila, Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, February 4).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Sardinia for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, January 27); s.s. Karmala for Bombay (London, January 27); s.s. China for Bombay (London, February 10); s.s. Nyanza for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, February 10).

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. Mandala for Bombay and Karachi (London, January 27); s.s. Morvada for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, February 3); s.s. Nevasa for Bombay and Karachi (London, February 10); s.s. Chilka for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, February 17).

Prince Line.—S.s. Merchant Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria and Syrian Coast (Manchester, February 4); s.s. Stuart Prince for Malta, Alexandria and Syrian Coast (London, February 4).

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

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Prices on January 6 were as follows:—Agricultural Bank of Egypt, £4.7-16; Alexandria Water Co., Ltd., £7; Anglo American Nile Steam, £2½; Associated Cotton Ginners, £7-8; Banque d'Orient, Fr. 56½x; Behera Ord., £E9.3-8; Brasseries d'Egypte, Fr. 55; Building Lands of Egypt, £7-8; Cassi di Sconto Priv. Fr., 108; Ciments d'Egypte Priv., Fr., 50; Ciments d'Egypte Div., Fr., 24; Comptoir Fin. et Com. d'Egypte, £1.11-16; Consolidated Lands, Pt., 5; Credit Foncier Fondateur, Fr., 915; Credit Foncier Act, Fr. 663½; Credit Foncier 1886 Oblig., Fr., 322; Crown Brewery Priv., Fr., 115; Crown Brewery Div., Fr., 130; Eaux du Caire, Capital, Fr., 80; Eaux du Caire Jouissance, Fr., 102; Egypt and Levant, S.S. Ord., 27s. 10½d.; Egyptian Delta Light Railways, £3. 11-16; Filature National d'Egypte, £10½; Immeubles d'Egypte Soc an des., £5.9-16; Khedivial Mail S. S. Ord., 107s.; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co., Pref., £2½; Kom Ombo Ste An de Wadi, £4½; Kom Ombo Ste An Fondateur £34; Land Bank of Egypt, Parts de Fond, £38; Lots Turcs. Fr., 30; Menzaleh Canal Navigation Pt., 225; Nungovich Hotels, £6.7-16; Ramleh Railways, £2. 5-8; Salt and Soda, 31s. 1½d.; Tram d'Alexandrie Priv., Fr., 41; Tram d'Alexandrie Div., Fr., 55; Union Fonciere d'Egypte, £2. 25-32; Egypt Hotels, £2.1-32; Urbaines et Rurales, £3.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 560—Vol XXI.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1922.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Near Eastern Conference.

Before *The Near East* appears again, Lord Curzon will have met the Allied Foreign Ministers in Paris, and though it might be interesting to anticipate their proposals it would be fruitless. Such an examination would serve no purpose, simply because details in this matter are of very little account : the one thing necessary is unanimity. For whatever Great Britain, France, and Italy choose to do, that, so long as it be done in concert, we believe can be done. On the face of it the probability of such joint action does not appear great. It would seem that little hope of complete unanimity could be derived from a situation in which Turkey, Greece, and Russia are the three main local factors; for if Great Britain is friendly with the second, she is suspect by the first and last, while France is friendly only with the first, and Italy with the first and last—a tangle indeed of confused interests and desires. But we are not hopeless that at last the Allied representatives may arrive at the realisation which we have long been urging—that, however, conflicting subsidiary interests may be, the one great purpose, peace in the Near East, can be attained only by commonly-conceived plans and commonly-executed measures.

Great Britain, France, & Italy.

We attach no credit to ourselves when we express our belief that, of all the motives of Western Powers now concerned in a settlement of the Near East, Great Britain's are the least interested. There is wide suspicion of us, we know; it will be perhaps the most difficult and the most important of the duties attaching to Lord Curzon at the Conference to break down this suspicion. Once France and Italy, particularly France, are persuaded of our good faith in the Near East, the remainder, we believe, will be easy, for disagreement is a quite possible basis for business, but suspicion, never. We have no all-embracing policy in the Near East, we dislike all talk or intention of hegemony, and any appearances to the contrary are the result of open accident, not of secret design. In the Straits, for instance, where our predominance is so much disliked, our purpose is as honest and as clear as the daylight; and again, with the Arabs, our support of whom is anxiously questioned, we seek no goal but peace. It is true, lamentably true, that British policy has been sometimes vague, and sometimes even contradictory, this being due mainly to our

new and transient methods of conducting foreign affairs; but it is equally true that as a nation we have no desire to oust either France or Italy from influence in the Near East. As far as we can see, the policy of France, admirably logical and consistent though it may have been, has depended in great part on our policy, almost following the principle of opposites, and certainly there have been on her part far too much rivalry and suspicion, though we surely would not attribute this to the French as a whole. And of Italy, we hope we are doing her no injustice if we say that her policy in the Near East has been one of frank opportunism, one from which her renowned idealism and liberalism have with puzzling success been absent. She has acutely taken advantage of our mistakes, and, confident of her place on the highlands of Anatolia and of the Caucasus, she can look down without envy upon our hitherto miserable attempts to settle with Turkey and with Russia.

A Final Opportunity.

About the meeting of the Allied Foreign Ministers at Paris, which is due to take place within a day or two, there is a sense of historical importance, for it may well be the last of its kind. Unless there is unanimity now, we do not see how later it can be reached; if the three Great Powers cannot approach each other now, we think that they will soon break farther away. Presumably each one now knows where the others stand, and some points will be found bearing a common solution. Of a theoretical solution indeed we do not entertain much anxiety; it is rather in the execution of the plans that difficulties will arise. If Turkey is recalcitrant over any question, say that of Thrace, there must be no boggling over the enforcement of the Allies' terms. In this connection we set some store, though it may not immediately be necessary, on an understanding with Russia, whose constant support of Turkey's demands has been perhaps the most remarkable and important factor in the whole Near Eastern situation since the Armistice. Western statesmen well know that the Russo-Turkish friendship cannot last, and it will not be out of their power to dissolve it. But in any case we do not anticipate that a show of force will be necessary to convince Turkey: an united front will suffice.

A Communique on Egypt.

On Sunday evening the Foreign Office issued a *communiqué* announcing that Lord Allenby has been summoned to England "to give information and advice to his Majesty's Government as to the present situation

in Egypt." Advantage was taken of the opportunity to restate the British Government's attitude towards Egypt and the demand for independence, and to make clear the policy pursued "both during and since the Adly Mission to England." The full text of the statement will be found on another page, and we hope that it will afford as much satisfaction to our readers as it has given to ourselves. In our issue of December 8 we expressed the opinion that the Egyptians wanted more than they had a right to expect and that the British Government was not prepared to concede all that it might safely grant. The outline of policy issued on Sunday seems to show that the latter statement will no longer hold good, that our Government is in fact prepared to concede all that it can grant without risking a charge of neglecting its duty towards the Empire.

A Triumph for Moderate Counsels.

The issue of the *communiqué* constitutes a triumph for moderate opinion on both sides and those responsible for bringing it about deserve well both of Great Britain and of Egypt. We have never taken such a gloomy view of the British Government's conduct as a very large section of the Press has done, but we realise that to issue a statement such as that of Sunday in the present state of things must have required some courage; and we are glad that it has been done. Great credit is also due to the Egyptian Moderates, who, headed by Adly and Sarwat Pashas, have declined to follow blindly the policy advocated by Zaghloul Pasha and his lieutenants. The way is now once more open for the resumption of negotiations, and the prospect of reaching a settlement is brighter than it has been for many a long day.

Friends of Egypt.

In a letter published in the Press last week, a number of well-known men propose the formation of an association of the friends of Egypt in this country. The organizers are men with real knowledge of Egypt and of the problems it presents, and they are unlikely to allow the proposed association to be stampeded by cranks or faddists; and we can, therefore, welcome their proposal quite unreservedly. Their aim is to remove the obstacles to an amicable understanding between Egypt and the British nation, and they hold that the divergences of view revealed in the published official correspondence do not appear sufficient to justify the failure to come to terms. They believe that "there is common ground on which moderate and reasonable opinion on either side can meet," and for our part we share the belief, and regret sincerely that the breakdown was ever permitted to occur. The Association aims at "showing the Egyptians that they have friends in this country who do not despair of a settlement and who are prepared to work for it." To that we may add, what the writers themselves could not—"and friends of the right type, whose advocacy will help instead of hindering." The mere publication of the letter can hardly fail to have strengthened the hands of the moderates in Egypt already, and to have brought nearer the prospect of the formation of a Cabinet.

An Abdication Rumour

In the early part of last week a London daily published a telegram from its Athens correspondent to the effect that King Constantine was to abdicate, the Allied Powers having intimated that normal relations with Greece could not be restored until he made way for Prince George. The intimation, according to the report cited,

had been conveyed through the British Minister in Athens, the Hon. Francis Lindley, and King Constantine had finally arrived at the conclusion that the interests of his country would best be served by his abdication. To give the message the necessary finish, we were informed that should King Constantine decide to change his mind "recent financial arrangements" would be cancelled, and finally that M. Venizelos had intimated his willingness to place his services at the disposal of his country, "once King Constantine is out of the way." It was a circumstantial story, and in some quarters it found credence for a few hours, but, as was only to be expected it was very soon officially denied.

Whence Launched?

While it may be not entirely strange that rumours regarding the abdication of King Constantine should be numerous at the present time, it certainly is strange that one of them should reach London in such a form as that of the message referred to above. The story, ridiculous in its details though it may be, is calculated to do harm to British interests in Greece; and it would be interesting to know how it came into being. The question of King Constantine's relations to the Greek people is one for him and them to decide; and though it may influence the attitude of the Allies towards Greece in the future, as it has influenced them in the past, they are unlikely, we imagine, at this late hour of the day to act in such a manner as that suggested by the report quoted. In any case,—and this is for us the most important point—the suggestion that it was or should be, the British Minister who would be likely to deliver a message which would be, obviously, almost as offensive to the Hellenic people as it would be to King Constantine himself, appears to us to be both malicious and absurd. It may be that King Constantine may yet consider that his abdication would benefit his country, and act upon the belief; and it may be that he may be asked to abdicate by some outside Power, or Powers. But such a story as that to which we have referred is never likely to prove an "intelligent anticipation of events." To our minds the only touch of artistic verisimilitude about it is the suggestion that M. Venizelos would, in the circumstances indicated, be willing to take office again; and even that is in flat contradiction to his own declarations.

A New Persian Cabinet.

Persia has yet another new Cabinet, the Kavam es Saltanah having been replaced as Prime Minister by the Mushir ed Dowleh, and a general adjustment of other posts having taken place. The Sardar Sipah, however, still remains Minister of War, a feat which, amid so many and such rapid changes, inevitably calls up memories of a certain Vicar of Bray. The Kavam es Saltanah's fall is generally ascribed to his finding the financial difficulties of the country too great for him to overcome, and more especially to the disappointment of his anticipations in regard to certain loans. Whether his successor's Cabinet—which took office on January 21—will find its task any easier in this direction is somewhat doubtful, and the Acting Minister of Finance, the Mudir ul-Mulk, is not to be envied. The finances of Persia may almost be said to have drifted into a state of chronic embarrassment, and it is difficult to see what prospect there is of their improving in the near future. But perhaps the United States Minister, now on his way out to Persia, may be destined to play the part of *deus ex machina*.

The Situation in India.

During the week the cables from India have given us more views than news, and almost the only fact worthy of note has been the definite abandonment of the boycott of foreign cloth by the Indian dealers in Calcutta. To tell the truth, their hearts were never really in the movement, and if they gave it their support, the reason was to be found in their fear of the organised gangs of so-called volunteers, who for a short time were allowed to do very much as they liked. The volunteers have now been put out of action, while the dealers have found themselves threatened from an unexpected quarter by the competition of Afghan merchants, who will sell foreign cloth or anything else, if there is money in it, and who would be quite ready to teach "volunteers" a lesson in minor tactics if any interference were attempted with their business. So the Calcutta dealers are selling cloth again, and, since faces have to be saved, they are blaming Mr. Ghandi, who promised Home Rule for January 1, and has failed to deliver the goods; but the true significance of the incident lies in the evidence it furnishes that ordinary people are again more or less able to live their own lives in peace.

Civil Disobedience.

Some pleasant reading is afforded by the accounts of the spread of what is called civil disobedience, mainly in the form of a refusal to pay revenue, in the Madras district of Guntur, which is between Hyderabad and the East Coast. The measures which are being taken to cope with it are of the kind we anticipated when discussing the subject not long ago; the holdings of recalcitrant peasants will be promptly sold up, the dupes will lose their sole means of livelihood, and the agitators in the background will presumably shift their quarters in time to avoid serious consequences to themselves. The possibility that purchasers may be afraid to come forward has of course been foreseen, and provision has, we are glad to see, been made to utilise any land left on the hands of the Government to provide for members of the depressed, or oppressed, classes, who have for so long been asking for a chance to better their condition. Land-hunger is so intense in this part of India that there is little prospect of holdings being left unoccupied for long; it is unlikely therefore that the dupes will be able to secure reinstatement by repentance, and we suppose they will in due course become objects of charity, like the unfortunate Moslems who were tempted to emigrate to Afghanistan.

Lord Northcliffe on India.

Of views as distinct from news, we can only refer to the considered statements of Lord Northcliffe, which have, of course, enjoyed a wide circulation, and which are said in some quarters to be largely responsible for the recent fall in India stocks. So far as the internal situation is concerned, the general effect of these statements is in the direction of "gingering up" Lord Reading's Administration, but it is not easy at this distance to be sure whether that particular treatment was indicated by the diagnosis; sometimes a doctor thinks it well to prescribe what his patient asks for. Speaking for ourselves, we must confess to a certain amount of disappointment that Lord Northcliffe should have left India without publishing an account of an interview between himself and Mr. Ghandi. Doubtless there were difficulties in the way, but the contact of such dissimilar personalities could scarcely have failed to send out some sparks of truth and light; and even

sparks would be welcome just now, when some of Mr. Ghandi's most intimate advisers are in jail, and the opportunity presents itself of penetrating to his undiluted individuality.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Monday Evening.

Revival of Party Politics.

We have had another week of political oratory, and the speaking has been distinctly above the average recent level. It is true that Mr. Lloyd George's last effort was very disappointing—he is never at his best until he has been attacked—but the Independent Liberal revival meeting showed distinct signs of life. Mr. Asquith had more punch than for a long time past, but he was outshone by Lord Grey, who had evidently lost none of his old power in five years' retirement. The interesting point of his speech for the tacticians was that he confessed himself ready to co-operate with Lord Robert Cecil—the Whig with the Tory—and that the latter has publicly welcomed the proposal. But Hatfield House only sways six or ten votes, so that it will not make much difference in practice.

Mr. Winston Churchill replied for the Coalition a day or two later, and attacked Lord Robert; but he, like his leader, was not at his best, and the subsequent retort from the elder Cecil was very affective—a quotation of the celebrated lines from Dryden's "Absalom and Ahithophel" which fitted the Colonial Secretary with unkind precision. The fact seems to be that the Coalition batting has become stale, and the Opposition are getting the wickets at the moment. But they have only begun to do so since the General Election was postponed—that is to say, since they were relieved of the fear that the Coalition would declare its innings closed.

The party engines have been got to move again, but they want a year at least to get up steam; and I am not at all sure that the public really welcomes this outburst of political activity. The deciding issue at the next election will be neither the Coalition programme nor Independent Liberal gibes, but the attitude of Labour. If people are still frightened of Labour then the Coalition is safe, if not, not.

The Trial that Failed.

We had all been looking forward to a first-class sensation at the Old Bailey last week, in the trial of Mr. Bigland for criminal libel against Mr. Bottomley. The case was expected to last a fortnight; half Fleet Street and nearly all the Temple were there. But within an hour everything was over. Mr. Bottomley applied for an adjournment and, that being refused,

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failed to produce any evidence; the case accordingly collapsed, and the prisoner was acquitted. It was the most astonishing thing that has happened in the Courts for many a year. The failure to proceed with the trial placed Mr. Bottomley in an equivocal position, for the accusations which Mr. Bigland made against him were by no means pleasant reading. He has, however, issued a statement that he intends to clear his honour, and people are waiting with some interest for the next stage.

The Vatican.

The death of the Pope was not a matter of direct interest outside the small Roman Catholic community in these islands. The old Protestant note which made itself conspicuous fifty years ago on such occasions was certainly lacking, but the biographies usually noted that the late Pope was not, to put it mildly, an asset to the Allies in the late war. It is recognised that the break-up of Austria means a change in the position of the Papacy, but that does not concern us very greatly. There is, of course, no chance of an Englishman's being elected.

The National Health.

In spite of influenza, drought, and the popularity of murder at the moment, statistics published last week showed that the national health has again improved. While the Malthusians want to make it more difficult to be born, it seems to be becoming increasingly difficult to die. The death-rate is the lowest on record, having sunk from 21.4 per thousand in 1871-80 to 12.1 last year. A great deal of the fall is due, of course, to the declining infantile mortality, but it is undeniable that old people live longer, and enjoy their life too. It is partly due to sanitation, partly to better surgery; but mainly, according to the best authorities, to the more temperate indulgence in eating and drinking.

Lord Bryce, who died last week in the middle eighties, was a typical young old man; but I have heard him spoken of almost in the tones one adopts about those who are cut off in the flower of youth, so full of vigour did he seem. After this, one can believe the story of the Civil Servant, retired compulsorily at sixty-five, who decided to read for the bar in order to occupy what he called "the inevitable coming of early middle age."

The most striking example of longevity, however that I have heard of for some time, appeared in print a few days ago. It was announced that the Bishop of London who has just recovered from a dangerous illness at the age of 64, has gone with his elder brother, ten years his senior, to stay with his mother at Bournemouth.

A Treasure House.

Another great London mansion is likely to disappear this year—the Burdett Coutts house, at the corner of Stratton Street, Piccadilly. Many of the works of art, which include Reynolds, Raeburns, Romneys, and Gainsboroughs, will be sold this spring; a first folio Shakespeare is for sale; letters from Pitt, Fox, Lafayette, Scott, and some three hundred letters from Dickens—there has been no such opportunity for the American collector for many a long year.

It is an echo of the old world, but I doubt whether many people would care to live in Piccadilly in these days, even if they could afford it—it is too noisy. A bedroom window facing the Park sounds ideal, but as you have to keep it shut if you want to sleep at all the average sensible person prefers a quieter if less fashionable address.

The Heretic at Home.

The heresy hunt, to which I referred about a month ago as likely to be dropped, seems certain to be prosecuted after all. A lively controversy has sprung up in the newspapers on "Shaken Creeds," in which deans, and other dignitaries belabour each other; and the accused cleric, Mr. Major, of Ripon Hall, Oxford, has replied to his tormentors in a pamphlet and a letter to the Press. The gist of his attitude is in the following declaration: "I venture to think that to teach as symbolically true, statements which are scientifically or historically false, without frankly saying that they are

scientifically and historically false, is apt to lower our reputation for veracity, at any rate with the vast majority of Englishmen."

That seems to put the thing in a nutshell, and one is rather surprised at the number of clerics who have since accused Mr. Major of "confused thinking." There has been a great deal about Adam and Eve in the discussion, but in its later developments, the Athanasian Creed has inevitably been introduced, with an increase of heat and deminution of light. However, the recriminations have so far been conducted with a greater regard to propriety than is usual in ecclesiastical polemics, and I understand that one or two laymen have entered the discussion. So far, like Daniel in the lions' den, they have received no visible hurt from their intrusion.

Public School Diet.

Another controversy of the day, which seems to be evoking more interest than that of the creeds, relates to the feeding of schoolboys. Indignant parents write to the papers to say that their boys are not being properly fed at school, and that as they pay £200 a year for keeping them there eight months in the year something better than bread and margarine should be doled out for supper; harrassed housemasters reply that, so far from profiteering by starving young England, it is impossible to put money by for one's old age, so capacious is the interior of youth, and so utterly does boy-nature abhor a vacuum, particularly in its inside. Doctors and physiologists have joined in with learned talk about calories and vitamins; but meanwhile it is announced that yet another public school is to be founded, this time out of a disused ducal mansion.

My own impression is that the food at public schools is reasonably good; it is what some sardonic person has called the system of education that is hopelessly bad. The schoolmaster still thinks in Latin, and sighs for the restoration of Greek; he continues to look on those youthful languages, English and French, as essentially barbaric tongues; and like the classical don the world over, he persuades himself that the niceties of grammar are "the humanities." The mentality of a pedagogue must be a very curious study, but it is incomprehensible to the ordinary person.

The Week's Books.

"The Evolution of Consciousness" (T. Fisher Unwin) by A. Wyatt Tilby, is a psychological study. It describes the chronological development of the senses as the basis of perception, and then plunges into a discussion of the Will in Nature—which it divides into successive stages, the will to live, Desire, and Purpose; a study of Sex, Memory, Intellect follows, with an analysis of the Categories of Thought; Thought itself being derived from action, in direct contradiction to the classical doctrine. The statement is made that consciousness is essentially of a chemical nature, consisting of an unending series of actions and reactions.

An old clergyman, who was a hardened reviewer of books in his spare time, once told me that nobody could set up to be an honest critic unless he had read every word of the book criticised before he began his review; there might, in his opinion, be one immortal sentence that would redeem an otherwise utterly stupid production. Judged by that high standard of reading every word, I am afraid, "The Oxford English Dictionary" (Clarendon Press) of which the tenth and last volume is published, would find no reviewers. I certainly have only taken a word here and there, beginning honestly enough with A, who ate the apple (probably an allusion to Adam), but skipping B., who bit it (also omitted in the Genesis story) and only sampling the unsuspected wealth of K and Q. Here we have X, Y and Z, the last words being Zymotic, Zymurgy (which as everybody knows, or ought to know, is the art of fermentation), and Zyxt, a Kentish form of "Thou seest," now rare. It is curious to find among our Z-words Zeitgeist and Zeppelin, both acclimatised in the last few years; but the familiar Zenith (from the Arabic word meaning a path) was also an importation.

OCELLUS.

THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

From Our Own Correspondents.

EGYPT.

Cairo, January 21.

Suspense Without Anxiety.

There has been no change in the local political situation since the despatch of my last letter. The position still remains as it was then: Sarwat Pasha has reached an agreement with the representative of His Majesty's Government on the lines on which it is possible to form a Ministry, and both parties to this agreement are now awaiting its ratification by the British Cabinet. Although in itself unfortunate, this continued delay is not regarded locally as significant, as it is fully recognised that, with the Premier's preoccupations in Cannes and elsewhere, sufficient time could not be spared for mature consideration by the Cabinet of proposals of so far-reaching a character.

A Forecast.

One or two of the best-informed vernacular journals, which do not usually lend themselves to flimsy rumours, have published forecasts of the new scheme. As no official announcement has been made on the matter it is impossible to say whether these forecasts have any foundation in fact, but there is reason to believe, as the Arabic papers have stated, that the new basis for Anglo-Egyptian co-operation in the Government of Egypt embraces the concessions offered in the Curzon Note, with the proviso that the conditions attached thereto should be the subject of further official negotiations. One hesitates to dilate on the matter, since there is no certainty whether this assumption of the basis recommended to the British Government is correct, but it is permissible to note, in passing, that such an arrangement would tend to heal the breach recently widened. The only danger inherent in such a scheme would be the expectation by the Egyptians that the consent of the British Government to further negotiations implied a willingness to reconsider the question of the necessary guarantees.

In one way it has been unfortunate that the delay has been so prolonged, as it has given the obstructive elements time to recover from the recent set-back, and has permitted the organisation of a strong campaign against the Sarwat group. It is reported from a number of sources that Mohamed Pasha Shoukry, who was mentioned as one of the likely ministers in the new Cabinet, has deferred to this campaign of intimidation and has withdrawn his candidature. This incident, minor in itself, is suggestive, however, of the growing power of the out-and-out extremists. It would be a thousand pities if Sarwat, in the teeth of bitter hostility to his patriotic attitude, having been able to form a Cabinet upon a basis favoured by the more enlightened of his compatriots, was embarrassed upon taking office by any widespread lawlessness. The delay is material inasmuch as it has given time for the organisation of such a display of obstructive opposition.

But there is alleged to be more at stake now than the question of the formation of a Cabinet. The question of possible developments in the event of a refusal of the British Cabinet to ratify the agreement made locally is exceedingly delicate, but those conversant with precedents set in similar circumstances elsewhere will be able to realise the logical course of events if that refusal is decided upon by the British Ministry. Manifestly the march of events during the last seven weeks has been exceedingly rapid; and it seems now to have entered a phase whence something tangible must accrue. If there is a settlement, with the abolishment of the Protectorate, the speedy withdrawal of martial law and the convocation of a National Assembly, the result will be, in all truth, startling enough. But if there is not a settlement, the sequel might be more startling still! **Adlyist and Zaghloulist.**

There is a strong belief among the leading Egyptians

that the British Government will consent to sanction the basis already proposed. In that case the position of the reconstituted Wafd must become rather delicate. As has been explained in previous letters, the Adlyists and Zaghloulists merged their forces after the arrest of Zaghloul, but apparently there was no reconciliation of programmes. The Adlyist group have always desired a settlement with England, whereas the Zaghloulists have been bent upon an almost complete severance of the formal ties between the two countries. To be consistent, the Adlyists must support the Sarwat Ministry if its platform reveals a path for the attainment of the Nationalist aspirations, while the Zaghloulists have already made it clear that they do not intend to be parties to any settlement before several impossible concessions are made, including the repatriation of the exiles. The probability is that there will be a break, with the Adlyist section behind Sarwat and the Zaghloulists remaining in opposition. It will be a pity, because the schism will be widely reflected. But obviously the British cannot be held responsible for that.

The British Union.

During the past week the British Union in Egypt held its first annual meeting in Cairo. It had been expected that there would be some interesting speeches on the political events of the last eight months, but, at the request of the High Commissioner, no politics were discussed, and the meeting therefore confined itself to consideration of methods to improve its membership and extend its benevolent work. Dr. Grech Mifsud and Messrs. Beasley, Holt and Lovegrove were appointed to the executive committee to fill existing vacancies and, on the motion of the President, Mr. W. E. Kingsford, it was decided to open a benevolent fund to which *all* British subjects in and out of Egypt, without any distinction whatsoever, were to be invited to contribute. This fund is to be utilised to assist, at the discretion of the trustees, any worthy objects such as British schools, churches, patriotic movements, cases of distress, etc. Some bitter comments were made concerning the apathy of the non-official British community towards the Union, as of the large non-official British community in this country only 117 people had joined. A strong campaign for more branches and greater membership is to be initiated shortly, in order to make the Union as representative, wealthy and influential as possible.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Belgrade, January 22.

Serbs and Roumanians.

The royal betrothal continues to occupy the Press, as is very natural. It is so usual to regard Serbia as a country of turbulent and bellicose warriors, that it is refreshing to remind the public that they have never fought with the Roumanians, although they are neighbours. The Serbs know the Roumanians pretty well, for in the Timok country there is a large colony of immigrant Roumanians, generally known as Vlachs, who



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retain their own costumes and language. For many years they have been crossing the Danube, finding in the free institutions of democratic Serbia a relief from the feudal aristocracy of old Roumania. The Vlachs have contributed a number of public men to Serbian life, and, we may add, their women have contributed to the beauty. There is a saying that one Vlach girl will beautify a village, and the rather refined Roumanian type adds a softening effect to the more strongly marked Slav features.

Besides, historical associations between Roumania and Serbia are all of a friendly character. As far back as the XVth Century, when Tamerlane defeated Sultan Bayazid at Angora in 1402, a Serbian contingent under the sons of Prince Lazar and Vuk Brankovitch fought in the Ottoman army, with great distinction. During the fratricidal war that followed between Bayazid's sons, Musa and Suleiman, Despot Stefan Lazarevitch, son of Prince Lazar, took refuge at Constantinople, as he had been on the side of Musa who was defeated and killed near by! The Emperor Manuel received him with every mark of distinction, and forwarded him by sea to Wallachia, where Voivoda Mircha was then ruling. Mircha too received Stefan and his retinue with the greatest friendliness, entertained them for a considerable period, and finally equipped him with everything that he needed for his journey home, especially horses, and personally escorted him as far as his frontier.

Besides, no Serb can forget that his favourite national hero, Marko Kralyevitch, was killed in battle in Wallachia. The annals relate that the Despot Stefan and Marko were compelled to fight on the Turks' side, and Marko said to his comrade Kostadin that he hoped the Christians would win and that he would be among the first to perish. His prayer was granted, and both Kostadin and Marko himself were among the first killed. This was in 1394, when the voivoda Yovan Mircha ruled in Roumania.

Arrest of Komitajis.

There has been an extensive round-up of Bulgarian *komitajis* in Macedonia. After sharp fighting near Skoplye with the notorious band of Vivlyanats, a number were captured and the inquiry that followed has revealed much interesting information about the activities of the Macedonian Committee in Sofia, which has a wide-spread organisation in Serbian Macedonia. As a result of the inquiry, the Skoplye authorities have arrested no less than a hundred and fifty persons who were incriminated, and who defend themselves by saying that they were terrorised into helping the bands. As many arrests have been made in the Kumanovo province.

Serbian Evidence on Russia.

A Serbian engine-driver has just returned to Belgrade after spending some twenty years in Russia. He paints a desperate picture of the state of affairs in that unhappy country. All sense of money-value has long since disappeared:—A pound of black bread costs 10,000 roubles, a pound of horseflesh, if you are lucky enough to get it, costs 10-12,000, a fathom of firewood costs half a million, a litre of milk from 10 to 15,000 roubles, and so on! This would not so much matter if salaries were proportionate, but they are not; the system of paying in kind is abolished, and railwaymen, for instance, get a million roubles a month, which is equivalent to a sentence of death by starvation. Disease is rampant because there are no medicines available, and most of the doctors have abandoned their profession. Death by starvation in the streets is not a mere newspaper tale, for he has seen it with his own eyes in Petrograd. He concludes by saying that he has been a Socialist for 20 years, but what he has seen of its practice in Russia has effected a permanent cure.

Mohammedan Loyalty.

There has been so much talk of the anti-national attitude of the Yugoslav Mohammedans that it is cheerful to read the other side of the picture which, as being less sensational, attracts small attention in the Press. Recently there arrived in Belgrade Ibrahim Hakki, a teacher from Tetovo, bringing a New Year's Gift to the

King in a form which is as poetical as original. It consisted of some apples from Tetovo on which an inscription had been most cleverly carved while they were still green, "Happy New Year 1922," "Long live King Alexander," and similar loyal greetings, the maturity of the fruit had in no way spoilt the pretty effect of the carving, and the apples were delivered to the Marshal of the Court on New Year's day as evidence of the loyal devotion of his Majesty's Mohammedan subjects from the old town of Kalkendelen, now known by its rightful and ancient Slavonic name of Tetovo.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, January 15.

King Alexander's Visit.

King Alexander of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, arrived in Sinaia on Sunday morning, January 8, on a three days' visit to the Roumanian Royal Family. He was accompanied by M. Yankovitch, the Chamberlain of the Serbian Royal Court, General Hagitch, Royal Adjutant, M. Antitch Ciolac, Yugoslav Minister at Bucharest, Colonel Damianovitch, and M. Nastasovitch, from the Yugoslav Ministry for Foreign Affairs. He was met at the station by King Ferdinand, Prince Carol, and Prince George of Greece, as well as by the members of the Cabinet, M.M. Také Jonescu, Derusi, Camarashescu, and General Holban. The military honours were rendered by a company of the 2nd "Mountaineers" Regiment, which is under the command of Prince Carol, while the band was playing the Serbian Royal Anthem. After having passed the troops in review the Sovereigns and their suites drove in motor-cars to the Monastery of Sinaia, where the Abbot officiated at a *Te Deum*. Afterwards they proceeded to the Royal Castle, Pelesh, where they were received by Queen Marie and the Princesses Elisabeth, Marie, and Ileana. At one o'clock

SOUTH AFRICAN OPPORTUNITIES FOR FARMERS

The Union of South Africa merits the special attention of farmers who contemplate settling in a Dominion. It is well suited for some fifteen branches of farming. Mixed farming, especially, has progressed greatly there during the last decade.

Some of the world's best dairy cattle are now bred in South Africa. The grading up of beef herds is also progressing well, and hog rearing for the bacon factory has become an important side-line.

South Africa is one of the foremost countries for sheep and horses, and nearly every sort of fruit is grown there on a commercial scale.

Improved methods of feeding and management are increasingly being adopted on the farms. Pastures are being built up; fodder crops are more and more grown, notably maize, alfalfa, cowpeas, oats and teff. There is a heartening increase in the number of creameries, and of factories for making cheese and bacon: co-operation is spreading.

The result is that whereas a few years ago the Union of South Africa imported, it is now increasingly exporting dairy produce of a quality accorded high awards at the principal British Shows.

Yet South Africa is only at the beginning of its greatness as a farming country. It offers good opportunities to men of the right type who have the capital to start without financial assistance. About £2,000 is the minimum required. Good land is still cheap. Taxation is comparatively light. Farm labour is on the whole cheaper, and less scarce, than in most countries. Educational facilities for the young are good. Nor need the beginner start under pioneer conditions; the pioneer work has in the main been done.

There are now good facilities in South Africa for obtaining experience of local conditions, and general guidance, before investing in land. Full gratis particulars should in the first instance be obtained from the Office of the High Commissioner for the Union of South Africa, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2. (Advt.).

a gala luncheon took place, on which occasion King Ferdinand made the following toast :—

"Allow me to express my own as well as my people's great pride in seeing your Majesty here as our guest, and to wish you a hearty welcome. I greet in your Majesty the valiant soldier, who, after having borne a crown of thorns, which fate did not spare to the Serbian people nor to your venerable father, gathered on the battlefields at the head of his brave Serbian troops the laurels with which history has girded his forehead. I further greet in your Majesty the loyal ally and neighbour as well as the King of a country which for centuries stood side by side with my country when it was a question of defending our mutual interests in the fight against a common peril. Since then a constant friendship was sealed by the blood shed together when the brave Serbian soldiers fought alongside with us on the tableland of the Dobruja for the same sacred aims. After so much suffering and century-long struggles our countries have now achieved their century-old aspirations and their national unity. United in battle and with the same object also in internal consolidation and in the desire of securing a stable peace, a common interest binds us henceforth in the peaceful work which will allow us also in the future to go hand in hand as good neighbours, friends and allies. The presence of your Majesty among us is for me and my people the surest guarantee of these sentiments of friendship, and in assuring you that these sentiments are sincerely and affectionately shared by myself and my Kingdom I drink to the health of His Majesty, the King of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes."

King Alexander in response warmly thanked King Ferdinand for the cordial reception accorded to him, expressing at the same time his sentiments of gratitude and unwavering friendship. He further manifested his joy at finding himself among the Roumanian people and its Royal family, the companions in arms of the Serbian people. King Alexander concluded his toast by drinking to the health of King Ferdinand and the Roumanian Royal family.

At five in the afternoon King Alexander was the guest of M. and Mme. Také Jonescu, and in the evening a dinner *en famille* took place at the Pelesh Castle.

Royal Betrothal.

The news of the engagement of King Alexander and Princess Marie, which took place on Monday, January 9, was, although more or less expected, very pleasant indeed to the people of this country. The local papers relate that the young King proffered his suit while taking a walk with Princess Marie in the picturesque park of Pelesh Castle, and that Princess Marie seemed very happy to accept him for her life-partner. Also the King and Queen of Roumania gladly consented to this union.

To celebrate this happy event a gala dinner was given the same evening at Pelesh Castle, at which were present, besides the Roumanian Royal family, King Alexander and his suite, the afore-named Ministers and the different military and civil members of the Royal Household. The first toast was made by King Ferdinand in announcing officially the betrothal of Princess Marie and King Alexander, and he invited those present to drink to the health of the newly engaged couple. To this King Alexander replied with the following toast—

"Your Majesty, in wishing me yesterday a hearty welcome, emphasized the cordial bonds which united in the past the two neighbouring countries, and which were sealed in the defence of the same noble causes. Both our peoples have learned with the toll of sufferings, wars, and tears, so that their friendship is the best foundation for our future mutual progress. I only needed to be guided by the deep-rooted sentiments felt by my people that my thoughts should wander to the one

who will, one day, share with me the duties which are incumbent on me. It is also a great happiness that my personal feelings entirely coincide with those of my people. In receiving me in the bosom of your family, your Majesty has completed my happiness, and I strongly hope that it will mean also the happiness of your much beloved daughter. I raise this glass, Sire,—and if you will already allow me, Father,—in expressing the warmest wishes for the prosperity of your country and of the Royal family."

After the dinner the King and Queen of Roumania and the newly engaged couple accepted the congratulations of those present. The celebration was concluded by a cinema performance showing pictures of Prince Carol's voyage to the Far East.

On this occasion King Ferdinand conferred on King Alexander the Order of Michael the Brave, first class, and the "Collier" of the Order of King Carol the First, and all the other members of his suite have been decorated with medals corresponding with their ranks. On the day before his departure, King Alexander conferred on King Ferdinand the Order of the Crown of Karageorgevitch, with sword, and on Prince Carol the same Order, without sword. He further conferred on General Madarescu the Grand Cross of the "White Eagle," and on the Ministers M.M. Camarashescu, Cihodariu, and General Holban the Order of St. Sava, while N.N. Také Jonescu, Derussi, and Mishu, were presented each with an autograph, as they already possess most of the high insignia of Yugoslavia.

King Alexander left Sinaia for Belgrade on Wednesday morning, January 11, having promised to return to Bucharest for the Epiphany festival, which takes place on January 19.

It is, however, reported that King Alexander on one of his next visits will be accompanied by MM. Pashitch and Ninitch, on which occasion the real official betrothal will be celebrated, which according to the Orthodox custom implies the "exchange of rings." It is further reported that during the end of this month King Ferdinand and Prince Carol will go to Belgrade to return King Alexander's visit. The exact day of the wedding has not as yet been fixed, but it is thought that it will take place at Belgrade during the Orthodox Easter holidays.

Very cordial and congratulatory telegrams have been exchanged between MM. Pashitch and Také Jonescu, who feel that by this event their life-long policies of friendly relations between these two countries have now been crowned with success.

Political.

There is no outstanding feature to be reported in the political sphere for the past week, with the exception of the general tension with which the fateful day of January 17 is awaited, with the adjournment of Parliament. It is, indeed, difficult to forecast what fate is reserved for M. Také Jonescu's Government at the hands of the present Parliamentary majority, which is manifestly hostile towards him. The leaders of this majority boldly affirm that the first encounter of the Cabinet with Parliament will result in a deliberate vote of censure.

On the other hand, the friends of M. Také Jonescu are confident—if not of a friendly but at least of a tolerant reception, on the ground that a vote of censure would ultimately imply the dissolution of this Parliament. This would mean that the members of the majority would cut into their own flesh, for either M. Také Jonescu obtains the right to dissolve the present Parliament, or the power irretrievably passes into the hands of the Liberals, so that in any case the present Members of Parliament would lose their seats, should they vote against him.

It is safe to assume that M. Také Jonescu at present enjoys the confidence of the Crown, and it has been brought into relief that it is not a mere coincidence that M. Také Jonescu happens to be at the head of the Government while the recent Royal betrothal is taking place, for it now transpires that M. Také Jonescu, during

his last visit to Belgrade, appears to have been—in conjunction with M. Pashitch—instrumental in having brought about the royal union, and the desire may exist that he should continue to be at the head of the Government also at the time of the forthcoming wedding.

General News.

M. D. Bogosh, the Bessarabian Leader, has been appointed Minister for Bessarabia, without portfolio.

In compliance with the King's wish that the exceptional measures should be gradually removed throughout the country, it was decided at the last Ministers' Council to restrict the Military administration in Bessarabia to a zone of 30 kilometres alongside the frontier, where Martial Law is still in force.

The present Government intends to bring before Parliament the Alcohol Monopoly Bill, which is now ready. This monopoly, however, will not include wine and beer.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, January 22

Bulgaria and the New French Cabinet.

The change of Government in France has not been a matter of great import to Bulgaria, although it is feared that the fact of M. Poincaré's being determined to exact full reparation from Germany, may lead to France's adopting a similar attitude towards Bulgaria. The Sofia Press has for the most part taken up a position of detached neutrality regarding the divergences of opinion between England and France. To a careful reader, it is, however, apparent that the *Preporetz*, the official organ of the Democrats, is inclined to be hostile to the new French Government. In its number of December 16, it remarks *inter alia*; "Under the rule of the irreconcilable M. Poincaré, France is doomed to a state of isolation"; and the following day it says: "M. Briand, whose policy was moderate, and who desired to be on terms of sincere friendship with France's late Allies, has fallen. He is succeeded by M. Poincaré, who represents present-day French public opinion, and who is a strong upholder of the Treaty of Versailles." Nothing very new in these words, perhaps, but they go to show the views of the Democratic Party, which is as well organised and active as any other Party in Bulgaria to-day. The *Mir*, the paper of the Obedinists, M. M. Gueshoff, Daneff, and Thodoroff's followers, is inclined to take a more critical view of the Ministerial change. It observes that the series of disagreements that have arisen between England and France since the signing of the Treaty of Versailles have now come to a head, and that it remains to be seen whether the authors of the selfish and unjust Peace Treaties will have the courage to revise their handiwork. The Government Press has been remarkably silent about the whole matter, and is principally concerned with what may happen at the Genoa Conference.

The Conference at Genoa.

The Italian Legation at Sofia has conveyed to the Bulgarian Government the Allies' invitation for the participation of Bulgaria in the coming Economic Conference at Genoa. Provided that internal matters do not claim his attention, M. Stambolisky will attend in person, and will be accompanied by M. Tourlakof, Minister of Finance, M. Stoyanoff, Chief of the Public Debt, M. Popoff, Director of Statistics, and other financial and economic experts.

Considerable satisfaction is felt in Government circles that M. Stambolisky will at last be able to lay his views before an European Conference, and hopes are entertained that he may have an opportunity of pointing out that economic restoration in Bulgaria cannot be achieved until Bulgaria is granted a free outlet to the Aegean Sea.

Democrats and Radicals.

Turning to internal affairs, interest is at present focussed on the *pourparlers* in progress between Democrats and Radicals.

The Radicals, who some years back formed part of the Democratic party, desire a coalition with the latter; and for the past ten days have been engaged in conver-

sations with a view to achieving this object. Up to the present, no announcement has been made as to the success, or the reverse, of these conversations, but it is understood that the two parties are in agreement upon almost all points, and that before the end of the month, the coalition will be a *fait accompli*.

It would be wrong to attach too much importance to this coalition, for the Radicals have only a mere handful of deputies in the *Sobranie*, whilst the Democrats themselves only number a score and five. The importance of the move lies more in the fact that the Obedinists will be in a minority compared with the other two parties. They (the Obedinists) also profess themselves willing to enter into a coalition with the Democrats, but a wing of the latter party, aided by certain sections of the Radicals, is opposed to the Obedinists' entering. In fact, certain members of the Democratic and Radical parties consider themselves strong enough without the Obedinists, Non-party men hold that this is a wrong point of view, and that by refusing to associate with the Obedinists, the other parties will throw away any chances they may have of ultimate success. When all is said and done, the total number of Bourgeois deputies in the present *Sobranie* is under sixty, including 21 Obedinists and five or six Liberals; so it will not be very far sighted if the Democrats mount the high horse and reject the advances of the Obedinists.

"A Strange Story."

A short time ago, M. Panourias, Greek Chargé d'Affaires at Sofia, received an anonymous letter, condemning him to death. He informed the Bulgarian Government of the facts of the case, and—assuming that the authors of the letter did not put their threat into execution—imagined that the matter would end there. There was, however, published in the Government paper *Echo de Bulgarie* on the 12th inst., an article entitled, "Vieille Cloche, Vieux Son." This article scoffed at the idea of the anonymous letter being the work of serious men, and expressed great astonishment that the Athens Press should have stated that the letter emanated from Bulgarian revolutionary *Komitaji* sources. The *Echo de Bulgarie* went on to say that there were no *Komitajis* in Bulgaria to-day, excepting those that existed for charitable purposes!

M. Panourias very naturally took exception to the tone of the article, and addressed a note to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, sending at the same time a copy to the chiefs of the Diplomatic Missions at Sofia. In this note M. Panourias pointed out that it was ridiculous to say there were no *Komitajis* in Bulgaria, citing the murder of M. Dimitroff, the late Minister of War, and many others, as a proof that the so called "Charity *Komitajis*" had not always a peaceful aim in view.

An amusing sequel to the note is the announcement that a certain Macedonian, well known in Sofia society for his active and real benevolence towards refugees, has been named as the writer of the anonymous letter. The gentlemen in question hastily paid a visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where he indignantly repudiated the idea that he would have any connection with anonymous letter writers; and the whole affair is now likely to die a natural death.

Too Many Holidays.

After a perfect orgy of holidays, beginning with Christmas, Western Style, and continuing through New Year, also Western Style, Christmas, Orthodox Style, New Year, Orthodox Style, not to mention two or three other Saints' Days, Sofiotes will now be able to settle down to a little work.

The weather has done nothing but change since the beginning of November and the cold spell in the second week of January has now given way to mild, and unfortunately exceedingly muddy, weather.

A Palace Reception.

On the occasion of the Princess Endoxia's birthday last Tuesday, a reception was held at the Palace. This is the first time Bulgarians and foreigners have met under the Royal roof since Ferdinand fled the country, in the Autumn of 1918. The Cabinet, Diplomatic Corps,

Reparations and Military Commission were well represented, whilst there were also present former Prime Ministers and their families.

The two Princesses have attended two or three dances held at the Military Club, but so far the King has never accompanied them—to the intense disappointment of the people, who are beginning to be jealous of the peasants whom His Majesty is constantly visiting.

GREECE.

Athens, January 15.

The New British Representative.

Although the departure from Athens of Lord Granville was greatly regretted by the entire Greek population, as he had shown much diplomacy and delicate tactfulness in the handling of the awkward situation which naturally arose on the overthrow of M. Venizelos' Government and the consequent return to Greece of King Constantine, this feeling of regret was to a certain extent counterbalanced by the thought that possibly the new Minister for Great Britain would come to Athens with instructions to present his credentials to the King. This opinion was generally held not only by the populace, but also among semi-official circles. The arrival of Mr. Lindley was therefore eagerly awaited, and great disappointment was caused when it was known that instead of handing his credentials to King Constantine, he reported his arrival only to M. Cartalis.

However, the Government papers, to allay the feeling of disappointment thus caused, have lately contained many leading articles on the subject of the recognition of the King, the majority of the papers claiming openly that Great Britain will, at the first favourable opportunity (which is stated to be expected shortly) instruct Mr. Lindley to present his credentials to King Constantine. In this sense it is well to quote an extract of the leading article which was published in the *Stemma*

(The Crown) a few days ago. The *Stemma* is an ultra-Royalist paper and writes as follows:—

We are informed from an official source that the arrival of the English Representative in Athens is of very great importance.

The British Minister has arrived as Representative of His Majesty the King of England and not as "Chargé d'Affaires" to the Hellenic Government. For this reason he has not presented his credentials to the Minister for Foreign Affairs but simply addressed a letter to the effect that he had arrived as the Representative of His Majesty King George.

Diplomatic circles consider this act as a result of the *pourparlers* between France and Great Britain, the former ending by giving way to the latter. It therefore only remains for a few minor details to be arranged before Mr. Lindley presents his credentials to King Constantine.

The Holy Synod and the New Patriarch.

The Holy Synod of Athens presided over by the Bishop of Athens, Mgr. Theoclitos, has pronounced its verdict on the election of Mgr. Meletios Metaxakis as Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Constantinople. The members composing the Holy Synod refuse to recognize this election, and Mgr. Meletios is condemned to live in perpetuity as a simple monk at the convent of Strofades in the island of Zante, and at the same time is deprived of all power and title in the Holy Orthodox Church. Thus relations between official Greece and the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate at Constantinople have been definitely broken off.

The New Year.

On the occasion of the Orthodox New Year the usual thanksgiving service was held at the Cathedral in Athens, which was attended by the King, the Queen, the Royal Princes and Princesses, the Council of Ministers, the Commander-in-Chief of the Army in Asia Minor, General Papoulas, and the high State and Army officials. The members of the foreign missions to Greece were also present. After the ceremony their Majesties, surrounded by the Princes and Princesses, received in the Throne Room the members of the Government and other high officials, who wished them a happy New Year.

General Papoulas.

After more than a year's absence, the Commander-in-Chief of the Greek Army in Asia Minor, General Papoulas, has arrived in Athens from Smyrna in order to spend the New Year holidays with his family. The General had a long talk with the Minister of War at the War Office, and was subsequently received in audience by the King, who awarded him the Military Medal (Class I) "for the exceptional capability shown by him as Commander-in-Chief of the army in Asia Minor, and for having by his indefatigable efforts, contributed towards the successful performance of the mission with which the Army was entrusted."

To the journalists who visited him, General Papoulas said that the situation on the Greek front was very satisfactory and that the *moral* of the men was excellent.

The British Football Club.

The British Football Club began their season in a match against the Cyprus Football Club at New Phaleron, and playing a good game deservedly won by 3—0. Showing marked superiority over their opponents they scored once through Mr. Tealy, in the first half, and twice, through Mr. Coombes and Mr. Bond, in the second half. Altogether the forward line showed signs of developing into a well organised attack. Mr. King at centre half, and Commander Road at right back both played an excellent game, and it was mainly through their endeavours that the British goal was never troubled. The goal-keeper, Mr. H. J. Clarke, had really very little to do. With such a satisfactory beginning the season is looked forward to very hopefully. League matches start on January 29 (N.S.).

Athens, January 21.

The Political Situation.

As is only to be expected, strong interest is aroused

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here by the speeches of prominent Ministers of the Great Powers when the subject under survey vitally concerns the situation or the political future of Greece? This is reflected in the eager manner in which recent declarations of Lord Curzon, to the effect that he will put forward certain propositions to a Council of Ministers to be held shortly to discuss European Affairs, have been discussed here.

With special regard to Greece Lord Curzon is reported to have declared that he will propose:—(1), That the Greek Army evacuate Smyrna and the hinterland; (2), Smyrna and hinterland be placed under the Imperial Sovereignty of the Ottoman Empire with a special autonomy; and (3), Special guarantee be demanded for the protection of the Christian population in Asia Minor.

These declarations, coming from such a source, have caused a profound sensation here, the more so when the speech of Lord Curzon at a banquet given in his honour last November is taken into consideration. A complete change of opinion would appear to have taken place in the policy to be adopted by Great Britain with regard to the Near East, and one more in accordance with the French ideas on the subject; and this is naturally causing grave anxieties to the people of Hellas.

The possibility of Greece's losing Smyrna has already been taken into consideration, and the Press is slowly preparing public opinion as to what may be expected. Everyone to-day realises that M. Gounaris' prolonged stay in Western Europe has brought nothing to the country, and that, with the exception of the possible raising of the financial blockade as far as Great Britain is concerned, and which upon careful examination does not amount to very much, the Greek Premier has sadly failed in every department. He is gradually losing his grip on Smyrna, the Epirus frontier question has been solved to Greece's disadvantage; the arrangement concluded between M. Venizelos and Signor Tittoni with regard to the Dodecanese is no longer recognised by Italy; and last but not least, although we are sick of hearing about that £115,000,000, the country still is, and is likely to remain for a long time to come, without a farthing to its name.

It is, of course, current opinion here that Great Britain is the only Power at present favourably disposed towards Greece, and Greece places much confidence in her. In the event, therefore, of Great Britain's adopting what may be termed the French attitude in the Near East, and requesting the withdrawal of the Hellenic troops from Smyrna and the hinterland, a popular outburst might very easily take place, and matters in the Near East become even more complicated.

There are many rumours afloat, which are seriously considered, to the effect that many officers at present serving on the Asia Minor front have made a compact that, should Great Britain eventually decide upon the evacuation of Smyrna and its hinterland by the Hellenic troops, they will resign their commissions and carry on the defence of that country on their own initiative, being supported financially by the Greek element of Smyrna and the numerous wealthy Greeks abroad.

The result of the Conference shortly to take place to discuss the Near Eastern problem is eagerly awaited, and it is hoped that a solution satisfactory to all parties may be arrived at, and thus terminate one of the world's greatest questions of the day. Much is hoped for by the Greeks in view of the satisfactory manner in which Mr. Lloyd George concluded the Irish controversy; and Greeks generally hope that the British Premier may be equally successful in cutting the Gordian knot of the Near East.

Epiphany Day.

On January 6 the usual ceremony of the benediction of the sea took place at Piræus in the presence of the Royal Family, the Council of Ministers, and General Papoulas. The Metropolitan of Athens officiated, assisted by the Bishop of Santorini. All the ships in the port were beflagged, and when the Holy Cross was

thrown into the water twenty-one salvoes were fired by the warships.

Intense Cold in Thrace.

Bitterly cold weather, such as has not been experienced for over twenty years has set in in Thrace. In certain villages many towns have been entirely covered by snow, and in addition to a number of human victims, hundreds of sheep and other domestic animals were frozen to death. Many trees, particularly those which require continuous warmth and sunshine, such as the fig tree and the pomegranate tree, are not expected to bear fruit again.

It is reported from Smyrna that the regions of Oushak and Afion Karahissar are also covered with snow.

Miscellaneous News.

General Papoulas has returned to Smyrna.

Prince Andrew, now a Major-General, commanding the 2nd Greek Army Corps in Asia Minor, has also returned to his post.

A rumour to the effect that M. Venizelos was murdered in California is fortunately denied.

At the annual election of the Committee of the Athens Municipal Council, with the exception of the President, who is an anti-Venizelist, the remaining seven elected members, including the vice-president and the secretary, are all Venizelists.

The nine aeroplanes which were seized on the Italian steamer 'Madrid' retained some time ago by the Greek naval authorities, have been conveyed to the Tatoi aerodrome, whence they will be dispatched to Asia Minor, to reinforce the Greek Flying Corps.

A provisional Commission has been formed in Athens for the purpose of organising an Agricultural Congress in Greece. Invitations have been sent to all the agricultural organisations in the country requesting them to be represented at the congress to be held in Athens at a date to be determined later. The Minister of Agriculture has promised to afford every facility to the Congress.

The Prefect of Police in Athens has requested the restaurant keepers to reduce the prices on their menu cards by twenty per cent. for all Government servants and officers. The restaurant-keepers have promised to comply with this request.

The publication of two new Venizelist daily newspapers, the *Eleftheron Vema* and the *Anorthosis*, is announced. Three of the seven proprietors of the former are Liberal deputies, and the journal will be edited by M. Demetrius Lambrakis, formerly Editor of the Liberal *Patris*.

TURKEY.

Constantinople, January 22.

A Bomb Shell.

The news of the fall of M. Briand's Cabinet fell like a bomb shell among political circles both in Constantinople and Angora. Nationalist organs like the *Tevhid Esfkiar*—the present disguise of the *Tasfir-i-Esfkiar*—are bravely endeavouring to prove that the change in the French Cabinet cannot make the slightest difference in the situation, but the event is nevertheless regarded as a serious blow to the Kemalist cause. One of the immediate results of the change has been a Cabinet crisis, and although nothing has officially transpired, there is no doubt that the Cabinet has been badly shaken. The name of Mahmud Mukhtar Pasha has been freely mentioned as a probable successor to Tewfik Pasha, but it must be confessed that it is difficult to see what possible advantage could be ensured—except to office hunters belonging to the opposition parties. It is probable that in the end Tewfik Pasha will remain in power, but that there will be one or two changes in the administration.

So far as can be judged from the very meagre information coming from Anatolia, the effect upon the political situation in Angora of M. Briand's retirement has been far more serious. As a matter of fact, for the last two months there have been signs of a certain reaction against the uncompromising policy of Mustapha Kemal

and his partisans. The resignation of five "commissioners" within the space of about one month clearly indicated that serious differences had arisen among the leaders of the Angora Government, and the unexpected fall of the Briand Administration has given an immense impetus to the Moderate party. The vacancies in the Angora Cabinet have been filled by hitherto comparatively obscure individuals, whose principal qualification is complete devotion to Mustapha Kemal. It remains to be seen whether Mustapha Kemal will be able to hold out against the growing demand for peace now that it is known that the Allies are generally prepared to give favourable consideration to Turkey's legitimate demands. The worst thing that could happen at the present moment would be another Greek offensive, for that would immediately reunite all parties and give the extremists a new lease of life. At the end of the old year and the commencement of the new year there has been a sequence of events which are beginning to produce results upon the general situation in the North-East. The failure of the Mopliah rising, the Irish settlement, the arrest and deportation of Zaghoul Pasha without very shocking results, and the willingness of the Soviet Government to discuss the situation with the Allies, have made even the Kemalists realise that after all the British Empire is not tottering to ruin just yet.

The Straits Question.

Readers of *The Near East* will remember that the Straits question has been described in previous letters as the real crux of the Anatolian problem, and it may therefore be interesting to reproduce what are said to be the Kemalist views of the matter.

The Armenian paper *Jagadamard* claims to have obtained from reliable sources a statement of the Angora Government's policy, framed after consultation with the Soviets of Moscow and the Ukraine. The statement contains—chance or humour?—fourteen points, to the following effect:—

1. The Dardanelles and the Bosphorus to remain under Turkish sovereignty.
2. The Straits to be free without reservation to the ships of all nations.
3. Merchant ships flying the flag of States bordering the Black Sea to pay no dues.
4. Ships traversing the Straits to be free from control.
5. The Straits to be defended by Turkish troops.
6. A mixed commission to be formed in connection with administration, port construction, and navigation facilities.
7. States bordering the Black Sea, and other Great Powers to be represented by one delegate each and Turkey by two delegates on the above-mentioned commission. The delegates and the president of the commission to be elected for three years, and the first president to be an Ottoman subject.
8. The expenses of the commission to be covered by a tax levied upon foreign ships passing through the Straits.
9. Taxes for maintenance and other expenses to be levied for a period of five years only.
10. In the event of war, the Straits to be open to international navigation as usual, under the control of the commission.
11. In the event of Turkey being involved in war, the Straits to be free to international navigation likewise, but under a guarantee that the Straits will be protected.
12. In normal times warships may pass through the Straits on condition that they remain no longer than 24 hours.
13. Warships bringing foreign missions to be allowed to remain until the re-embarkation of the missions.
14. In the event of aggression against the Straits by no matter what Power, the members of the mixed commission to make immediate representations to their respective governments. The aggressor to make good all damage caused.

It will be noticed that the above statement contains one important point differing from the clauses concerning the Straits in the Moscow and Ukraine treaties with the Angora Government, namely, the inclusion of the Great Powers in the mixed commission, as mentioned in Article 7.

In a series of amendments to the official Admiralty Flag Book recently issued particulars are given of the Royal Standard of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes—a square flag with a border of blue, white, and red triangles. Within the border the flag is divided into three equal parts of blue, white, and red, and bears in the centre the Royal Arms (an escutcheon bearing the emblems of the three parts of the kingdom, borne by a two-headed white eagle, and surmounted by a crown).

GREAT BRITAIN AND EGYPT.

The Foreign Office issues the following communication:—
The High Commissioner of Egypt has been summoned to England to give full information and advice to his Majesty's Government as to the present situation in Egypt and as to the communications that have been passing between him and the Egyptian ex-Ministers with regard to the future government of the country.

There appears to be an impression in some quarters that Great Britain has abandoned, or is about to abandon, her liberal attitude towards Egyptian aspirations, and that she desires to make use of her special position in Egypt to maintain a political and administrative system there incompatible with the freedom which she has declared her willingness to recognise.

This is not the case. The policy of his Majesty's Government, both during and since the Adly Mission to England, has been founded upon the following principles:—

While unwilling to cede to disorder or violence what they are prepared to grant on its own merits, his Majesty's Government have explicitly stated their readiness to invite Parliament to terminate the Protectorate which was declared in 1914; to recognise the existence of Egypt as a Sovereign State, and to agree to the constitution of an Egyptian Parliament and the re-establishment of an Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs as soon as they are satisfied as to the following conditions, which they regard as vital to the interests both of Egypt and the Empire.

They must have full and effective guarantees:—

(1) That the Imperial communications, to which Egypt is essential, are assured.

(2) That Great Britain retains both the right and the power to afford that protection to the foreign communities in Egypt which the Governments of these peoples in existing conditions look to her to supply.

(3) That Egypt is safeguarded against all foreign interference or aggression, direct or indirect.

As soon as an agreement satisfying these conditions has been drawn up between an Egyptian Government and the British Government there will be no hesitation on the part of the latter in inviting Parliamentary sanction to such an accord.

THE ARAB HORSE SOCIETY.

A Council Meeting was held on Thursday, January 19, at the Grosvenor Hotel, London, Mr. S. C. Hough, President, being in the chair. There were also present:—Messrs. T. C. Armitage, H. V. M. Clark, A. Stanley Cochrane, Edward Hurlley, Captain E. Munck, Major G. B. Stewart, D.S.O., R. S. Summerhays, Brig.-General C. Templer, C.M.G., C.I.E., and Comte de Zogheb. Letters of regret for not being able to be present were received from Mr. E. R. Caltrop, Captain J. Hamilton Leigh, Lieut.-Colonel W. A. MacDougall, D.S.O., Captain the Hon. G. Saville, and Mr. R. A. Willis.

The Council decided by ballot the names of the Members for election to the Council by Members of the Society.

Lieut.-Colonel F. F. Lance was elected a Governor.

A Special Prize was added by the Council in Class 23 for the best yearling Arab-bred colt or filly.

The Council then adjourned until their next Meeting on Tuesday, April 11, at the Grosvenor Hotel.

LONDON UNIVERSITY.

Last week, at a meeting of the Senate of London University, a scheme was approved for the award of the Ronald Burrows Memorial Prize of the annual value of about £30, established in memory of the late Principal of King's College. It will be awarded to a graduate of a British university or of the University of Athens, preference being given to a student from King's College, King's College for Women, or King's College Theological Department; and the prizeman will be required to pursue an approved course of advanced study in ancient, mediæval, or modern Greek language, literature, or history, or in Greek archaeology.

The Senate received a communication from the executors of the late Sir Ratan Tata intimating their continuance for a further period of five years of his benefaction of £1,400 a year to the Ratan Tata Foundation.

MALABAR CUSTOMS.

Mr. H. E. A. Cotton, who, with Lord Pentland in the chair, lectured before the East India Association last week on "Caste and Customs in Malabar," said that there was an infinite variety of castes there. The usages which struck the visitor from the West as unnatural were stoutly defended by the native aristocracy. The aristocratic Nayar rule was based upon complete equality of the sexes. Matrimonial unions among present-day Nayars were ordinarily as permanent as in any European community, and it was claimed for the Nayar practice that it exhibited all the merits attributed to monogamy without any of the restrictions imposed by legal and social bonds which kept couples together who would be happier apart. Among a few English-educated families the patrilocal was taking the place of the matrilocal system. But the chances were slight of any extensive change. Meanwhile the student of humanity could desire nothing better than the continuance of a structure of society and institutions which showed that one portion at least of the East was unchanging. Whatever might be happening elsewhere, all things remained always the same on the Malabar Coast.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

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

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRAK.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir.—The admirable leading article in the "Near East" of January 26 should encourage many of your readers to hope that before Mr. Lloyd George and his colleagues take the fatal step of ordering the evacuation of Irak the voice of public opinion will be raised so loudly in protest that wiser counsels will prevail. To leave the Emir Faisal to bear unaided the brunt of a combined attack on Irak by the Kemalists and Bolsheviks would be an act of criminal imbecility, only to be surpassed by saddling the new State with an expensive European administration as the price of our protection. There is no justification for asking the British tax-payer to find another penny for the cost of civil administration in Irak, but apart from our moral obligation to support the Government of this new State of our own creation the interests of British trade demand that we should continue to maintain in the country a garrison sufficiently strong to defend its frontiers in co-operation with the local forces, until such time as the latter are capable of doing so single-handed. Cutting our losses has become such an obsession with our new economists that whenever the safeguarding of British interests entails the slightest expense, rather than face it they are prepared to scrap capital assets running to many millions wholesale. One cannot help thinking that bad accountancy has much to do with the present confused state of the public mind on the subject of Mesopotamia. If people realised that for a great deal of our expenditure in the country during and since the war we have substantial assets to show in the shape of railways and other revenue earning public works, they would probably not be so easily influenced by the bellowings of the stunt press and the antics of its puppets on the anti-waste platform. It is surely about time that the Government gave some plain figures to enable us to know definitely how much we have spent in Irak (a) on military operations (b) on public works, giving under the second head the amounts expended respectively on harbour works, improvements in river navigation, the construction and equipment of railways, irrigation and other reproductive public services. It would hardly be fair to ask the new state of Irak to accept the burden of our military expenditure in the country during the war, but if it is proposed that it should take over the railways and other public works provided by the British tax-payer, it seems only reasonable that a fair price should be paid for them in the shape of Irak State bonds with interest chargeable against the local revenue. In the absence of any figures to guide one it is impossible to say whether the amount of this interest would suffice to meet the cost of the British garrison, but even if it did not completely cover it, one feels sure that it would go a long way towards doing so, and, at the worst, payment of interest could be allowed to stand for a few years until the finances of the new State were established on a sound basis. Irak to-day is a very much richer country than it was before the war, and if it is left in peace, during the next few years it will become very much richer. If the Arabs are not exasperated by the fussy administration of over-zealous officials, and are allowed to live their lives after their own fashion, their friendly feeling towards us will return, and they will become good customers of the British merchant. When the development of the oil-fields by British enterprise brings into the coffers of the local government a handsome revenue in the shape of rents and royalties, while the British shareholders cheerfully pocket the dividends, the two nations concerned will be united by the strongest of bonds—self-interest. We cannot afford at a time when

the future of British industry hangs in the balance, to throw away a promising market for British goods, a profitable field for the employment of British capital, because the Government of the day, scenting a general election, thinks it politic to create a noisy faction by running away from its duty. There is more than a suspicion that this agitation for the abandonment of Irak is inspired by certain influences that work in France to stultify our policy in the Middle East. Their unconscious agents in this country, the egregious "anti-wasters", have been skilfully stampeded into a panic anti-imperial movement, which if not speedily checked will deprive us of the fruits of two centuries of British enterprise in the East. It is high time a serious attempt was made to counteract their malign influence, and "The Near East" is to be congratulated on having had the courage to put the plain facts about Irak before the public.

I am, etc.,

SINBAD.

London, January 30, 1922.

MOSLEM FEELING AND GT. BRITAIN.

To The Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—The Committee of the London Moslem League would be very grateful if you could be good enough to find space in your columns for the enclosed representation to the Most Honourable The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, on the subject of the Turkish Settlement.

I am, etc.,

M. H. ISPAHANI,

Hon. Secretary.

The London Moslem League,
18, Sloane Street, S.W.1.

January 24, 1922.

To the Most Honourable, The Marquess Curzon of Kedleston etc. .
My Lord,—

1.—On behalf of the Committee of the London Moslem League I respectfully beg to inform Your Lordship that the hope of the Moslem nations of Asia and a large part of Africa of a durable and permanent peace in the Near East is now centred on the deliberations of the ensuing Conference at Cannes.

2.—The Committee do not think it necessary to draw Your Lordship's attention to the conditions prevailing at this moment in India as a consequence of the unsettled situation in the Near East. The Moslems of India had hitherto formed one of the staunchest elements in the population of the country; they had ever since 1765, with few exceptions, been loyal and faithful to the British Government, in the conviction that it guarded their interests, religious and secular, in every part of the world, and was friendly to the two chief Moslem States of Asia, viz., Turkey and Persia. Now, unfortunately, owing to the support given since the Armistice to the avowed enemies of Turkey and to their ambitions and designs on the Turkish territories, the Mahommedans of India have become bitterly antagonised; and conditions have become so acute as to justify us in saying that the situation is volcanic. Every item of evidence that comes from India to England bears testimony to the accuracy of our statement.

3.—In Turkey, the conditions are desperate; a large part of Anatolia which, before the Greek invasion, was a flourishing region is now a desolated land, the peasants, who have survived extermination, with ruined homes and farms and without means of cultivation, are suffering acutely from want of food and necessities of life. In Constantinople, tens of thousands of refugees have congregated from Thrace and Asia Minor and are dying from starvation and cold; and the Turkish Government is so situated that it cannot raise a loan, even for the purpose of relieving the terrible distress among the refugees. The economic conditions in Anatolia and in Constantinople, the only city left to Turkey on the European side of the Straits, are worse than deplorable.

4.—The only possible way of restoring goodwill and normal conditions in India, we humbly submit and respectfully urge, lies in a just generous and equitable settlement with Turkey—a settlement which will bring back to life that distracted country and restore her economic and political independence. In such a settlement the rendition to Turkey of the whole of Asia Minor, freed from Greek designs and ambitions is to us an essential condition; for Smyrna is vital to the economic existence of Turkey. A proper and equitable adjustment is equally essential in Thrace, both from the point of view of the safety of Constantinople from the Greek guns as from the fact that Adrianople, one of the holiest cities of Islam, lies there.

5.—In support of our submission that the Musselmans of India are justified in asking for a consideration of their sentiments, we beg to refer to the fact that during the Great War at a time when the old British Army was practically annihilated, and Lord Kitchener was forming his New Army, a vast Indian force numbering 700,000 soldiers, of whom a large proportion were Moslems, faced the enemy and held him back.

6.—We take this opportunity of entering an emphatic protest against the memorandum which certain pro-Greeks and pro-Armenians are circularising for deflecting British justice and prejudicing the cause of Turkey. In our opinion their action is extremely impolitic and calculated to make more difficult the task of appeasement in India. On the grounds urged in this memorandum the Indian Moslems would be justified in moving His Majesty's Government on behalf of the Moslems in Roumania whose lot is reported to be a very hard one, nor have they such valuable and strong protectors as the Greeks and Armenians happen to possess. At the same time, we beg to say that there should be no objection to requiring from the Turkish Government adequate assurances for equitable treatment of its non-Moslem subjects consistent with its status as an independent state.

7.—The Committee beg to observe that throughout this Greek and Armenian propaganda the Turks have had no chance of defending themselves. It would be a colossal tragedy and a travesty of justice if they were to be condemned and their hands tied without a full hearing of their case. On behalf of the millions of His Majesty's Moslem subjects we respectfully ask Your Lordship to see that the settlement is such as would satisfy Moslem sentiments all over the world.

THREE POINTS IN THE TURKISH QUESTION.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—May I be permitted, for the benefit of any of your readers who feel rather hazy about the Turk and the Greek at this vital juncture, to comment briefly on three basic points most obscure to the average man? He does not think they are obscure to him, for he sometimes reasons thus:—"Turkey fought against us in the war, the Turk has a habit of massacring Christians, and everything in Turkey is barbarous and retrograde. Why not, therefore, let the Christian Greek, even if he is not perfect, have his way, and let the Turk get back to where he came from?" Here are the answers:—1. Turkey fought against us in the war unwillingly, but had no choice; for Russia, our Ally, was her historical enemy and ever-present danger. Germany, on the other hand, happened to be *our* special danger. All other details can be disregarded. That is why Turkey fought against us: she could not help herself. We certainly helped to bring her in by our poor diplomacy for some years past. 2. The Turk has not the habit of killing Christians. It would be as just and accurate to say that we have had a habit, for the last two years, and up to the happy solution of the Dail ratification, of killing Catholics by our Black and Tans. There is more than a close analogy (modified in degree and details by reason of differences between the West and the East) between Turkey's Armenian problem and our Sinn Fein trouble. Plot and counter-plot, atrocities and reprisals. Are they not all terrible? But no one has ever accused the Turk of massacring Jews or Catholics. He (or rather the Enver set of him) was ill-advised enough to execute "reprisals" on innocent (often) populations for risings and killings of Moslems in war time. And be it remembered that Mustapha Kemal Pasha is at daggers drawn with Enver Pasha and those in power during the war. 3. Turkey, surrounded as she has always been by grasping Western Powers, all jealous of each other and snatching for concessions and opportunities of interference in her internal affairs, has never had a chance of being able to progress. The Turk is a poor propagandist. He has always been condemned unheard because he was a Moslem, was supposed to wear baggy trousers, and to throw his discarded wives into the Bosphorus in a sack. It would surprise your readers to learn (did your space permit) how far in advance of Western standards the legal position of the Turkish woman is.

Why cannot Mr. Lloyd George and Lord Curzon decide to follow the lead of France and extend a frank welcome to the sincere attempt at constructive Turkish Nationalism, now so solidly and bravely enthroned in Angora? Greek Imperialism has failed. Why should we help to prolong this miserable and senseless war?

As an Irishman, a Moslem, and the husband of a Turkish wife and also having lived nine years in Turkey, perhaps my *exposé* may be useful and not ill-timed.

I am, etc.,

A. P. TULLY.

London, January 11, 1922.

On October 16, a Persian was ordained deacon at Ispahan by the Bishop in Persia. He is the first Persian to be ordained for over 1,500 years. As a result of hearing the gospel message in a mission hospital of the Church Missionary Society he became an inquirer, and was baptized. Now he is hoping to work at Yezd.

MUSICAL NOTES.

The Royal Philharmonic Society.

There was once some point in the gibe that the Royal Philharmonic Society was behind the times, but it is one that is worthless now, for the activities of this august body lie well within the main trend of modern thought; in fact, there is positive peril in its pandering too much to its newly-found delight in being up-to-date. We have at the moment a persistent cry for the performance of works by British composers, particularly by living composers—a cry certainly natural and justifiable, but still dangerous—and we cannot afford to let the Philharmonic Society succumb to it. In smaller works, such as songs, exponents of British music may pardonably temper judgment with generosity, but we are not so rich in orchestral performances as to be able to gamble on the result.

Now it was indeed sporting of the Society to place in the programme of its last concert at the Queen's Hall on January 26 two new English works—Vaughan Williams' "Pastoral" symphony, and a Concerto-Fantasia for pianoforte and orchestra by Edgar L. Bainton—sporting but rash, for there is no doubt at all that part of the apparent thinness and unoriginality of Bainton's work was due to its coming after the quiet and individual beauty of the first work: the newness and contrast of the two compositions told against the Concerto. Of the genuineness of the Symphony there is no question at all: it is a refined and rare piece of music, peculiarly and consistently original, and reminiscent of no one but the composer himself. Here is given us no mere representation of Nature's varying moods, but rather a presentation of Vaughan-Williams' own communings with Nature. That these communings are important I do not doubt, and the perfection of their expression was obvious, but it was more the composer's philosophical foundation than his musical edifice that appealed to me on the first hearing. His Symphony is for the most part written in one mood, and drenched though it may be in the slow beauty of the English country-side, it had as absolute music too little variety and contrast to support a constant admiration. In a word, it seemed to me that the fineness of the composer's imagination exceeded the embrace of his conception, though I freely admit that other hearings of the work may make me change this opinion. After this Symphony, Bainton's brilliant Concerto appeared, as I have said, artificial and reminiscent. It contains all sorts of clever effects, which were splendidly exploited by the composer himself as conductor, and by Miss Winifred Christie as soloist, but its impulse was jerky, so that it became a thing of shreds and patches. It may be representative of British technique, but there seemed little distinction in its thought.

The rest of the programme, which Mr. Adrian Boult conducted, was made up of Bach's "Brandenburg Concerto" (No. 6—the one without violins), Wolf's "Italian Serenade," and "The Flying Dutchman" Overture. The first and last movements of the Bach there was brilliant discipline, but in the middle *adagio* we suffered some painfully erratic intonation. In Wolf's exquisite work I thought Mr. Boult unusually delicate: his perception is always good, but into this work he infused surprising subtlety of effect. He ended the concert with a rather strict performance of Wagner, being particularly and unswervingly "correct" in his delivery of themes. Undoubtedly his finest effort was in the "Pastoral" Symphony, which was given both with authority and conviction.

Andante.

The Persian Legation reports that the new Persian Cabinet is composed as follows:—Mochir-od-Dowleh, Prime Minister and Minister of Interior; Hakim-ol-Molk, Minister for Foreign Affairs; Sardar-Sepah, War Minister; Nayer-ol-Molk, Education; Sardar Moazzam, Justice; Ettela-os-Saltameh, Post and Telegraph; Abid-os-Saltameh, Public Work; and Modir-ol-Molk, Acting Minister of Finance.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE ORTHODOX PATRIARCHATE OF JERUSALEM.

"Report of the Commission appointed by the Government of Palestine to enquire into the Affairs of the Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem:." By the Commissioners, Sir Anton Bertram, M.A., K.C., Chief Justice of Ceylon, Sometime Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Cyprus, and Harry Chas. Luke, B.Litt., M.A., Asst. Governor of Jerusalem. (Oxford University Press, Humphrey Milford, 12/6 net).

This book is a remarkably able and comprehensive treatise upon a very difficult problem. Into its 333 pages is packed a mass of information on matters ecclesiastical, historical, and civil pertaining to the Orthodox Church of Palestine, the Commission having realized that the dispute they were called upon to investigate had its roots deep in the past.

It has long been a matter for grave concern that the finances of the Patriarchate were going steadily from bad to worse. The Patriarchate is responsible for the spiritual oversight, and in many cases the temporal needs, of a flock of some 60,000—70,000 persons. Various charitable institutions depend upon it more or less completely, the heaviest charge being undoubtedly the maintenance of the Fraternity of the Holy Sepulchre, whose members, attached to the mother house of Jerusalem or to various branches, number 278.

In 1914 the position became critical. The debt, amounting to £150,000, was due to three main causes—the possession of large estates rendered unproductive through mismanagement or neglect; to persistent borrowing; and to the financial ignorance of the Brotherhood. Though matters were slightly bettered by the sale of property in Roumania, at the end of 1914 the debt was £200,000. With the outbreak of war all the chief sources of the Patriarchate's income abruptly ceased. No more Orthodox pilgrims came (a Russian consul once said that each Russian pilgrim meant fully £10 to Jerusalem, in alms, offerings, and purchases,) and no foreign rents were received. When the British occupied Southern Palestine in 1917, the Patriarchate, which had been living from hand to mouth, on bills and notes of credit, was £500,000 in debt. The new Administration was besieged with appeals to allow the institution of legal proceedings against the Patriarchate, and, as the sole means of protection a moratorium was declared. The National Bank of Greece offered to take charge of the finances of the Patriarchate and to settle its debts, on condition that all the Patriarchate property in Palestine was placed at its entire discretion. Such a course involved not only ecclesiastical but very acute political questions, and the Arab Orthodox laity to a man opposed it (pp. 32-36). In July, 1920, there was a serious division in the Synod of Jerusalem, caused by differing opinions upon the Greek Loan and upon "the proposed adoption of certain new 'Internal Regulations' drawn up at Athens" (p. 31). The high members of the Synod deposed the Patriarch and appealed to the Orthodox Churches everywhere for support, and both Patriarch and Synod appealed to the Palestine Government. The High Commissioner thereupon instituted a Commission of Enquiry under Sir Anton Bertram, formerly Puisne Judge of Cyprus, and Commander H. C. Luke, Assistant Governor of Jerusalem. Both the Commissioners have had long experience in Eastern and Eastern Church affairs. Mr. J. B. Barron, Director of Revenues, and Customs, Palestine, who investigated the financial question, is an authority on Eastern finance; and the two Arab Assessors, Mr. Y. Farraj and Mr. G. Siksek, are well-known members of old and influential Orthodox families. The Commission was thoroughly fitted for its important task.

The Commission strove to ascertain "whether the Orthodox Eastern Church provides a competent authority for the adjudication of disputes in particular Churches" (pp. 115-187), but came to the conclusion "that there is no ecclesiastical authority empowered to adjudicate upon the dispute" (p. 222), and that "pending a reconciliation those members of the Synod who for the time being recognise the authority of the Patriarch shall for all purposes be deemed to constitute

the Synod" (p. 225). These two main points being settled, there remained the question of the Patriarchate's debts. "They now amount to about £556,000. . . . As a result of the War, the Patriarchate has lost 64 per cent. of its income. . . . The minimum annual expenditure is about £61,800. Its possible revenues are about £22,000. . . . The Patriarchate is temporarily insolvent. . . . No other course is left but the realisation of some of the very considerable assets of the Patriarchate" (pp. 225-6). The Commission further recommended that the Government to assist the Patriarchate "to deal with its present embarrassments should establish a commission of liquidation and control," whose task would be "to liquidate the debt of the Patriarchate, to introduce economies into its annual budget, to increase its revenues by the introduction of improved methods of administration," until "its affairs should be upon a sound footing" (p. 227).

The Report deals very sympathetically with some of the chief differences in the Patriarchate, where the Greeks, having still power and place, cling desperately to the old order of Hellenic control, while the Arabs are gathering strength as a rising tide in opposition. The Imperial Regulations of 1875 (practically the charter of the Patriarchate), and the Imperial *Berai* of Abdul Hamid appointing the present Patriarch, are contributions of immense interest and value to any student of Orthodox Church affairs. There is also a list of fifteen "charges by the Bishop of the Synod against the Patriarch" (pp. 279-283). These, in their angry reiteration, seem to us to epitomise the ceaseless struggle between the Hellenic and Arab sections of the Orthodox Church. The Patriarch, as head of the whole community, is bound equally to both sides, and neither has yet been able to prove that he favours one to the exclusion of the other, though both sides have desired and also claimed partiality of treatment. We think the Bishops were mistaken in declining "officially to recognise the Commission," or to meet its request for expert assistance except by the loan of "books and papers" (pp. 4-6).

The Commission of control recommended in the Report is now in being, and is proceeding along the lines which it considers most helpful to the Patriarchate. Its very interesting and valuable work is subsequent to the Report, and cannot be dealt with here. The Ordinance appointing it is given in full. A very clear and comprehensive Memorandum on "The financial Affairs of the Patriarchate" (pp. 292-313), which is also most melancholy reading, an account of the Bessarabian property of the Holy Sepulchre, and an Index (somewhat too curt for such a work), are included. The book is thoroughly well produced to the smallest detail, as are all publications bearing the name of Mr. Humphrey Milford. The Report is certainly a weighty and notable contribution to the study of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem, and one that no student of its affairs can afford to do without.

THE EVOLUTION OF BUDDHISM.

"AN INTRODUCTION TO MAHAYANA BUDDHISM." By W. M. McGovern, Ph.D., Lecturer on Chinese and Japanese, at the School of Oriental Studies. (London: Kegan, Paul, Trench, Trubner & Co., Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

In the 6th Century B.C. Indian civilisation was confined to the Gangetic Delta. The soil, yearly renewed by alluvial action, enabled a fairly dense population to live in comfort and to develop a class which had leisure for philosophic speculation. The whole country was split up into hereditary principalities; but in many cases absolutism was tempered by democratic institutions. Prince Siddharta, the heir-apparent in one of these petty States, was a born philosopher. Profound meditation convinced him that all phenomena were creatures of illusion; that metempsychosis involved disease, bereavement, decay and death; that to achieve ambition was to court bitter disappointment. Only by killing worldly desire could men secure Nirvana, or relief from undergoing an endless succession of re-births in a sphere of unalloyed misery. Such was the revela-

tion preached far and wide by a great thinker destined to secure universal fame as Sakymuni, or the Buddha. His attitude towards transcendental phenomena was purely agnostic, and his method of dealing with things perceived by the senses suggests the germs of pragmatism.

The Buddha gospel attained some measure of acceptance during his lifetime; but the schism to which all religions are subject took place after his decease; and Buddhism would have shared the fate of many rival philosophies had it not been adopted by a powerful Ruler. In 256 B.C. Asoka waded through seas of slaughter to the throne of Maghada—now Behar. Remorse led him to enhance Buddhism with a convert's fiery zeal, and it became the State religion of his far-flung empire. He despatched missionaries to Ceylon, who quickly converted its entire population. Thence Buddhism spread to Burma and Siam, which, with Ceylon, are still strongholds of the original cult, known to scholars as Hinayana Buddhism.

It reached China in the first century of our era, and found favour in the eyes of the Emperor Ming Ti; but had a long and bitter struggle for existence. The literate adhered to Confucianism—which is a system of ethics rather than a creed—and which in the 13th century became the state religion of China. Buddhism, however, retained a firm hold on the educated masses. It was propagated in Korea towards the close of the fourth century, and reached Tibet 400 years later, owing to the sovereign's marriage with the Buddhist daughter of the Chinese Emperor. In 532 A.D. an embassy from Korea introduced Buddhism into Japan, where it came into collision with Shintoism—which is essentially the deification of great men and the worship of natural forces. During the Shogunate Usurpation (1608-1867), an attempt was made to instal Confucianism as the State religion; and since the revolution of 1867 Shintoism has gained ground with the military and official classes. Neither has supplanted Buddhism, which indeed, stands on firm foundations in Japan, although it is not recognised by the Government.

It has been remarked with perfect truth that every man is born a Tory or a Radical; and Buddhism has taken colour from the idiosyncrasy of the communities which have adopted it. The Hinayana school, which clings to ancient ways, is all-powerful in Ceylon, Burma and Siam; while the Mahayana school, representing more advanced thought, prevails in China and Japan. Mahayana Buddhism in its turn has undergone transformation. In China it remains conservative, although signs of progress have appeared since the Revolution; in Japan the influence of western thought has modified the trend of philosophic speculation. Thus Hinayana Buddhism may be likened to Judaism, Unreformed Mahayana, to orthodox Catholicism, and Reformed Mahayana to Modernism.

The tenets of the latter school have undergone momentous changes. At its outset the unrelieved pessimism of earlier days gave place to a more hopeful outlook on life. A sharp line of distinction was drawn between the Absolute, the Universal Buddha, the Essence of Mind, and external phenomena due to illusion. In this view every human heart contains a spark of Buddhahood, which may be fanned into the flame of perfection; and Nirvana is not liberation from the burden of life but a progressive development of the sleeping Buddha. Then came the inevitable reaction, and the latest trend of Mahayana is towards a relative pessimism. It holds that sin and sorrow cannot be lightly brushed aside or converted into joy. Evil is immanent in every form of life, but relief from its misery may be achieved by the exclusive adoration of the Infinite—*Amitabha* in Sanskrit. That alone is eternal in a universe of perpetual flux; but it is still a moot point whether the developed germ of Buddhahood retains individuality after the dissolution of its mundane tabernacle.

Professor McGovern has done well in describing the later phases of a creed which is professed by eight per cent. of the world's population. His treatise on Mahayana Buddhism is a development of the thesis

which secured his ordination as an honorary Buddhist priest in the great "Cathedral" at Tokyo. It is a valuable contribution to the literature of Comparative Religion, but few European students are qualified to follow him in threading the mazes of Asiatic philosophy.

F.H.S.

"TIGER, TIGER."

"DAYS AND NIGHTS OF SHIKAR." By Mrs. W. W. Baillie (London: The Bodley Head. 12s. 6d. net.)

Mrs. Baillie has had many and varied adventures shooting big game in different parts of India, particularly in the southern part of the Bombay Presidency, in the Central Provinces and in Kashmir. Sometimes she was with her husband, sometimes with her brother, and often alone. The most interesting of her experiences she tells in this book, and it is amazing to find each chapter containing at least one thrilling adventure.

The abruptness of the beginning and ending of the chapters and the general brusqueness of the style seem to suit the subject very well. Mrs. Baillie very evidently has a sense of humour, which must have helped to carry her through many trying experiences. There is apt to be an unpleasant monotony in a chronicle of the wounding and killing of animals, but all the accounts given here have something about them which especially arrests the attention—something unusual or something humorous—or else they tell of narrow escapes which make one hold one's breath. There are some decidedly exciting tiger and panther episodes, but Mrs. Baillie's nearest shave was when she was mauled by a bear. She slipped between two rocks, her topi being knocked over her eyes. "The bear seized the topi in his teeth, missing my head and face, and made off with it in his mouth, probably being amazed at the ease with which a human head comes off." Personally we liked best the chapter which describes the stratagem by which a sambar and fawn eluded the pursuit of some wild dogs.

All who have shot big game, especially in India, will be interested in this book, but there is as well something very attractive to the most stay-at-home reader in its breezy air of adventure and the way in which the author's personality shows through it all the time.

SKETCHES OF MALTA.

"MALTA: A Sketch Book." By Gordon Home. (London: A. and C. Black, 2s. 6d. net.)

In this book are some delightful sketches of Malta, reproduced with quite unusual excellence. Mr. Gordon Home has certainly given us the gems of the island, faithfully and artistically, but perhaps more remarkable than his sketches is the lowness of the price at which his work has been prepared. To those thousands of people who know the charms of Malta his book will be an admirable little souvenir.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Forests of India." By E. P. Stebbing, M.A., late of the Indian Forest Services, Professor of Forestry University of Edinburgh, F.L.S., F.R.G.S. With Illustrations from Photographs. In 2-volumes. Vol. I. (London: John Lane. 42s. net.)

"Self-Training in Mysticism A Guide to the Mystic Way." By the Rev. H. L. Hubbard. (London: Christophers. 4s. 6d. net.)

"Dreams and the Unconscious." By C. W. Valentine. (London: Christophers. 4s. 6d. net.)

"Viaticum or Traveller's Scrip." Verses and Sentences Chosen and Arranged by J. H. Fowler. (London: Christophers.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.**To-Day.**

February 2 (New Style).

January 20 (Old Style).

Gumada II, 5, 1340 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.

Shabat 4, 5681 of the Jewish Calendar.

Prince Nicolas of Roumania has returned to Eton.

Viscount and Viscountess Goschen and the Hon. Cicely Goschen have left England for Egypt.

Earl Cowley, Lady Sybil Grant, and Sir Marshall and Lady Reid are among the recent arrivals at Cairo.

General Sir John and Lady Maxwell will remain abroad until the end of March.

Prince Christopher of Greece has arrived in Cannes from Athens.

The Shah of Persia has left Teheran on his way to Europe. He is travelling incognito.

M. Gounaris, the Greek Premier, who had been staying in London, has left for the French capital.

Colonel the Hon. Thomas and Mrs. Grenville-Galvin have left town for Algiers.

Sir John Latta has returned to London from the Carlton Hotel, St. Moritz.

Commander John Bouboulis, Naval Attaché at the Greek Legation, returned to London last week from Venice.

King Constantine received Sir Samuel Hoare, the League of Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Russian Refugees, in Athens last week.

The Greek Legation have taken 47, Upper Brooke Street for the offices of the Naval, Military, and Commercial Attachés.

Mrs. Alec Tweedie, who collected money to put up nearly 40 Y.M.C.A. huts during the war, has collected another £430, which she is handing over to the Y.M.C.A.

The Crown Prince of Persia will shortly leave Paris for Teheran, where he will act for the Shah during the latter's forthcoming visit to France.

The Delhi correspondent of *The Times* writes (January 25):—Mr. R. R. Maconachie and Major A. N. Dickson have been appointed councillor and medical officer respectively on the staff of Major Humphreys, the new British Minister in Kabul.

The engagement is announced between Brandram Francis Sherwell Boileau, elder son of the late Mr. B. T. Boileau, and Mrs. Boileau, of Darjeeling, India, and Ness Mackenzie, only child of the late Mr. A. C. Harkness and Mrs. Harkness, 10, Abbotsford Crescent, Edinburgh.

Field-Marshal Sir William Robertson left London on January 26, by the P. and O. express for Marseilles, there to embark in the s.s. Morea for Bombay. Viscount and Viscountess Goschen, for Port Said, are also travelling from Marseilles by the same vessel.

Under the auspices of the British Institute of International Affairs, Sir Valentine Chirol will speak on February 7, at the Royal Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi. His subject will be "Egypt," and the chair will be taken by Major-General Lord Edward Gleichen.

The marriage was celebrated on January 16, at the Russian Embassy Chapel, and on January 17, at the British Consulate, Constantinople, between Herbert Stanley Pearce, son of Thomas Pearce, O.B.E., Croydon, and Xenia, youngest daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Vladimir Cellarius, Warsaw.

An equestrian statue of Lieutenant-General Sir F. Stanley Maude, who died on active service whilst acting as G.O.C.-in-C. in Mesopotamia, has now been completed. This statue is to be erected in Baghdad, and it will be shipped from this country to Irak about February 11. Previously it will be on view in London.

The engagement is announced of Alfred Edgar Sullivan Fletcher, B. Sc., Indian State Railways, elder son of Mr. A. S. Fletcher, of Donington, Lincolnshire, to Mary Kennedy Everett, younger daughter of the Rev. F. J. and Mrs. Everett, the Vicarage, Aylesford, Kent.

The King has granted to Admiral of the Fleet Earl Beatty, Field-Marshal Lord Plumer, and Field-Marshal Sir Henry Hughes Wilson licence to wear the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun with flowers of the Paulownia, a decoration conferred by the Emperor of Japan.

The engagement is announced between Reginald G. Monier-Williams, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. F. Monier-Williams, K.C.I.E., D.C.L., of Oxford, and Miss Alice Ameron-Russell, only daughter of the late John Cameron-Russell (Co. Antrim) and Mrs. Sullivan, and niece of the Dowager Lady Oakeley, of 19, Sussex Square, Brighton.

A congregation representative of the political, diplomatic, literary, educational, and other spheres of public life in which the late Lord Bryce had taken part attended the memorial service in Westminster Abbey at noon on January 27. Brigadier-General the Earl of Lucan represented the King, and Colonel Douglas Gordon, the Duke of Connaught. On January 30 an Armenian Memorial Service, according to the Armenian rite, was held at the Chapel Royal, Savoy Hill, Strand. Dr. Nazarian, the Armenian Bishop of London, assisted by English clergy, officiated.

APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS.

The following appointments to the Colonial Service have been made by the Secretary of State for the Colonies during the month ended January 10:—

Ceylon.—Mr. (late Sergt.-Instructor) T. E. H. O'Brien B.Sc., to Rubber Research Chemist; Miss J. Munro to Nursing Sister.

Palestine.—Captain L. W. Charley, O.B.E., to Assistant Director of Commerce and Industry; Mr. G. H. Stocks, to Inspector Clerk, Posts and Telegraph Department.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. A. W. Sturdy to the vacancy in the office of Auditor of the Accounts of the Secretary of State in Council of India caused by the retirement of Mr. H. A. Cooper.

BIRTH.

SKINGLEY.—On January 23, at Kingslea, Sutton, Surrey, to Dorothy (*née* Constantinidi), wife of Henry P. C. Skingley—a daughter.

OBITUARY.

Lieutenant-Colonel T. Murphy, who fought at Inkerman and Sebastopol, and saw the charge of the Light Brigade, has died at the age of 89.

The death has occurred of General Sir Donald James Sim McLeod, in his 77th year. General McLeod had a distinguished career in the Indian Army. He joined the Madras Cavalry in 1861. From 1877 to 1888 he served on the Indian Army Staff,

and in the Burma campaign of 1886-7 was Deputy Quartermaster General of the Madras Army. For his work in this campaign he was awarded the medal and the D.S.O. From 1890-1893 he commanded the 3rd Madras Lancers, and from 1893-5 was Assistant Adjutant-General of his district. For the last years of his service, 1903-6, he commanded, as lieutenant-general, the Burma Division. He was also colonel of the 28th Light Cavalry. His services were rewarded by his appointment as C.B., in 1898, and further in 1906 and 1913, when he was created K.C.I.E. and K.C.B.

Colonel Schaeffer, the Chairman of the League of Nations Commission of Inquiry in Albania, has died suddenly in Geneva from heart trouble. He was a native of Luxembourg, and twenty years ago was appointed Governor of Crete. He also carried out topographical work in the Sudan for the Egyptian Government.

The death occurred on January 28 of Sir Francis Henry Barker, a director of Vickers (Limited), at the age of fifty-seven. Sir Francis was the son of the late Alfred Barker, of Constantinople and Esher. He was a wide traveller, having visited nearly all the countries of Europe and most of Asia Minor.

The death has occurred of Sir John Harvey Blunt, Bt., in his eighty-fourth year. Formerly a captain the Royal Welch Fusiliers, he served with the 1st Battalion of that regiment throughout the Indian Mutiny, and was present at the taking of Fetteghur, and the subsequent operations on the Ramgunga and Gogra, and also took part in the siege and capture of Lucknow. For his services he was awarded the medal and clasp.

The death has occurred in Spain of Colonel Willoughby Cole Verner, soldier and author. Born in 1852, Colonel Verner joined the Rifle Brigade in 1873, and passed through the Staff College, taking first place and honours in 1881. He served in the Nile Expedition of 1884-5, and was present at the actions of Abu Klea and El Gobat, where he guided the fighting square in its march to the Nile, and at the subsequent fighting on Gordon's steamers near Metemneh. For this campaign he was awarded the medal with two clasps and the Khedive's Star. After service in South Africa he devoted most of his time to literary work.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Belgrade correspondent of the *Morning Post* states that the Yugoslav delegates at Genoa will be M. Voja Marinkovitch, Minister of Home Affairs, and M. Lazar Markovitch, Minister of Justice.

According to news from Beyrout 20 women and children have been killed in a village in the Lebanon by lightning.

While the Greek Government has decided not to ratify the sentence recently passed by the Synodical Court of Athens on Mgr. Meletios the Ecumenical Patriarch-elect, owing to technical objections, reports that it intends to recognize the election of Mgr. Meletios are denied. A second trial may take place.

Dr. Yovanovitch, the Yugoslav Minister to Switzerland, has received an urgent summons to Belgrade, where his presence is required, it is believed, in connexion with the Albanian question.

M. Randeff, Bulgarian Minister to Switzerland, has been appointed Minister to Italy as well.

Calcutta Corporation has passed a regulation prohibiting the slaughter of cows.

As the result of a severe storm, direct cable communication with Tangier has been interrupted.

A tramworkers' strike began in Constantinople on January 29, to the great inconvenience of the public.

According to the Delhi correspondent of *The Times*, it is understood that the Indian deputation to British Guiana will visit Trinidad on their way.

As the result of a collision on the North-Western Railway of India at Mardad last week, 37 Indians were injured and had to be taken to hospital.

Replying to a question in the Bengal Council, Sir Harry Wheeler said that owing to the non-cooperation movement one assistant sub-inspector and 46 constables had resigned.

The *Tribune d'Orient*, a fortnightly newspaper, is to be published in Geneva. This paper, which is to support the interests and ideals of the Near East, is to be edited partly in French, partly in Arabic.

A Yellow-book in reference to Balkan affairs up to the outbreak of the Great War is engaging the attention of the French Foreign Minister.

Delimitation of the new Serbo-Roumanian frontier through the Banat of Temesvar is now complete; three border communes were transferred to Roumania in exchange for three other communes transferred to Yugoslavia.

A message received in Paris from Angora dated January 21 states that the negotiations between the Bokhara delegates and the Anatolian Commissary for Foreign Affairs have resulted in an agreement.

It is stated from Sofia that M. Theodoroff, Prefect of Police in Sofia, and two companions were shot dead on January 24 by Colonel Athanasco, a member of the Macedonian Revolutionary Party.

According to the *Kathimerini*, the United States Minister has protested to the Hellenic Government against the action taken by certain Greek authorities in depriving Bulgarian subjects of their passports and forcibly enrolling them in the army on the Anatolian front.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1922.

THE STRIFE OF TONGUES.

Towards the end of last September there appeared in a Greek paper published at Salonika—*To Phos* (The Light)—an article which, in any other language, might have been suspected of serving "enemy" propaganda. According to this organ the first thing to strike a new arrival in Macedonia is the fact that the population speaks a foreign tongue. In Western Macedonia (the districts of Enidje Vardar, Vodena, Lerin, and Kostour, we are assured, the majority speaks Bulgarian—bad Bulgarian, but still Bulgarian—and the same is the case in Eastern Macedonia (the districts of Serres and Drama). This condition of things, the article continues, is lamentable; after so many years and after such hard work the Greek language has failed to impose itself in company with the freedom brought by Greece. The matter is serious and vital, according to this authority, for the first step a State is bound to take on gaining possession of foreign lands is to endeavour to absorb the language, as Germany did in Alsace-Lorraine, Poland, and Austrian territory. The extinction of the Bulgarian language in Macedonia can best be accomplished through schools. The Greek Government, however, has neglected the school question in Macedonia, whereas it ought to make a point of sending there teachers who have been carefully selected, who are well paid and freed from military service. With the accuracy of the statements of the Salonika paper we are not here concerned; but there can be no doubt that it reproduces the sentiments of a school of thought that is very widespread in South-Eastern Europe. The journal might be taken to task for its naive admissions regarding the non-Greek character of Macedonia; but its contention that the situation complained of is only to be met by ruthless repression of the Bulgarian language will command support throughout the Balkans. For the difficulty of a population speaking a foreign tongue is not confined to Macedonia. The Near Eastern settlement imposed by the Allied Powers has produced this state of affairs along, practically, every frontier; and the only remedy that seems to commend itself to the different Governments is a policy of suppression. Foreign schools and churches are closed, and the use of the foreign language is vetoed whenever official cognizance can be taken of its existence.

In view of the fact that not only the pages of Balkan history, but also the precedents quoted by the Salonika paper are eloquent of the futility of the course hitherto pursued, it would be thought that a prophet would rise up in one or other of the Balkan States to preach a different policy. There is no surer way of

keeping a language alive than to drive it underground; it becomes a matter of national pride for the oppressed community to cling tenaciously to its mother tongue, and each succeeding generation generally produces a more intensified national consciousness. If freed from persecution, a language, so to speak, finds its own level. Where those who use it are in a minority, knowledge of the language of the majority becomes almost a necessity for everyday life and the transaction of ordinary business, and in course of time the existence of a second language for the home life of a section of the population becomes little more than an interesting survival and presents no difficulties. The State, if its administration be equally liberal in other respects, can count on a reasonably loyal and satisfied community. Where violence on any large scale has been done to the principle of nationality, and the "foreign" language is the mother-tongue of a majority of the people forced against their will under the State's jurisdiction, the situation constitutes a more serious problem. Certain it is that at this period of the world's history a policy of crude repression can have no lasting success, and one is left amazed at the shortsightedness of those who would still attempt to enforce it. A State in this predicament would be well-advised to take stock of its position at the earliest possible moment. It can rest assured that it is storing up trouble for itself in the years to come, and in the meantime is incurring in maintaining its unwelcome jurisdiction an expenditure which under existing economic conditions it can ill afford. If such a question were capable of dispassionate analysis, it would be found to be to the advantage of every State to leave the jurisdiction of debatable territory to its rival in the confidence that the right will ultimately prevail and that until then the other country is weakening itself by a self-imposed burden.

If this solution may seem to be carrying cynicism too far, there is another alternative. It has been suggested in these pages that it is but a small step from the undertaking to refrain from aggression against one's neighbours—the stipulation that by the Cannes Resolution is to be imposed on countries taking part in the European Economic Conference—to a Near Eastern Pact on the lines of the Pacific Pact reached in Washington. To a "military holiday" in South-Eastern Europe, by the terms of which each State should agree to limit its military budget to a standard proportionate to that imposed by the Allies upon Bulgaria, might be added a further agreement by which the same States undertook to refrain from all propaganda and repressive measures in territories of mixed nationality. In other words, the people concerned would pledge themselves to a "nationality holiday" without prejudice to the march of events when the close period comes to an end. The compelling motive would frankly be an economic one. Each Government could reduce its Budget by the amount now spent on a policy of repression or ensuring security—from whichever point of view the subject is approached—and the non-official population, pledged not to indulge in aggressive assertion of its nationality, and receiving no encouragement from anywhere to persist in this course, would have much more time to carry on its more legitimate work and promote not only its own material prosperity, but also that of the whole Balkan Peninsula. As things are, we are conscious of preaching counsels of perfection; but we hope that sooner or later the financial chaos existing in South-Eastern Europe will bring home to each country the utter hopelessness, as well as the suicidal effect, of present policies. Desperate diseases call for desperate remedies. There can be few palliatives that have not been tried at one time or another in the Balkans; but we can think of no remedy that would deserve more the epithet "violent" than that the different Governments and peoples should formally agree to bury all hatchets and should conscientiously, officially and unofficially, live up to the spirit of their solemn undertaking. Whether the natural corollary of such a course would not be the establishment of an autonomous Macedonia is another matter.

TURKISH WAR VICTIMS.*

By Rosalind Toynbee.

(During the last week of last June, the Greek Army was evacuating the area which it had been holding for the past year round the Anatolian town of Ismid, and was at the same time removing the Christian population of the district. On the evening of September 27th, a telephone message was received in Constantinople from one of the Allied Mission Officers at Ismid, to the effect that a massacre of the Moslem population had begun, that he and the commander of an Allied destroyer present were doing all they could to control the situation, but that the outlook was grave and the immediate evacuation of the Moslem population was urgent. Upon the arrival of this message, the Allied authorities gave permission to the Ottoman Red Crescent Society to send relief ships, under their protection, to Ismid, and the writer of the following article accompanied this Red Crescent Expedition.)

At last, after such innumerable delays that there had seemed a fate against us, we started up the gulf towards Ismid. Mist lay still along the water, but there was sun above, and the air was clear and exhilarating as we stood on the bridge of the ship, looking out anxiously for the faint spider-like outline of Greek destroyers.

We had spent the night at anchor off Prinkipo, in the safety of the "neutral zone" proclaimed by the Allies in Constantinople, a few weeks before. Our captain had refused to cross that magic line in the dark, and we had been obliged to wait in desperate impatience for the daylight. Now it had come, and the ship moved quietly forward through the smooth water of the gulf.

There was a feeling of intense excitement among us all that would be very difficult to convey—it was now over thirty-six hours since the telephone call had come from Ismid, asking urgently for help. We had been warned in that message that every hour was of importance, if the lives of hundreds of people were to be saved—and from that moment to this we had been trying to get there. No one had been to blame, everyone had been anxious to help, but in a city occupied by three separate foreign Powers, the formalities and regulations are almost infinite.

The first night we had spent in a tug, steaming wildly up and down the Bosphorus, and round about the Golden Horn, searching vainly for instructions from one of the many Allied warships anchored there. That had been a strange night, with the moonlight and the searchlights and the lights from the great ships, and at last the dawn breaking over the hills behind Beikos, and a sudden flood of warm colour across the Bosphorus—but it had led to nothing, and all the next day we had waited, anchored off the point of Haidar Pasha, waiting from hour to hour for orders and the permission to start.

Rumours of all kinds had reached us,—from sailors on the control boat—from different people who came and went. One said that Ismid was already in flames and the Greeks in full retreat—another reported the hourly arrival of refugees, and still we could do nothing. Twice over we were searched for arms—of course we had none—and it was not till nearly sun-down that we received our permission to leave the harbour, and steamed off, a fleet of seven steamers, from the moorings that we had all begun to hate.

Even then our troubles were not ended, for, a few miles from the Princes' Islands, the foremost ships of our little company were turned back by an Allied destroyer. We watched the destroyer appear, steaming rapidly from the direction of Ismid, and supposed it coming to escort us past the Greek fleet, and then we saw it signal to our ships, and the ships one after another wheeled round and passed us, going back towards Constantinople signalling to us to follow.

As we came up with the destroyer it signalled to us also: Kemalists entered Ismid this morning; no need to proceed further." That was all—the destroyer had left before their entry, and what was happening now it did not know. It seemed at first that we were not likely to know either. Should we go on to Ismid in spite of this message, or should we turn back as the six other ships had done? Ours was the last, the biggest ship, and we had an Allied officer on board. The decision lay with him, and he decided to go on—we breathed again. After so many delays, so many obstacles overcome, this getting through to Ismid had assumed, I think, for all of us, a quite irrational importance, and the determination to get there persisted, after all need was past.

And so we had gone on, with a certain sense of recklessness and adventure, as we watched the friendly destroyer vanish behind our own companions towards Constantinople, and the darkness began to close in upon us, going forward towards the open waters and the end of the neutral zone.

It was then that the captain of our ship had protested, that he had in fact refused to venture his ship further until daylight. There was now, we knew, no special urgency about our journey, so we had agreed to spend the night inside the protected zone.

The captain's fears were not groundless. Already, on a former journey we had been arrested by a Greek destroyer and been forced to follow her under threat of fire. That time we had been set free again after a few hours, but a second time we might be less fortunate, especially in the heat of such military activities as must now be taking place in the Ismid region. In the daylight, we could at least look about us, and be clearly seen; in the dark we might well have been fired at without warning.

All these preliminary difficulties and excitements had had a cumulative effect, and now as we ventured out into the Ismid Gulf itself, we were strung up—apprehensive and expectant, to perhaps an unreasonable degree.

At first our progress seemed wholly uneventful—across the water, and on either shore of the Gulf, lay a thin veil of mist, and absolute stillness. We passed one or two deserted Turkish villages on the North shore; then the Goeben, and the British destroyer which always guards it; then we thought we could make out a Greek destroyer close in to the South shore, but nothing happened, and we went on undisturbed.

It must have been about an hour later that we first saw smoke, two grey columns rising up almost perpendicularly into the sky from a point some miles ahead of us, on the south shore. We were hardly sure at first if it were really smoke or only some strange formation of mist—but the sailors knew and looked grim, and as we drew nearer, the last doubt vanished: it was smoke, from two burning villages that we saw, and a few moments later another cloud burst out, nearer to us, and then another and another, some close along the shore, others higher up on the hill side.

* This article won the Third Prize in our Ladies' Competition.



ASK FOR

WHITE HORSE WHISKY



BY APPOINTMENT.

I cannot describe the extraordinary feeling of tension that possessed us all—the haunting feeling of terrible things ahead, that we did not yet know about, and this sense of dread was intensified by the strange stillness of the whole place. The long winding gulf stretched ahead of us, mysterious and sinister; as we turned each bend of the coast, we held our breaths, wondering and fearing what we might see next; and now these pillars of smoke, rising and spreading over the green tree-covered hills beside us, seemed, in a horrible way, the first sign of life in that dead place—and at the same time the first materialisation of the impending tragedy.

Even this was silent, for we were too far off to hear the crackling of flames or the falling stones and rafters—nothing but smoke, heavy clouds of smoke rolling out in ever increasing volume from one spot after another—and as we drew nearer, the red glow of flames underneath the smoke.

We steered close in to the shore, and it was then that we first saw the soldiers. We saw them first through field glasses, and then as we came still nearer, with our naked eyes—a long line of troops stretching eastward from the village just abreast of us, which had just begun to burn.

Who were they? Turks or Greeks? Where were they going? To or from Ismid? We came closer and closer, till we could see the men walking, and the mules and the baggage and the khaki uniforms; and we saw them marching slowly, in regular order, westward from Ismid and the burning villages towards the country we had just been passing—the unburned towns of Eregli and Karamursal, and many little villages whose names we did not know.

We saw the soldiers clustered round a house still standing intact, we saw them bend down, and then a burst of flame leap up as they set fire to that also—even the little jetties along the shore were burning, and the fishing boats moored to the jetties.

About this moment we were sighted by a Greek destroyer, which had been guarding the retreating column on the shore. We had been so absorbed watching the fires that we had not noticed it. Now we saw it dart out at us like a grey dragon fly, signalling to us: Stop.

We stopped and waited. It sent off a boat, and a young officer came on board. He looked white and perturbed, avoiding our eyes. Our Allied officer handed him our papers, and he read them hurriedly, hardly looking up. 'C'est bien,' he muttered and dashed down the ladder. In another moment the destroyer darted off again to its position by the land forces. We now saw several other small Greek steamers, coasting along the shore, apparently in conjunction with the infantry, but they took no notice of us.

Looking behind us, we saw first Eregli and then Karamursal begin to burn, as the head of the Greek column reached them, bigger and more solid masses of smoke and flame, burning on and on for hours, into the night.

Round the next bend of the Gulf we came in sight of Ismid, and, between us and it, a chain of Greek destroyers and the 'Kilkis,' their American-built dreadnought, with masts like Eiffel towers. We wondered how we should get through them; but at that moment an Allied destroyer appeared from behind them, and came towards us. They had been waiting for us, it seemed, and wondering at our delay. Safely escorted by this friend, we steamed in past the line of warships and found ourselves at last at our journey's end.

What we found at Ismid fulfilled our worst forebodings but no foreboding had prepared us for the full horror of what we saw. The Kemalists had entered the town the morning before, a few hours after the Greeks left, and the town was still in the state in which they found it.

Street upon street of deserted houses, broken windows, torn-off doors, streets knee-deep in broken things—fragments of china and glass, torn clothing, ripped up mattresses, pages of books, photographs, overturned sewing-machines hundreds and hundreds of broken

carts; heads and limbs of animals lay everywhere among the rubbish; slaughtered pigs, at the street corners, and in the Mosque; burned carcasses of cattle penned up in the fire, among the burned houses and shops. In the sea, along the shore, human corpses were floating—and everywhere the smell of putrefying flesh, and burning and clouds of great black flies.

Here and there among the gutted shops stood one with shutters down, undamaged and sealed—and on them in white chalk a great cross was drawn—a sign to the avenging angel to spare Christian property?

Up on the hill above the town were the graves of 58 Turks belonging to one quarter of the town, who had been killed three days before and buried in heaps of five or ten among the scrub of the hillside. They took us up to see them, and began to dig the corpses up. The sun was setting by this time—a red fiery sunset, and in the West beside the sunset glowed the steady angry glow of Karamursal town, the clouds of dark grey smoke drifting across the shining sunset light.

On the way down from the graves I found a half-burned kitten, standing stupefied among the ruins of the houses. The fur was all burned off; its nose and mouth were burned, its paws were burned so that it could not walk. A tiny ghastly thing, it stood in the road before us, too dazed to move away. I took it back with me, hoping that food and care might cure it, but a few days later it died, in spite of all I could do for it.

It seems an absurd and trifling thing to mention this kitten when hundreds of human beings had lost their lives, but somehow it stands out in my memory as symbolic of much more—symbolic of the human beings also—of the hundreds and thousands of people suffering and being sacrificed all over Asia Minor to-day.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Abyssinia.

The writers of the article on "Abyssinia To-Day," from which we quoted last week, concluded their series in the *Westminster Gazette* of January 19 and 20. The first of these two articles describes the impossibility of trade owing to the instability of the country. There is, according to these two writers, a regular system of bribery and corruption, the purpose and effect of which are to keep the white man out. The article continues:—

For such difficulties the Courts offer no redress.

No Abyssinian Judge, however heavily he may have been subsidised—and, of course, he will always accept what is offered—can give a decision in favour of a European against a local Governor or Chief. The Judge must live, and he feathers his nest while he can. He will give judgment for a European who offers more ready cash than his opponent, provided the opponent is not the local Ruler, but naturally he will not risk deposition from a very profitable office if he can help it. From our standpoint this is the worst sort of "bribery and corruption," but the Abyssinian does not view it in that light. He sees no more dishonesty in it than we do in the vote-catching opportunism of our politicians in this country. It is simply a matter of custom. It checkmates the European trader, but that, from the Abyssinian point of view, is scarcely a disadvantage. On the criminal side Abyssinian justice is not more reputable. From the European point of view it is mediaeval in its methods and purely barbarous in its punishments. The police system affords to its members every facility for theft, blackmail, and highway robbery, but it affords no sort of protection to the community which it is supposed to serve. The recognised punishment for repeated theft—when it is not corruptly condoned—is the same to-day as it was centuries ago—namely, amputation of the right hand and of the left foot through the ankle, carried out in the open market place. A theft of

oranges from the Empress's larder was punished as recently as last May with death by hanging. And it is only five years since an old woman was buried alive in the market place of the capital for the crime of witchcraft. Hangings and executions are still carried out in public every week with all the brutality and ferocity of the dark ages, and the sight of the suspended bodies is one of the side-shows on market days in Adis Ababa. Sentences of imprisonment in the town gaol, even for short periods, are usually sentences of death, for the prisoners are herded together to the number of perhaps a hundred and fifty in a cell about forty feet by twenty. They are dependent, if they have no money, entirely on charity for their food, and most of them, if they do not die of starvation, die of typhus or small-pox.

We do not wish to make the picture too dark. Africa is Africa, and it is not entirely fair to apply European standards to a purely African State. But the question of slavery—to which we must always return—is one of the absolutes about which from the British point of view at any rate, no compromise can be admitted. It is an abomination which, though natural enough in the conditions which prevail to-day in Abyssinia, cannot, once it has been seen, be tolerated on any terms. The local British representatives cannot be blamed for facts with which they are powerless to interfere, but it is hard to understand why the British Foreign Office has not thought it necessary at the very least to register some protest against conditions of which it is fully aware.

This subject of slavery is followed up and described in the third and final article, which gives a lurid picture of the capture of slave-gangs. The system of slave-holding has such a grip on the country that "even the European inhabitants of the capital can hardly avoid becoming slave-owners." The following words conclude a remarkable series of articles:—

From this difficulty there is no obvious way out. Short of the deliberate and comprehensive assertion of European authority, which—in view of the results of the Battle of Adowa—could not be carried through without a very substantial demonstration of physical force, there appears to be no way by which the existing system of slavery in Abyssinia can be abolished. But there is one thing that is obviously possible, and that is the prevention of the importation of arms and ammunition. The Abyssinians possess millions of modern rifles, but their stock of ammunition has fallen very low indeed—possibly even as low as five rounds per rifle of the regular army—and when it is exhausted their power to raid and depopulate fresh areas, whether in British or in Abyssinian territory, will be destroyed at the same time. Munitions, therefore, are the crux of the whole question. The European Powers have contracted not to supply Abyssinian (amongst other African countries) with munitions, nor with materials for their manufacture, but America, unluckily, has not signed the contract; and so it is to America that the Abyssinian Government has lately turned. Payment was made in advance, three months ago, and the cartridges and automatic rifles, exported from the United States, are now lying at the port of Jibuti, in French Somaliland, which is the terminus of the Abyssinian railway.

The French authorities on the spot are not enthusiastic about the Arms Convention, and are inclined to suggest that it was only accepted owing to British pressure. They object, however, to its infringement by the United States—since if cartridges are to be sold they have plenty of their own that they would like to sell—and as far as we are aware they have not consented as yet to the importation of these American munitions through French territory. But they may consent at any moment unless London and Washington are aroused to the true state of affairs. The purpose of these articles is to describe the position as it appears, not merely to the writers but to every European who has spent even a short time in Abyssinia. If on any aspect of the question we have failed to convey a sufficiently precise view of the facts, we shall be glad to do our best to remedy the defect. Meanwhile we hope that the American public will realise what is being done in their name, and that the British public will face the intrinsically impossible situation created by the presence of British slaves in the British Legation at Adis Ababa.

Great Britain and France.

The *Contemporary Review* of January contains an article, written by Professor Arnold J. Toynbee, on "Great Britain and France in the Near East." The article begins with the statement that "because Greece and Turkey are still at war, the *entente* between France and Great Britain is now in danger," lamenting the fact that "big Western countries like France and Great Britain choose to endanger primary common interests like the *entente* by this roundabout pursuit of secondary rivalries." He regards an *entente* between the two Governments over the Near and Middle East as vital, and aptly considers the future in the light of a development of the present difficulties:—

Suppose our two Governments, after an inconclusive exchange of notes, drift on into acknowledged conflict in the East. On this chessboard France might win the game, for Turkish Nationalism in French hands is a better piece than Greek and Arab Nationalism in ours, and our king is less well covered. In India and Egypt, so near the centre of disturbance, we might be checkmated before the French Empire in N.W. Africa was even threatened. But we should hardly allow the Eastern game to reach this stage without moving pieces on the European board, where France's position is at least as vulnerable. A *rapprochement* here on our part towards Germany and Russia would alter the prospects of the tournament. The suggestion may seem remote—even startling—but our interests in the East are vital, and if they were threatened there by the action of France, what other counter-move could we make? If the Graeco-Turkish war drags on, our *protégé* Greece will break down (as is argued below) before France's *protégé* Turkey. With that in prospect, we shall have to create more pressing cares for France in Europe, and find a substitute for Greece in Russia.

The results of all this would be wholly bad, for an Anglo-German *entente* directed against France would be little help towards the reconstruction of Europe, and a widening of the area of conflict in the East might do something worse than shaking the French and British Empires. It might make

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it finally impossible to find a *modus vivendi* between Oriental and Western civilisations. A crisis in the relations between these great divisions of mankind has been working up for four centuries, and has been dangerously precipitated by the war. A *modus vivendi* is extremely difficult to establish, and the alternative is an immense disaster. At the height of this crisis Great Britain and France have practically been placed in the position of trustees for Western civilisation by the abnormal and temporary consequence of the war.

He proceeds to discuss the possibilities of an *entente* as affected by the local Graeco-Turkish situation. First, he finds there will be no military decision in the Anatolian war, and next, that "Greece, in Western Anatolia, is proving herself as incapable of providing good or even tolerable government as Turkey has proved herself in Macedonia or Armenia." So that his conclusion is: "there is no prospect of the war ending except by exhaustion or intervention." And "Great Britain and France can only arrest the mischief that they have made between them by working together and treating the Greeks and Turks, not as powers to be played against each other, but as equal victims of an unprofitable conflict, which can only be terminated by an impartial settlement."

Impartiality is the key to a solution. Both belligerents are appealing to the Western principle of nationality, and that principle, as normally interpreted in the West, must be applied. This is, debatable territory must be assigned in accordance with the national allegiance of the majority of the population, and the minorities must either be protected, under the majorities' rule, or given mutual facilities for migration. In respect of their behaviour towards one another, all the Near and Middle Eastern nationalities are on a par. Differences in their respective statistics of achievement result from differences not of standard, but of opportunity, and attempts at settlements made on any different assumption prove either disastrous or unworkable. Greek minorities must not be put in power over Turkish majorities on the ground that they are "civilised" and "Christian," nor Turkish over Greek in order to conciliate Moslem opinion. Impartiality and co-operation! When these essentials are stated, the difficulties of an Anglo-French *entente* over the Near and Middle East appear in their full proportions. Yet this *entente* is of such importance to the two Powers and to the world, that public opinion ought to be formed on the practical possibilities of agreement. A general formula might well be the substantial acceptance by both Powers of British policy in the Arab area and French policy in the Turkish, with a golden bridge for Greece, for constructing which Great Britain fortunately happens to possess the materials.

He then comes to details, which he enumerates thus: (1) The whole mainland of the Anatolian Peninsula, including Smyrna, should be restored to the Turkish national state. (2) Every argument in favour of leaving Anatolia to Turkey tells equally in favour of assigning Cyprus to Greece. (3) The execution of (1) should be conditional upon the cession by Turkey to Armenia of sufficient territory in the North-Eastern vilayets for the Armenian National Home. (4) Greece, Armenia, and Turkey should be required to confer upon the alien minorities under their sovereignty the same rights as have been exacted for them in the defeated and newly created States in Europe. (5) In the Straits the more important provisions of the Treaty of Sèvres ought to stand. (6) As for Thrace, the province might well be left to Greece as a home for Ottoman Greeks who may emigrate from Anatolia; on the other hand, a modification of the Graeco-Turkish frontier in Thrace would be reasonable. And for (7) he considers the Arab countries, of which he writes:—

All the French criticisms of British policy towards Turkey—that it is anachronistic, unintelli-

gent, pig-headed, and a nuisance to our partners—are applicable in exactly the same measure to French policy in Syria. In the Arab area it is for France to fall into line with us. She must recognise the legitimacy of the Arab national movement; consider her mandate in Syria not as an acquisition, but as a trust; and carry it out on something the same lines as those we are pursuing in Mesopotamia. If we look from this standpoint at the retrocession of Syrian territory to Turkey provided for in the Franklin-Bouillon agreement, it will appear that France has exceeded her powers and Angora displayed a lack of statesmanship. One day the mandates over Syria and Mesopotamia will terminate, and these two independent Arab States will move towards federation. What will be their attitude towards Turkey if at their time the Bagdad Railway—the essential link between these two Arab countries—is once more in Turkey's hands? In grasping after a strip of territory from which she can derive little benefit, Turkey is jeopardising her natural destiny as *primus inter pares* in a group of independent Moslem national States in the Middle East.

But how can Turkey or Greece be expected to be wise, unless France and Great Britain set them the example?

A Calcutta message says that Babu Sant Kumar Mukherjee, Zemindar of Uttarpara, in honour of the Prince of Wales's visit, has presented 50,000 rupees to be used for medical education in Bengal.

Three public meetings organized last week by the Bengal Provincial Congress in the prohibited area were broken up by the police and 50 men arrested.

Our Liubliana Correspondent writes (January 9):—The Executive Committee of the *Association Generale* of French and Algerian Mayors has issued an invitation to the Mayors of Yugoslavia to attend the Congress of Mayors of the Allied Countries in Paris from January 26 to 29. The invitation is most cordially worded, and signed by M. Adrian Gilly, President of the Association.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

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Export Credits.

Sir Philip Lloyd-Greame, Secretary to the Department of Overseas Trade and Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade, gave an interesting review last week at the Institute of Chartered Accountants of the various export credit schemes. He pointed out that export credits had throughout been regarded as a method for facilitating transactions lying just outside the purview of a conservative banker, but he emphasised the fact that it has never been contemplated that Government assistance should be utilised to finance trade which was inherently unsound. Such a course, he added, would not be business but outdoor relief. It is satisfactory to know that increasing advantage is being taken of the present scheme, which is in every sense an advance on its predecessors. As a matter of fact the advances during the past three months amount in the aggregate to more than the total for the preceding 21 months during which the scheme has been in operation. That fact speaks for itself.

The Banks and the Outlook.

This is the period when the banks hold their annual meetings, and as usual some very interesting speeches have been forthcoming on the general economic position. They have not been distinguished by any particular optimism on this occasion. Still there is the consolation that even the most eminent practitioner is liable at times to give a wrong diagnosis. There was general agreement on the part of the speakers that we have seen the lowest point of the trade depression, but there was a marked tendency to reserve as to the immediate outlook, which is very natural in the circumstances seeing that any general revival of trade must depend very largely on whether the Powers are able to arrive at an agreement as to the steps that must be taken to remedy conditions in Europe. A conference which resulted in a settlement of the questions at issue in the Near East would have an enormous effect on the trade position.

Fettered Trade.

Space does not permit of detailed comment on the speeches, otherwise I should like to have dealt with a number of the points raised. Both Mr. McKenna and Mr. F. C. Goodenough in dealing with the economic position of Europe laid stress on the interdependence of countries in these days. "It is no longer possible to separate the world of industry into compartments," said Mr. Goodenough, "and to expect that there can be prosperity in one direction while there is poverty in another." This is so little understood even to-day that this warning cannot be considered otherwise than timely. As Mr. Goodenough so aptly puts it "The theory of self-determination . . . has served to raise trade barriers." So we find in certain parts of the Near East a tendency to place restrictions on the commerce of neighbouring countries because it is not realised that the welfare of the whole depends on the welfare of the individual community. It is not only in the Near East that this tendency exists, but that region with its complicated frontiers has ever been a fruitful field for

this kind of thing. Clearly if there is to be economic recovery there must be a minimum of restrictions on commercial activities.

The Coming B.I.F.

In just a little over three weeks now the British Industries Fair will be upon us. It will open in a better trade atmosphere than was the case twelve months ago, for it is not now a case of facing a long period of depression but of looking forward with certainty to the gradual recovery of commerce. It is satisfactory to know that great interest is being taken abroad in the event, and as buyers endeavour to anticipate trade movements there is every reason to anticipate that a fair business will be done. It may be hoped that this time the Near East as a whole will be better represented among the visitors, though I suppose it would be too much to hope that we shall see many representatives of the Balkan countries for with the exchanges so adverse it is obvious that the business transacted must be restricted.

The Indian Market.

The outstanding features of India's trade in 1920-21 were a great decrease in exports and a substantial increase in imports, the consequence being that for the first time for some years India had an adverse trade balance. As, however, a series of good years had left India in a strong commercial and financial position this was not a very serious matter. The outlook as far as India is concerned depends very largely on the fate of the efforts now being made to cope with the adverse exchanges. While any general trade revival will benefit India it is impossible for her export trade to reach its normal dimensions until her pre-war customers are once again in a position to draw their supplies from her. On the other hand India is faced with the necessity of obtaining the commodities which she was unable to obtain during the war, and as a result her imports are likely to increase temporarily rather than to grow less. It would seem probable that the conditions obtaining in 1920-21 are likely to hold good for the present.

Roumania's Transport Problem.

A very clear idea of the task which still confronts Roumania in the re-establishment of communications will be obtained from the statement made recently to the Press by M. Cihodariu, the Minister of Communi-

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cations, which is given this week by our Bucharest Correspondent. It appears that only about 1,354 locomotives out of 4,070 are in working order, while of the balance only 356 need slight repairs. The position with regard to rolling stock is somewhat similar. About one-third of the 4,000 passenger coaches are in use, and only 40,000 out of 70,000 goods trucks are in working condition. It is very far from being a happy situation, and until it is vitally altered it will be futile to expect any great advance towards normal conditions. M. Cihodariu, it will be noted, has drawn up a programme designed to place the railways on a pre-war footing in five years. It includes the reconstruction of lines, the alteration of the gauge in Bessarabia, the replacement of sleepers and other similar essentials. Naturally attention will first be concentrated on the rolling stock, and once that approaches the normal the chief obstacle to Roumania's development will be well on the way to being removed.

Conditions in Egypt.

The faculty of rapid recuperation has always been a feature of conditions in Egypt, and once a settlement of the political situation is arrived at there is little doubt that the commercial position will rapidly improve. In this connection it will be noted that our Cairo Correspondent remarks this week that the belief that a settlement will be reached has led to an improvement in business conditions. Since he wrote the pendulum has, however, swung in the opposite direction, and we have had the manifesto on non-cooperation followed by prompt action by the authorities. I do not believe that the Egyptian soil would ever be fruitful for such a movement; still it is just as well that it should have been grappled with firmly at the start, for it is conceivable that it might give rise to difficulties without being able to cause serious consequences. As it is all the movement is likely to do is to add to the prevailing uncertainty, the removal of which is essential for the revival of business activities in Egypt, and for the prosperity of the country generally.

CATALOGUES FOR TEHERAN.

The Commercial Secretary to the British Legation at Teheran reports that he has accommodation available for the display of catalogues of United Kingdom manufacturers of the following articles:—Agricultural implements, ammunition (sporting), apparatus of all kinds, arms (sporting), motor cars, basketware, bicycles, boats, boots and shoes, brushes, building materials, carriages, chemicals, clocks, cotton goods, crockery, cutlery, drugs, dyes, earthenware, electrical gear, enamels, engines (oil), engineering appliances, fabrics (art), fancy goods, firearms (sporting), fire extinguishing gear, fireworks, foodstuffs, fuels, furniture, games, gramophones, glassware, haberdashery, hardware, hempen goods, household goods, hydro-electric gear, illuminants, ironmongery, jewellery, leather goods, musical instruments, novelties, office equipment, oilmen's stores, paints and colours, photography, provisions (preserved), publications, rubber goods, sewing machines, silk goods, smallware, smoking requisities, sports goods, stationery, textiles, time-pieces, toilet requisites, toys, watches, wicker ware, wines, and woollen goods. Catalogues should be priced, and if possible, illustrated, in colours.

A NEW OIL PUBLICATION.

We have received a copy of the first number of *Oil Engineering and Finance*, a publication designed to deal with every aspect of the oil industry. The initial issue attains a very high standard, the maintenance of which should ensure the success of the journal. Amongst the articles in this first number are "The Doom of the Condensing Steam Engine and Turbine" and "Power Transmission of Oil (Elaulic Gear)", and there are full notes on oil fuel, oil refining, the oil shale industry, oil engines and other topics, each section being dealt with by an expert. With this number an excellent portrait of Sir Charles Greenway, the Chairman of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, is given as a Supplement, and a short note on Sir Charles' career also appears.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended January 21, amounted to £5,461.

The Roumanian Ministry of Finance has exempted from Customs duty any machinery and raw material imported by Bessarabian industrialists.

Anglo-Egyptian oil output for the week ended January 20, amounted to:—Gemsah, 9 tons (previous week 9 tons); Hurgada, 2,259 tons (against 2,089 tons).

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REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

EGYPT.

Cairo, January 21.

Improved Outlook.

There is a strong hope and belief among the commercial community that a settlement of the political situation is at hand, and the feeling has induced a generally easier tendency and a more optimistic outlook. Business has revived slightly during the last few days, and the expected arrival of several thousands of tourists in a succession of cruises commencing from the 27th inst. and continuing on into the middle of March begets the hope that the final stages of the season will bring a commercial briskness to atone for the slump during the festive season. From the latest official statistics of Egypt's foreign trade it is apparent that the country is stabilising, but the recent poor cotton crop has decreased the assets to an extent that precludes any real wave of prosperity before next autumn. Egypt has not yet recovered from the reckless speculation of the 1919-20 season, but she is recovering, and the ultimate outlook therefore is bright.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, January 15.

Present Situation of the Railways.

In view of the importance of the transport question, which is so closely connected with Roumania's economic development, it is of interest to note the declarations, recently made in an interview to the Press, by M. Cihodariu, the present Minister of Communications, who is an expert in this branch having been for many years a member of the engineers' corps of this Department. M. Cihodariu admits that the situation of the railways is bad, and given particulars of the ways and means by which he intends to remedy this unsatisfactory state of things.

He points out that out of the 4,070 locomotives existing in the country only about 1,354 are in working order. The situation of the remainder is as follows:—356 locomotives need small repairs, 1,260 need large or almost radical repairs—necessitating on an average about six months for each engine—while the balance of 1,100 locomotives are lying outside the gates of the workshops waiting for their turn to be repaired. The total number of the locomotives out of repair represents a capital of more than five milliard lei, which capital is not only unproductive but for which the State has to pay about 300 million lei as interest. The situation of the waggons is somewhat similar to that of the locomotives. Out of 4,800 passenger coaches only about 1,600 are in use, while the balance of 3,200 coaches need various large or small repairs; and only 40,000 out of a total of 70,000 goods trucks are in working condition.

M. Cihodariu is of the opinion that the erection of new workshops is not necessary in order to carry out the repairs, as the existing plants of the State and of private concerns would be sufficient provided they undergo certain improvements. What, however, is mostly lacking is the requisite material for these repairs, the cost of which he estimates at about 500 million lei per annum.

M. Cihodariu has further worked out the following programme to be carried out within five years in order to bring the railways to their pre-war condition:—(1) Reconstruction of the lines by replacing them with heavier rails strong enough to stand the present heavy locomotives now in use; (2) doubling of the lines where it is absolutely necessary; (3) gradual changing of the wide-gauge lines of Bessarabia to the gauge existing in the rest of the country; (4) strengthening of the railway bridges; (5) renewal of sleepers improvements in the buildings of the stations; of the

signalling, etc., etc. The above reconstruction work would need a minimum sum of about 3½ milliard lei, which would represent an average cost of 700 million lei per annum. M. Cihodariu expects that his Ministry will soon be granted a credit of 500 to 700 million lei for the immediate needs of the railways. With regard to the question of continuing the military control at the railways, he considers that this measure is still necessary for a certain time.

Miscellaneous.

A large number of timber producing companies of Transylvania have recently formed an association, with head-quarters at Cluj, for the purpose of expanding their export trade.

GREECE.

Athens, January 7.

Miscellaneous.

To a delegation of Government employees which presented itself before the Minister of Finance for the purpose of requesting him to grant them a double salary on the occasion of the New Year holidays M. Protopapadakis replied that he was unable to do so owing to the heavy additional expense which this would entail to the Public Treasury.

A group of Greek capitalists has submitted a memorandum to the Minister of National Economy requesting his permission to introduce horse racing in Greece, and for this purpose is prepared to provide a race course at old Phaleron.

From January 1922 (O.S.) a regular service three times a week will be established between Athens and Paris. Trains from Athens will leave on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday, and from Paris on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The first class fare from the Greek capital to Paris has been fixed at 1134.05 French francs, and at 970.95 French francs from Salonika.

CYPRUS.

Cyprus, January 10.

Cyprus and Palestine.

There is a desire for increased trade with Palestine and Syria, and a movement is on foot for better shipping communications. Cattle, which can always be profitably bred in the island, are being exported in much greater numbers; and if Cypriot cultivators would only rise to the occasion, the export of vegetables, fruit, and poultry could be very largely developed.

ROUMANIAN IMPORTS OF CARPETS.

H.M. Commercial Secretary at Bucharest reports that in virtue of a Ministerial Decision, dated December 24, and published in the *Monitor Oficial* for December 30, carpets of the following kinds may be imported into Roumania without the necessity of a special import authorisation, on payment of a "luxury" tax equal in value to the respective Customs duty:—Carpets of wool of any form, trimmed, with or without the weft of any other textile material, whether cut, hemmed, or combined, and carpets of jute, of palm fibre, and of other textile materials. Oriental carpets (Turkish, Persian, Indian, etc.), falling under Tariff Nos. 106 and 107 may be imported only with the permission of the Minister of Industry and Commerce and on payment in gold, at the ruling exchange, of the Customs duties prescribed in the tariff.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended January 14, amounted to £4,511.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the week ended December 31 amounted to £E14,206; total for year £E206,046. For the corresponding period of last year the receipts amounted to £E15,341 and £E381,967 respectively.

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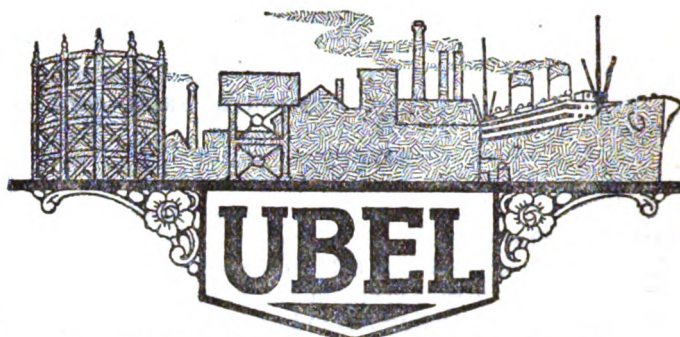
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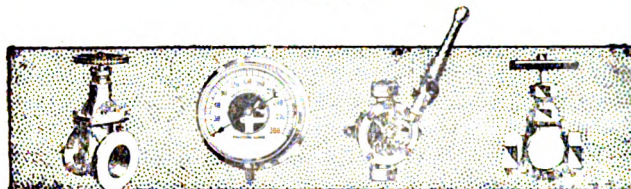
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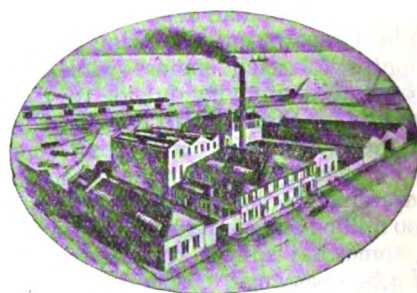
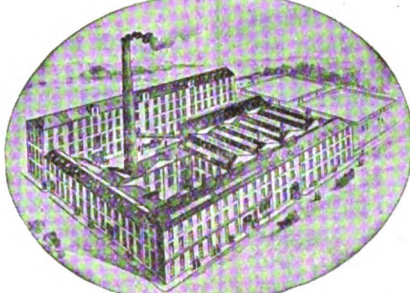
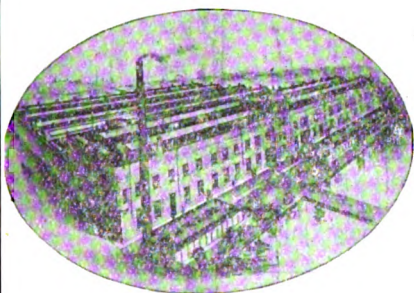


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INDIA'S TRADE IN 1920-21.

Great Excess of Imports.

The fact that a publication is a Blue Book is often quite sufficient to deter a would-be reader from further investigation, since the term has almost come to denote nothing more than a collection of dry facts and statistics. Indian Blue Books are, however, far removed from that category, and those who wish to follow the tendencies influencing Indian trade at the present time, and at the same time to see what a Blue Book should be, should read the recently issued "Review of the Trade of India in 1920-21," which gives a very clear and concise, and, it may be added, most readable account of the position. It is, of course, a drawback in the case of this review, as with all Blue Books, that it appears inevitably some considerable time after the close of the period dealt with, when in all probability—one might say in these times with certainty—the factors that were then of most importance have taken on a different value while other influences have come into play. The main value of these publications lies in the light they throw on the trend of events, and judged from that aspect the review in question is invaluable.

The period covered was in sharp contrast to the previous year. In 1919-20 India was in full enjoyment of the post-war trade "boom," the following year saw the "slump" which converted a favourable trade balance of Rs. 119 crores to an adverse one of Rs. 79 crores. But while the export trade declined to a level below the pre-war figures there was a great expansion of imports and the total trade for the year actually surpassed the record figures of 1919-20. Taken by itself the adverse trade balance might appear serious, but as a matter of fact India was very favourably situated to meet a period of trade depression by the long series of favourable years experienced before and during the war period. From a financial standpoint also India was in a strong position. Thus the "slump," when it did come, did not have the consequences that it had elsewhere. It has to be borne in mind, however, that the period in question ended with the depression at its height, that up to the present there has been but little improvement and that the import trade has been affected by well-known causes, thus it will be clear that any undue optimism would be misplaced. The writer of the review expresses the opinion, it may be noted, that the conditions essential to a revival of trade are in evidence, but how far India is likely to benefit in the immediate future from the development of trade generally which is certainly at hand, would seem to be a moot point. India's progress depends very largely indeed on the recovery of Europe, and until the Continent is in a position to give her the markets she enjoyed before the war, it is obvious that she must labour under a serious disadvantage.

Growth of Imports.

India's imports during 1920-21 amounted to value to Rs. 3,35.60 lakhs as against Rs. 2,07.97 lakhs for the previous year. This expansion was due to the fact that during the war period India was unable to obtain her normal requirements, while in the months immediately following the Armistice conditions only permitted a partial recovery of trade. At the end of the year symptoms of a glut were apparent in the distributing centres, but this, it is pointed out, was not a criterion of the position in the country as a whole. Unfortunately developments since then have not enabled the potential demand existing to be realised.

As usual cotton goods headed the list of imports with a value of Rs. 1,02.12 lakhs. The United Kingdom supplied 49 per cent. of the imports of cotton twist and yarn, as against Japan's 43 per cent., and 85.6 per cent. of the imports of piece goods, Japan again being second with 11.3 per cent. During the year it will be remembered that difficulties arose with the Indian importers in regard to orders for piece goods as a result of the depreciation of the exchange. "The situation is one of which, to the casual observer," says the review, "the

Indian mills might have been expected to take full advantage by capturing orders withheld for the time from Manchester. That they did not do so is evidence, not of any weakness of organisation, but of the comparatively small range of goods in the production of which Lancashire and Indian mills are in active competition." Second on the list comes iron and steel with Rs. 31.30 lakhs. The development of this trade was only to be expected since India has long had to do without sufficient supplies. It is worth noting that in the last pre-war year India's imports of iron and steel exceeded one million tons, while for 1918-20 they only amounted to 608,000 tons. For the year under review they were about 712,000 tons, so that it will be seen that in this branch there should be a great expansion in the next few years as India endeavours to recover the time lost through the war. The bulk of India's requirements came from the United Kingdom, who had 70 per cent. of the trade, the United States being second with 16 per cent, a considerable drop, it may be noted, from her 31 per cent of the previous year. Machinery occupied the third place with Rs. 24.09 lakhs. In this case also the United Kingdom was easily first with 79 per cent., the United States being second with 17 per cent.

The Export Trade.

India's exports, which for 1919-20 amounted to Rs. 326½ crores, fell to Rs. 238 crores, a total below the figures for 1913-14. This was because *inter alia* in the months immediately following the war markets had obtained more than they could consume under the existing conditions, so that when the inevitable period of depression came, the demand disappeared. If India had had at her disposal all her pre-war markets the case would have been very different. Jute was the principal export, then, in order of importance followed cotton, food grains, and flour, seeds, tea, hides and skins, and lac and shellac. As regards raw jute, the outstanding feature was the decrease in shipments to the United Kingdom of almost 1,000,000 bales. The United States increased her consumption from 434,000 bales to 616,000 bales, while Germany, with 403,000 bales as compared with 20,000 bales occupied the third place. The cotton market was affected among other things by the "slump" in cotton prices, the restricted Japanese demand, and the famine in China, but the consequences were rendered less serious than they would otherwise have been by the shortage of the Indian crops, and by the support forthcoming to the markets at one period from Italy and Germany. There was a marked decrease in the export of cotton piece goods, the figures being 146.4 million yards, as compared with 196.6 million yards for 1919-20. The Turkish, Persian and Egyptian markets took smaller quantities, but Singapore, Colombo, and Aden took about the same, while there was an increase in the exports to East African ports. Exports of tea, hides and skins were seriously affected by the "slump." The figures for the tea trade show exports of only 285,752 lb. as compared with 338,470 lb. for the previous year. As regards hides and skins the London and Liverpool markets were congested, while New York was also out of the market, and as there was a curtailed demand for other quarters, and as the German market was unavailable, it goes without saying that the trade suffered severely.

Owing to unsettled conditions around Smyrna imports of skins and hides have practically come to a standstill, there being little or no demand for raw materials.

Large deposits of tin have been discovered in the region of Oulmès, south-east of Rabat. The Moroccan Mines Service expresses its satisfaction with the quality of the mineral found. A large amount of tin is quite near the surface, but before exploitation can be conducted on a large scale it will be necessary to build proper roads.

Official notice has been given that all persons holding or claiming concessions operative in Mesopotamia granted by the Ottoman Government before the war of 1914-1918 are requested to forward immediately to the Ministry of Commerce, Baghdad, full particulars of the concessions they hold or claim.

Engineering Topics.

By Our Engineering Representative.

Valveless and Gearless.

An extremely interesting internal combustion engine which embodies a number of novel features has just been built at a leading British engineering works, although so far little has been said regarding it and few engineers appear to be aware of its existence. Information is to hand, however, that the bench tests have been more satisfactory than was believed would be possible, and the engine is now being fitted in a chassis and will be tested out on the road.

Briefly the engine, which has three cylinders, but which could be constructed just as efficiently with six or nine cylinders, has not a single valve in its construction, nor any gearing, and comprises fly-wheel, crank-shaft, connecting rods, pistons, cylinders, and crank case only, with the necessary ignition.

As some of my readers will have gathered by the above the engine is of the "two-stroke" type. Other than the parts, there are no valves; there is not a single cut or cast gear wheel in the engine, nor are there any cams, springs, tappets or secondary shafts. There is not even any timing gear, and the moving parts consist only of pistons, connecting rods and crank-shaft.

So far as the mechanical details of construction go the cylinder blocks are designed with two diameters having a common piston, which is connected by a connecting rod to the crankshaft in the ordinary way. The lower diameter of the cylinder is the larger, a fact which has considerable bearing on the working and power of the engine. The lower chamber, called the pump chamber of each of the cylinders, is connected by a common manifold inlet which, in turn, is brought from the carburetter, which may be of any suitable type, provided it is large enough to supply sufficient mixture. The cycle of operations may be described simply as follows: When the piston makes its first downward stroke a vacuum is formed in its pump chamber, and at the end of the stroke the exhaust port in the explosion chamber is also uncovered. The inlet port of the lower chamber is also uncovered, and the gas consequently passes into this. When the return stroke is made the charge is compressed and when the transfer port is opened it is passed into the explosion chamber of the adjoining cylinder. In a similar manner the second cylinder feeds the third, and the third transfers its carburetted charge to the first, this cycle continuing until the engine is stopped by cutting off the ignition or closing the throttle.

Diesel Developments.

Considerable strides have been made of late in connection with the development of the Diesel engines both of the two and the four-stroke type. Amongst the later and more efficient introductions may be mentioned the light-load running gear adopted by the Vickers-Petters people, by means of which a portion of the fuel can be injected well in advance of the main charge. In this way the pilot charge has time to vaporise before the main charge is allowed to enter. It appears from a number of tests carried out that fuel consumptions of as low as about 0.5 lb. per brake horsepower hour, which is equivalent to a brake thermal efficiency of 25 per cent., have been obtained, a fact which speaks for itself as to the high degree of perfection reached in the design of these prime movers.

A further direction of development has been the continued increase of compression pressures in connection with four-stroke engines, figures now being reached which would have been considered impossible a few years ago. Who, in the early days of the century, for example, could have imagined an engine which compressed its charge, before firing, to the astounding figure of 425 lb. to the square inch? Yet that is the compression at which the new Ruston-Hornsby works.

A good deal of progress has been made with the solid injection type of engines during the past five years or so, and according to some opinions expressed at a recent gathering of users of Diesel engines at which I was

present there are pretty sure grounds for asserting that the limit in connection with the high compression, mechanical injection engine has not by any means been reached. Already we are building engines of this type developing 200 brake h.p. per cylinder with a brake thermal efficiency of 35 per cent. at working load, and one may with reasonable confidence expect to see at an early date engines of this type, with four, five, or six cylinders developing up to anything from 800 to 1,200 brake horse power. Of course, as was pointed out at the meeting referred to, the further development of the oil engine, whether of the mechanical or air injection type is largely dependent upon the materials which the designer has at his disposal. Further, there is still something to be done by the metallurgist in the way of the production of metals and alloys which shall have greater tensile strength, greater resistance to stresses and strains, and greater heat resisting properties.

The Scottish Show.

The big Glasgow Exhibition has already shown that the tremendous virility of the British motor industry is rapidly assisting a recovery from the recent disastrous slump. The exhibits, fully representative of all that is best in their several directions show a marked advance on pre-war productions, whether in the form of cars for pleasure or business use, components or accessories. The goods-carrying type of commercial vehicle, as well as the passenger conveying models are the latest products of British shops, and whilst it would be invidious to single one make out from the others for special notice, the large single deck omnibus of the Commercial Cars, Ltd., of Luton, has always been a centre of attraction. This was of the front entrance type, and is built to seat 29 passengers, and something must be said as to the excellence of its body finish which is in brilliant red with silver plated fittings. As regards accommodation with the exception of one row the seats are arranged to face the entrance. These are upholstered in dark green and thoroughly sprung. A gangway runs down the centre. Artificial lighting is effected by electric lights let into the roof. The body is mounted on a "Commer Car" 3P type passenger chassis. Power is transmitted from a 40 h.p. four cylinder engine through the "Commer" patent gearbox with four speeds and a reverse thence through an intermediate and propeller shaft to the full floating live axle. Throughout this bus embodies the very latest developments in passenger carrying vehicles.

So far as tyres are concerned the Scottish Show has demonstrated once more the great popularity of Dunlop productions, not only in tyres but also in wheels. The straight-sided tyre is one of the principal features of the exhibition, and quite a large percentage of the cars shown are fitted with Dunlop tyres, or wheels or both.

Electrical equipment for both cars and motor cycles was well in evidence, and the C.A.V. exhibits, on the stand of Messrs. Thompson and Brown Bros., Ltd., embraced all the latest electrical productions of the pioneer electrical instrument makers in the country. Perhaps one of the most interesting exhibits is the latest type of starting and lighting battery, the "C.A.V.—Willard." A full range of commercial motor car, and motor cycle productions was also on view, comprising dynamos, starters, batteries, lamps, electrical components of all descriptions for ensuring the comfort of the present day motorist, whether he be the driver of the latest luxury car, or the delivery van, lorry or motor cycle. The starters incorporate the popular "Bendix" drive and have been considerably simplified, and I understand that dynamos are made to suit the requirements from the heaviest vehicle to the cycle car owner, or the motor cyclist.

French Tours.

In view of the large number of motorists taking advantage of the efficient and trouble-saving arrangements provided by the Automobile Association for tour-

ists to the Riviera, it has been decided to extend the A. A. Patrol service to certain of the Riviera roads. An A. A. inspector has already left England to survey the best routes to the Riviera and to transmit information concerning roads, hotels, etc., likely to be of service to A.A. members. The patrolled roads I am informed will be in the neighbourhood of Nice, Cannes, and Monte Carlo, while the Automobile Club de Nice will continue to extend its valuable services in connection with all motoring matters to members on the Riviera.

Diesel Locomotives.

It is now some time since the first Diesel engine was adapted for marine purposes, and now it appears that this extremely efficient type of prime mover seems about to invade the realms of locomotive engineering. An eminent engineer has just put forward a design for a railway locomotive directly driven by Diesel engines, which he considers can be made quite as easily startable and controllable as a steam locomotive and which should be quite as flexible in action. He suggests main engines of the two-stroke, opposed piston type working at a compression pressure of about 400 lbs. to the square inch. The starting would be affected by means of separate compressed air cylinders formed at the ends of each main combustion cylinder, and fitted with covers and stuffing boxes to take piston rods. The auxiliary engines for providing the starting air would consist of a couple of two-cylinder 50 h.p. hot bulb engines each driving a separate three-stage compressor. The engine as designed would give a rated tractive effort of 16,000 lb., and it appears that a working full size model has given results practically equal to those of a steam locomotive of similar size and the latest type

OIL NOTES AND NEWS.

The Anglo-Persian Success.

It was, of course, a foregone conclusion that the new Anglo-Persian issue would be a great success, but it can scarcely have been expected that the response of the public would have been so overwhelming as proved to be the case. 2,000,000 Preference shares, and 600,000 Ordinary Shares were offered, the sum required being £4,050,000. For the Preference Shares the company received subscriptions amounting to £21,000,000, while the total for the Ordinary Shares was £36,000,000, making together £57,000,000 or an amount sufficient to cover the whole issue about 14 times. Needless to say it is a record.

British Burmah Petroleum.

In the course of an interesting speech at the general meeting of the British Burmah Petroleum Company the chairman, the Hon. Lionel Holland, said that he and his colleagues looked forward to the future of the concern with confidence. Just as the oil industry, he pointed out, was the last of the great industries to suffer when trade contracted, so it would be among the first to benefit by any trade expansion. "And of any recovery," he added, "when it occurs, in demand and prices this company should be in a good position to reap the benefit. Except for the one important factor of the prices ruling for oil products, its current financial year has begun favourably. With an increased production our stocks have been replenished, nor is there any likelihood this year of the supply of crude oil falling short for any month of the full requirements of our refinery."

Extended Interests of Oil Companies.

The tendency has been very marked of late for oil companies to extend the sphere of their operations. Touching on this subject Mr. Holland pointed out that the British Burmah Company have interests in Egypt, and in the Argentine through its holdings in the Eastern Petroleum and Finance Company, and in the British Sinai Petroleum Company. "While the future oil possibilities of Egypt and Sinai" he remarked "are of great interest, in view especially of their great marketing situation if further oil lands of commercial value are brought into production there, it is at present rather to our stake

in the Argentine Republic that we look with confidence for more assured and early success. . . . There, in the Comodoro Rivadavia field—which bids fair to become one of the more important oilfields of the world—the Eastern Petroleum and Finance Company, in association with this company, has an option over an six or seven blocks covering the very considerable area of 16,500 acres. . . . Our own blocks—picked out of many that we could have obtained—are admirably placed and distributed. Those on the northern portion of the field adjoin the Astra property, and to the immediate south of our boundary several very productive wells have been brought in. Our western blocks are about three miles distant from the well quite lately brought into production by the Anglo-Persian interest."

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ..	Piastres to £....	97½	97.7-16
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	96.00-97.00
†Belgrade ..	Dinars to £	25.22½	316
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	855-870
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3.11-16-1.3½
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3.11-16-1.3½
Brussels.....	Francs to £	25.22½	53.00-54.22
*Bucharest ..	Lei to £	25.22½	575-625
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	625-655
New York....	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.24½-4.26½
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	51.30-51.82
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	215-225
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	93.50-95.50
†Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	625
Teheran	Krans to £	50	51
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	13,000-15,000
Warsaw	Marks to £	20.43	13,000-14,500

* Nominal.

† Sellers.

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LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Sugar Still Advancing.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Monday Evening.

Sugar.—Prices have again advanced. Home refined has improved 6d. in all cases. Tate's cubes are now 52s. 6d.; coffee crystals are 52s. 9d., and mineral water sugar has come to business at 47s. 3d. London granulated and Lyle's granulated are quoted at 46s. 9d., and 47s. respectively. In export varieties West Indian crystallized has jumped 1s. to 42s., and Czechoslovakian at 18s. 9d. has risen 3d. White sugar quotations are:—January, 20s., February, 19s.; March, 18s. 6d.; May, 18s. 3d.; and August, 18s. 4½d.

Coffee.—Very little business has been passing during the week, and prices have remained firm. There is still a scarcity of the Nairobi variety which is quoted at 110s. Jamaica is steady at 150s. Costa Rica has been dull at 140s., and Indian is firm at 110s. The futures market has been barely steady. Quotations are:—March, 49s. 9d., May, 51s.; July, 51s. 9d.; September, 52s.; December, 52s. 3d.

Tea.—There has been a poor demand for most grades of tea during the week, although there has been a firm market for Java tea. China tea has come to business at 3s. lb.; and common Java at 9d. lb.

Rice.—The new rice crop is not expected here before the end of March or the beginning of April at the very earliest. Honduras Carolina rice is still a good feature, but supplies of the Egyptian Japan rice are exhausted; relief is anticipated when the market will be replenished by one or two shipments in a week or two. Burmese and Saigon are both 2s. down at 16s. respectively.

Dessicated Coconut.—There has been a good deal of realization by weak holders, and offerings have been readily absorbed at lower prices.

Almonds.—There has been little demand for Valencia almonds, while supplies are more plentiful. Sales are better for Moroccan and Sicily almonds.

Green Fruit, etc.—Prices for oranges have reached the highest point yet touched this season. The increased consumption of this fruit is attributed to its use as a precaution against influenza. Supplies of lemons are short, but the demand is weak. Offerings have included some new crop Naples fruit, but quality is poor and sales are feeble. Prices of all varieties of apples have risen. No change has been in evidence with regard to Valencia onions.

Oilseeds.—Unsteadiness has prevailed. Indian linseed has

gained 1s. 3d. at 19s. 3d., and La Plata is 1s. 6d. up at 18s. 6d. Rapeseed has been firm with Toria at 16s. 3d., brown Cawnpore at 18s. 3d., and bold Ferozepore at 18s. Cottonseed is still unsettled. Indian remains unchanged at 9s. Egyptian black has shed 5½d. at 11s. 7½d., and Sakellaridis has dropped, 1½d. at 11s. 4½d.

Oils.—Prices are harder. Linseed oil at 32s. 9d. is 2s. 9d. up. Rape oil is higher with the crude variety 1s. up at 50s., and refined 4s. up at 55s. Cotton oil is lower with refined 1s. down at 42s., deodorised also 1s. down at 47s., but Egyptian crude remains unaltered at 35s. Turpentine is 9d. higher at 72s. 6d.

Oilcakes.—Linseed cake has been firm at 300s. ton. Cottonseed cake at 190s. ton is 10s. up, while palm kernal is firm at 120s. ton. Arachis cake and cottonmeal have remained unchanged at 220s. and 290s. per ton respectively.

ASIA MINOR FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., Smyrna, report as follows for the week ending January 14:—

Sultanas.—The total estimated sales to date amounted to 167,690 bags as against 93,375 bags for 1920. The total estimated sales are 158,690 bags as compared with 86,375 bags for the corresponding period of last year, and the estimated stock unsold totals 9,000 bags as against 7,000 bags for last year.

Shipments.—Sultanas are being loaded on the s.s. Gitano for London, and s.s. Belgravian for Liverpool, sailing next week.

Markets.—Sultanas are firm, the Orthodox holidays tending to limit business. The few sales effected reflect an advance of about 3s. on last week. Dealers show little inclination to sell anticipating higher prices as the season draws on. Exchanges weak at 690 with declining tendency.

Arrivals of figs have practically ceased. Some limited business is reported out of stock held by local speculators, but prices paid are beyond the range of foreign markets.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated January 23:—

Condition of Crops.—January 20—Bengal spring crops moderate owing to absence of cold weather rains. Bombay prospects unchanged except for slight damage by frosts to standing crops in Sind and Upper Gujarat. Punjab prospects good but more rain wanted in eastern parts. In Central Provinces, sesamum very good; wheat, grain and linseed good. January 18—United Provinces prospects unchanged.

Markets.—Cotton.—January 18—Fine M.G. Oomras Rs. 370 December-January; Rs. 381 March. Crisis averted in Bombay cotton market owing to the failure of Bull operators to make corner in M.G.F.G. Broach. April-May delivery closed at Colaba market on January 20 at Rs. 448, giving mean of Rs. 454 for the week against Rs. 472.14 last week and Rs. 504 the week before. Healthiness in trade being restored. Ready cotton is steady with good demand from Japan, but absence of enquiry from Europe continues. Bombay cotton arrivals from September 1, 1921, to January 13, 1922, 1,206,000 bales as compared with 630,000 bales in the same period of the last year. Bombay Piece-goods market unchanged. January 21—Calcutta jute market very quiet. In heavies, some demand for B Twills at Rs. 38. Heavy hessians slightly steadier. At tea sale on January 17, qualities offered were rather inferior. For grades up to 14 annas, very strong market, especially for Cachars, Orange Pekoes, Pekoes and Broken Pekoes, and for Souchongs, which advanced 2 annas. Above 14 annas, market strong and fully firm. Dust, strong. 504,298 packages sold to date at an average price of 10 annas per lb. Shellac.—January 17—Market firm with fair demand from shippers, chiefly confined to T.N. shellac, which ranged from Rs. 153 to Rs. 165, closing easier at Rs. 160. Rice.—January 20—Special Straits quality rice Rs. 445. No change in bank rates.

The first oxygen factory in Ceylon has recently been started in Colombo. It is equipped with a Ruston Hornsby oil engine of 130 horse-power, and is being run by the Lightfoot Refrigerating Company.

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CURRENT PRICES.

General Produce.—Bacon: (Continental), 127s. 6d. cwt.; (Canadian), 110s. cwt.; (American), 100s. cwt.; butter: (Danish), 177s. 6d. cwt.; (Australian), 105s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 127s. 6d. cwt.; cheese (Canadian), 96s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 88s. cwt.; lard, 70s. 6d. cwt.; eggs (Danish), 88s. 6d. per 120; (Styrian), 20s. 9d. per 120; chillies, 162s. 6d. cwt.; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 6½d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 102s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 142s. 6d. cwt.; (East Indian), 130s. cwt.; (Central American), 117s. 6d. cwt.; (Jamaica), 67s. cwt.; (Mocha longberry), 113s. cwt.; (Santos, superior), 61s. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochín), 67s. 6d. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 11d. lb.; pepper (Singapore black), 3½d. lb.; (Muntok, white), 7½d. lb.; pimento, 2½d. lb.; raisins (Valencias), 11s. cwt.; sultanas (Smyrna), 122s. 6d. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 83s. cwt.; currants (Amalias), 58s. 6d. cwt.; sugar: (Tate's cubes), 115s. cwt.; (Lyle's granulated), 46s. 4½d. cwt.; (Mauritius crystals), 44s. 6d. cwt.; (West Indian crystallized), 40s. cwt.; (centrifugal), 13s. 9d. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 1½d. lb.; rice (Rangoon, No. 2), 14s. 3d. cwt.; (bran, Rangoon), £5 8s. 3d. ton; cinnamon (firsts), 1s. ¾d. lb.; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 3½d. lb.; tea: Indian (common to good common), 1s. 2d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 7½d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 9d. lb.; Ceylon (common to good common), 1s. 1½d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 8d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 9d. lb.; Java (common to good common), 8½d. lb.; wheat (English white), 47s. 9d. qr.; (Australian), 53s. qr.; barley (malting), 47s. 6d. qr.; barley (feeding), 41s. qr.; oats (English), 34s. qr.; oats (La Plata ex-ship), 27s. 3d. qr.; maize (La Plata), 37s. 9d. qr.; flour, 40s. sack.

Metals.—Aluminium, £212 10s. ton; antimony (English Regulus), £35 ton; bismuth, 9s. lb.; copper (standard), £65 1s. ton; copper (electro), £72 10s. ton; gold bars, 97s. 6d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 90s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 96s. 3d. ton; galvanised sheets (24 G), £16 7s. 6d. ton; lead (soft foreign), £23 4s. 9d. ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 1½d. unit; molybdenite, 31s. 3d. unit; nickel, £180 ton; platinum, 440s. oz.; plumbago, £20 ton; quicksilver, £10 15s. bottle; silver bars, 34½d. oz.; spelter (G.O.B.), £26 6s. 3d. ton; tin (standard), £102 ton; wolfram, 11s. 3d. unit; zinc sheets, £34 10s. ton.

Chemicals.—Acids: Boric, 66s. cwt.; oxalic, 8½d. lb.; citric, 2s. 2½d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 4½d.; ammonia (sulphate), £15 11s. 6d. ton; arsenic (white powdered), £40 10s. ton; benzole (standard), 2s. 5½d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £14 10s. ton; borax crystals, 31s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 121s. 3d. cwt.; Potassium: Bichromate, 8d. lb.; chlorate, 5d. lb.; caustic, £33 10s. ton; nitrate, £42 10s. ton; permanganate, 10½d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 1½d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £15 5s. ton; Sodium: Crystals, 140s. ton; bi-carbonate, £11 5s. ton; bi-chromate, 6½d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £9 3s. 3d. ton; chlorate, 3½d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £23 5s. ton; hyposulphite, £15 ton; prussiate, 8d. lb.; nitrate, £14 5s. ton; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £80 ton; glycerine (industrial, 1260 per cent.), £110 ton; lemon oil 3s. 1½d. lb.; quinine, 3s. ½d. oz.; red lead, £39 5s. ton; white lead, £42 5s. ton; white ground lead, £51 15s. ton; sulphate of copper, £28 10s. ton; sulphate of iron, 73s. ton.

Hides and Skins.—Ox and Heifer (first), 90 lbs. and up, 8d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 8d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 7.5-8d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs. 7d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 6½d. lb.; (second), 90 lbs. and up 6½d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 6½d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 6½d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 6d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 5d. lb. Cows (first), 60 lbs. and up, 6d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 5.7-8d. lb.; cows (second), 60 lbs. and up, 5d.; 59 lbs. and under, 5.7-8d. lb.; cows (second), 60 lbs. and up, 5d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 5d. lb. Bulls (first), 54d. lb.; (second), 4½d. lb.; Kips (first), 6.3-8d. lb.; (second), 5½d. lb.; (third), 3½d. lb. Calcutta Market. Prices in rupees per 20 lb.: Arsenic hides (cows): Agras, 10 to 13.8; Durbhangas, 6.8 to 8.8; Patnas, 5 to 6. Salted cows, 3 to 8. Arsenic hides (buffalo), 3.8 to 6. Skins: Calf, 8 to 10 per 20 lb.; goat, 245 to 280 per 100 pieces.

Miscellaneous.—Cotton: (American), 10.39d. lb.; (Egyptian Sakel), 17 ood. lb.; Oilseeds: Linseed (La Plata), £17 1s. 3d. ton; rape (Toria), £143s. 9d. ton; palm kernals, £17 1s. 3d. ton; castor seed (Bombay), £15 17s. 6d. ton; sesame seed (China), £25 5s. ton; soya beans, £12 15s. ton; Oils: Linseed, £29 10s. ton; olive (Levant), £76 ton; palm, £39 5s. ton; rape (crude), £46 10s. ton; soya, £33 7s. 6d. ton; petroleum, 1s. 4½d. gallon; petrol, 2s. 1d. gallon; fuel oil (ex-tank), £3 15s. ton; coconut (Ceylon), £40 15s. ton; cotton (crude), £37 ton; ground nut £42 10s. ton.

NEW GOLD DEPOSITS IN CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.

According to *Narodni Listy* gold deposits have been found in Czecho-Slovakia. The experts report that gold is found there in three forms: in gold-washings, in quartz, or in combination with pyrites and marcasite. The yield of the seams has been tested in two analyses carried out by the district mining authorities in Moravska Ostrave, and the first and second experiments produced 36 and 52 grammes of gold respectively per ton of ore. The presence of ore containing copper and iron has been ascertained near Durrseifen while pyrites has been discovered near Zuckmantl and magnesite near Vidnava. Several foreign groups are already interesting themselves in the above-mentioned deposits.

TENDERS INVITED.

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

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

Egypt.

Marine Boiler.—The Secretary General, Ports and Light-houses, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of a new multitubular marine boiler of the following description:—Diameter 11 feet; length 10 feet; two corrugated furnaces, Boiler working pressure 180 to 200 lbs. per square inch. Built to Lloyds rules 100 A1 and supplied with all accessories as per specification. Offers will remain valid for one and a half months from March, 1, 1922.

Cotton Waste.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo Station, invites tenders for the supply of 100 metrical tons of coloured cotton waste. March 10.

Pumps and Motors.—The municipality of Alexandria invites tenders for the supply and installation of pumps and motors at the Kait Bey principal pump station.—April 25.

Map-Printing Paper.—The Surveyor-General of Egypt, Giza (Mudiriya), invites tenders for the supply of 1,632 reams of various classes of map-printing paper. March 1.

Electrical Fittings.—The Director, Personnel and Equipment Department, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and upkeep of electrical fittings of the various offices of the Ministry of the Interior for one year commencing on April 1, 1922.—March 15.

Bulgaria.

Telephone Instruments.—The Bulgarian Department of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones invites tenders for the supply of 2,000 telephone instruments for table use, with local battery and magneto. Also for spare parts for these instruments. Tenders to be presented at the District Office of Finance, Sofia by February 20. (D.O.T.).

Telephone Pole-line Hardware.—The Bulgarian Postal Authorities invites tenders for the supply of telephone pole-line hardware (4 pin carriers for insulators, bolts, etc.). Tenders, accompanied by a deposit of 5 per cent. of the whole amount to be addressed to the District Office of Finance, Rue Rakovski, Sofia. Tenders may be submitted for each or all of the items required. March 21 (D.O.T.).

Telephone Materials.—The Bulgarian Postal Authorities invites tenders for the supply of:—(1) 3,000 Junction pieces for Batteries; (2), 200 kgs. of watch makers oil; (3) 5 kgs. graphite (in grains); (4) 500 kgs. hydrochloric acid; (5) 5,000 kgs. lead; (6) 50 kgs. solder ("etaín au colofane"). Tenders accompanied by a deposit of 10 per cent. of the total amount of the tender to be addressed to the District Office of Finance, Rue Rakovski, 102, Sofia. Tenders may be submitted for one or more than one, or all of the items, and delivery is required within four months. March 27. (D.O.T.).

Telephone Accessories.—The Bulgarian Post and Telegraph Authorities invites tenders for the supply of:—1, Lamp fuses. 2, Cartridges fuses for protection from lightning; 3, 3 amp fuses; 4 line annunciators; 5, Carbon lightning arresters. Tenders must be accompanied by a deposit of 5 per cent. of the total amount and may be submitted for each or all of the items, and should be addressed to the District Finance Office at Sofia. March 15. (D.O.T.).

India.

Pins, etc.—The High Commissioner for India invites tenders for the supply of:—(1) Pins, "Adamantine" or similar; (2), Tape Cotton; (3) Cardboards; (4), Paper, glazed, for ferro-prussiate photography; (5) Copper Firebox plates; (6) Springs, Helical, &c.; (7) Axleboxes, Locomotive, Cast Steel. Forms of Tenders may be obtained from the Director-General, India Store Department, Belvedere-road, Lambeth, S.E.1., and tenders are to be delivered at that office not later than 2 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, February 14, for Nos. 1 to 5, and on Tuesday, February 21, 1922, for Nos. 6 and 7.

Sewage Scheme.—The Director of Development, Bombay, invites tenders for constructing and running for six months a sewage scheme for Ambarnath Industrial Area. Specification Rs.500, Superintending Engineer, No. 3, Project Division, Directorate-building, Old Customs House Yard, Fort, Bombay March 15.

It is reported that a Commercial Treaty is in course of preparation between Czechoslovakia and Japan. The final negotiations are to take place at Prague. There has hitherto been but little trade between Czechoslovakia and Japan, but the Treaty will doubtless lead to an increase in mutual trade relations.

THE TIMBERS OF INDIA.

In the course of a paper before the Royal Society of Arts on January 27, on "The Timbers of India and Burma," Mr. Alexander L. Howard said that no one who had seen the furniture and other works in Indian woods as they had been produced here by our English craftsmen could fail to appreciate their great beauty and distinction. Still, from the point of view of timber consumers in this country, the chief considerations with regard to the use of these timbers were purely practical factors, such as the f.o.b. price, the cost of freight, and whether there was a sufficiency of the timber. His experience in the trade had forced him to the conclusion that in many timber producing countries particularly in the tropics, the timbers which were most esteemed by local inhabitants often proved to be the least valuable for export. On the other hand, timbers which were of little use in the country of their origin were not seldom of great importance in parts of the world with different climatic conditions. Thus the deodar and the sal, which were the principal timbers of Northern and Central India, would be unlikely to be successful in British and European markets, while woods such as Indian white mahogany, laurel wood, gurjun, white bombwe, silver greywood and white chuglam, all of which were likely to prove of very considerable value in home markets, were in small demand in India. The consequence of this was that the majority of Indian timbers likely to be appreciated by consumers in Europe were, in default of any large local demand, obtainable at a price far below their intrinsic value, and so the f.o.b. price for these timbers was, for the present at all events, very advantageous to the buyer.

Then there was the cost of freight. Since the Armistice freights, which during the war immediately after soared to a point previously unknown, had become more and more reduced till now the cost of freight was often less than it was before the war. Shipping freight cost was always rather a speculative affair, and undoubtedly if it were to go up again to anything approaching that of the war years, the trade in the timbers of India and Burma would be very adversely affected, though even in such case, he did not think it would be utterly ruined. However, it did not appear that there was the slightest prospect of any material change from present conditions for some time to come.

In connection with this same subject of freight, he was able when in India to lay the foundations of a scheme which had since enabled them to have direct shipment of timber from Indian and Burmese ports, and from the Andaman Islands. Altogether some five or six ships had been employed during the last few months, one of which was now loading at Rangoon. The first ship to be so utilized was the s.s. Rhodesia, which arrived at the West Docks from Rangoon in August last, with a full cargo from the Government of Burma of fine teak logs of large size. This import of round teak logs had given rise to an animated discussion in the technical press on the comparative advantages of bringing the timber over in this form as it came from the forest, as against the import of sawn squares, which was the form in which teak had been imported in the past. He did not intend to trouble them further on this subject, except to say that while at the start he believed that the import of round logs would be beneficial both for the producer and the consumer, he was now convinced by experience of the advantage of marketing the timber in this form.

The next consideration was that of the sufficiency of the timber supply. With regard to this there was no question, when they realized that the Government forests occupied an area of 251,000 square miles. Let them reflect for a moment that the whole area of the United Kingdom was 88,000 square miles, and that in India and Burma there were 251,000 square miles of forest.

There remained one element to be considered: and that was whether the Government of India, through the Officers of the Forest Service, would continue the energetic and progressive policy which they had lately adopted. Of the efficiency of the Indian Forest Service, it was quite unnecessary for him to speak to them there to-night, for it would be known to them all and was beyond question. All Governments and Government servants, however, were at some disadvantage in carrying out any commercial enterprise, and the local Governments of India and Burma were no more free from that disability than any others.

He would, therefore, earnestly direct the attention of the authorities concerned to the paramount necessity of obtaining

a thorough grasp of the commercial conditions in Europe, so that they might realize, for instance, the importance of producing their timber for the market in the manner and in the quantities which were required by the buyers. Only by such a proceeding would it be possible to garner the immense harvest of revenue which was available, but which was so absolutely dependent upon that point.

He was convinced that it was only by actual Government initiation and exploitation that these timbers could be brought into common use. For many years past Government had endeavoured to encourage private trading firms to exploit these lesser-known native timbers, but they had so far met with little success, and he did not think they would meet with much more in the future. The whole problem suggested itself as too complicated and hazardous an enterprise for any private, or public, corporate trading concern to undertake, until it had been established by the Government on a firm and substantial basis. It might be argued that both Government assistance and co-operation in forest industry had been largely dispensed with in other countries, and that that might well be so in India. The answer to this was that in most countries where private enterprise in forest industry had been pre-eminently successful there had been unlimited freedom and independence of action throughout the industry. In British India, however, the forests, were the property of Government, and Government was pledged to manage them with the object, not only of maintaining them in their present condition, but of improving them to the greatest possible extent in the interests of future generations. Unlimited freedom of action for private enterprise was therefore, impossible in India. He was convinced, therefore, that the great expense to which the Government of India had been put, and the advantages which had already been gained in the development of this industry, would all be of no effect unless the considerations which he had outlined were borne in mind.

COMMERCIAL BREVITIES.

The export of oil products from Roumania has been temporarily stopped in order that local requirements may be covered.

A branch of the Eastern Bank, Limited, was opened in Madras on Wednesday, February 1.

The production of crude oil in Roumania during November amounted to about 103,000 tons, compared with 110,500 tons in October.

The draft of an agreement for the establishment of a joint German-Czecho-Slovak Industrial Arbitration Court is now under discussion.

The Department of Overseas Trade is informed that the Second International Samples Fair to be held at Trieste is being organised to take place from September 3 to 18, this year.

A new company, the Slav Trading Company, has just been promoted at Prague with a capital of 3,000,000 crowns, and will occupy itself chiefly in trade with Russia.

A revision of the Commercial Treaty between Czecho-Slovakia and France is the subject of negotiations now proceeding, a reduction in particular being designed in some of the French tariff charges on imports of Czecho-Slovakia goods into France.

At a meeting of the Czecho-Slovak Coal Board held recently, under the chairmanship of the Minister of Public Works, it was decided to recommend the Government to discontinue the official fixing of coal prices.

1,316,334 tons of phosphates were exported from Tunis, during last November, of which 426,860 tons went to Italy, 314,408 to France, 140,656 to England, 116,770 to Germany, 92,000 to Belgium, and 80,009 tons to Japan.

The *Tribuna* of Prague announces that the Czecho-Slovak Steamship Company proposes to establish a Czech Lloyd, whose steamers are to ply between Russian, Roumanian, and Bulgarian ports on the Black Sea. It is proposed to extend the service later on to South America and India. In addition to private capital, the Company is endeavouring to obtain assistance from the State.

Owing to an error in transmission it was stated in Bulgarian notes in the issue of "The Near East" of January 12 that Bulgaria's bank note circulation had decreased by 659 million levas in 1921. Actually during the first ten and a half months there was an increase of 238 million levas.

Cotton & Cotton Goods.

MANCHESTER REPORT.

(From Our Own Correspondent).

Manchester, Saturday.

The outstanding event in the market during the past week has been the slump in raw cotton rates. More selling pressure has shown itself in American qualities, and in Egyptian descriptions the uncertain political situation abroad has had an adverse effect upon values. Our local market, therefore, has been very unsettled, and business has been of the smallest possible dimensions. Quotations in Egyptian yarns have fallen quite equal to the decline in the raw material, and users have held aloof. Very little business has been done in piece goods for Japan and buyers are disposed to adopt a waiting policy until the prospects are clearer. Some useful lines have been booked in gray staples and finishing cloths for Constantinople. It is now definitely stated that the boycott of imported goods has broken down in Calcutta, but it is reported that in many quarters of India the natives are refusing to purchase anything but home productions, and demand has been within a small compass. The New Year holidays are now being celebrated in China, and no increased activity can be expected until the festivities are over. Occasional sales have been recorded in gray staples and finishing cloths for South America. Manufacturers remain in a wretched position, and there is a tendency for more looms to stand idle for want of work. In American yarns for home consumption prices are distinctly easier on the week, and only a retail trade has been done. Less business has been offering in bundles for Eastern markets.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended January 23:—

Our market has experienced yet another very trying week. Only on one day was there anything like support forthcoming, and that, in the light of after events, appeared to be unjustified. Sales have averaged about 250 bales a day and prices have slumped steadily. The enquiry, particularly at the commencement of the week, was poor, and contained no special feature. Low cotton of all grades has been frequently in request, but even in this department actual business has been rare. Prices asked vary considerably, and this irregularity, which is always present when business is quiet, is particularly noticeable amongst the higher grade cotton; for example yesterday (24th inst.) Fine Sakellaridis was officially quoted at 25,000, yet Type 31 (C.C.C.) was freely offered at 23,000. per lb. Sudan cotton still meets with enquiry, and about 250 bales have changed hands.

Official reports from Manchester have made dismal reading, and China appears to be the only hope. She is reported as being in a buying mood, but it is not surprising if she holds aloof after the slump experienced in our market since the New Year began. It is hoped that if China starts, then India will follow, but, by all accounts, the situation in the latter country grows more complex day by day, instead of becoming more simplified. It is reported that the boycott, as far as Calcutta and Bombay are concerned, is virtually at an end, and that more enquiries are now being received from those centres; yet, actual business is practically nil. Deeds, not words, are required to convince us that any material improvement has taken place, and until we see them we confess we remain sceptical. If the boycott continues until April, as it is rumoured it may do, the outlook for Lancashire is a bad one. Private advices from Manchester indicate that there is rather more doing than would appear on the surface, but all accounts agree that only wretched prices are obtainable. C.i.f. business is very quiet, and this is not surprising with Alexandria standing at a premium of nearly 2d. per lb. over Liverpool. The steadiness of Alexandria is really remarkable, everything considered, and would seem to point to the fact that that market is gradually finding out it is no longer dependent on the Lancashire "outlet" for its tone, as it formerly was, and with America, Europe and the Far East becoming annually bigger buyers of Egyptian cotton it can, for a time at all events, afford to ignore the state of bad trade which exists over here. Of course, if the United States Senate impose a heavy tax (anything from 7 to 20 cents. is talked of) on all 1.1-8 inch, cotton entering that country, it would give Egyptian

shippers a very unpleasant shock, but so far this possibility, and it is a very real possibility, does not appear to have aroused much excitement in Egypt. Looking round, the situation does not appear too hopeful, and it is probable that even lower prices than those ruling at present will be witnessed in the near future. Total sales 1,200 bales (includes 220 Sudan). Quotations of Sakellaridis are reduced 175 points, with the exception of Fine and Extra Fine, which are only 125 points lower. Uppers and Brown are reduced 125 points. Fully Good Fair Sakellaridis to-day 17.75d.

NEW COMPANIES.

India Association.

The India Association, Ltd., has been registered as a private company with a nominal capital of £100,000 in £100 shares. Objects:—To construct, improve, work, manage or control, in the Indian Empire or elsewhere, public works and conveniences of all kinds, including railways, tramways, docks, harbours, piers, wharves, canals, reservoirs, embankments, irrigations, sewage, drainage, sanitary, water, gas, electric light and power installations, telegraph and telephone equipment, hotels, warehouses, markets, and public buildings; to carry on business as bankers, merchants, capitalists, promoters, underwriters, financiers, concessionaires, &c. The signatories to the memorandum of association are:—T. O. Callender (director of Callenders Cable and Construction Co., Ltd.); E. W. Smith (chairman Metropolitan Carriage, Wagon and Finance Co.); H. E. Procter (partner, Killick, Nixon and Co.); F. Byrne (director Dorman, Long and Co., Ltd.); H. C. Levis (chairman and managing director British Thomson-Houston Co., Ltd.). The first directors (to number not less than three nor more than ten) are to be appointed by the signatories. T. O. Callender signs as "subscriber and director." Registered office, Temple House, Temple-avenue, E.C.4.

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

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

Prices on January 13 were as follows:—Agricultural Bank of Egypt, £4.17-32; Alexandria Water Co., Ltd., £7.1-16; Anglo American Nile Steam, £2½; Associated Cotton Ginners, £13-10; Banque d'Orient, Fr., 50½x; Behera Ord., £E9.1-8; Brasseries d'Egypte, Fr., 60; Building Lands of Egypt, £7-8; Cassi di Sconto Priv. Fr., 108; Ciments d'Egypte Priv., Fr., 50; Ciments d'Egypte Div., Fr., 24; Comptoir Fin. et. Com d'Egypte, £1.1-32; Consolidated Lands, Pt., 5; Credit Foncier Fondateur, Fr., 1-32; Credit Foncier Act, Fr., 608½d.; Credit Foncier 1880 Oblig., Fr., 325; Crown Brewery Priv., Fr., 118; Crown Brewery Div., Fr., 130; Eaux du Caire, Capital, Fr., 80; Eaux du Caire Jonissance, Fr., 102; Egypt and Levant, S.S. Ord., 31s. 4½d.; Egyptian Delta Light Railways, £3 ½d.; Filature National d'Egypte, £10½; Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. an des., £5.5-8; Khedivial Mail S.S. Ord., 107s.; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co., Pref., £2½; Kom Ombo Ste An de Wadi, £4.5-16 Kom Ombo Ste An Fondateur, £34; Land Bank of Egypt, Parts de Fond, £38; Lots Turcs, Fr., 31½; Menzaleh Canal Navigation Pt., 225; Nungovich Hotels, £6.7-16; Ramlah Railways, £2.13-16; Salt and Soda, 30s. 10½d. Tram d'Alexandrie Priv., Fr., 42; Tram d'Alexandrie Div., Fr., 55; Union Fonciere d'Egypte, £2. 25-32; Egypt Hotels, £2.1-32; Urbaines et Rurales, £3.

ENQUIRY BUREAU.

ADVERTISERS requiring agents abroad and readers abroad desirous of getting into touch with British Manufacturers, Export Merchants, etc, may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau," "The Near East," 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2. It must be understood that "The Near East" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.

114. Importer in Karachi (India) travelling throughout India wishes to get in touch with merchants and manufacturers in England and elsewhere. General merchandise.

115. An import and export firm in Spalato, Yugoslavia, wishes to enter into business relations with British manufacturers, importers and exporters. Specialities:—Exports: Medicinal herbs dried fruits, hides, timber. Imports: Oils, food products, tarpaulins, mackintoshes, sacks.

116. Import Merchants in Adana, Cilicia, Asia Minor, wish to represent British firms for any kind of British-made goods. Own account and commission basis. Good references provided. Send catalogues and samples with prices and terms.

117. Importer in Roumania, interested in Jute trade, wishes to get in touch with firms dealing in sacks, new and old Dundee, and Calcutta makes.

121. Exporter of Greek Ores in Athens, especially of purest quality Magnesite and Chromite wishes to be connected with interested British Firms.

SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

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

Constantinople, January 10.

Sugar.—The market has been very weak with prices very depressed. This is due to the large arrivals and the lack of demand for export. The arrivals have been:—Per s.s. Argentine from Antwerp, 7,000 sacks and 3,000 cases, per s.s. Hermes from Holland, 10,000 sacks, and 18,000 cases, and by the same vessel from Trieste, 1,800 sacks and 4,400 cases. The nominal prices are:—In transit: £25 per ton for cube, £20 per ton for crystallised; in this market customs paid: 29 piastres per oke for cube, 27½ piastres per oke for Dutch crystallised, Ps.20½ per oke for Belgian crystallised.

Coffee.—Transactions are very limited, and prices in centres of origin are:—Rio No. 1 £58 per ton, Santos superior, £60 per ton.

Rice.—This commodity has fallen considerably recently. The existing stocks are occasioning losses to holders.

Butter and Oils.—The position is unchanged, and there are few transactions because of the holidays.

Flour.—A rapid improvement in the prices of American has strengthened prices here. Stocks remain at 200,000 sacks.

Constantinople, January 16.

Sugar.—The market has been somewhat better during the past week as a result of a demand for the Black Sea and for local consumption. The arrivals have been insignificant:—21 wagons of Czecho-Slovakian cube. In transit the prices quoted are (c.i.f. Constantinople) Belgian crystallised, £21 per ton, Dutch crystallised, £22 per ton, cube, £26 per ton, Czecho-Slovakian cube £25 per ton.

Coffee.—The situation is unchanged on this market. Offers from centres of production are:—Rio No. 1 £57-58 per ton, Santos superior, £60 per ton.

Rice.—A tendency to weakness prevails abroad and here. Arrivals are 100 tons from Siam. Quotations are:—Saigon, No. 1, in customs, 15½ piastres per oke, Rangoon No. 3, in customs, 17 piastres per oke, Siam, in customs, 17 piastres per oke.

Butter and Oils.—Stagnation rules as regards these two articles as a result of the large stocks existing here.

Flour.—The lack of arrivals this week has favoured this market. Prices are maintained, and stocks are reduced to 150-160,000 sacks. There is beginning to be a shortage of good quality flour on this market.

Constantinople, January 21.

Sugar.—The market has recovered a little. Prices (in transit) are £21 per ton for crystallised, £25 for cube. As regards goods in customs, following the depreciation of the exchange prices have fallen from 28 piastres for crystallised to 27½ for Dutch crystallised and 26½ piastres for other qualities, and cube to 30 piastres for Dutch and Czecho-Slovakian. The arrivals this week have been:—4,200 cases Czecho-Slovakian cube, 2,300 crystallised, 500 sacks Java sugar. Stocks here are about 400 wagons of which 100 are cube.

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DULL TENDENCY PREVAILS.

Indian Loans Weak.

(From Our Own Correspondent).

London, Monday.

After a series of comparatively good weeks a check was bound to come, and this week a very uneven tone has been in evidence. Once again a large business was transacted in gilt-edged securities, but while at the outset prices rose a decline set in later as a result of the unfavourable view taken in some quarters of the position in India and Egypt, and in most cases stocks are lower on balance. The depression would probably have been more pronounced had it not been for the existence of a number of favourable factors such as the belief that a reduction in taxation will be possible if the recommendations of the Geddes Committee are carried into effect.

In these times any issue of any pretensions is assured of a fair degree of success, so that when a really excellent opportunity presents itself to the investor the result is obvious. Thus the Anglo-Persian issue was subscribed 14 times over! I cannot think of any other concern which would have attracted the investor to a similar extent. Of course the result is explained partly by the element of romance attached to the company. Then the fact that the British Government is a shareholder is, of course, a bull point, while investors are not unaware of the dividend-paying potentialities of the concern. The interesting point now is the opening price at which the Ordinary shares will be quoted on the Exchange. Obviously it will be at a substantial premium, but there is a marked difference of opinion as to the figure. I suppose an actuary could hazard a shrewd guess based on the total of the over-subscription; as I am not one I will not make a forecast.

Apart from the Anglo-Persian issue the week has been rather a lean one as far as new issues are concerned, and despite the fact that the market presents a most inviting appearance at the moment there is a very evident tendency to wait and see what is going to happen. There are a few new issues on the *tapis*, it is true, but none of Near Eastern interest, and it is evident that the negotiations for Balkan Loans are going to be rather protracted. *En passant* there was a report this week that one of the oil companies in the sphere with which this paper is concerned is to issue new capital. I understand that there is nothing in the report, but it had the effect of reducing the price of the shares to some extent.

Gilt-Edged Decline.

Turning to the markets, gilt-edged, as I have already pointed out, have shown a variable tendency. Consols have shed a point at 62, War Loan Fives have dropped 3-8 at 93.3-8, but the Conversion Loan on the other hand is 1.1-8 up at 60.7-8. Indian stocks have been a weak feature on adverse reports regarding the extent of the unrest, and have fallen away. The 7 per cent. Loan is $\frac{1}{2}$ down at 105, the 3 per cent. Loan has lost $2\frac{1}{2}$ at 51 $\frac{1}{2}$, while the $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Loan is $\frac{3}{4}$ lower at 61. In Near Eastern securities which rank with British Government stocks Turkish Guaranteed 4 per cent. 1855 are $\frac{1}{2}$ up at 75, Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per cent. have shed $\frac{1}{4}$ at 70 $\frac{1}{4}$, while Greek Guaranteed $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cents. remain at 63 $\frac{1}{4}$.

The foreign market has been unsettled. French stocks have been weak, War Loan Fives being $\frac{1}{4}$ down at 40 $\frac{1}{2}$. German 3 per cent. declined on the further depreciation of the exchange, but rallied later, and are closing only 1-16 down at 2.15-16, Italian Rentes remain at 21 $\frac{1}{2}$. Japanese stocks have been fairly steady. The 1905 Loan is unchanged at 87 $\frac{1}{2}$, but the 1910 issue is again lower at 61, a drop of $\frac{1}{2}$. Chinese securities have been stronger during the week, the 5 per cent. 1890 Loan being 87 $\frac{1}{2}$, while the 5 per cent. 1913 Loan is 67 $\frac{1}{2}$. Brazilians have been quiet, but steady. Mexicans have again been in some request; but prices have tended to fluctuate. Russians have been unsteady, the 4 per cents. being down to 8 $\frac{1}{2}$, while the 5 per cents. are 15 $\frac{1}{2}$.

On the whole Greek securities have been very firm, and in a number of cases advances are to be recorded. The 5 per cent. 1881 Loan has shed a point at 30, but the 4 per cent. 1910 Loan is $\frac{1}{2}$ up at 31 $\frac{1}{2}$. The 5 per cent. Funding Loan is unchanged at 35., while the 5 per cent. 1914 Loan is $\frac{1}{2}$ up at 40 $\frac{1}{4}$.

Industrials Irregular.

It has not been a good week in the Industrial group, and prices have shown a tendency to fluctuate. There have been some firm spots, but on the other hand pronounced weakness has developed in certain directions. Taken all round the volume of business has not been large, but to that one has become accustomed as a result of experiences during the last year. Tobacco shares are down on balance, Bats shedding 2s. at 63, while Imperial Tobaccos are 1s. 3d. down at 51s. 9d. A reduction in dividend brought Maple Ordinary down to 1.3-16, a drop of 9-32, and other similar undertakings weakened in sympathy. Dunlops fluctuated considerably, and at one time were down to 5s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., rallying subsequently to 6s. 3d. British Oil Cakes showed a tendency to harden, closing at 24s. 6d. The feature in the Insurance branch was the rise of $5\frac{1}{2}$ of Sun Life Assurance to 23 $\frac{1}{2}$. Among Telegraphs Radios have been in demand, but are closing well below the best at 18s. 3d., while Marconis have displayed firmness and are now 1 $\frac{3}{4}$.

Textiles have been rather dull. Coats at 2.19-32 are 1-16 lower, while Courtaulds are 1s. down at 36s. 9d. Iron, Coal, and Steel securities have been somewhat firmer. Armstrongs are 9s. up at 14s. 9d., Vickers have gained 1s. 6d. at 9s. 3d., while Guest Keens are 28s. 9d. x d. Babcock and Wilcox are 1-8 up at 2.5-8, while Lamberts have gained 1-8 at 1.31-32.

Shipping securities have inclined to dullness. P. and O. Deferred are 10 down at 295, Cunards are unchanged at 18s. 9d., while Furness Withys are the same at 25s.

Mines have been quiet. Kafirs have been neglected as a result of the failure so far to bring about a settlement on the Rand. Gedulds are 3-32 down at 2.13-32. Diamonds have not maintained their buoyancy of the previous week, and De Beers are 1-8 down at 10.1-8.

Oils Dull.

The Oil market this week has been dull and irregular, and in a number of cases lower levels are to be recorded. Burmahs are 1-8 down at 5.7-8, but Mexican Eagles are 1-32 up at 3.25-32. Trinidad issues have been dull, Centrals being 5-16 down at 3.13-16. Kern Rivers have shed 6d. at 19s. These fluctuations are only to be expected in present conditions, and once the market is not confronted by a series of adverse factors it is extremely probable that there will be a rapid upward movement, and then those who have entered the market in time will be in a position to congratulate themselves.

Among Egyptians Anglo Egyptian B are unchanged at 1.3-8, while Oilfields of Egypt are the same at 3-16. Gemsahs are $\frac{1}{2}$ d. up at 7s. 9d. In the Roumanian group Phoenix are 1s. 3d. down at 9s. 9d., while Roumanian Consolidated are 6d. lower at 8s. 6d. Dacia Romanas are unchanged at 11-16, while Steaua Romanas have shed 9d. at 10s. 3d.

Indian Banks Lower.

Among banking descriptions Ionian Banks have been done at 95s., a decline of 5s. National of Egypt are unchanged at 18.1-8. Chartered of India are 7-8 down at 15, while National of India are 13-16 lower at 37. Eastern Banks have been done at 91s. 3d. P. and O. Banking Corporations are $\frac{1}{2}$ down at 11 $\frac{1}{2}$, Imperial of Persia are unchanged at 5, while Bank of British West Africa at 87s. are 3d. down.

Land shares have been fairly firm. Béhéras are unchanged at 8 $\frac{3}{4}$, while Egyptian Delta Lands are 3d. up at 7s. 6d. Gharbiehs are 1-8 down at 1.7-16, while Union Foncières have shed 1-8 at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Sudan Plantations are unchanged at 2.5-8.

Rubbers Weak.

The fall in the price of the raw commodity has continued, and it goes without saying that the share market has consequently been dull. It is difficult to account for the weakness, seeing that stocks here continue steadily to decrease, and the movement is absolutely the opposite of what was looked for after the turn of the year. Truly rubber shareholders seem to have their full meed of tribulation. I do not think rubber can long remain at its low price, but it is difficult to see how for many months to come it can go much above say 1s. 2d. per lb., and that is not nearly enough to make any appreciable difference to the shares though it would, of course, mean that companies were once again making ends meet.

Among Miscellaneous descriptions Egyptian Markets are unchanged at 17s. 9d., while Egyptian Salt and Sodas are 1s. down at 30s.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE

SMYRNA NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Smyrna, January 15.

The American s.s. Orient ran aground at the entrance of the harbour owing to the Captains' charts not being up-to-date; the buoys had been changed since the publication of the charts. Fortunately no apparent damage resulted to the steamer which was able to get off without assistance.

The Greek mail steamer Polycos from Constantinople to Smyrna is disabled, and has taken refuge at Mudros. As she has been there for the past 10 days the Smyrna public are most anxiously awaiting the arrival of her passengers and mails.

NEW P. AND O. LINER.

Messrs. Harland and Wolff launched at Greenock, on January 26, the twin-screw passenger steamer Bendigo, which has been built for the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company. The vessel is 520ft. long, 64ft. broad, 41ft. deep, and is of about 13,100 gross tons. She is intended for service from London to Australia, *via* the Cape. Accommodation will be provided for 500 cabin passengers, and provision can be made in temporary rooms for nearly 1,000 third-class passengers.

DANUBE NAVIGATION AGAIN SUSPENDED.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, January 15.

The short spell of mild weather of a week ago made it possible for some of the ships which were icebound at Braila and Galatz to reach the sea; but following on the frost which has again set in, according to the latest reports, the Danube is again frozen at different points towards the Delta. In consequence many boats are still unable to leave the respective ports, and others have been caught by the ice on the way to the sea.

The shipowners concerned attribute this shortcoming to the fact that the European Danube Commission—on whom the duty of keeping the Danube navigation open is incumbent—does not possess proper icebreakers but ordinary dredgers and only a very small number of these.

British orders for gloves have been placed with Czechoslovakia.

The United States Government has appointed two Vice-Consuls at Prague.

Catalogues are required by the British Commercial Secretary for Morocco from British manufacturers, particularly of agricultural machinery and produce-handling plant (wine and olive presses, &c.).

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

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

Anchor Line.—S.s. Elysia for Bombay (Liverpool, February 4); s.s. Vindellia for Bombay (Liverpool, February 16).

Anchor Broeklebank Line.—S.s. Malakuta for Port Said, Colombo Madras, and Calcutta (leaves London, February 4); s.s. Mahratta for Calcutta (Birkenhead, February 11); s.s. Stockwell for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, February 18); s.s. Mahronda for Calcutta (Birkenhead, February 25); s.s. Anchoria for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, March 7).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Yorkshire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, February 15).

Byron Steamship Line.—S.s. Maid of Hydra for Patras, Piraeus, Constantinople, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, Braila, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, February 13).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Cypria for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, and Catania (Swansea, February 6); s.s. Brescia for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piraeus Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, and Batoum (Glasgow, February 9).

Ellerman's "City" Line.—S.s. City of Sparta for Calcutta (Birkenhead, February 4); s.s. City of Marseilles for Calcutta (Birkenhead, February 20); s.s. Manila for Calcutta (Birkenhead, March 4).

Ellerman's "Hall" Line.—S.s. City of Harvard for Bombay, Karachi, and the Punjab (Liverpool, February 11);

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—Steamers sail fortnightly for Malta, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz, and Braila.

Glen Line.—S.s. Glenapp for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, February 9); s.s. Carnarvonshire for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, February 23); s.s. Gleniffer for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, March 9).

Harrison Line.—S.s. Explorer for Calcutta (Liverpool, February 14).

Henderson Line.—S.s. Bhamo for Port Said, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, February 8); s.s. Amarapoora for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, February 22).

Holt Line.—S.s. Teiresias for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, February 9).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Incemore (first steamer of the season for the Danube), for Piraeus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, February 11); s.s. Pomaron for Piraeus, Syra, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, February 18).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. Bosnian for Algiers, Malta, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, February 4); s.s. Egyptian for Mellila, Malta, and Alexandria (Liverpool, February 4).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. China for Bombay (London, February 10); s.s. Nyanza for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, February 10); s.s. Kaisar-I-Hind for Bombay, (London, February 17).

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. Morvada for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, February 3); s.s. Nevasa for Bombay and Karachi (London, February 17); s.s. Chilka for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, February 17); s.s. Merkara for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, March 3); s.s. Mandra for Bombay and Karachi (London, March 9).

Prince Line.—S.s. Merchant Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria and Syrian Coast (Manchester, February 4); s.s. Stuart Prince for Malta, Alexandria and Syrian Coast (London, February 4).

The total yield of sugar from last year's beet harvest in Czechoslovakia is estimated at 650,000 tons. About one-half will be available for export and sales have already been effected to the amount of 125,000 tons.

Negotiations which were commenced some time ago by the Prague ironworks with coke producers in the Ruhr district have been unsuccessful as the German authorities have declined to grant export permits owing to the coke shortage in Germany.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 561—Vol XXI.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1922.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Lord Allenby's Return.

The return of Lord Allenby and the prominence accorded to that event by the Press have stirred public interest in the Egyptian question deeply. Little or no sympathy is felt in this country for the Extremists in Egypt, and the Zaghloulists have few friends here to-day; but on the other hand there is a sincere desire to come to an arrangement with the Moderates, and it is hoped that even if a permanent agreement cannot be reached at once, a temporary one may not be unattainable. There are, of course, still difficulties, which come from both sides, but a good many lions seem to have disappeared from the path quite recently. Nothing has done more towards bringing about this improvement than the belief that Lord Allenby considers it possible to come to an arrangement which will satisfy Egyptian aspirations without jeopardising British interests. The idea is a new one, perhaps, to many people in this country, but Lord Allenby inspires confidence, and the nation is prepared to accept his assurances. It is hoped that, through Parliament, the people will very soon be put in possession of all the facts of the case, and be afforded the opportunity of making their will known.

The Continental View.

Certain aspects of the case as it concerns the Egyptians and ourselves are dealt with in our leading article. Others, such as the question of the Sudan and the apportionment of the waters of the Nile, are necessarily untouched for the moment; but the not unimportant subject of the European view of the problem is handled by a correspondent, who makes some suggestions with which we do not by any means agree. With the average Englishman, for instance, we believe that the commercial aspect of the case has very little weight—that he hardly ever gives it a thought. But the writer does well to emphasize the declarations, oft repeated, of the French and Italian Governments regarding the impossibility of entrusting the protection of their subjects in Egypt to native police or soldiery. The difficulty thus referred to is not insuperable; but the solution suggested by our correspondent is not likely to commend itself either to the British Government or to the Egyptians.

The New Roumanian Cabinet.

In this country there has of late been much talk of the Geddes Axe, but so far that interesting tool—or weapon?—remains modestly concealed behind a fog

of promises emitted by various Cabinet Ministers. Roumania is doing better in this respect. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs, over which M. Duca presides, has already announced a programme of economies amounting to over Three Million Pounds, and has actually put some of them into force. Unfortunately these include a considerable reduction of the staff of the Legation in London; which, we fear, can hardly further the interests of either country. According to a Frankfurt message the Minister for Industry proposes that "all foreign undertakings and also banks should be nationalised;" and this proposal, again, strikes us as distinctly unfortunate—so much so, indeed, that we can only conclude that Frankfurt has been misinformed, though we should have expected it to be quite the reverse. For the rest, M. Bratiano's programme embraces the revision of the Constitution in accordance with the requirements of the greatly expanded State, the overhauling of the much-discussed financial reforms, and the maintenance of the closest relations with the Allies.

That Elusive Conference.

This country is losing interest in the dismal affairs of the Near East, in the settlement of which day after day nothing happens. The word goes forth; the tables are set; the great ones prepare: and not even a mouse is born! When we learned that the meeting of the Allied Foreign Ministers had been again postponed, it therefore hardly caused surprise to the ordinary Englishman, already bewildered and a little doubtful of the present Government's determination to settle the Near Eastern problem. Officially, the Conference is to meet to-day (February 9), the delay being said to have been necessitated by the consideration, by the British and Italian representatives, of a Note delivered by the French Government. That all these re-considerations, resiftings, and deferrings are really necessary we cannot find it in our minds to believe; so tired in fact are we of them that we should be pleasantly relieved to read that the Meeting had actually taken place on February 9. It is wearisome to keep pointing out how surely these constant lapses of time are blighting the prospects of a settlement, how befogged the issues weekly grow, so that one gloomy day those responsible may darkling discover that matters have gone beyond their power to resolve. We may, if we so choose, attribute this seeming laxity to the changes in the constitution of the French and Italian Cabinets, but for our own part we are far from certain that more responsibility should not

be attached to the uncustomary and, in the Near East at any rate, fruitless diplomatic methods of our own Government. Certainly there is in this country a growing feeling that the British Government intends to do nothing so long as M. Poincaré remains in power in France, a suspicion that, with its confession of temporary impotency, should, if justified, make the demission of Mr. Lloyd George imperative.

The British Government's Attitude.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to believe that our Government is in earnest in the Near East, and, whatever may be the shortcomings of French and Italian politicians, it does often appear that when Great Britain's representatives (who, we fear, in this matter really represent only our Prime Minister) approach Near Eastern matters, they advance with but one eye on their object, the other, their master-eye, being fixed on the votes at home. We see, we will not say a lack of interest, but a lack of intensity of purpose, a desire rather to experiment than to appreciate, that is making impossible any prospect of a permanent peace. We know, for instance, that Mr. Lloyd George, and hence Great Britain, is enamoured of Venizelism; and though we say nothing on this, we are very seriously indignant at the report that he has promised Mgr. Metaxakis a British cruiser, if necessary, to land at Constantinople. For we should not approve of such methods of diplomacy even if they were efficient, and in view of the suspicion with which they have naturally loaded Great Britain and of the chaos to which they have brought the Near East, we feel compelled to call for a policy which will at least make British dignity unquestioned and British motives unsuspected. Such a policy the Foreign Office could, we believe, and would pursue.

A Receding Prospect.

Altogether, therefore, it may be said that our hopes of a settlement are, with the present Premier in supreme control, daily running out. His principles in foreign affairs may or may not be sound, but in practice they amount to nothing—a negative position which is worse than a positively bad one for the peoples of the Near East. As we hinted last week, we believe, not indeed that there is not disagreement, and violent disagreement, between Great Britain, France, and Italy, but that the suspicion which everywhere and always envelopes the deeds or proposals of Mr. Lloyd George is the most powerful bar to any sort of common action by the Allies in the Near East. The standpoint of the other two countries is, we think, clear enough: that of France is on the Angora Agreement, that of Italy on the Tripartite Agreement of August, 1920. But on what does Great Britain stand? What does she intend to do? Perhaps some questions on this subject will be asked in Parliament, which re-opened this week, and it is even possible that some of them, if repeated often and tactfully enough, may be answered. It should at any rate be shown that the present delay and obscurity are intolerable, and that the country, thoroughly sick of stage-rehearsal, and wanting the real thing, may demand its money back—a procedure which would leave the present actors deservedly bankrupt.

Gallipoli Looking Backward.

Reference to the Gallipoli operations in the late war was made by two public men in speeches delivered last week. Sir Ian Hamilton, speaking at Glasgow at a military dinner, declared that had the strategy of the

campaign received the same thought as its tactics, the relief of Russia by strategy would have received as much consideration as the support of France. "As it was," he added, "the Dardanelles was never more than the brilliant flash of a great man's imagination, an improvisation. The great man's own subordinates fought tooth and nail against it. Except Lord Kitchener the War Office were almost to a man against it." Sir Ian, later in his speech, attributed the diminution of our prestige in the Near East and the Far East very largely to the evacuation of Gallipoli. He quoted a Turkish Army Order that referred to the way in which the superiority of Turkish to British troops had been shown at Gallipoli; and declared that Egypt and India are thinking that what has happened once may happen again.

"The Battle of 'If' "

The second reference to the Gallipoli reverse was made by Lord Birkenhead at a party meeting, and he was evidently concerned only to turn that great catastrophe to the advantage of his own group of politicians. His complaint was that M. Venizelos' offer of the whole Greek Army was repelled; for "had that offer been accepted the Gallipoli peninsula would undoubtedly have fallen," and 'indisputably' two years of the struggle would have been avoided. As one of Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch's characters once remarked: "It is a great battle, the battle of 'If.' " Lord Birkenhead may never have heard any other views on the subject; but we believe that the refusal of M. Venizelos' offer was due to the conditions attached to it. We have heard very strange stories about the Greeks and the Gallipoli operations; and we refuse to believe, even on Lord Birkenhead's representation, that the 'fall' of the Peninsula would have been certain had the offer been accepted. Political wire-pullers make poor historians, and the strategy and tactics they understand—and employ—are, fortunately, peculiarly their own.

Indian Politics.

In Indian circles in this country last week's principal topic was the rumour—which still remains unconfirmed—of a decision to prosecute Mr. Gandhi, the ostensible leader of the movement known as civil disobedience. We have not so far found anyone to contend that a prosecution would not be logically justified, but on the question of its wisdom we hear very different opinions. According to some observers, it is the best thing that could be done, for when the very foundations of civil order have been attacked, the challenge must be formally taken up in the only way which will convince doubters that order is going to be maintained. On the other hand it is argued that Mr. Gandhi is a leader only in a technical sense; his pace and action may catch the eye, but his direction is determined by the man who holds the reins, and since the really dangerous brains of the movement are already in prison, it would be wiser to leave the ostensible leader alone than to gratify the desire for mild martyrdom which he has often expressed. We must content ourselves with recording the existence of the conflict of opinion: to attempt to decide it would carry us too far.

The Indian Army and the Legislature.

A difficult question is raised by the formal assertion of the Legislative Assembly's claim to control military expenditure, for which, under the existing Constitution, the executive government is responsible to the Secretary of State and not to the Legislature in India. The claim

is clearly political rather than social, for the motion which was carried against the Government was supported by the unofficial European members, and it shows that the assembly's appetite for power has been sharpened by the concessions already made. Its refusal may lead to an *impasse*, its grant would go far to reduce the Secretary of State's statutory power to a shadow, and at the same time might leave the country inadequately defended, until the arrival of a foreign enemy should teach legislators the need for effective preparation. The attitude of Indian politicians towards national defence is in fact one of the most depressing features in the present condition. Their country has suffered from successful invasion time after time for at any rate a thousand years; the frontiers were never safe till Britain took them in charge; but the lesson is not yet learned, and to give them effective control of military expenditure might in existing circumstances throw their borders once more open to the invader.

The End of the Famine.

The announcement that the weekly famine telegrams from India have now been discontinued may be taken as marking the end of the actual distress resulting from the failure of the rains in 1920. The magnitude of that calamity can be inferred from some agricultural statistics which have just reached this country, showing the area sown and the crops gathered in the two seasons affected by drought. A rough calculation based on these figures indicates that India lost something like 20 million tons of foodgrains, or say a full year's food for about a quarter of the population, besides a million tons of sugar, another million tons of oilseeds, and five million commercial bales of jute and cotton. A few years ago losses on this scale would have brought a large part of the country to the verge of a collapse: on this occasion distress has been merely local, and the members on relief have been so small that the successive reports have scarcely called for notice. We commend these facts to the attention of those who have for so long complained of the increasing impoverishment of India under British rule; a country which can stand the loss of a quarter of its gross income must have a large reserve of strength somewhere, and the old talk about India living from hand to mouth may happily be relegated to the past.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Monday Evening.

Politics and Persons.

Last week it was the turn of the Opposition orators; this week the Coalition has hit back hard all round. Lord Birkenhead has devoted a speech to criticising Labour for its "abject poltroonery," Liberalism for its desire to return to party politics—"Was the nation so happy in July, 1914?"—and Unionism, at least the Die Hard brand, for its folly in imitating the Gadarene Swine. A very Carpenter of a speech, and one that has resounded far and wide through the country. The Radical papers are pink with fury, and have almost exhausted even their stock of abusive adjectives; but the touch about the benefits of party welfare, as shown by the record of 1914, has tweaked their noses badly.

Nothing has annoyed the malcontents more than Lord Birkenhead's reminder to the Press which pictures the Coalition as on the point of death that these things have been repeated *ad nauseam* for the last two years and a half, and the Coalition still lives, and "has no intention of expiring." The only retort which has occurred to the disgruntled is that this is a mere electioneering speech; but that is a futile and foolish rejoinder. For

months past the discontented Press has been attacking the Government for not going to the country; but the moment there was any suggestion of a General Election, the idea was condemned by those very organs as extravagant, impossible and absurd. After all, what do they want?

The Government, therefore, starts the new session in good heart. The Irish business comes first—the Treaty has to be turned into an Act; then there is economy, and the edge of the Gedde's axe is to be tested; and there is to be a pious expression as to the reform of the Lords, which will sound well but mean nothing. The Lord Chancellor flatly told the Unionists who are threatening to revolt if there is no repeal of the veto that if they do rebel they will be fought in Parliament and in the constituencies. This needed saying, for the little group has been very active lately; indeed, the distinguishing feature of the Die Hards is that they never die—they always seem to jump the last ditch, and turn up for another tumble later on.

The Position of Labour.

Officially Labour is very cross with the Keeper of the King's Conscience; its leaders do not like being told that their conduct is "abject poltroonery." But that dull and respectable party deserved a kick. Its heads are so anxious to be statesmen that they forget to be human beings. Mr. Henderson, popularly known as "Uncle Arthur," breathes platitudes; Mr. Clynes says nothing very beautifully—I always like listening to him because of the exquisite timbre of his voice, but there is no stuffing in his goose; and Mr. Thomas is an absolute chameleon. Good fellows all, and they try very hard to be great men; but they are not quite the real article, and in a big situation they fail. If I were a prophet I should say that some of the younger Labour men who sit on the back benches have more character, but their time has not yet come.

The Death of Shackleton.

The untimely death of Shackleton, in the Antarctic, at the early age of forty-eight, has been felt as a national loss. This last expedition seemed to promise so well, and there was so much that he might yet do—and then, silence. He had had a hard life, and apparently it had told on him more than we knew; there can scarcely be any other explanation of the entry in his diary: "I grow old and tired." He is fittingly to be buried in South Georgia, a lonely island in the Southern Seas, whose stormy coasts are frequented only by whalers; and he has written his own best epitaph, for his last words were: "In the darkening twilight I saw a lone star hover gem-like above the bay."

He was a great leader, and the world is the poorer for his loss. But the work of the expedition is to go on.

Health and Latitude.

The Medical Research Council has just issued a very interesting pamphlet on the question of disease and environment, which well repays study. I must admit that the first glance at it rather made my flesh creep, for the author, Dr. Brownlee, points out that the further south one lives the more likelihood there is of getting cancer, each degree of latitude adding to the incidence. This to a man who has been thinking of taking a furnished house on the South Coast for the summer is disconcerting; I thank thee, Dr. Brownlee, for teaching me that risk.

As regards the difference between town and country, the average expectation of life (at birth) in Brighton is 50.19, in London 46.74, and Manchester 28.78. The figures tell their own story, but the author refrains from the obvious comment that most sensible people would rather die anywhere than live at Manchester.

There is a law (Farr's law) which indicates that density of population and death-rate can be deduced from each other, like the astronomical calculations of mass and gravity. The law is universal—with one exception, London. The death-rate certainly goes up in the metropolis according to the density of population, but it increases far more rapidly in proportion than elsewhere. The conclusion is that "London has thus achieved in some way or other a greater absolute healthiness than its density would suggest."

I once knew a man who told me that London was the finest health resort in the world, because you lived twice as fast and twice as long there as anywhere else. People said he was mad. But I am beginning to think he was a prophet.

A Tax on Cricket.

The entertainment tax provides endless conundrums. Not long ago the authorities at York Minster were up in arms, (or surplices) because the tax was levied on a sacred concert within the Cathedral for which a small admission was charged. Now a case has been before the courts because the authorities deducted a proportion of the subscriptions of members of county cricket clubs. Ingenious lawyers argued that the subscriptions were used in keeping up the premises and the ground—in fact for anything rather than seeing a cricket match and alternatively that cricket was not an entertainment—it was almost suggested that it was a science. But the revenue people won, sad to relate. They generally do.

"Brighter London."

A scheme is afoot to brighten London life. It is not, as one might suspect, proposed to put a jazz-band in the British Museum or a gramophone in the Law Courts; so far as I can make out, the suggestion is that we go to bed too early, and should have more opportunities for supper after the theatre, with concerts after the supper. The idea is that we should attract American visitors—chiefly, of course, because we like to give them a good time, but incidentally with the supposition that they have money to spend.

But as a matter of fact, is it difficult to amuse yourself in London? In the morning, I admit, there are not many entertainments except watching other people go to work, which is always cheerful; but in the afternoon, there are theatres and cinemas, dances and concerts, and a variety of entertainments; to say nothing of lectures for the seriously-minded.

It is quite true that the Londoner goes to bed earlier than he used: Colonel Newcome's London, with its "Cave of Harmony," is extinct, except for those melancholy places, the night clubs, which are more depressing than the dissecting room of a hospital. But we go to bed early because we have to get up early. After all, London is a business centre, not a city of pleasure; and it is big enough to tell the stranger within its gates that if he doesn't like it he can go elsewhere. He will not be missed.

The Week's Books.

To suggest that "The Theory of Mind as Pure Act" (Macmillan) by Giovanni Gentile, is light reading would be to say the thing that is not. It cannot have been easy to translate either—a task for which Professor Wildon Carr is responsible. The author is an Italian philosopher of the idealist school, holding very much the same views that Professor Carr's books have familiarised to English students at London University; and either Gentile or his translator has made the idealist attitude more comprehensible than it generally is to my limited intellect. (But perhaps this is the echo of an old hatred against the obscurity of Hegel). The book is one that can, of course, only be criticised after a very careful reading—perhaps two or three readings; but a preliminary glance through its pages is sufficient assurance that the translator has not wasted his time on a second-rate work.

An English translation has been published by Cassell of M. Poincaré's book, "How the War Began." It is very well done, although it does not contain all the available documents or evidence. It appears to have annoyed two or three pro-Germans reviewers in this country, and they have indulged in a few cheap sneers to no particular purpose.

The heresy hunt to which I referred last week has now broken down again, the Archbishop of Canterbury having refused to proceed further; but it has left its little mark on literature. "A Resurrection of Relics," by H. D. A. Major (Basil Blackwell) recounts the history of the doctrine of the resurrection of the dead, and its

gradual rejection by the common sense of modern churchmen. It is a curious little study in that erosion of faith by intellect which constitutes progress.

A very useful little book of psycho-analysis is "Dreams and the Unconscious" (Christophers) by Professor Valentine, of Birmingham University. The author follows partly Freud and partly Jung, but he has a little modified their ideas, and he adds some useful remarks on the ethical side of psycho-analysis. This short and common-sense study should prove valuable to many who are seeking an introduction to psychology.

Another work from the same publisher is "Self—Training in Mysticism," by the Rev. H. L. Hubbard. It is not an elaborate survey like those to which Miss Evelyn Underhill has accustomed us, but an introductory study. There has, I think, been a distinct renewal of mysticism in recent years, both as regards the study of the subject and the practice of its methods; it is perhaps the one form of religious experience which can never lose interest. For that reason this little book will probably appeal to many readers.

"Death and Its Mystery" (T. Fisher Unwin), by Camille Flammarion, is a translation of a work by the great French astronomer, which has achieved enormous popularity across the Channel. It appears to be only an introduction to a subject which the author proposes to treat at greater length—the sub-title of the present volume is "Before Death; Proofs of the Existence of the Soul."

"Painted Windows" (Mills and Boon) does not sound very complimentary as a title for the character-sketch of high ecclesiastics; the book is written by the Gentleman with the Duster, otherwise Mr. Harold Begbie. He describes Bishop Gore as having "a permanently troubled conscience"; Bishop Hensley Henson has "intellectualised the Sermon on the Mount, dissected the Prodigal Son as a study in psychology, and taken the heart out of the Fourth Gospel," and so on. The book is clever but superficial; the only criticism I can pass upon it is that, like most of these personal sketches, it necessarily deals chiefly in externals. When you do not know the subject of the biography, you mistake its smartness, its almost pertness, for adequacy; when you do know the subject, you recognise its glaring inadequacy. That is the badge, of all this tribe of books, but they are astonishingly popular.

OCELLUS.

THE BRITISH MISSION TO TURKESTAN, 1918-1920.

At a meeting of the Central Asian Society held on January 24, at 74, Grosvenor Street, London, Major-General Sir Wilfred Malleson described the experiences of a British Mission which was in Turkestan from 1918 to 1920. Very early in its history he had received a telegram of congratulation from the authorities in India because of the speed with which a certain movement was carried out, but no other word of commendation had arrived during all the rest of the time that the expedition was in being. Nevertheless he claimed that it had been useful work; notably in damping down the great danger of 1918. The chief credit in that case was due to General Dunsterville's expedition, but the Mission to Turkestan had played a great part in preventing a recurrence of the Afghan War; this it had done by carrying on a propaganda which had prevented the co-operation of Bolsheviks and Afghans.

One of General Malleson's experiences had been to issue a paper currency. He had found the country in great straits for lack of something of the sort. One difficulty was to prevent forgery, for there was no printing press capable of anything but the most simple printing; there was no possibility of engraved notes or anything of the kind. His method of surmounting the difficulty had been, first, to buy up the whole stock of suitable paper that was in the country, then to have the notes printed, and, finally, to have every note signed by a British officer.

It is stated that M. Gounaris, the Greek Prime Minister, will represent Greece at Genoa.

The Palestinian Arab deputation which has been in London for some months had an interview with Mr. Winston Churchill at the Colonial Office on February 4. It was afterwards officially stated that the Colonial Secretary had undertaken to communicate to the deputation the draft of the Government's proposals for the future constitution of Palestine. The draft is also to be communicated to the Zionist organisations.

THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

From Our Own Correspondents.

EGYPT.

Cairo, January 28.

The Political Situation.

We are still without any decision in regard to the proposals put forward by Sarwat Pasha and his friends for the formation of a new Cabinet and the carrying on of the Government of the country on constitutional lines; and it cannot with truth be said that this further delay in dealing with the situation is making matters any easier for the more reasonably-minded Nationalists, or indeed is improving the situation. As to the exact details of the proposals put forward by Sarwat Pasha, and submitted to the British Cabinet by the High Commissioner with his strong support, it is impossible to obtain any official information. This reticence is in the circumstances quite natural, and the reason for it is readily appreciated by all those who have any knowledge of how the currents of intrigue and counter-intrigue run in this country; but sufficient is known of the broad lines to satisfy every one who has followed the trend of Egyptian politics and is in touch with the present situation, that the proposed arrangement is the only sane solution to the *impasse* into which we have now drifted.

Why the British Cabinet should dilly-dally at the present juncture passes all understanding, and it looks as if they do not appreciate the gravity of the situation, though it must have been pointed out to them very forcibly from this end. Everyone knows that since the proposals were first submitted there have been other more important and more far-reaching questions to be settled; but over a fortnight has passed since the Foreign Office received these proposals and the operation of time and local influences, which have profited as usual by the delay, has now removed the Egyptian question from the relatively secondary position which it may have occupied ten days ago and has brought it into the front-rank of importance. It is, indeed, very much to be feared that if the British Government does not hurry itself and take a decision—and one of the nature of an affirmative reply—the psychological moment, when its acquiescence would have had the most salutary effect on the local situation, will have disappeared.

I can only repeat that there must be no further delay and that the British Government must recognise that the time has come for a generous gesture. Should a decision be further put off, or should the reply in any way partake of the nature of a refusal, then we must expect developments which, no surprise to us who are in touch with the situation, will come as very much of a surprise if not a shock to people at home, and may place the British Government in a very difficult position.

The Boycott.

The newly constituted Wafd this past week drew up and published its long expected programme for non-co-operation with the British and for the boycott of British goods and British society. The programme took the form of a manifesto to the Egyptian nation calling upon all patriots to follow out the injunctions contained in it. It was a strongly worded and incitative document, which was ordered to be read in all Mosques. Among other things it called upon officials and servants of the Government to refuse to take orders from their British chiefs, or to do anything which might appear to them to be contrary to the wish of the nation; and it specifically called on dock labourers to refuse to load or unload or to handle bunker coal for British ships. Since this document was certainly calculated to interfere with public order, the military authorities had no alternative but to intervene; and the eight signatories were arrested, and the five papers which published the manifesto were suspended for three days.

The signatories, who have since been set at liberty after a stern warning, included Hamad Pasha El Bassel, the Bedouin chief from the Fayoum, who was one of

Zaghoul Pasha's companions when he was interned in Malta three years ago, and who after wavering between the extreme and, as to procedure, more moderate Nationalists, had the bad luck to be "caught out" on the losing side. It is noteworthy that the dissentient members of the Wafd who rejoined after Zaghoul's deportation did not sign this document.

As regards the boycott itself, it is in reality proving a fiasco. Undoubtedly less business is being done by foreign, including British, firms, and latterly a fair number of orders for British goods have been cancelled. But just as the land crisis in 1907 and the financial crisis of 1914 proved very useful excuses for those who wanted to get out of their engagements, so the "boycott" is being given as an excuse for not making purchases by Egyptians who no longer have the same amount of money to fling about, and is being taken advantage of by merchants who foresee that the local commercial depression makes it unlikely that they will find a ready sale for the goods they have ordered.

Another Bomb Plot.

The police on Thursday evening last discovered a plot against Sarwat Pasha and other leading Egyptians who have figured prominently in recent political events. They laid their hands on six very businesslike bombs, ready for use, in the Sayeda Zeinab quarter of Cairo; and they made several arrests. The evidence now in the hands of the police is said clearly to indicate the existence of a widespread conspiracy aimed at the personages mentioned above, and we are awaiting further developments with great interest; for from what I hear it is quite possible that the authorities may now be able to link up the various bombing attempts which have been made during the last three years and the organisation behind which has so far baffled discovery.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Belgrade, January 26.

The Royal Engagement.

King Alexander has returned to Belgrade from Sinaia and met with a very enthusiastic reception. Amidst cheers he drove from the station through beflagged and decorated streets to his palace. The citizens of Belgrade have once again proved that their love for their King is not only skin deep; in spite of a bitterly cold day and the fact that the Royal train was a whole hour late (even Royal trains are not exempt from such a common misfortune in this part of the globe), their cheerfulness and rejoicing did not diminish. Soon after seven o'clock big crowds gathered in front of the Municipal building, and, led by the Mayor and Councillors, preceded by massed bands, and carrying torches and singing patriotic songs, marched through the town and halted in front of the Royal Palace, cheering the King. His Majesty appeared at the window and addressed the crowd, saying how very pleased he was to see that his joy was shared by his dear people, just as his hardships and sorrows in the dark days of war were equally borne by them.

Throughout the day perfect order prevailed with the exception of a small incident. The owner of a tea shop.

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Italian by nationality, tried to hoist a big Italian flag, which was quickly spotted by the waiting people, amongst whom it raised great irritation and loud hissing. A gang of young Dalmatian students rushed forward, breaking the ranks of police, and tried to take the flag down; but were at once stopped by mounted police, who formed a cordon round the flag. The crowd grew larger and more threatening every second, and trouble was already in sight when a police officer went inside and requested the owner to take the flag down; which he promptly did, to the great delight of all onlookers.

But the incident was not yet closed. Next day, close on noon, when the shop was empty, the students who had meanwhile decided to punish the impertinence of the owner filled the place completely. Each ordered a small cup of coffee (which costs only one dinar) and they remained in the shop throughout the rest of the day, thus preventing other customers from entering and spending their money. The Italian soon realized the game, and called for the police, who promptly came, but could not turn out the intruders, as they were behaving most politely. When the day was over and the students departed, leaving the owner to reckon up the "fine," which is estimated to be well over 20,000 dinars (that sum being his average daily takings, which he was prevented from collecting).

The Sebenico Incident.

The mixed Italo-Yugoslav Committee of Inquiry has concluded its investigation of the recent incident in the port of Sebenico. As a result, the Italian warship stationed in the port has been replaced by a small destroyer, and the commander of the former has been suspended from his post. The Italian delegates did their best to persuade the Yugoslavs to close the incident on the spot; but the latter refused, on the ground that they had only instructions to investigate the incident, and to submit the results to the Government in Belgrade. Once again innocent bloodshed has been caused by drunken sailors, and whatever result the incident may have, it will certainly not be to improve the relations of the two nations. Sooner or later Italy must realise that the Adriatic is a free sea, and that it cannot be made "Mare nostrum." The Adriatic problem cannot be settled by sending warships into somebody else's ports, and it is clear to anybody that the days of Tangiers and of threatening naval demonstrations have gone by for ever.

Political News.

M. Pashitch's Government is now complete. The portfolio of war has been given to General Vassitch, a man who enjoys the reputation of being really the man wanted for the post-war Army which requires most careful and yet very firm handling, if it is to remain what it is meant to be. The influence of the so-called "White Hand," which was uncomfortably felt during the last Ministerial crisis, is to cease at once; and according to the general belief is to be suppressed without mercy and regardless of rank or war merits. The Army must remain the defender of the country and must not let any political poison get into its organization.

Departure of General Kritsesku.

The Roumanian military mission under General Kristesku left last night for Bucharest completely satisfied with the work done in Belgrade. It is a well known fact that the object of their mission was to conclude a defensive military agreement, but the details of the Treaty are jealously kept from the public.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, January 23.

Fall of M. Take Jonescu's Government.

The parliamentary sitting of last Tuesday, when M. Také Jonescu's Cabinet appeared for the first time before the Chamber, was undoubtedly a very impressive one. The public galleries were filled to overflowing, as everyone was eager to witness the proceedings at this sitting, which had to decide the fate of a Cabinet in conflict with the Parliamentary majority. It was thought M. Také Jonescu, despite the great odds against

him, might at the last moment produce a trump card of a surprising nature. In fact however, his only means of success would have been to have gained during the adjournment a sufficient majority to support him, or, failing this, the authorisation of the King to dissolve Parliament. As neither of these things had been done, it is still a mystery to the uninitiated why he exposed himself to being voted out of power by such a crushing majority. When the motion of a vote of censure proposed by General Averescu's party was put to the vote, out of a total of 271 Deputies, 190 voted against and only 81 for him. M. Jonescu was supported, besides his own partisans, by the Transylvanian National Party, and by M. Jorga's group. The majority (General Averescu's Party), the Tzaraniists and the Socialists voted against him. The Liberals were conspicuous by their absence, in continuation of their policy of ignoring the present Parliament. The hostility of the majority and of the Socialists was expected; so that it was the Tzaraniists who actually turned the scales against M. Jonescu's Cabinet.

In face of the above result M. Také Jonescu had no alternative but to tender the resignation of his Cabinet. The King, in accepting this resignation, expressed his thanks to M. Jonescu and conferred on him the Order of Carol the First.

At first rumours were current that a "concentration" Government would follow. The King, however, after conferring with the Presidents of the Chamber and the Senate, a few hours later summoned M. I. C. Bratianu, the Leader of the Liberal Party, to the Palace, and entrusted him with the formation of a new Cabinet. This action was accompanied by the King's consent to dissolve Parliament. The King further expressed the wish that M. Bratianu should endeavour to obtain the collaboration of the Transylvanian National Party. Accordingly, M. Bratianu offered M. Maniu, the Leader of the Transylvanians, two portfolios, besides the Ministry of Transylvania without portfolio; but these two were to be chosen only from the following:—Justice, Communications, Public Works, and Public Worship. In

THE CALL OF THE LAND: SOUTH AFRICAN OPENINGS.

As in the classic times of ancient Greece, and the happiest days of more lands, when the cultured were often also husbandmen, and it was the fashion to farm; so now, industrialism having received a set-back, men's thoughts turn more and more to rural pursuits as a means of livelihood.

Partly because so many other occupations are closed, but largely also because of the life, all classes, but most noticeably the cultured, are again turning to farming. The question is—Where to farm? In what country can a man of parts find a congenial environment and make an adequate farming start on a modest capital?

The Union of South Africa is such a country. Farming there does not necessarily imply settling in the backwoods, under pioneer conditions, away from amenities. On the contrary: some homesteads are indeed separated from each other by tens of miles; but there are many areas, closely settled and well-developed, where good farms may be bought at very reasonable prices and on easy terms.

So many are the kinds of farming for which South Africa is suitable, and such is the variety of environment and living conditions in that large country, that the newcomer has a wide choice. Whatever his taste and aptitude, he is likely to be suited in one or other of the many districts. And to the end that he may adequately test his aptitude and taste before committing himself, there are now good facilities in South Africa for obtaining training and competent general guidance before investing in land.

Capital, generally not less than about £2,000, is necessary for even a modest start.

Full particulars should in the first instance be obtained from the Office of the High Commissioner for the Union of South Africa, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2. (Advt.).

exchange M. Bratianu asked for his partisans one-third of the seats in Parliament and one-third of the political administrative posts in Transylvania and the Banat. M. Maniu, after consulting with his colleagues, declined this offer, considering it inadequate.

The New Liberal Government.

Thereupon M. Bratianu submitted to the King a purely Liberal Cabinet, which was sworn in on Thursday, January 19. The Cabinet consists of:—

M. Ion I. C. Bratianu (President of the Council and Minister of War).

General A. Vaitaoianu (Minister of Interior).

M. I. Duca (Minister for Foreign Affairs).

M. Vintila Bratianu (Minister of Finance).

M. A. Constantinescu (Minister of Domains, and *ad interim* of Agriculture).

M. G. Marzescu (Minister of Labour and Social Welfare).

Dr. I. Anghelescu (Minister of Education, and *ad interim* of Communications).

M. V. Sassu (Minister of Industry and Commerce).

M. C. Banu (Minister of Public Worship and Arts).

M. I. Th. Florescu (Minister of Justice).

M. I. Inuletz (Minister for Bessarabia, without portfolio).

M. I. Mistor (Minister for Bukovina, without portfolio).

Dr. I. Zigrea (Under-Secretary for Home Affairs).

It is rumoured that the Ministries of Communications and for Transylvania will be eventually entrusted to General Moshoiu and Dr. A. Cosma respectively.

This time the ministerial crisis was solved within 48 hours, which goes to show that the present issue was foreseen by the Liberals, so that corresponding arrangements were made beforehand. The dissolution of Parliament will be effected by publication of the decree in the *Monitorul Oficial* on Monday, January 23, thus sparing the new Cabinet from appearing before a hostile Parliament. The new elections have been fixed to take place during the first days of March, and the new Assembly, which will have, at the same time, the character of a "Constituante," will meet on March 27.

The manner in which also, the recent crisis was solved, namely, by calling to power a one-party Government, and one that had only eight seats in the last Parliament, has again caused great dissatisfaction among all the other parties. They claim that the constitutional principle has been disregarded again, and they have therefore decided to form a *bloc* to oppose jointly the Liberals at the coming elections. It is true, the Liberals will not have an easy task before them in facing the entire united opposition at the coming elections; but, when we consider their strong political organisation throughout the country, their well disciplined staff, and the many years' experience of their leaders in the electioneering game, it seems that they have a fairly good chance to obtain just a sufficient majority to carry them through. Another point in their favour is the fact that the Opposition *bloc* is composed of parties of fundamentally divergent views and interests united solely for their purpose of opposing the Liberals; so that a disintegration or partial separation is not out of the question. The attitude of M. Také Jonescu's party, for instance, is not yet defined. It may be further added that, despite the discontent of the united Opposition, the people in general do not whole-heartedly share this feeling towards the new Government. This is largely due to the mismanagement of the former Governments, which during the last two years have been mostly in the hands of the so-called new men, who, instead of improving matters, have allowed the situation of the country to go from bad to worse.

The people are, therefore, glad to see experienced old hands back again at the helm of the State, who will have the authority to carry out a programme which, they claim, will gradually restore the economic situation of the country to its pre-war condition.

M. Vintila Bratianu, the new Minister of Finance, has already declared that he intends radically to revise the new Financial Reform Bill, by abolishing the tax on

capital and by reducing the quotas of the income tax. Thereby he expects to throw into circulation again the hidden and exported liquid capital, which is the direct cause of the present money stringency and hence of the continuous slackness of trade. As to the Budget, he intends to curtail the State's expenditure to the utmost limit. It is generally hoped that the resolutions announced by the new Minister of Finance, as well as those of his colleagues, are not mere promises but determinations that will be carried out in a firm and sincere manner. Indeed, the new Government's success at the forthcoming elections will largely depend on their deeds until then and not on their promises for after the elections.

With regard to the new Government's foreign policy, M. Duca, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, in taking over his Department, sent a circular telegram to the different Roumanian Ministers abroad to communicate to the respective States that Roumania's foreign policy remains unchanged.

General News.

On January 22, the christening of Prince Mihai, the son of Prince Carol and Princess Helen, took place with great pomp at the Royal Palace in Bucharest. The service was conducted by Miron Christea, the Primate of the Roumanian Orthodox Church, who was assisted by Archimandrite Dionisie, the Abbot of the Sinaia Monastery. King Ferdinand is god-father. Besides the Roumanian Royal family there were present: Prince George and Princess Elisabeth of Greece, General Dusmanis, the Special Envoy of King Constantine of Greece for this occasion, the Diplomatic Corps, the Cabinet and a large number of superior officers of the Bucharest garrison.

As the Serbian Royal Court goes out of mourning on February 16, it is now reported that the official betrothal of King Alexander and Princess Marie will take place at Bucharest towards the end of February. The wedding will take place at Belgrade in April.

It is announced here that two important visitors will come to Bucharest during this spring, namely, M. Masaryk, President of the Czecho-Slovak Republic, and Marshal Pilsudski, President of the Polish Republic.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, January 30.

The Near Eastern Conference.

At last the Allies have found time to hold a Near Eastern Conference, and it is announced that during the first week of February, the Foreign Ministers of Great Britain, France, and Italy, will meet in Paris to determine the future policy of the Great Powers towards the Greeks and Turks. It is therefore well to repeat once again that the claims of Bulgaria must not be lost sight of by the Conference. They do not directly affect the main issue, i.e. the Anatolian War, but they have a considerable indirect effect.

To take first Bulgaria's claims for "a free economic outlet" to the Aegean; if the Allies decide to revise the Treaty of Sèvres, and advise, which is tantamount to ordering, the Greeks to evacuate Asia Minor, the Turks will have achieved a considerable part of what they were fighting for. They will have Smyrna, possibly still under nominal Allied control, in their hands, and their population will be freed from Greek rule; and they will have achieved this by fighting, or in plainer language by making such a nuisance of themselves that the Allies felt constrained to yield to their claims. Bulgaria has not fought for Dedeagatch, which for purposes of comparison may be styled a second Smyrna, nor has she struggled to free her minorities in Thrace from Greek rule. She has simply and solely evacuated Thrace, trusting that the Allies will keep to their written word, and grant her an outlet to the southern sea. There are many people, who, when told that Bulgaria wants an outlet to the Aegean, say: "Where is she to find a suitable outlet? Dedeagatch is no port; she is much better off with Varna and Bourgas." Admitting that Dedeagatch is a very poor port, it is necessary to remember

that where there is a will there is a way, and that even if Dedeagatch cannot be made into a suitable port, there are other places, such as Porto Lagos and Kavalla, that would admirably suit the purpose.

An Economic Argument.

The hostility or perhaps indifference towards Bulgarian claims is, however, so strong, that it may be more useful if Bulgaria's desire to have a trading port on the Aegean is put forward in another way. All British interests are, for the moment at any rate, subordinate to that of finding markets for our merchandise. Our exports are a mere handful of what they were in pre-war days, and it behoves us to increase them by every means in our power. Before the war, certain of our goods found a quite good market in Bulgaria, but now owing principally to the adverse rate of exchange, there is not very much trade between the two countries. Added to the adverse rate of exchange, there is the absurdly long trade route followed by English vessels bringing our goods to Bulgaria. Germany is quoted as being our principal trade rival in this part of the world, but Central European States, such as Austria and Czechoslovakia, are competing very hard with Germany. They are nearer, and in the case of Austria can undersell Germany, whilst the Czechoslovaks can guarantee surer delivery, and are besides this showing great commercial enterprise. Germany sends the majority of her goods to Varna or Bourgas, but the other countries named use the Danube. We send by way of Athens, Salonika, Smyrna, and Constantinople! It is obvious that trade between Great Britain and Bulgaria could be conducted much more quickly and at a lesser freight charge were the latter country to possess a port on the Aegean. Added to this the fact that all ships proceeding to Varna or Bourgas have to pass through the Dardanelles is a matter, which, although easy of solution to-day, may not be so easy in the future.

One word more, it is quite useless to grant Bulgaria an outlet, unless it is an absolutely free one. A second Salonika is no good at all.

A Recruiting Tour.

M. Thomoff, the Minister of War, accompanied by Colonel Topalkikoff, the Chief of Staff, has gone on a tour in the provinces with the object of attempting to secure additional recruits for the army. It is said that if the tour is not a success, the Minister will bring before the Sobranie at its Spring session, a Bill by which a kind of "Poll Tax" will be imposed on all able bodied men between the ages of 18 and 35, who do not voluntarily elect to become soldiers. This measure will savour of conscription, but Bulgaria finds herself in such awkward straits, owing to the few volunteers who have come forward, that the Allies may overlook the measure.

Party Politics.

A new note was struck in the external policy of the Narodnik or Obedinist Party by an article that appeared last week in the *Den*, an official organ. The article was written and signed by the Editor, and dealt with the foreign policy of France. The Obedinists have come to be regarded as the Francophile Party, and it was therefore all the more surprising to read a very frank and almost bitter criticism of France. The article examined at some length French policy in Western and Eastern Europe, and came to the conclusion that, in view of France's policy of exacting the last penny from Germany, Bulgaria could not count on France's adopting a different policy towards her. It was, in fact, said the *Den*, necessary to face facts, and to realise that nothing was to be expected from France.

The Late Lord Bryce.

The death of Lord Bryce has occasioned many sympathetic articles in the local Press, Professor Stephanoff writing in the *Echo de Bulgarie* observed that the death of Lord Bryce had deprived Bulgaria of a sincere friend, who had not hesitated to condemn openly the harsh clauses of the Treaty of Neuilly, which Lord Bryce characterised as "A Treaty of vengeance, not of peace." Lord Bryce was also well known in the Balkans, on account of the interest he took in the Macedonian question, and Professor Stephanoff recalls how he had

always defended the rights of oppressed European peoples.

ALBANIA.

Tirana, January 29.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Fan Noli has returned to Tirana and has taken up his duties as Minister of Foreign Affairs, thus making his début in an administrative and diplomatic career. Great hopes are built upon him, for he has acquired much credit by his handling of affairs with the League of Nations. It is hoped that the foreign policy of the country will now acquire some stability and establish a good tradition. On the other hand it is regretted that Mgr. Noli—who, as your readers doubtless remember is an Orthodox bishop—cannot devote his energies entirely to the organisation of the Albanian National Orthodox Church, and achieve a definite solution of this problem.

The Outlook.

I have spoken in previous letters of the constitution of a High Court for the trial of those concerned in the *coup d'état* of last December. Hassan Prishtina and Hodja Kadri are kept under police supervision; Kristo Dako and Zia Dibra have been imprisoned, but the latter has managed to escape and disappear.

The attitude taken up by certain people at Shkodra is causing some little uneasiness by reason of an active propaganda which is being carried on there in favour of the summoning of a Constituent Assembly. Generally the convocation of the Assembly is not desired immediately, as it is felt that a postponement will help to smoothe away difficulties and complications.

Relations with Serbia.

The re-opening of navigation between Rieka—a Montenegrin town—and Shkodra on the Lake of Scutari, may be regarded as a good sign. This should facilitate an understanding between Serbia and Albania, and perhaps also the exchange of the mails. For her part Albania has addressed a letter to the Secretariat General of the League of Nations requesting that it will draw the attention of the members of the League to the question of the resumption of diplomatic relations between Albania and Serbia, and to ask for their assistance. The Note has been communicated by the Secretariat General to all the members of the League.

At the moment when Albania is thus showing her good will and friendly disposition towards Serbia the declaration which M. Pashitch has just made—on January 27 in the Skupshtina—has produced a deep impression mingled with stupefaction. The President of the Serbian Council appears to have thrown aside all reserve and to have overstepped all bounds in his speech. He is reported to have said: "With regard to Albania the outlook is uncertain, as always. Since the assassination of Essad Pasha chaos has reigned in Albania, and Yugoslavia, who has been continually attacked by Albanians, ought to have recourse to arms for the defence of her frontier. . . . At the time of the consideration of the Albanian problem at the Peace Conference I demanded the adoption of the line of the Drin, considering that it was impossible to have any other frontier. The region of Lim has been awarded to Albania, but I hope that we shall obtain it one day."

This strange declaration amounts to a defiance of the civilised world and of the general peace, and is at the same time an extremely interesting revelation. Up to now Serbia had pretended that she had been a friend

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of Independent Albania within the frontiers of 1913 and that she had repelled the proposal for her partition which was made by Italy, France and Great Britain in January, 1920. Yet now we see M. Pashitch, perhaps involuntarily, admitting that he had always demanded the partition and the annihilation of Albania!

On the other hand, in speaking of Lim, M. Pashitch breathed a threat. Hardly have the League of Nations and the Conference of Ambassadors given peace to Albania before the Serbian Prime Minister launches a bolt from the blue to threaten this country. Nor is it the first time that official Serbians have behaved in this threatening way. M. Spalaikovitch openly threatened Albania at Geneva on October 2, and a few days later the Serbian Army bombarded certain Albanian villages. On November 17 at Paris, before the Council of the League of Nations, M. Boshkovitch read out a dispatch from M. Pashitch in which he foretold misfortune for Albania, giving it to be understood that Serbia would be avenged on her. Now M. Pashitch puts forward the same threat from the parliamentary tribune. At the reading of M. Pashitch's dispatch on November 17, the Albanian delegate, M. Frasheri, drew the attention of the Council to the Serbian menace, and it was at his request that the Council gave orders to the Commission of Inquiry which it sent out to Albania to see that no outside influence—that is to say Serbia—should be allowed to disturb the peace of Albania. The President of the Serbian Council speaks of attacking Albania, whilst the Commission of Inquiry has officially established the fact that it is Albania who has suffered terribly from Serbian attacks. It is hoped confidently in Albania that this attitude and these ideas of M. Pashitch are due entirely to his personal policy, and that the Serbian people will not be long to see the truth and to respond to Albanian advances with reciprocal goodwill.

The Commission of Inquiry.

Having terminated its inspection at Kortcha, the Commission of Inquiry has returned to Tirana. An incident to note is the refusal of the Greek authorities to enter into relations with the Commission. At first the Hellenic authorities seemed disposed to meet the members, and appointed a *rendezvous* on the Greco-Albanian frontier; but the Commission arrived there twice only to find nobody there to meet it. The Greeks changed their minds, and fixed first Pisoden and then Florina. Finally the Commission decided not to attempt further to get in touch with the Greek authorities.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, January 10.

The New "National Council."

The papers publish the names of the Greeks elected to seats in this body, which is henceforth to direct the "union with Hellas" movement. In some of the districts where the number of candidates for the honour has exceeded the number of seats allotted, it has been arranged among them that only the required number should be nominated, so as to avoid the trouble and expense of a poll. All the members are well known persons and trusted in their respective districts.

The Œcumenical Patriarch.

The threatened schism in the Orthodox Greek Church in connection with the disputed election of Mgr. Meletios Metaxakis agitated the Cypriot community, both as regards the general anxiety throughout Greece and as affecting Cyprus in particular. Official telegrams from Athens state that the assembly of the higher clergy of the Œcumenical see at Salonika began its discussion on January 2. The Bishop of Cyzicus, one of the chief members of the Synod, was chosen to preside. The meeting unanimously agreed as to the validity of the assembly, which proposes to proclaim that the election of Mgr. Meletios as Patriarch was anti-canonical, and must be considered as not having taken place. The Patriarch of Alexandria, with the support of his clergy, sent the following telegram (by which he challenges the validity of the election) to the majority of the Synod of

Constantinople:—"We were distressed to learn from your telegram the conditions under which the election took place, in violation of the sacred canons. The Patriarchate of Alexandria, invoking Divine aid for the re-establishment of ecclesiastical peace, assures the Apostolic Church of Constantinople that, in conformity with the holy canons, of which mention is made in your telegram, the Church of Alexandria will devote all its efforts towards the triumph of the right." The assembly insists on the necessity of postponing a fresh election of a Patriarch till the early part of February. Other telegrams state that the Patriarchs of Jerusalem and Antioch have, as anticipated, refused to recognise the election of Mgr. Meletios.

Public Health.

An infant brother of the Armenian girl who has brought small-pox into Nicosia has died of the disease, but there has been no further spread. But, owing to the outbreak of a considerable number of cases of typhus, attention is being once more directed to the water supply of the Capital, and to the need of laying iron pipes to replace the existing old fashioned channels. It is astonishing that the public should not have insisted before this on the execution by the Water Board or Municipality of a comprehensive scheme which would guarantee a supply of unquestionably pure water, and relieve inhabitants of the apprehensions which still exist as to the present supply being a source of some danger.

ASIA MINOR.

Smyrna, January 24.

Submarine in Eastern Mediterranean.

Reports are persistently circulated that a Turkish-Bolshevik submarine is "working" the coast of Asia Minor, and from the following notice issued by the Greek Naval authorities it would appear that they give some credence to the rumours.

We forbid egress and ingress to the Smyrna harbour for merchant ships during night-time from 18 o'clock to 6. Ships entering the Smyrna gulf during night-time must anchor at Phocia and get instructions from the Greek warships there; when they resume the voyage they must keep to the north of the Artez Point of the Merminje Cape. The illuminated buoys in the Channel Yen-Kale-Pelican Point are suppressed. A Greek warship will be anchored in this channel until new buoys are laid down and will forbid passage to all ships attempting same contrary to above order.

It is also believed in Smyrna that nets have been placed in the Dardanelles to prevent submarines coming through from the Black Sea.

Naval Movement.

H.M.S. 'Tuscan' and H.M.S. 'Tomahawk' have been ordered back to Malta where they will be laid up, together with several other Destroyers of the Near Eastern Flotilla. This is the first indication in Smyrna of the "Geddes Axe" being applied. H.M.S. 'Splendid' remains in Smyrna, with Captain Mark Singleton as S.N.O.

H.M.S. 'Tuscan's' concert party provided a most enjoyable entertainment in the Collins Hall, Smyrna, recently, for the British Colony. Besides Sir Harry and Lady Lamb, Mr. Leo Lamb, the Misses Lamb, the officials of the British Consulate and representative members of the colony, there were also present the French and Italian officers of the 'Annanute' and 'Agordat' respectively. Engineer-Lieut.-Commander Grigg and Lieutenant Harsfall were inimitable in their mirth provoking "stunts," and were ably supported by their Petty Officers and men.

Smyrna, January 26.

Rumours about submarine activities in the Eastern Mediterranean continue to circulate in Smyrna. To-day's news is that a Greek ship bringing ammunition to Asia Minor has been sunk, and her crew landed at Macri and sent to Angora as prisoners.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

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

THE DODECANESE AND ITALY.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—Dr. Skevos Zervos, O.B.E., President of the Dodecanesian Delegation, asked me to send you the following message on his behalf:—

"On January 15, a meeting of the Dodecanesians residing in Athens, Piraeus and other localities of Attica took place at the Propylaea of the Athens University. Many Dodecanesian ladies were also present attired in costumes of their native islands. We again protested against the non-evacuation of our Islands and the recent Italian misdeeds in Rhodes. It is a fact that Italy swallows the camel and strains at the gnat by pretending to follow the spirit of the Sèvres Treaty and the Dodecanesian Agreement, because, although she occupied Megisti (Kastellorizo) in March 1921 in accordance (?) with the Sèvres Treaty, now the Consulta by all means tries to postpone the evacuation of the Dodecanese indefinitely. We expect a clean game from Italy, the first one since 1912. *Verba Volant Scripta Manent*. The Dodecanesian Agreement cannot be considered as a scrap of paper so long as we do not cease from denouncing Italy's regrettable policy and bartering. We expect from your valuable paper and the British Press a moral encouragement to enable us to continue our struggle for Liberty and to attain our goal, union and union with Greece alone, to whom we are already united *de jure*."

I also understand that after the meeting the resolutions were handed to the Greek Government and the Allied Embassies at Athens, and that telegrams of hearty co-operation arrive daily at the Dodecanesian headquarters from Egypt, America and other parts of the world where the sons of the Dodecanese have emigrated. The Dodecanesian Delegation in this country has keenly followed the situation and submitted from time to time various memoranda dealing with the Dodecanesian desiderata, to the British Government, the President of the U.S., and the League of Nations.

I am, etc.,

THEODORE D. MOSCONA.

Dodecanesian Delegation in Great Britain,

32, Oxford Street, Manchester.

February 2, 1922.

GREAT BRITAIN AND ASIA, PAST AND PRESENT.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of the issues forming the agenda of the recent Cannes Conference, and which have been left unsettled and fruitful causes of strife and unrest in the world.

The advocates of French, Polish, Slav, Hungarian, Italian and Greek interests have all made their claims heard, and the clamour is both deafening and confusing. It is with some diffidence, therefore, that I venture a plea for the interests of the Association of Nations mistakenly called the British Empire. Those Nations fought in unison during the war. They have the right to claim that their voices shall be heard in the settlement of the terms of Peace.

And in this Association or League of Peoples, the most important section numerically is to be found in Asia. A conflict between European ambitions and Asiatic rights or liberties, or between European civilisation or European religions and Asiatic religions would at once divide the British Empire into two warring sections. I am one of those who believe that the British Empire

(I adopt the title commonly in use) has been by God's blessing a great instrument for the establishment of a rule of justice, of toleration, and of sympathy in Asia and Africa.

I am old enough to remember the unique position freely granted to British officers and the British Government throughout Asia and Africa in the sixties and the early seventies.

The Mohammedan Law Doctors of Mecca had pronounced that India was Dar ul Islam—Country of Safety—that is a country in which every Moslem had a religious obligation of supporting the Government.

In 1870 the Calcutta Mohammedan Society adopted resolutions from which I extract the following:—

"Now if any misguided wretch owing to his perverse fortune were to wage war against the ruling Powers of this country, British India, such war would be rightly pronounced rebellion, and rebellion is strictly forbidden by the Mohammedan Law. Therefore such war will likewise be unlawful, and in case anyone would wage such war the Mohammedan subjects would be bound to assist their Rulers to fight such rebels."

"The above has been clearly laid down in the Fatwah Alam-jire."

Throughout the whole East England was regarded as the Protector of the Sultan and of Islam, as well as the champion of justice, toleration, peace and sympathy for Asiatics of all religions. I can speak from personal knowledge of the attitude of the Moslems of Turkey, of the Druses of the Lebanon, and of the Arabs of Asia and Africa at that time. I was present at the first funeral of Lord Mayo at Calcutta and I will remember as long as I live the funeral procession composed of representatives of all the races and religions of India. I stood in front of the guard and within a few feet of the coffin as it rested on the gun-carriage at the foot of the steps leading up to Government House, and I could see the faces of all the thousands of mourners who passed the coffin, and I can affirm positively that these men were what they professed to be—mourners.

England was the Protector of the religions and the civilisation of the East—the British officer was the Protector of the Poor and of the helpless and had the loyal affection of 240 million Moslems and other Asiatics.

The Berlin Congress confirmed the position of England in Asia, and she might have continued to hold that position to-day had not Lord Salisbury suddenly adopted the opinion that we had backed the wrong horse. I am not aware of the reason that induced Lord Salisbury to repudiate the past policy and the past history of England—to abandon his friends, or rather the friends of England, and to embrace the Russians; but I have too high a respect for the memory of a great and honest man to suggest that he was influenced by religious prejudices, or by ecclesiastical influences. At all events now that the race has been run we have found out that Russia was and is a bad horse to back. We have lost our friends and we have not won our former enemies.

But loyalty is not killed in a day; although we had swapped horses, the Indian Moslem soldiers remained true to their salt. Turkey was willing to accept something equivalent to a British Protectorate. India sent a million and a half of soldiers to help us in the late war; thousands of Moslem soldiers have died for the British Raja, trusting to the loyalty and justice of England. The Turks surrendered to the English, inspired by the same trust. The British Prime Minister pledged himself to preserve to the Khalif Constantinople, the rich and renowned lands of Thrace and Asia Minor and the home-lands of the Turkish people.

That promise has not been kept. The Greeks, who are the most cruel, the most intolerant and the most barbarous of all the Balkan peoples, were let loose in Thrace and Asia Minor. It would not be possible to compile a full record of the massacres and outrages committed by the Greek Army in this war of extermination.

Now I do not stop to enquire whether in shifting our subsidies from the Russians to the Greeks we have or have not been backing the wrong horse. I trust that the language, the methods and the morals of the betting ring may be eliminated from British foreign policy. I do not stop to consider what the Moslem and the whole Asiatic world may think of our support of these methods of barbarism, but I do appeal on behalf of British loyalty, British good faith, British justice, and British honour. I ask that the promise made to our fellow subjects and accepted by them in good faith be observed. I ask that the British name for truth, loyalty and justice be vindicated and maintained without fear of the fanaticism of intolerant clerics—without favour to the ambition or Imperialism of Balkan politicians, and without affection for the influence of foreign capitalists. I believe in the honesty and justice of the British people and in that belief I appeal to them.

I am, etc.,

GRAHAM BOWER.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

SOUTHERN KURDISTAN.

"TWO YEARS IN KURDISTAN: EXPERIENCES OF A POLITICAL OFFICER, 1918-1920." By Captain W. R. Hay, 24th Punjab. (London: Sidgwick & Jackson, Ltd., 21s. net.)

The boundaries of Kurdistan have never been authoritatively defined, and indeed the land of the Kurds includes a slice of Persia as well as a large portion of the old Turkish empire. Before the war Turkish Kurdistan was commonly regarded as the country between Armenia and Mesopotamia, but Captain Hay's book deals only with the part included in the Mesopotamian administration, *i.e.* the area watered by the Greater and the Lesser Zab rivers, which join the Tigris between Mosul and Tekrit. The earlier pages, which the general reader will probably find more attractive than the later, give a careful account of this remote country, its geography, its fauna, its flora, its primitive people and their customs. Captain Hay's book does not compare in interest with Major Soane's well-known "Through Mesopotamia and Kurdistan in Disguise," written nearly ten years ago, but it will be indispensable to any reader of that work who wishes to bring his knowledge of the country up to date.

One of the most interesting passages in the book is the account of the local Mohammedanism:—

"The majority of the Kurdish race now belong to the Sunni or orthodox Mohammedan sect. With the exception of a few tribes, the Kurds adopted Mohammedanism at a very early date, but their faith sat lightly on them, and they were practically heathen until the Turks, with considerable political acumen, saw that the sole means by which they could attach the race to themselves was through their religion, and did everything possible to promote Islam amongst them. The result is that though traces of heathendom still exist in 'high places' upon the hilltops, and though the Kurdish peasant will neglect Ramadan and eat the flesh of the pig, the better-class Kurd is very strict in his devotions, and says his prayers regularly and at the proper time—but rather with the air of a small boy praying because he is told to by his betters and not because of any conviction of the efficiency or the necessity of prayer. I have often seen Kurds interrupt their devotions, without changing their positions, to add some remark to a conversation that interests them."

Captain Hay mentions that some of the tribes in the north must have once been Christians, and that a remnant of Kurds survives among the Nestorians. The reviewer once came across a tribe in western Kurdistan, outside the area covered by this book, who though calling themselves Moslems practised a ceremony strongly reminiscent of the Holy Communion. It is to be feared, however, that real Christians in Kurdistan are looked down upon, and the scene of the following story which the author tells of Mesopotamia might equally well have been laid in Kurdistan.

"It was some time before the tribesmen realised that the British Government was a Christian Government. It is related that one day an Arab sheikh was abusing Christians to an Assistant Political Officer when the latter remarked, 'Don't you know that I am a Christian?' The Arab replied, 'No, you are not a Christian; you are an Englishman.' The only Christians which existed in the tribesmen's mind were the degenerate but much enduring sects of which small scattered communities still survive in the country."

Of the character of the Kurdish peasant the author speaks more favourably than some previous travellers, and he evidently considers him "one of the mildest-mannered men that ever cut a throat or scuttled ship." He describes him as exceptionally industrious, steady-going, thrifty and clean, as unswervingly faithful to his master, however oppressive, and as a jealous guardian of the honour of his womenfolk. The other side of the picture—the violent temper, the love of loot, and the small respect for human life—is also touched upon. But "a really bad character who thieves for his own ends without his master's cognisance will sooner or later be ejected from his village. He will then join the local police or gendarmes, the asylum of all scoundrels."

The second part of the book is devoted to the author's experiences. Before going to Kurdistan he was Assistant Political Officer at Mandali, on the Persian border east of Baghdad, where it is surprising to hear that most of the townsmen spoke four languages—Turkish, Kurdo-Lurish, Arabic and Persian. Six months after the Turko-British Armistice, Captain Hay was appointed Political Officer of the Arbil division, and there he

remained until October 1920. It was an anxious time. The country was never really subdued. A more difficult terrain for the punitive expeditions despatched from Mesopotamia can hardly be imagined, and Captain Hay's story is one long narrative of murder, intrigue and unrest. The Surchi rising which began in January 1920, and the Arab rebellion of the same year, as it affected his district, are described with a wealth of detail which would perhaps be more suitable in an official report. That every minute incident will interest anyone who was in touch with the events as they occurred we do not doubt, but we are afraid that the general reader will be inclined to skip a good deal, and will find it rather difficult to see the wood for the trees. Nobody, however, who reads the narrative, even perfunctorily, can fail to be struck by the manner in which the few British officers in the country, most of them quite young and with little or no administrative experience, rose to the occasion under conditions of extraordinary difficulty. Pleasing features of the book, also, are the author's evident affection for some of the turbulent chieftains in his charge and his tribute to Sir Arnold Wilson, the head of the Civil Administration in Mesopotamia during the events described. The book is well illustrated by photographs.

THE INDIAN FORESTS.

"THE FORESTS OF INDIA." By E. P. Stebbing, Professor of Forestry, University of Edinburgh. Vol. I. (London: John Lane. 42s. net.)

Professor Stebbing offers in this volume the first instalment of a detailed history of the Indian forest administration. The outlines of the story which he has to tell are tolerably familiar. Indians worked out nothing approaching to a system of conservation, and if any forests survived the Mogul period, it was because the population was too scanty to destroy them. Under British rule things at first got worse, because the population, and also the demand for timber, increased rapidly; efforts towards conservation were at first inadequate, but eventually expert knowledge was called in, and the result is to be seen in the forests as they stand to-day, still imperfectly developed and exploited, but nevertheless one of the most magnificent properties in the world. The author has worked on a scale commensurate with his subject, and the present instalment carries the reader only to the year 1864. His method is to give a full précis of important correspondence, rules, and orders, taking India province by province, and adding appropriate comments. The book is consequently one for serious students, and we must leave to technical journals the task of reviewing it in detail. One suggestion, however, may be offered for consideration in producing future volumes, and that is that the illustrations, which are numerous, should be brought into closer relation with the text. In some cases the relation is obvious, but we have failed to discover the sylvicultural significance of the view of Naini Tal, or the picture of Sir Joseph Hooker among a group of hill-people; in such cases, the plate might with advantage contain a reference to the page which it is designed to illustrate.

Reuter's Constantinople correspondent states:—It is announced from a well-informed quarter that Yousuf Kemal, Commissary for Foreign Affairs in the Angora Government, will leave shortly for Rome, Paris, and London, in order to exchange views with the Allied Governments. He will be accompanied by the Director of Political Affairs and several secretaries.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.**To-Day.**

February 9 (New Style).

January 27 (Old Style).

Gumada II, 12, 1340 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Shebat II, 5681, of the Jewish Calendar.

Viscount Peel has returned to London from Palestine.

Lord Northcliffe arrived in Cairo on January 30.

Mr. Frederick D. K. Le Clercq, Third Secretary at the American Embassy, is back in town from Algiers.

The Earl of Lytton, with Viscount Knebworth, has returned from Switzerland.

Sir Charles and Lady Greenway have arrived at the Carlton Hotel, Cannes.

M. E. Fontanel, Secretary to the Swiss Legation, left London last week for Tunis, on leave.

The Bulgarian Minister, M. Stancioff, has been accredited Minister to The Hague, as well as here instead of to Brussels.

The Duke and Duchess of Westminster, who are at Eaton Hall, are suffering from influenza. They are reported to be making good progress.

Mr. J. S. Kornfeld, the American Minister to Persia, who arrived in London recently from Washington, has now left for Teheran.

Lord and Lady Montagu of Beaulieu, who are travelling in India, will return to London about the middle of April.

M. Titulescu, the former Finance Minister, who has been appointed Roumanian Minister in London, left Bucharest this week to take up his post.

The Archbishop of Trebizond, who, accompanied by two members of the Greek Parliament, has been visiting London has gone to Paris.

Lieutenant-Colonel Douglas Capitaneano, Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation, left London last week on a short visit to Paris.

The engagement is announced from Paris of Mr. J. K. Rooker, M.C., recently of the British Mission in the Near East, and Mrs. Walter Abbott, widow of Walter Abbott, of Boston, U.S.A.

Sir Archibald and Lady Birkmyre, Mr. Birkmyre, and Brigadier-General the Hon. Charles Bruce are passengers by the P. and O. s.s. Karmala, and have left Marseilles for Bombay.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Samuel Hoare, M.P., has returned to London from the Balkans, Constantinople, and Athens, where he had been carrying out a mission for the League of Nations, in connection with Russian refugees.

The marriage was celebrated on December 12, at the Cathedral, Bombay, between Richard Huntington Warde, M.C., B.S.C., A.M.I.C.E., and Evelyne, youngest daughter of Mrs. Lathbury, Ealing.

The Hon. Charles Bruce left London last week for Marseilles en route for India. He is starting in advance of the other members of the Expedition to make all preparations for the exploration of Mount Everest.

The marriage was celebrated on January 14, at Elkaduwa, Ceylon, between Gerald Frank Morse, son of the late F. H. W. Morse, P. W.D., India, and Mrs. Morse, Bedford, and Ethel Marguerite Laskie, daughter of W. A. Laskie, West Byfleet.

The marriage was celebrated on January 11, at Doneraile, Co., Cork, between Captain A. F. Cowdell, The Loyal Regiment, son of A. S. Cowdell, Madras, and Irene Fraser, daughter of The White Knight and Mrs. Fitz-Gibbon, of Jersey.

Colonel Sydney Muspratt had the honour of being received by His Majesty on February 3, when The King invested him with the Insignia of a Companion of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India and of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Captain A. E. Drysdale, D.S.O., M.C., 47th Duke of Connaught's Own Sikhs, and Vivian, elder daughter of Mr. T. A. Martine, of Azamgarh, United Provinces, India.

The King has granted to Mr. W. B. Zappert, Superintendent Alexandria Municipal Fire Brigade, authority to wear the Insignia of the Fifth Class of the Order of the Nile, conferred on him by the Sultan of Egypt in recognition of valuable services rendered by him.

The marriage arranged between Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Watson, D.S.O., I.M.S., and Ethel Marguerite, widow of Lieutenant-Colonel H. B. Rattray, D.S.O., 45th Rattray's Sikhs, will take place at St. Stephen's Church, Cheltenham, on Saturday, February 25.

The marriage was celebrated on January 5, at Masulipatam, India, by Rev. Wm. C. Penn, between Howard Fauntleroy Saunders, I.E.S., and Ethel Nora Penn, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Wm. C. Penn, C.M.S., Noble College, Masulipatam.

Mr. H. C. Norman, was received on February 4 in audience by the King, upon relinquishing his appointment as his Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Teheran, when the King invested him with the insignia of a Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath (Civil Division).

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place in India, between Viscount Tamworth, eldest son of Earl and Countess Ferrers, and Hermione Justice, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Noel Morley, Lychwood, Worplesdon Hill, Surrey.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place in India, probably in October next, between Captain J. L. Heselton, D.S.O., M.C., 3rd Battalion Worcestershire Regiment, eldest son of Mr. R. T. Heselton, of Bradford, Yorks, and Claudia J. Cole, only daughter of Mr. A. W. R. Cole, I.C.S., of Fyzabad, India.

The King has granted to Mr. John Home, Sub-Governor of the National Bank of Egypt, licence and

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authority to wear the Insignia of the Second Class of the Order of the Nile, conferred upon him by the Sultan of Egypt in recognition of valuable services rendered by him.

At the University of London, King's College, M. Beza will deliver two public lectures on "Fairies in Roumanian Folklore," which are due to take place to-day and on February 16. Both lectures will begin at 5.30 p.m., and will be presided over by Dr. R. W. Seton-Watson. Admission is free without a ticket.

The marriage was celebrated on January 28, at St. Matthias' Church, Richmond, S.W., between Charles Paull Cooke, of Norwich, Norfolk, and of Le Havre, France, and Mary Surene Mead, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Murrey Isdale, of "Heriotdene," Twickenham, S.W., late of Calcutta, India.

Mrs. Rosita Forbes delivered her lecture "Kufara, the Secret of the Sahara," at the St. James's Theatre, on February 3. The lecture was in aid of the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital and the Victoria Hospital for Children, Chelsea, organised by the *Daily Mirror* Princess Mary Wedding Gift Fund. Lord Aberdare presided.

The marriage was celebrated on January 27, at the Cathedral, Bombay, between Alexander George Gray, second son of the late Mr. A. G. Gray, of Macclesfield, and of Mrs. Gray, now of Hale, Cheshire, and Dulce Muriel Fanny, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry R. Wild, of Frith Haye, Berkhamsted, Herts, and niece of Mr. A. C. Wild, I.C.S., the Secretariat, Bombay.

The marriage was celebrated on January 12, at the Cathedral, Rangoon, between Cyril Walter Stevens, Captain, 23rd Burma Infantry, only surviving son of Mr. and Mrs. Stevens, of Radlett, Herts, and Doris Mabel Robinson, only child of the late Ernest H. Robinson, and elder daughter of Mrs. Macnaughton-Jones, of 63, Eton Avenue, London, N.W.

The engagement is announced between Wilfrid Pakenham-Walsh, I.C.S. (late R.F.A.), eldest son of Mr. A. R. Pakenham-Walsh (late Indian State Railways) and Mrs. Pakenham-Walsh, of 63, Vicarage Road, Eastbourne, and Guendolen Maud, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Elliott, of Marrick, Totland Bay, I.O.W.

It is proposed to publish a Biography of the late Rev. Professor Alexander van Millingen, M.A., D.D., the Byzantine archaeologist and writer, of Robert College, Constantinople. All friends having letters, or facts relating to his life and work either as Preacher, Teacher or Historian, are asked kindly to communicate with Mrs. van Millingen Co., The British Linen Bank, 38, Threadneedle Street, London, E.C.2.

The marriage was celebrated on January 9, at Christ Church, Port Blair, by the Rev. W. R. Park, C.I.E., O.B.E., between Marcar Sheridan Gregory, M.C., Executive Engineer, Indian State Railways, son of the late Lt.-Colonel G. M. Gregory, V.D., of Gunterstone Road, West Kensington, and Liela Louvima Gwendolin Heathcote, younger daughter of Mr. W. S. Viney, Executive Engineer, Port Blair, Andaman Islands.

Our Smyrna Correspondent writes (January 26):—Sir Harry Lamb, H.M. Consul-General has left on the 'Abbasia' for the Suez Canal, accompanying his only son Mr. Leo Lamb, who after a brilliant career at Oxford, is *en route* to China to take up a post in the British Consular Service.

Mr. Hubert La Fontaine, son of Mr. Sidney La Fontaine, President of the British Chamber of Commerce, also sails on the 'Abbasia' *en route* for West Africa, where he is an Assistant High Commissioner.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1922.

LOOKING TOWARDS LORD ALLENBY.

As we write these lines Lord Allenby is on his way to England, and the probability is that he will arrive in London before they are read. With his arrival the question of the future relations between Great Britain and Egypt enters upon a new stage, and one which most Englishmen will join most Egyptians in wishing may prove to be its last. The fact that it is a difficult question is at last generally recognised, but that is rightly regarded as only one reason the more for having it settled and done with as soon as possible; and people in this country, though not so impatient over the matter as those in Egypt, are nevertheless genuinely anxious to put an end to the present thoroughly unsatisfactory state of affairs. The question existed, of course, before the War, and at times it caused some little anxiety to those responsible for the well-being of Egypt; but it is probable that it would not have reached its present stage of development for many years to come had not the war broken out when it did, or had it not lasted as long as it did. For during the anxious years of fighting many things occurred to strengthen the Egyptians' desire for independence, and, it must be added, to make them inclined to resent the presence of foreigners in their country in positions of authority. Even so, it is possible that the demand for independence would not have been put forward in the form it has been, or have been emphasized by the methods that have been employed, had London shown more tact in handling the situation, more consideration for the feelings of Cairo and of Alexandria. The worst blunder, and undoubtedly the most costly one, since it led up to so many other mistakes, was the rejection of Rushdi Pasha's suggestion made in November 1918, that he and Adly Pasha should come to London to discuss Egyptian affairs with the British Government. The Foreign Office and the Cabinet no doubt had their hands full at the moment, but the refusal of a request advanced by one who had shown himself a good friend to Great Britain was surely a bad mistake. And since then others have been made, almost, if not quite, as bad. Especially have divided counsels in the Cabinet been reflected in a vacillating policy, which was the worst thing possible for Egypt. The ordinary man must have sometimes felt tempted to wonder whether some occult power with a grudge against Britain was not at work in the business.

In some quarters there is a tendency to suggest that the issue of the Foreign Office *communiqué* of last week was actually another blunder, since—it is suggested—it may in some way cause embarrassment to Sarwat Pasha, and may, by its phraseology, arouse fresh bitterness. While we are ready to admit that the wording of the document in question might at points have been more happy, even that much that was said might just as well have been left unsaid, we still think that the general effect of the *communiqué* should be, and is likely to prove good. For, after all, it showed quite unmistakably that His Majesty's Government are not bent upon

riding roughshod over Egyptian feeling; that they desire, on the contrary, to satisfy Egyptian aims and aspirations as far as they possibly can, consistently with the safety of Imperial communications; and—most important of all—that they do not intend to allow the extremists, either in London or in Egypt, to bring about a hopeless rupture of negotiations. In other words, the *communiqué* has kept the door open; and that is a great enough good to outweigh many evils. Moreover, the mere announcement that Lord Allenby is coming home "to give full information and advice to His Majesty's Government as to the present situation in Egypt" should by itself go far to set at rest any fears that Great Britain wishes to apply coercion in Egypt, and is ready to snatch at any excuse to do so; for it is now a very open secret indeed that Lord Allenby is far from favouring anything of the kind, and it is unthinkable that he would be brought from Egypt at such a time if his advice was to be neglected. Those who find fault with the *communiqué* appear to lose sight of these facts, or to be incapable of reading between the lines even when the reading is so easy as in this case. To find fault with the wording of the announcement when its spirit is so clearly satisfactory is to pick a quarrel with a shadow, and to risk losing the substance thereby. But we believe that there is enough good will on both sides to make such risks extremely small. The enthusiastic send-off accorded to Lord Allenby by Egypt fortifies our belief.

What makes the position so difficult at the present time is the unwillingness of responsible Egyptians to attempt to form a Cabinet. In view of Adly Pasha's perfectly natural refusal, Sarwat Pasha is regarded as the most suitable man for the difficult task at the present moment. He has been in close consultation in the Lord Allenby of late, and it is generally understood that their views upon the situation are in close agreement. It is interesting, therefore, to consider the four conditions without the granting of which Sarwat is unwilling to take office. These, as stated by himself, in an interview granted to the Cairo correspondent of the *Morning Post* are: (1) immediate abolition of the Protectorate; (2) the creation of a Constitutional Government to which the Cabinet would be responsible; (3) abolition of martial law after the promulgation of an Act of Indemnity, but martial law to be virtually abolished from the commencement of the elections; (4) the establishment of a Ministry for Foreign Affairs to expedite the organization of Egyptian representation abroad. Now, the Foreign Office *communiqué* of last week makes it abundantly clear that the British Government is perfectly ready to grant the first, second and fourth of these demands, while Lord Allenby's letter to the Sultan made it clear that there would be no difficulty about the third, subject to the guarantees mentioned in the *communiqué*. And those guarantees, three in number, are surely not unreasonable demands on the part of Great Britain. The first (the assurance of Imperial communications) is absolutely vital to her interests; the second (the protection of foreign communities in Egypt) would be enforced by others, if not by Britain; and the third, the safeguarding of Egypt against interference or aggression, is obviously to the advantage of the Egyptians. To a certain extent the second and third would be secured by the granting of the first. The securing of our communications is therefore the crux of the matter, and on that point no living man is better qualified to advise His Majesty's Government than Lord Allenby. The Government, therefore, have shown wisdom—unusual wisdom, we fear we must say—in deciding to be guided by him, and to turn a deaf ear to the versatile gentleman who is commonly reported to be his most active opponent in this matter. Frankly, we are not perfectly certain that we should be doing the kindest thing by the Egyptians in granting all their desires at once. But Britons' first duty is to themselves and the Empire, and they are confident that Lord Allenby can and will protect their interests if only the Cabinet will hearken to him.

EGYPT: THE EUROPEAN VIEW.

(By a Correspondent.)

Forty Years' Occupation.

In a few months time we shall have reached the fortieth anniversary of the landing of the British Army in Egypt, and it is not unlikely that in 1962, the Egyptians will be celebrating the fortieth anniversary of the departure of that same army from their shores. At present there are very few indications that public opinion in this country desires the continuance of the British occupation of Egypt for a day longer than is absolutely necessary for the safeguarding of our maritime communications with Asia and Australia; and the negotiations of our Government with the Egyptian Nationalists have already reached the stage of deadlock over matters of detail indicative of the near approach of a final settlement between the two negotiating parties. Of all the quick changes following on the great war this is surely the quickest of all; for it is no exaggeration to say that even two years ago the mere possibility of a British evacuation of Egypt was unthinkable to the average Englishman, accustomed as he had been for the best part of half a century to regard that country as a dependency of the British Empire.

The House of Commons has taken so little interest in Egyptian affairs in the past three years that one doubts whether to a Government resolution ratifying the granting of complete independence to Egypt it would be possible to oppose the votes of even a score of "die-hards." In a dim indefinite sort of way our legislators, like the rest of the nation appear to have come to the conclusion that we have somehow or other managed to out-stay our welcome in Egypt, and, bored rather than exasperated by the reports of risings, strikes and riots which reach them from time to time from the disturbed territory, are prepared to accept practically any proposals the Government may see fit to make for arriving at a settlement with the Nationalist malcontents. At the same time there is a fairly general feeling that we must contrive somehow "to hang on to the Suez Canal," which in the popular mind is an all red institution forming a link in the chain of our Imperial communications.

The European View.

This disposition to regard the future of Egypt as a matter of British domestic concern analogous to the case of Ireland furnishes a perfect example of that careless disregard for the feelings of other nations which has done so much in the past to exasperate and annoy our friends and neighbours on the Continent. It does not seem to have occurred to anyone in this country so far that our occupation of Egypt for the past forty years has only been tolerated by the rest of the world owing to the fact being generally appreciated that if we evacuated the country another European nation would inevitably come forward to take our place. Had it been France, Italy, and Germany would have objected; Italy, and the veto would have come from France; while if Turkey had attempted to resume her sway over the debatable land the whole of Europe would have been thrown in an uproar and the outbreak of the great war would have been anticipated. The considerations which led to the acquiescence of Europe in the British occupation of Egypt forty years ago hold good to-day. This may appear a startling statement, but if the facts are calmly examined it will be found that it embodies no more than the plain truth.

In the first place, it is necessary to recall the circumstances which led to the bombardment of Alexandria, the battle of Tel-el-Kebir and the subsequent British occupation of Egypt in 1882. These operations were undertaken to suppress an Egyptian Nationalist rising against a system which, while nominally based on the assumption that the country was a dependence of the Ottoman Empire, in reality made its Government subject to the control of the great European Powers. Of these Powers Britain and France claimed a preponderating influence, which was tacitly admitted by the rest of

the world; and when Egypt after collapsing into bankruptcy threatened to relapse into anarchy joint Anglo-French intervention was the remedy approved by European opinion as most likely to cure the ills afflicting the country. At the last moment, when it became plain that only intervention of the armed variety could meet the necessity of the situation, France made the fatal mistake of drawing back, and it was left to the pacifist Liberal Government of Mr. Gladstone to "restore the authority of the Khedive," by bombarding Alexandria, invading Egypt and smashing the Nationalist army at Tel-el-Kebir. These operations were forced upon us as the representative of the people of Europe genuinely alarmed by the excesses of the nationalist mobs, which by the wholesale taking of European lives and the destruction of European property had everywhere set the tide of public opinion running strongly against Egyptian Nationalism. It is no exaggeration to say that at the time nobody in this country contemplated for a moment even the remote possibility of the ultimate absorption of Egypt in the British Empire. We would retire from the country as soon as order was restored and the Khedive's Government re-established on a sound basis. This was the answer repeated *ad nauseam* by British Ministers in reply to the anxious inquiries of our friends and neighbours on the Continent. Before order was restored, however, in Egypt the appearance of the Mahdi in the Sudan and the great Arab rising it brought about, obliged us once more to put our army in the field. It certainly failed to "Smash the Mahdi," but it succeeded in holding the Dervish power in check for over a decade until the reconquest of the Sudan by Lord Kitchener's Anglo-Egyptian Army inaugurated a new era in the history of the country.

Guards and Policemen.

In the beginning we went to Egypt to act as policemen; we remained there for many years doing duty as frontier guards; after that we continued our occupation because we found it suited us to do so. That at any rate is the view taken of our Egyptian policy during the last forty years by most sane unbiassed people on the Continent; and considered dispassionately it really seems to state the case very fairly. That our occupation of Egypt was distasteful to many people in all the countries of Europe was fully realized by a succession of British Governments, even if the British public was oblivious of the fact; and it is indeed doubtful whether we could claim that in any quarter our presence in the country was ever entirely approved. Nevertheless, in recent years the world has generally recognised that international commerce has benefited enormously by the Occupation. Nobody can accuse us of having ever attempted to monopolize the trade of Egypt and nobody can deny that under British control she has enjoyed a material prosperity such as she had never known before. To-day, after forty years of British occupation she has a place among the richest and best governed countries in the world, and thanks to our disinterested policy towards her, far from having suffered from the effects of the great war she has actually to some extent benefited by them.

The young Egyptians to-day, convulsed by paroxysms of acute anglophobia, are suffering from a disease at present epidemic throughout the British Empire: we have no doubt that they will be better soon and so are little disposed to be anxious as to their future. All would in fact be well if we could persuade our continental friends and neighbours to share our philosophic view of the future of Egypt; but since this has hitherto proved impossible it behoves us even at the eleventh hour to try at least to appreciate the Egyptian question of to-day as viewed from the continental standpoint.

Commercial Interests.

It is well that we should recognise that from the standpoint of France, Italy and Greece, indeed of any country with commercial interests in Egypt, all the considerations which led them to regard our occupation of the country as a convenient if not a desirable arrangement in the past apply with equal force to the present and future. The handing over of the administration to a native Government, and the withdrawal from the country

of the British officials who as advisers and controllers have supervised the work of the Egyptian civil services for so many years past are not likely to be resented either in Paris or in Rome. On the contrary the restoration of Egyptian independence, and the hope it holds out of the establishment of ordinary diplomatic relations between the nations and Egypt, is probably very much to the taste of our French and Italian friends. But the withdrawal of the British garrison is quite another matter. Recent events in Alexandria have brought home very forcibly to the European community in Egypt the dangers to which they might at any moment be exposed if they had to rely for their protection on nothing better than the native police. They ask for the presence of European troops in the country as a guarantee for the security of their lives and property, and should the British garrison be withdrawn their cry for troops of another nation to take its place will most assuredly not be allowed to pass unheeded. The Nationalists of the baser sort may possibly rejoice to find that the European community in Egypt is now frankly afraid of them, but for those of the more responsible kind these manifestations of nervousness as to the fate in store for the European resident under Egyptian rule cannot fail to be most illuminating, since it brings home to them forcibly the hard fact that the interests of other nations besides Great Britain have to be taken into account in any schemes for the "liberation" of Egypt. The problem involved is international, and it is high time that not only the Egyptian Nationalists, but also our own Government recognized the fact. It is doubted whether the League of Nations in the present state of its development is competent to deal with a question as involved as that concerning the future of Egypt; but these objections do not apply to the Supreme Council of the Allies, and one cannot help thinking that if the settlement of the Egyptian question was placed in its hands, not only would Britain be relieved of a very grave responsibility, but a perennial source of misunderstanding between the leading nations of Europe would be permanently removed.

"Recessional."

Our claim that our interests in Egypt are paramount rests on a very insecure basis, and has never indeed been recognized by France and Italy. It is the same with our claim to be regarded as the natural protectors of the Suez Canal. The fact that for forty years we have maintained order in Egypt the while developing her economic resources and political institutions confers no right on us to incorporate the country in the British Empire, still less to set her up as an independent State free from all outside control; while as regards the Suez Canal it is surely preposterous to argue that because it is of more use to us than to any other nation we have a right to claim a preponderating influence in its control. Apart from the fact that it owes its origin to the enterprise of French financiers and the skill of French engineers, more than one nation can claim that its maintenance as a neutralised international highway is essential for the security of their dominions and the prosperity of their trade.

In this country Imperialism is just now out of fashion, and many of us who before the war were wont to wax lyrical over the glories of the British Empire now find ourselves actually apologising for its existence. But even if, under the hypnotising influence of "self-determination," we have ceased to think imperially the spectacle of our idle factories and ports, the bitter cry of the unemployed, and the groans of the overburdened taxpayer all combine to make us think commercially. Never were we more acutely concerned with the condition of foreign markets, and while there is a growing disposition among us to drop the White Man's Burden in so far as taking it up implies the political education of backward races, the care of their health, and their protection from rapacious neighbours, even the working man is beginning to get uneasy when he hears that in lands on which we have recently conferred the priceless

boon of self-government the inhabitants invariably exercise their newly found liberty in attempts to shut out our exports from their shores while they plot to drive our compatriots out of their territories. It is slowly dawning on the average Englishman that the only material advantage we have hitherto derived from the occupation of the vast territories in Asia and Africa coloured red on the map, lies in the fact that in these territories, opened freely by us to the trade of the whole world, we were at liberty to compete with our commercial rivals on equal terms under conditions which ensured for the trader relative security for his life and property. The arrangement was as convenient for the foreign as for the British trader, and if in any of these territories in substitution for the Pax Britannica he finds set up weak native Governments, unable to control populations fanatically hostile to European civilization and clamouring for the country to be cleared of the foreigner and closed to his trade, his old complacency towards British Imperialism will be changed into resentment against British altruism.

Our Allies and Islam.

A few years ago we prided ourselves on our success in the Government of Asiatics and Africans, firmly persuaded that other European nations engaged in the same task had everything to learn from us in the subject. To-day the position is reversed, and we are confronted by the humiliating spectacle of British-controlled Egypt in the throes of a violent anti-European movement while perfect peace reigns in the north African territories under French and Italian rule. No doubt the Angora pact has something to do with it, also the belief, widespread throughout the Mohammedan world, that France as a nation is as hostile to Christianity as Turkey herself. But this does not afford the whole explanation; due account must be taken of the fact that the veneer of western civilization existing in North Africa and Asia Minor remains as French to-day as it was when it was originally acquired early in the nineteenth century, and that nowhere is this more noticeable than in Egypt. A few years ago England would have been shaken with indignation at the bare thought of a French being substituted for a British garrison in Egypt; but to-day if the average business man in this country was assured that the French occupation of Egypt would not entail discrimination in favour of French trade, and that he would be free there in the future as in the past to compete with his trade rivals on equal terms, one doubts whether he would have the slightest objection to the arrangement. In any case he would infinitely prefer it to the alternative of Egypt without any European garrison at all. Our export trade is really the only thing that matters now-a-days. If it is restricted we starve; if it ceases we die. If Egypt ever became a French north African province, our trade with the country would inevitably suffer, but if the development of a self-governing Egypt was fortified by the presence of a French army of occupation, our trade with the country would probably flourish as of old. France could indeed render this country no greater service than by asserting her right to be heard before any treaty conferring independence on Egypt is concluded between our Government and the Nationalists. If she insisted that in default of a British garrison being maintained in the country she must be allowed to provide one herself she would probably solve the Egyptian problem in one stroke of the pen.

Self determination being the order of the day a simple solution of the existing difficulty of making Egypt safe for Europeans to live in might perhaps be found in leaving the Egyptians themselves to determine the nationality of their European garrison. Failing that, the three Powers most concerned, Britain, France, and Italy, might each contribute a contingent to a joint force to be maintained in the country for the protection of the lives and property of European residents. The one essential is that in no circumstances should the bare possibility of Egypt being left without a European garrison of some kind be as much as discussed with the Nationalists.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

In consequence of queries, the Editor thinks it advisable to state that the quotation from any article does not necessarily imply that the views expressed are shared by "The Near East." On the contrary, an attempt is made to include as far as is possible in the available space all sides of the various questions discussed.

Anatolian Minorities.

In the *Manchester Guardian* of January 28 is an article written by a Correspondent at Constantinople, called "Defiant Turks." It begins by pointing out that the Franco-Turkish Agreement has made the Kemalists more intransigent than ever, and continues:—

Although it is trite to remark that the vexed question of minorities is the most insoluble of the problems by which the Near East Conference will be confronted, it is nevertheless a very solemn truth, and the supreme difficulty of this issue may bring to naught this attempt at an arrangement, just as it has wrecked many another endeavour—honest and other—in the past. In case of a paper adjustment, what guarantee will there be that the result in practice may not approximate to the "protection" that was afforded the suffering minorities of Macedonia and Anatolia twenty years ago? In this particular especially will the efforts of the negotiations be vitiated from the start by the *fait accompli* of the Franco-Kemalist pact. The Nationalists will doubtless insist that the evacuation of Cilicia should serve as a model for the rest of occupied Anatolia and Thrace. What, in all sincerity, can France do but support this plea? In the devising of some plan that would in theory and practice safeguard Christian minorities the heartiest co-operation on the part of the Powers is more essential than in any other feature of a prospective settlement. With a background of a separate treaty with France, and probably one with Italy, will such co-operation be possible? It seems doubtful.

France claims to have secured effective guarantees for the protection of the Armenian minority in Cilicia, but apart from certain engagements of limited scope relative to the preservation of the property rights of the refugees and immunity from military service for six months, and the setting up of mixed commissions of control, to function temporarily, the provisions of the arrangement are ominously vague, and quite innocent of any taint of "sanctions" to guard against violations. So far there have been no reports of widespread mistreatment of the few Armenians who have not fled from the wrath to come. No doubt the watchword of the Nationalists is caution until after the liquidation of the Anatolian question, so that they may with greater plausibility plead for the restitution of their territories. The prospect of a sensible and humane policy towards minorities, both Greek and Armenian, is not bright, however, in view of the direct reports from the Anatolian interior depicting conditions in various centres as highly unsatisfactory. It is the inevitable lapse of the Turk into senseless discriminations and brutal exactions. Without a divinely inspired scheme of guarantees and an equally superhuman effort at loyal co-operation on the part of the Western Powers, what hope is there for the subject races except in wholesale migration?

India.

A recent issue of the *Outlook* contained an article upon "The Peril in Egypt and India," which, after attributing the parentage of Indian agitation to Lord Macaulay, says pointedly enough:—

The only cure for the excesses of Liberty, says Macaulay somewhere, is more liberty. We doubt if any Government in the world can proceed upon those lines when its authority is deliberately challenged, as it has been in India; and it is quite

certain that public opinion in this country will approve the stern, but not excessive, measures which are being taken to restore order in India. It is the unhappy lot of Lord Reading to clear up the mess which Mr. Montagu has made; fortunately he is a strong man, whereas his predecessor was weakness itself. We want to see constitutional progress in India, but it must be frankly recognised, as so shrewd a Radical as Lord Morley saw, that the process will be slow. A people of three hundred millions, of different languages and creeds, and with an ancestry entirely different from that of Europe, cannot move quickly, and any attempt to crowd on steam will only burst the boiler. If the Curtis-Montagu policy is continued indefinitely, it can only lead to reaction.

It is, in our opinion, essential that Mr. Montagu's resignation should be insisted on. He is, we believe, a capable financier, and in some subordinate position at the Treasury he could probably find sufficient scope for his undoubted talents; but it is necessary to make a definite and complete break in the Indian policy for which he is officially responsible, and that can only be informed direction of the Indian Secretariat in Whitehall. Lord Reading's task in Calcutta will be easier. In any case, it will be difficult enough.

Turkey.

The *Spectator* of January 28 contains an article entitled "Great Britain, France, and Turkey." After commenting upon the necessity of France's friendship it explains its position in the Turkish problem:—

Our sentiments are not at all pro-Turkish—quite the reverse—and it is hateful to us to think of restoring the Turk to any lands from which he has been removed. But things have gone so far that a restoration in certain places there will probably have to be. Let us by acting soon and wisely reduce that settlement to a minimum of evil. It is said that Greece is tired of Asia Minor and would not mind leaving Smyrna. Even M. Gounaris, who was recently in London, is credited with that feeling. If that be so it would be possible to get the Greeks out of Smyrna and set up some kind of autonomy, internationally guaranteed, before the Turks reinvaded their former province. The Governor of the autonomous State should, of course, be a Christian. If that matter were settled and the Christians in Cilicia were also secured, the chief remaining interest and responsibility of the Allies would be to provide for the permanent neutrality of the Straits. If the Turks—both the Govern-

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ment at Constantinople and the Kemal Government—were willing to deal with us reasonably, we might actively help them with a loan for the restoration of the railways of Asia Minor. That would be for the benefit of everybody. In dealing with Turkey it is impossible to separate finance from politics. If there were a real agreement Asia Minor might become a settled part of the world that would free us of much anxiety and would even be a nucleus of revival in the Near East. Oddly enough, the paper currency in Turkey has been more successfully kept within bounds than in many other countries which are considered to be financially more enlightened. Credits granted to Turkey could be administered by the efficient staff of the Ottoman Public Debt. The whole scheme of a combined financial and political settlement with Turkey is really not too difficult. Control by the Ottoman Public Debt Administration would have the advantage of being in form—though of course it would not be in reality—a Turkish control.

Russia, Turkey, and Palestine.

The issue for January 21 of *Palestine* contains an article called "Cannes and Afterwards," which is full of hope from the provisional recognition of Russia. And it proceeds to show how directly the position of Russia in the East affects Palestine:—

Palestine's interest in the Eastern settlement is very great, though, perhaps, a little indirect. What Zionists desire most of all is to see the bigger questions of the Treaty of Sèvres out of the way so that the question of the Mandate can have a fair chance. The delays in ratification, as we have repeatedly pointed out, are holding back the economic development of the country, and, incidentally, are responsible for a great deal of the Arab agitation. When once we have settled with Mustapha Kemal and got the relations between Greece and Turkey on a reasonable footing, the British Government, which is perfectly sound on the Mandate, should make short work of the difficulties that have been raised in regard to it. The settlement with Mustapha will not be so difficult as at one time seemed likely. Greece is thoroughly tired of her Asiatic adventures, and provided that guarantees could be found for the safety of the Christian population, would be prepared to abandon all her political pretensions even in Smyrna. At any rate, that is understood to be the view put forward by M. Gounaris on his recent visit to London. The future of Smyrna is likely to lie in some form of autonomy under a Christian Governor chosen by international consent, and the practical problem is to devise for the Christian populations of the interior some form of protection, perhaps on the plan once worked out in Macedonia by Lord Lansdowne. In Constantinople, the sole interest of the Powers is to retain the power of sending a fleet up the Straits. Constantinople, in fact, is the head of Turkey in Chancery, and provided we retain the hold, the less we have to do with the government of the place the better. At present it is a mere focus of international intrigue. But the main new fact in the situation, which we owe directly to Cannes, is the prospect of the re-entry of Russia into the European comity. The political boycott of her Government is perhaps the principal cause of the troubles in the Near East since the war. Her mere disappearance as an associate of the European Powers in itself would have been a political compensation to Turkey sufficient to make good the ground that she had lost in the war, but, in fact, Russia has not been merely neutral, but a fairly active friend of Mustapha. In the past the Near East was kept comparatively stable by the traditional hostility between Turkey and Russia. But the effect of sending Russia to Coventry was that the only really efficient policeman north of the Taurus disappeared, and not only went off his beat, but became the aider and abettor of the criminal

classes. The result was an immense disturbance of the balance of power in the East, which went far to undo the moral of Turkey's chastisement in the war. Not Russia, but the European Powers and the Christian populations, notably the Armenians, were the losers; the only gainer by the follies of Western policy towards Russia was Moslem fanaticism.

This mistake is now likely to be set right, and Russia will take her place in the new Concert of Europe. We shall be able to discharge our responsibilities to the Christian populations, for we shall have some one to make the writ of civilisation run in the interior. Turkey, with Russia to watch, will have more serious things to think about than pan-Islamic intrigue. The unrestful Arab, only dangerous in so far as he could rely on Mustapha, will subside and will begin to turn his attention to the real friends who can do something to develop his terribly neglected estate. The Near East will put its plague of fanatical politics in the background and will get to business. We do not think we are building too high hopes on the prospect of Russia's return to the European Concert, for the whole trouble in the past few years has arisen from the fact that Europe imposed a settlement on Turkey which required physical force (or the possibility of using it) to carry out. As Lord Salisbury once put it: Ships cannot sail over the Taurus. But with Russia's return, Europe will at last have a policeman in the interior of Asia.

There should be further consequences that will be beneficial to Palestine. English people have got it into their heads that our work in Palestine is a tremendous imperialistic enterprise involving this country in all sorts of military commitments. Nothing of the kind. With Russia pulling her weight on the right side, the military problem of Palestine will be recognised for what it is and for what it was under Turkey—a mere affair of three men and a boy.

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E.C. 2.

Mr. Leaf on the Outlook.

One of the most interesting speeches delivered at the recent bank meetings was that of Mr. Walter Leaf at the meeting of the London County, Westminster and Parr's Bank, a report of which will be found elsewhere in this issue. While Mr. Leaf shares the view that indications are perceptible here and there of an improvement in the trade position, he is of opinion that "the prospect of a return to conditions of active prosperity can hardly be described as immediate." In explanation of this he points out that very little has been achieved during the past year in improving conditions in Central Europe. "Till the gloom is lightened we cannot say with any confidence," says Mr. Leaf "that we are on the way to good times. It is in the export trade of the country that there is most need, and at the moment least prospect of immediate recovery. Till we regain our export trade, the outlook must remain far from cheering."

The "Will to Prosperity."

The past year Mr. Leaf aptly described as a year of courage in facing losses, while the present one he thinks will be one of courage in recovering lost ground. "The spirit of British enterprise has not been broken," he remarked, "and the will to prosperity, if I may use a somewhat hackneyed formula, is no bad foundation for prosperity itself. But it is not a moment when one can be unduly sanguine. Recovery will come, but it will come slowly, and there may yet be troubles to face, and it behoves us to walk warily." He might with justice have added, I think, that it will come all the quicker if British firms will only show the same enterprise in regard to entering new fields such as the Near East as they do in regard to those in which they have enjoyed an assured predominance in the past. Unhappily there is as yet no indication of this, and as our Engineering Correspondent points out it appears that so far there has been no systematic attempt to develop trade with the Balkans. Is it too much to hope that this year will see the shortcoming remedied?

The Present Opportunity.

If one of our firms is asked why it is paying no attention to the Balkan markets to-day the reply in nine cases out of ten will be "What is the good? There is no trade to be obtained because of the exchanges." The short-sightedness of this policy is self-evident. If the Near Eastern exchanges were going to remain at their present rates there would be nothing to be said, but they will eventually be near the normal again, in several cases considerably sooner than most people anticipate. I suppose the British merchant is of the opinion that when that moment arrives the opportunity will have come to develop trade relations. But it will be too late then. Now is the time to do the spade work by a systematic advertising campaign, and then when conditions become normal those firms who have been wise enough to do so will be in a position to take full advantage of the market.

Alliance Bank of Simla.

A very satisfactory report is forthcoming from the

Alliance Bank of Simla for the six months ended December 31. Despite the adverse trade conditions the profits were well maintained, the total being Rs.5,73,757, to which has to be added Rs.3,31,154 brought in, the disposable balance thus being Rs.9,04,912. The interim dividends are the same as before, leaving Rs.,497,873 to be carried forward.

The Geddes Report and the D.O.T.

While the report of the Geddes Committee has still to appear a contemporary has published what purports to be an extract from the Committee's findings with regard to the Department of Overseas Trade. From this it would appear that a 75 per cent. reduction of the staff is contemplated, and it is suggested that the remainder should go over to the Board of Trade, and, to quote the extract "devote itself to giving out general information, it being expressly forbidden to answer specific inquiries about trade." It is difficult to believe that even in these times anything of the kind should be contemplated. Half the problems with which we are faced to day are in connection with the development of trade, and it would surely be a truer economy in the circumstances to enlarge the scope of the Department at the expense of some of the Departments concerned with home affairs which in present circumstances can only be regarded as luxuries.

The Department's Service.

When it is essential to effect such enormous economies in administration there must be a very real danger that the Department will suffer from the "pruning knife," but one can only hope that the Government will think twice before interfering with an organisation which has rendered very real services to the business community and which will be even more essential in the difficult months that lie before us. Before the war traders as a whole were inclined to deride official efforts to help them, but that attitude has absolutely changed as the result of the work that has been done in the last few years. In this connection a notable tribute to the Department was paid at the recent meeting of Lloyd's Bank by Sir R. Vassar Smith, who pointed out that the Department has assisted trade by obtaining much valuable information which had been of great help to manufacturers and merchants.

Commentator.

BANK OF ROUMANIA LIMITED

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Commerce and Industry.

REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, January 30.

Restrictions on Export of Foreign Currency.

The re-instated "Valuta" Committee has intimated its intention of restricting the export of foreign inflated currencies, by granting export authorisations only to genuine merchants who have to make payments for goods ordered abroad. For this purpose the necessary proofs, such as *bona-fide* order sheets, invoices, etc., will have to be submitted for approval to the above-mentioned Committee. In this connection instructions will be given to the Post Office authorities to the effect that letters containing remittances, cheques, and any other papers of value in foreign currency should not be allowed to leave the country without a special permit from the "Valuta" Committee. Similarly, the various local banks will be instructed not to sell any foreign exchange without a previous authorisation.

Miscellaneous.

On Sunday, January 22, the elections took place for the 28 new members of the Bucharest Chamber of Commerce. The list, headed by M. Hagi-Tudorachy was returned. The only opposition list was headed by M. N. Zanne, the former President of the Chamber of Commerce.

The 3,000 kilos of gold recently forwarded to Paris by the Ministry of Finance have not been sold but only deposited at the Banque de Paris et Pays Bas as security for amounts which this Bank will advance for account of the Roumanian State.

The new Government has re-instated the former Economic Committee consisting of the Ministers of Finance, Interior, Communications, and Industry and Commerce, whose object will be to study and co-ordinate the urgent measures of general economic interest. As soon as this Committee begins to operate it is announced that the Government will proceed to the liquidation of the Sindex Company and of the Grain Distribution Commission, so that the distribution of grain for export and home requirements will henceforth be incumbent on the above-named Economic Committee.

Mr. Malcolm McLaren, the Commercial Delegate of the International Committee for Relief to Russia, has arrived in Bucharest to negotiate with the Roumanian Government the transport question of grain destined for the famine-stricken districts of Russia.

Bucharest, January 23.

Stormy Weather.

During the last three days the weather has again changed to heavy snowfalls accompanied by a very strong gale. Many of the railway lines in the eastern part of the country are snow-bound, and, according to a telegraphic report from Constantza, owing to the strong gale on the Black Sea no boat has been able to leave this port for the last 3 days.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Belgrade, January 26.

Visas for a Year.

Good news for travellers come from Graz, where there has been a conference of representatives of the

Succession States on the subjects of passports and visas. An agreement was reached on the model of the Paris arrangement of 1920. Visas for one year will now be given, the fee being 10 French francs gold, or five if only a single journey is required, and a single franc for a transit visa. This means a great relief for travellers in those countries where the formalities incidental to securing visas have involved an immense loss of time, energy and money.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, January 30.

Italian Chamber of Commerce.

An Italian Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce was opened in Sofia yesterday, January 29. Count Aldrovandi, the Italian Minister, formally opened the Chamber, and made an interesting speech, a full report of which will be sent next week. The Minister, who goes to Rome to-morrow, said that he had the authority of his Government for declaring that Italy would strongly support Bulgaria's aspirations for a free outlet to the Aegean Sea, and also said that Italy desired to extend the ties, commercial and otherwise, that already existed between the two countries. His speech has produced a very good impression, and Bulgarian sympathy for Italy, always strong, cannot fail to be increased. King Boris was represented at the ceremony by M. Groueff, the Government by M. Tourlakoff, Minister of Finance, whilst a large and influential gathering also included the Staff of the Legation, Prince Borghese and the Italian members of the Reparations Commission, M. Vulpi, Director of the Bulgarian Branch of the Italian Commerciale Bank, M. Bodgetti, Director, of the Tobacco Company, Orientbako, etc.

The Internal Loan.

Appeals to subscribe to the first 100 million levas (£150,000) of the Internal Loan have up to the time of writing met with a poor response. Approximately 70 million levas have been taken up, but of this about half has been subscribed by Government institutions. Private banks and industrial companies have for the greater part abstained from supporting the loan. It is said that they will yet give their support, but to ensure the loan being a real success it was necessary for the richer sections of the community to lead the way. Their support coming at the end of the issue period cannot have the same effect as it would have had at the outset. The peasants for their part have not subscribed as freely as it was hoped, and although official circles still consider that a quarter of a milliard levas may be raised, there is no doubt that party feeling, together with a lack of ready money, has prevented the loan from being a thorough success.

The Second Orient Fair at Bratislava (Pressburg) will be held on July 9 to 16 this year.

Sir Walter Runciman Bart., of Newcastle, has purchased the late Lord Brassey's famous yacht, Sunbeam.

Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin.—The half-yearly ordinary general meeting of shareholders will be held at Winchester House, E.C.2. on March 31, next at noon.

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YUGOSLAVIA'S INTERNAL LOAN.

(By Our Belgrade Correspondent).

It will be remembered that last autumn there was issued in Yugoslavia an internal loan of 500,000,000 dinars, at 7 per cent. interest, to be expended upon improving the communications. It was announced officially that the loan was a success, but in private conversation it is often averred that it was a failure. Let us consider the matter in some detail.

A syndicate of financial houses in the country, for it was a purely internal, domestic affair, underwrote the issue, and consequently excluded itself and all the banks concerned from subscription. Yet we have the following results announced at the end of November, 1921 (the figures representing dinars):—Serbia, 137,190,900; Croatia and Slavonia, 76,534,300; Voivodina, 48,083,800; Slovenia, 35,759,700; Bosnia, 28,322,800; Dalmatia, 8,453,300; total, 334,334,800 dinars.

Thus it will be seen that the general public absorbed over two thirds of the total, leaving a balance of 165 million dinars to fall upon the syndicate of banks, which will take it up proportionately among its members. Now there is no question that this result exceeded anticipations, for if the banks had not under-written the issue, but subscribed in the ordinary way, there can be little doubt that the amount of 500 millions would have been well oversubscribed.

The most striking point in these figures is the contribution of Serbia, which has taken up, proportionately to its economic position, a very great preponderance. It must be remembered that Serbia, that is the land within the old frontiers of the old kingdom, is a peasant community, industrially very backward, still suffering hardly from the devastation of war, with a very fair and even division of wealth: it is characteristic that the subscriptions from Serbia were chiefly in small amounts, from one hundred to one thousand dinars, while in more industrialised Croatia, the subscriptions were very much fewer in number, but individually much larger in amount. This is eloquent testimony of the burning, altruistic patriotism of the Serbian yeoman, as ready to support the State with his few dinars as with his blood. It also shows how the Serbian peasant has a far keener appreciation of the significance of the union, of the meaning of the word "State," and of political realities, than his Croat brother, to whom political freedom is a novel idea, which he has not yet learnt to understand. Again, in the western portions of the country, there is no doubt that a number of subscribers have invested large sums to advertise their "patriotism," which in many instances is but a synonym for opportunism.

It is interesting, too, to note that the securities may be hypothecated with the National Bank to the extent of 75 per cent. of the nominal value, at 6 per cent. Thus if a man holds 100 dinars worth, his income therefrom will be 7 dinars; but if he mortgages 75 per cent. of them at the National Bank at 6 per cent., there is 4.50 dinars to be deducted, leaving a balance of income of 2.50 dinars on his balance of capital of 25 dinars, which is 10 per cent.

The success of the loan is of the greatest importance to the country, for the money is to be expended upon improving the communications, the deplorable state of which was recently described by the Minister of Communications in the Skupshtina, and politically, it still further tightens and strengthens the bonds of union, for the waverers who have invested find their interests identical with the State, whatever their motives in subscribing may have been. It is confidently to be hoped that the Government will punctually meet its obligations, in which case its credit will be greatly strengthened, and the way prepared for a successful issue of further internal loans, which have been foreshadowed by the Minister of Finance.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS.

Fund for Purchase of Premises.

The Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (better known as the Royal Society of Arts) is endeavouring to raise by subscriptions the sum of £50,000 for the purchase and renovation of its historic premises, built for and leased to the Society in 1775, by the famous eighteenth century architects, the Brothers Adam. In a special appeal to the considerable number of Fellows residing in India attention is directed to the important work performed for India by the Society. This appeal is signed on behalf of the Committee of the Indian Section of the Society by Sir Charles C. McLeod, Sir Charles H. Armstrong, and Sir M. M. Bhownaggee. The contributions already received from India include £500 from Mr. T. N. Muthiah Chetty, of Ramachandrapuram, Pudokotta State, and £100 from Mr. N. N. Wadia, C.I.E., of Bombay.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ..	Piastres to £....	97½	97.7-16
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	96.00-97.00
†Belgrade ..	Dinars to £....	25.22½	318
Berlin	Marks to £....	20.43	805-885
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3.11-16-1.3.13-16
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3.11-16-1.3.13-16
Brussels	Francs to £....	25.22½	53.75-53.95
*Bucharest ..	Lei to £....	25.22½	540-590
Constantinople	Piastres to £....	110	620-650
New York....	Dollars to £....	4.86 2-3	4.31½-4.33½
Paris	Francs to £....	25.22½	51.35 51.70
Prague	Kronen to £....	24.02	222-229
Rome	Lire to £....	25.22½	92.25-93.00
†Sofia	Leva to £....	25.22½	640
Teheran	Krans to £....	50	51
Vienna	Kronen to £....	24.02	13.000-14.000
Warsaw	Marks to £....	20.43	13.500-14.500

Nominal. † Sellers.

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Engineering Topics.

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Electrical Progress.

During the past year electric cooking and heating appliances made considerable strides in popular favour, and it is understood that 1921 was a record year, so far as this country is concerned, for the sale of electric fires and radiators. Extensive and well conducted propaganda methods convinced the general public that the old objections of high expense and unreliability no longer existed in connection with the most modern types of domestic electric appliances, and the result, as was only to be expected, was a welcome and steady increase in sales. Hitherto British electrical manufacturers have paid comparatively little attention to the home market for this kind of apparatus, and have been generally content to describe their products in the columns of journals which were only read by electrical manufacturers and suppliers and never reached the general public. The increased sales have been solely due to the adoption of wider methods of publicity, and the results obtained go to show how large a business could be done in England by an extension of publicity and well thought out advertising in the columns of the daily and weekly press. After all, it is the readers of such papers who are likely to use such appliances, and it seems only common sense to bring them before their notice. Commenting on the sale of electric heating and cooking devices I note that *The Times* says that there is a very wide margin still to be filled up, as represented by the difference between the number of people who use electricity for heaters, vacuum cleaners and other apparatus, and those who are quite able to afford to do so, and there is every indication that the manufacturers of such goods are preparing to make the most of their prospects, although they have still some reason to complain of a lack of corresponding activity amongst several of the supply authorities.

There are still large markets which are able to purchase, and in which British machinery has a high reputation—one of the chief of these being in the countries of the Near East—and probably more is to be done by vigorous sales methods than the industry, as a whole, seems disposed to admit. There is a good deal of truth in this, and it seems curious that so far British firms have not indulged in any really intensive propaganda work in that part of the Continent.

Dew Ponds.

Almost every one is aware that dew ponds have been used from time immemorial in this country, and a tour throughout watersheds will show that even the men of the Stone Age were adepts at their construction. Engineering science has now veered in that direction, and a leading engineer is advocating the use of properly designed dew reservoirs. His plan, so far as it has been made public, is to arrange a radiating surface for the condensation of water from the atmosphere above a cistern or tank for the reception and storage of the condensed moisture. Between the cistern and the radiating surface he interposes a heat insulating material in the time-honoured manner. I am not clear yet as to what it is he uses for the purpose, but it will be remembered that pre-historic man used a layer of straw, from a foot to 18 inches in thickness, over which he puddled a coating of clay.

In the modern scheme the cistern is sunk slightly into the ground on a site somewhat elevated above its immediate surroundings, although not necessarily on high ground. The surface excavation is used to form sloping banks which surround and shield those parts of the cistern which are not sunk in the soil. The method of our early forefathers are followed to some extent in the construction of this cistern, as it is insulated, from a heat point of view, from the earth, by suitable material and I should consider that straw, hay, peat litter and such like materials would be quite suitable. In this way, says the engineer, the protection given to the cistern prevents practically any loss from evaporation and further the water being at a

low temperature keeps the still air above the surface, and the underside of the radiator in an equally cool condition. There is consequently a dual and mutually assisting action, and the moisture in the atmosphere, striking the cold surface of the radiator, condenses and flows down into the tank. A number of tests have been made and much data collected, and it is estimated that a reservoir with an area of about 100 square yards should be able to collect about 120 gallons daily during the summer and about 50 gallons daily during the winter months. It will be of interest to hear of some results obtained in an actual installation, by which I do not necessarily mean that no actual installation has yet been made—I know nothing as to that. But I should certainly like to have some definite data as to results obtained from an installation laid down in any position other than on one of the big ranges of wide open hills as the South Downs or the Berks or Wilts Downs. It has been suggested that dew ponds, as such, are complete failures and that the water obtained in ponds made in carefully selected positions is not from dew at all, but is merely condensed mist from the huge banks of white fog so common in such localities.

Concrete Roads.

A good deal has been said in these columns as to the suitability of concrete roads for the traffic usually met with in this country, and for some time our remarks, arguments, and examples of what was being done in other countries fell on rather deaf ears. It is interesting to note, however, that the last year or so has seen a considerable change of opinion in road making circles in England, and within the last twelve months one London borough, where no fewer than 25 roads have been remade in concrete, has put in hand the reconstruction of 15 more roads in reinforced concrete. Further, I understand that the New North circular road, starting at Ealing and which is to pass through Willesden and Edmonton to the East-end and thence on to Southend is to be a typical concrete road. The plan is for this road to include two 24 feet road pavements, a central portion of 20 feet wide for trams and fast vehicular traffic and two 16ft. pathways for pedestrians. A part of this road is already under construction by the Middlesex County Council. This work has not been undertaken without due consideration. Roads constructed in the manner we have so long advocated have been under extensive trial in different parts, and complete reports as to their suitability, durability and low cost of maintenance have been collected and considered before this new and extensive scheme was finally put in hand. There is now no doubt that this method of road making will rapidly supersede other and less up to date forms of construction.

Electric Locomotives.

The electric locomotive of the battery type is proving a serious and efficient rival to the steam driven engine, particularly for shunting work. Used in America for many years it made its appearance in this country some little time ago, and all obtainable records of actual performances under working conditions go to show its high efficiency and flexibility and the ease with which it can be controlled. Railway companies themselves are finding this type useful, and the North-Western have one in use, which they took over from the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, at Clifton Junction. This weighs, in running order, nearly 18 tons, and it is fitted with a battery of over 70 k.w. capacity at a 4½ hours' rate of discharge. It was originally designed to handle three loaded 20-ton wagons on an incline of 1 in 189, and was adopted as an alternative to laying down five electric capstans. It is able to deal with twice as heavy a load as the capstans could handle, and the capacity of the battery is such that the locomotive could do shunting work for 3½ hours, or run light on the level for 80 miles on a single charge.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

THE DANUBE FROZEN OVER.

(From Our Own Correspondent).

Belgrade, January 26.

During last week severe cold and frosty weather has prevailed throughout the whole country, the temperature going as low as 14 C. below zero. Both the Danube and the Save are frozen almost right over. Last time the river froze was in 1907. The river navigation has been completely stopped, and all craft have been towed into the harbours. Frost and iceblocks came on so suddenly that the local boat Zamun-Belgrade was stopped in the middle of the river. It was left standing over the night, and when the day came it was frozen in with half of its pedals broken. An ice breaker towed it in to the great satisfaction of all passengers who spent a very chilly and uncomfortable night afloat.

PORT SAID NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent).

Port Said, January 23.

Since my last notes, when I remarked on some of the motor-ships that have passed here, there has been another through whose performances are worthy of note by shipping interests. She is the Danish s.s. Panama, which has just come from Brisbane in 31 days without a stop, averaging 11.6 knots on a consumption of 9.3 tons of oil per day. She is over 6,600 tons gross measurement, but has a crew of only 39 all told—an economical ship in every way.

There has been a certain amount of activity lately amongst men-o-war. The two Japanese cruisers Idsumo and Yakumo have been in port for several days, but left two days ago for the East. H.M.S. Centurion which has been here on and off for the last three months has now left, and the destroyer Sparrowhawk is shortly leaving for Malta where she is to be refitted. H.M.S. Ceres which is well known in Port Said, is acting as guardship, meanwhile H.M.S. Sloop Clematis which came through the Canal from the south, has been dry-docked here in the Canal Company's floating dock, and has left again for the Red Sea.

FREIGHTS TO ALEXANDRIA AND CONSTANTINOPLE.

At a recent meeting of the Levant and North Africa Section of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, it was reported that representations were made continually throughout the first half of the year to the shipping companies regarding the high freights to Alexandria and Constantinople with the result that lower rates came into operation at the end of the year, but the Executive pointed out the importance of maintaining their vigilance in this connection.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

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

Anchor Line.—S.s. Vindellia for Bombay (Liverpool, February 16).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mahratta for Calcutta (Birkenhead, February 11); s.s. Stockwell for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, February 18); s.s. Mahronda for Calcutta (Birkenhead, February 25); s.s. Anchoria for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, March 7).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Yorkshire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, February 15); s.s. Warwickshire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, March 1).

Byron Steamship Line.—S.s. Maid of Hydra for Patras, Piraeus, Constantinople, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, Braila, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, February 13).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Brescia for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, and Batoum (Liverpool, February 11).

Ellerman's "City" Line.—S.s. City of Marseilles for Calcutta (Birkenhead, February 20); s.s. City of Baroda for Bombay (Birkenhead, February 21); s.s. City of Dunedin for Karachi (Birkenhead, February 21); s.s. City of Manila for Calcutta (Birkenhead, March 4).

Ellerman's "Hall" Line.—S.s. City of Harvard for Bombay, Karachi, and the Punjab (Liverpool, February 11).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—Steamers sail fortnightly for Malta, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz, and Braila.

Glen Line.—S.s. Carnarvonshire for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, February 23); s.s. Gleniffer for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, March 9); s.s. Glengarry for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, March 23).

Harrison Line.—S.s. Explorer for Calcutta (Liverpool, February 14); s.s. Patrician for Calcutta (Liverpool, March 4).

Henderson Line.—S.s. Amarapoora for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, February 22).

Holt Line.—S.s. Teiresias for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, February 16); s.s. Laomedon for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, February 23).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Incemore (first steamer of the season for the Danube), for Piraeus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, February 11); s.s. Pomaron for Piraeus, Syra, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, February 18).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. China for Bombay (London, February 10); s.s. Nyanza for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, February 10); s.s. Kaiser-I-Hind for Bombay (London, February 17); s.s. Caledonia for Bombay (London, February 24); s.s. Nellore for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, March 10).

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. Nevasa for Bombay and Karachi (London, February 17); s.s. Chilka for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, March 3); s.s. Manora for Bombay and Karachi (London, March 9); s.s. Boyne for Karachi, Bombay, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, March 9); s.s. Mashobra for Bombay and Karachi (London, March 24) s.s. Homefield for Karachi, Bombay, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, April 6).

Mr. Basil Andrea Malandrinos, Greek Consul-General at Liverpool since 1895, left £8,747 gross and £7,116 net personalty.

Roumania is reported to have doubled her timber exports during 1921, the figures from January to September, 1921 as compared with the corresponding months of 1920, being 80,700 and 35,100 tons, respectively.

The total yield of pure rose oil of Bulgaria for 1921, amounted to approximately one-third the pre-war yield of 150,000 ounces. Before the war there were about 22,000 acres of rose gardens, whereas now these gardens cover less than 15,000 acres.

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CIRCASSIA, MARCH 10.	MASSALIA, MAY 5.
OLYMPIA, MARCH 22.	ELYSIA, MAY 19.
SOINDIA, APRIL 6.	CIRCASSIA, JUNE 22.

Anchor Line (Henderson Brothers), Ltd.,
16, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.3.

Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Increased demand for Oranges.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Monday Evening.

Sugar.—Prices are steadier. Home refined has been in fair demand at official rates. Tate's cubes are firm at 52s. 6d.; as also coffee crystals at 52s. 9d., and mineral water sugar is steady at 47s. 3d. London granulated and Lyle's granulated are both unchanged at 46s. 9d., and 47s. respectively. In export descriptions West Indian crystallized has been firm at 42s., while Czecho-Slovakian has gained 3d. at 19s. White sugar quotations are:—February, 19s. 3d.; March, 18s. 6d.; May, 18s. 4½d.; and August, 18s. 4½d.

Coffee.—A little more business has been in evidence during the past week. Nairobis and Ugandas continue in short supply. Costa Rica is 5s. cheaper at 135s., while Indian is steady at 110s. Nairobi has gained 5s. at 115s. while Jamaica is unchanged at 150s.

Tea.—The market has been dull. Fine China tea has come to business at 3s. lb.; and good Pekoe Souchong at 11½d. lb. Common Java has been firm at 9d. lb.

Rice.—There is a shortage of American Java and Egyptian Japan rice which will only be relieved by the arrival of large shipments. Burmese is 2s. down at 14s. while Carolina rice has been done at 20s.

Desiccated Coconut.—Considerable activity has characterized the market this week, and there has been a rise in prices.

Almonds.—The market has been steady and sales have been moderate. Sicily almonds are now quoted at 130-140s. Valencia and Jordan almonds have been a dull feature with prices unchanged.

Green Fruit etc.—There has been a large demand for oranges, and in many cases the market has been cleared quicker than steamers can unload. Prices are still rising, but retail prices are very little affected. Supplies of lemons are large, with a slight falling off in request. Several shipments of Naples lemons are expected to arrive shortly. Quotations for Valencia onions are better than the previous week, while shipments are poor.

Oilseeds.—A variable tendency has prevailed. Indian linseed has been steady at 19s. 3d., and La Plata has been firm at 18s. 6d. Rapeseed has been unsettled with Toria 6d. down at 15s. 9d.; brown Cawnpore has shed 3d. at 18s., and bold Ferozepore has been steady at 18s. Cottonseed has been firm with Indian and Sakellaridis unchanged at 9s., and 11s. 4½d. respectively while Egyptian black is 1½d. up at 11s. 9d.

Oil.—Prices are higher. Linseed oil is 9d. up at 33s. 6d. Rape oil has gained 1s. in both cases, the crude variety now being 51s., and refined 56s. Cotton oil is unchanged with refined at 42s., deodorized at 47s., and Egyptian crude at 47s. Turpentine is 1s. up at 73s. 6d.

Oilcakes.—Linseed is unchanged at 300s. ton. Cottonseed cake is the same at 190s. ton, as also palm kernal at 120s. ton. Arachis cake is 5s. lower at 215s. ton, while cotton-meal cake has gained 20s. at 310s.

ASIA MINOR FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended January 21:—

Sultanas.—The total estimated arrivals to-date amount to 168,080 bags as against 94,660 bags for the corresponding period of last year. The total estimated sales are 159,080 bags as compared with 87,660 bags, and the estimated stock unsold totals 9,000 bags as against 7,000 bags.

Shipments.—By s.s. Gitano for London, 16,303 boxes sultanas and 60 bags figs; by s.s. Belgravian for Liverpool, 7,769 boxes sultanas, 4 cases figs, and 140 bags figs.

Markets.—Sultana market unchanged, and still under the influence of the Orthodox and Armenian holidays. Prices are firmly maintained, and lower exchange rates proportionately increase the cost in foreign currencies. There have been no arrivals of figs, and supplies up-country are practically exhausted. The exchanges are weak and declining, sterling rates varying between 670-680.

LEVANT MARKET REVIEW.

The following extracts are taken from the market review of the National Bank of Turkey for December:—

Another year has passed and the Near Eastern problem still awaits a final solution. Whether that solution will be found during 1922 is difficult to say in view of present circumstances, but it is evident that the actual state of affairs cannot continue indefinitely if Turkey is going to weather the storm.

The whole country is in a very impoverished condition, owing to the war continuing in Anatolia, thereby cutting off a most fertile district which used to export corn, silk, wool, dried fruits, opium, tobacco, etc. All the flour imported into Constantinople has to come from abroad, and the same can be said for nearly everything else. Exchange fluctuations have made it well nigh impossible for the local merchants to do business, and were it not for the Allied Finance Commission the Turkish pound would have depreciated much further than it has done. The year 1921 will long be remembered as being one of the blackest in the commercial history of the country, but there are signs that 1922 may prove more prosperous for trade in general.

Flour.—During the month this market was very depressed owing to big stocks and heavy arrivals. Sales were being effected to clear at a heavy loss. Prices in U.S.A. have slumped considerably, and prospects for the future are not bright. The total stock at present in Constantinople is estimated at 230,000 sacks.

Rice.—Total imports during the month were 1,300 tons, 400 tons came from Siam and 900 tons from Saigon at £18-10s to £21. per ton c.i.f. Constantinople from Siam, and 80-82 francs per 100 kg. c.i.f. for Saigon. Total exports from Constantinople were 500-600 tons to Black Sea ports, Batoum, and Bulgaria. Prices at the end of the month showed a downward tendency. Present stocks are estimated at a few hundred tons.

Hazel Nuts.—During the month the following arrivals were recorded:—16,000 bags shelled, 12-13,000 bags unshelled from Kerrassunde, Trebizonde and Orlou. Prices paid varied between 36-43 piastres per oke for shelled and 19-22 piastres per oke for unshelled. The following quantities were exported to the U.S.A., England, Germany, Marseilles, and Trieste:—10,000 kgs. shelled, 9-10,000 kgs. unshelled. Owing to low prices arrivals here are scarce and the market is weak.

Coffee.—Total imports from Brazil during December were about 2,500 sacks; c.i.f. prices for Rio were 52s. to 58s. per cwt. according to quality. Total exports from Constantinople were about 1,000 sacks to Anatolia, Batoum, and 250 sacks for Syria. Closing prices at the end of the month 50s.—55s. per cwt., Present stocks on hand are about 1,500 sacks.

Coal.—The sales of Cardiff coal were well maintained during December. Six full cargoes arrived with a total of 28,780 tons. The actual stocks available on the market were about 22,400 tons. F.o.b. prices for best Admiralty were quoted at 25s.; on the other hand the freight market was somewhat easier, fixtures having been made as low as 16s.

Tobacco.—Total imports of tobacco were as follows:—Samsoun, 170,000 kgs.; Broussa, 40,000 kgs.; Ismid Hendie, 230,000 kgs.; Trebizond, 10,000 kgs.; Sinope, 30,000 kgs.; Russian, 95,000 kgs.; total, 575,000 kgs. The following exports were reported for Egypt and Europe:—Turkish, 192,000 kgs.; Russian, 284,000 kgs.; total, 476,000 kgs. There has been a rise in the prices of Turkish tobacco, of 10.15 per cent. as compared with former months, but those for Russian qualities remain stationary. This rise is due to a big demand for Samsoun—Bafra brought about by the poorness of the crop and smallness of available stocks. Prices paid for good qualities Samsoun-Bafra have risen 20 per cent. over those ruling previously. Better prices are awaited, in view of the small crop and scarcity of available stocks which are diminishing rapidly.

Opium.—About 80 cases arrived from Anatolia during the month and 120 cases were shipped to the Continent and the Far East. In spite of a large demand during the middle of the month prices gradually fell with the depreciation of the pound sterling and also owing to lower quotations in Smyrna, although the latter improved at the end of the month. Salonika quotations were somewhat higher than here.

CURRENT PRICES.

General Produce.—Bacon: (Continental), 132s. 6d. cwt.; (Canadian), 117s. 6d. cwt.; (American), 104s. cwt.; butter: (Danish), 188s. cwt.; (Australian), 115s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 140s. cwt.; cheese (Canadian), 96s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 91s. cwt.; lard, 72s. 6d. cwt.; eggs (Danish), 30s. 6d. per 120; (Sylvian), 25s. per 120; chillies, 162s. 6d. cwt.; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 6½d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 102s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 130s. cwt.; (East Indian), 125s. cwt.; (Central American), 110s. cwt.; (Jamaica), 67s. 6d. cwt.; (Mocha longberry), 112s. 6d. cwt.; (Santos, superior), 61s. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochín), 62s. 6d. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 11½d. lb.; pepper (Singapore black), 4d. lb.; (Muntok, white), 7½d. lb.; pimento, 2½d. lb.; raisins (Valencias), 115s. cwt.; sultanas (Smyrna), 121s. cwt.; currants (Vostizza) 83s. cwt.; currants (Amalias), 58s. 6d. cwt.; sugar: (Tate's cubes), 52s. cwt.; (Lyle's granulated), 40s. 10½d. cwt.; (Mauritius crystals 44s. 6d. cwt. (West Indian crystallized), 40s. 3d. cwt.; (centrifugal), 14s. 4½d. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 1½d. lb.; rice (Rangoon, No. 2), 14s. 3d. cwt.; (bran, Rangoon), £5 8s. 9d. ton; cinnamon (firsts), 1s. ½d. lb.; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 3½d. lb.; tea: Indian (common to good common), 1s. 1½d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 7½d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 9d. lb.; Ceylon (common to good common), 1s. 1½d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 8d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 9d. lb.; Java (common to good common), 8½d. lb.; wheat (English white), 47s. 9d. qr.; (Australian), 52s. 3d. qr.; barley (malting), 55s. qr.; barley (feeding), 41s. qr.; oats (English), 32s. 6d. qr.; oats (La Plata ex-ship), 27s. 1½d. qr.; maize (La Plata), 38s. 9d. qr.; flour, 40s. sack.

Metals.—Aluminium, £122 10s. ton; antimony (English Regulus); £35 ton; bismuth, 9s. lb.; copper (standard), £64 11s. 3d. ton; copper (electro), £72 ton; gold bars, 97s. 4d. oz. iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 90s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 96s. 3d. ton; galvanised sheets (24 G), £16 7s. 6d. ton; lead (soft foreign), £23 1s. 3d. ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 1½d. unit; molybdenum, 27s. 7½d. unit; nickel, £180 ton; platinum, 440s. oz.; plumbago, £20 ton; quicksilver, £11 7s. 6d. bottle; silver bars, 34.7-8d. oz.; spelter (G.O.B.), £25 17s. 6d. ton; tin (standard), £157 2s. 6d. ton; wolfram, 11s. unit; zinc sheets, £34 10s. ton.

Chemicals.—Acids: Boric, 66s. cwt.; oxalic, 8½d. lb.; citric, 2s. 1½d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 4½d.; ammonia (sulphate), £15 11s. 6d. ton; arsenic (white powdered), £40 10s. ton; benzole (standard), 2s. 4½d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), 14 10s. ton; borax crystals, 31s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 121s. 3d. cwt.; Potassium: Bichromate, 8d. lb.; chlorate, 5d. lb.; caustic, £33 10s. ton; nitrate, £42 10s. ton; permanganate, 10½d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 1½d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £15 5s. ton; Sodium: Crystals, 130s. ton; bi-carbonate, £11 10s. ton; bi-chromate, 6½d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £8 19s. 9d. ton; chlorate, 3½d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £22 15s. ton; glyposulphate, £16 ton; prussiate, 9d. lb.; nitrate, £14 5s. ton; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £80 ton; glycerine (industrial, 1260 per cent.), £110 ton; lemon oil, 3s. 1½d. lb.; quinine, 3s. oz.; red lead, £38 15s. ton; white lead, £41 5s. ton; white ground lead, £50 7s. 6d. ton; sulphate of copper, £28 15s. ton; sulphate of iron, 75s. ton.

Hides and Skins.—Ox and Heifer (first), 90 lbs. and up, 7.7-8d. lb.; 80 and 89 lbs., 7.7-8d. lb.; 70 and 79 lbs., 7.5-8d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs. 7d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under 6.1-8d. lb.; (second), 90 lbs. and up 6.7-8d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 7.7-8d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 7.8-8d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 7d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 6.1-8d. lb.; (second), 90 lbs. and up 7.7-8d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 6½d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 6.5-8d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 6d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 5d. lb.; Cows (first), 60 lbs. and up, 6½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 6d. lb.; cows (second), 60 lbs. and up, 5d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 5d. lb.; Bulls (first), 5½d. lb.; (second), 4½d. lb.; Kips (first), 6½d. lb.; (second), 5.3-8d. lb.; (third), 3.5-8d. lb. Calcutta Market. Prices in rupees per 20 lb.: Arsenic hides (cows): Agras, 9 to 14; Durblangas, 7 to 8.8; Patnas, 5 to 6. Salted cows, 4.8 to 6.8 Arsenic hides (buffalo), 3 to 6.8. Skins: Calf, 8 to 10 per 20 lb.; goat, 24s to 280 per 100 pieces.

Miscellaneous.—Cotton: (American), 9.67d. lb.; (Egyptian Sakel), 14.75d. lb.; Oilseeds: Linseed (La Plata), £18 5s. ton; £16 12s. 6d. ton; palm kernels, £18 5s. 9d. ton; castor seed (Bombay), £14 17s. 6d. ton; sesame seed (China), £23 6s. ton; soya beans, £13 5s. ton; Oils: Linseed, £31 10s. ton; olive (Levant), £76 ton; palm, £38 5s. ton; rape (crude), £47 10s. ton; soya, £34 15s. ton; petroleum, 1s. 4½d. gallon; petrol, 2s. 1d. gallon; fuel oil (ex-tank), £3 15s. ton; coconut (Ceylon), £40 15s. ton; cotton (crude), £36 ton; ground nut £43 10s. ton.

According to a recent message from Sofia, subscriptions to the internal loan of 100,000,000 levas continue to flow in, 65,000,000 having already been subscribed.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the week ended January 10, amounted to £13,534; total for year, £E309,580. For the corresponding periods of last year, receipts amounted to £E13,733, and £E395,600 respectively.

With reference to a statement which has appeared in the Press to the effect that an International Exhibition will be held in 1924 at the White City, which has the moral support of the Government, we are informed that the Exhibitions Division of the Department of Overseas Trade has, up-to-date, received no information whatever of this project.

TENDERS INVITED.

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

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

Egypt.

Photographic Materials.—The Ministry of the Interior, Egypt (Personnel and Equipment Department, Supplies Office), invites tenders for the supply of photographic material for the year 1922 which will be received by the Director Personnel and Equipment Department, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, not later than noon on March 15. The photographic material required includes apparatus and accessories, chemicals, and plates and papers. A copy of the conditions of tender is available at the offices of the Department of Overseas Trade (Room 53) 35, Old Queen Street, London, S.W.1. for inspection by interested United Kingdom firms, while an additional copy is available for transmission to provincial firms unable to arrange for inspection in London. Local representation is an essential condition of tendering, and the Department will be pleased to suggest to United Kingdom firms not already represented in Egypt, the names of British houses established in Egypt, through whom tenders might be submitted. (D.O.T.).

Stores.—The Department of Overseas Trade has received from the Director of Stores, Bulaq (Cairo) a number of copies of the conditions of tender and specifications for the supply of stores required by the Stores Department of the Ministry of the Interior during the period commencing April 1, 1922, and ending March 31, 1923. The goods required cover a wide range and include arms and ordnance stores, clothing, harness and saddlery fire engines, furniture, tools, and miscellaneous stores. Tenders must be received by the Director of Personnel and Equipment Department, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, not later than noon, March 18.

Marine Boiler.—The Secretary General, Ports and Light-houses, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of a new multitubular marine boiler of the following description:—Diameter 11 feet; length 10 feet; two corrugated furnaces, Boiler working pressure 180 to 200 lbs. per square inch. Built to Lloyds rules 100 A1 and supplied with all accessories as per specification. Offers will remain valid for one and a half months from March, 1, 1922.

India.

Rubber Hoses, etc.—The Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company invites tenders for the supply of the following stores, namely—1, India Rubber Hoses, Sheets, &c.; 2, Canvas Hoses; 3, Spark Arresters, Sieves, &c.; 4, Lamp Glasses, &c. Specifications and Forms of Tender may be obtained at the company's offices, 48, Copthall-avenue, E.C.1., on payment of the fee for the specification, which payment will not be returned. February 14.

Girder Bridges.—The Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Company invites tenders for the supply of girder bridges (Specification, company's offices, The White Mansion, 91, Petty France, Westminster, S.W.1), February 24.

Pen Carbon Paper, etc.—The High Commissioner for India invites tenders for the supply of:—(1), Paper, Pen Carbon; (2), Paper, Typewriter; (3), Paper, writing and envelopes; (4), Ferrules, Steel; (5), Buffers, Draw-bar Hooks, Truss Bars, &c.—February 21 for 1, 2, and 3; February 28 for 4 and 5.

Lancashire Boilers.—The East Indian Railway Company invite tenders for the supply and delivery of Lancashire boilers as per specification to be seen at the company's office. Tenders marked "Tender for Boilers," should be addressed to the secretary of the company, 29 and 30, Nicholas Lane, London, E.C.4., not later than 11 a.m., Wednesday, February 15.

Yugoslavia.

Petrol.—The Economic Section of the Ministry of War and Marine, Belgrade, invites tenders for the supply of 400,000 kilos. of petrol. Tenders must be addressed to the "Directeur de la Section Economique du Ministère de la Guerre et de la Marine," and must have the inscription "Offre de pétrole par X" on the envelope. A deposit of 5 per cent. of the value offered is required from the Serbian, and 10 per cent. from foreigners. The Banque Franco Serbe, 30, Coleman Street, E.C. will be glad to furnish further particulars. February 20.

Tyres.—The Ministry of War and Marine, Belgrade, invites tenders for the supply of:—Aeroplane tyres, auto tyres, and tyres for bicycles and motor bicycles. Tenders must be addressed to the Commandant de l'Arsenal Aeronautique. They require 5 per cent. deposit of the value offered by the Serbian and 1 per cent. from foreigners. Further particulars can be obtained from the Banque-Franco Serbe, 30, Coleman Street, E.C. February 20.

Cotton Waste.—The Drzavna Zeleznicka Direkcija, Subotica (Direction of State Railways, Subotica), invites tenders for the supply of 20,000 kilos of cotton waste. March 6. (D.O.T.).

Bulgaria.

Telephone Instruments.—The Bulgarian Department of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones invites tenders for the supply of 2,000 telephone instruments for table use, with local battery and magneto. Also for spare parts for these instruments. Tenders to be presented at the District Office of Finance, Sofia by February 20. (D.O.T.).

COTTON & COTTON GOODS.

MANCHESTER REPORT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, February 4.

There has been no noticeable change in the tone of the market during the past week, but at the same time rather more inquiry has been dealt with. Business however has been on quite a restricted scale. The prices ruling in both yarn and cloth have been miserably poor, and it seems impossible for spinners and manufacturers to obtain sufficient contracts to enable them to present a stiffer front to customers. Merchants are still handicapped by being unable to liquidate dear stocks in the outlets abroad. Financial matters are still causing a certain amount of uneasiness, and undoubtedly many firms have yet to face serious losses. In the cloth section more activity has shown itself with regard to Constantinople, and grey staples and printing goods have been in request to a fair extent. Isolated transactions have been mentioned in fancies and grey shirtings for Egypt. Weak sellers have been about, and users have taken small lots. There has been more cloth inquiry about for India, the bulk of the demand being for Calcutta, and some fair lines have been booked in well known styles of gray shirtings, whilst towards the close of the week mulls and dhooties have attracted increased attention. The political situation in our Dependency however is still very disconcerting. Not much business has been done for China. Quotations for American yarns have been rather steadier but prices when tested have favoured buyers. No trade of weight has been done.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows under date February 1:—Again we have to record a series of quiet, drooping markets, with sales becoming still smaller, and prices displaying a marked downward tendency. During the last two days a somewhat better tone has been noticeable, but as far as concrete results are concerned, no actual improvement in business has become apparent. The customary small general enquiry has been experienced here; Fully Good Fair to Good Sakel and Uppers have been mostly in request, whilst, as a side line, quite a brisk demand (which seems, however, to lead to but little business) still continues for low cotton of almost every growth. Tokar continues to enjoy a small but steady offtake as heretofore. There is a fair quantity of Sakellaridis, in grade about Good Fair to Fully Good Fair, which is pressed for sale at easy rates, and much irregularity in prices is seen in consequence. The better grades are more firmly held, but the offtake is poor. Manchester reports speak of a better tone and rather more doing, and evidence is not wanting that spinners are beginning to regard current prices as being attractive. We are inclined to the opinion that a period of steadiness at the present juncture would prove of inestimable value to the trade generally. There are at the moment, however, too many disturbing factors in the general situation to warrant the belief that such a period is likely to occur. To name one of these factors only: the proposed increased levy on Egyptian cotton entering the U.S.A. is likely to provide Alexandria with many opportunities for fluctuations, more or less wild, before the last word is said. Our latest information points to there being but a small increase on the present temporary rate of 7 cents. on Sakellaridis cotton. C.i.f. business continues on quiet lines. In conclusion, the market, as we write, has the appearance of having touched the bottom, temporarily at least, and it remains to be seen whether the present level is sufficiently tempting to attract the cloth buyers of the East, or whether their confidence has been so rudely shaken that another further *débacle* will be necessary before they consent to open their purse-strings. Sales, 1,000 bales (includes 150 bales Sudan). Quotations all round are reduced 1½d. per lb. Fully Good Fair Sakellaridis to-day 16.50d. per lb.

The balance sheet of the National Bank of Greece for 1921 shows net profits amounting to 100,000,000 drachmae. The reserve fund stands at 85,000,000 drachmae. The dividend for the year is 550 drachmae per share. This represents 55 per cent., as compared with 42 per cent. for 1920.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended January 28, amounted to £6,797.

ORANGE GROWING IN SOUTH AFRICA.

EXPERT ADVICE.

The Union Government of South Africa has issued an important brochure on Orange Growing in South Africa which will well repay perusal by all who have already interested themselves in or are considering participating in any South African Orange Growing venture. Therein it is stated:—

"South African Orange Groves, in full bearing, have yielded from £200 to £300 per acre. That is to say, from ten acres of the land a yearly gross return of from £2,000 to £3,000 has been taken. Probably three-fourths of that was profit. There is consequently a wide-spread impression, strengthened as new groves come into bearing, that South African orange growing is one of the best paying undertakings extant, in which belief many of the country's keenest business men have been attracted, and capital amounting to hundreds of thousands of pounds is being invested.

"The result should be a considerable Orange Growing industry in South Africa during the next decade or so, and there can be no doubt that those who get in now when the industry is in its infancy. . . . will have seized an opportunity that does not often present itself. That is, if they get into a sound proposition, for it cannot be too strongly emphasised that the business of growing Oranges is a very technical one. Orange trees will grow almost anywhere in South Africa, but what they will yield depends on what soil and under what conditions of climate and management they are grown.

"Hence there are in South Africa, as in all citrus countries, growers whose operations return little or nothing, while others, as mentioned already, get very handsome returns."

A considerable number of officers having interested themselves in South African Orange-growing ventures, and having been somewhat perturbed by reports regarding certain South African land propositions on the market, the Officers Association decided to appoint an expert endorsed by the Union Government authorities to make a report on those ventures, whose promoters had expressed a desire to submit their undertakings to the scrutiny of independent experts. Colonel E. Thackeray, C.M.G., D.S.O., of Johannesburg, was deputed by the Officers' Association to take the necessary steps. The African Realty Trust, Ltd., having placed all available information at his disposal, Colonel Thackeray visited Zebediela Estates with Mr. C. A. Simmonds a Consulting Horticulturist endorsed by the Secretary for Agriculture of the Union Government of South Africa. Under date October 18th, 1921, Mr. Simmonds reported to Colonel Thackeray as follows:—

"On the 15th inst. I inspected the Zebediela Estates, and beg herewith to submit a concise report of same.

"I may say that I have known this property for some years, and on the occasion of my first visit I was struck by the great possibilities of these farms for extensive citrus culture.

"The climate is healthy and just right for producing first-class oranges that will keep well and carry to our most distant markets overseas.

"The lay of the land is all that could be desired, the slopes are very slight, with sufficient fall for efficient irrigation, with very little danger of erosion during heavy rainstorms, and, further, for this reason the lands would receive the full benefit of every rain.

"The soil is really first-class for citrus culture. It is deep, well drained, and is easily worked red loam. Oranges grown on this soil will be juicy, fine flavoured, and of a good colour.

"IRRIGATION.—This branch of the work is in the hands of highly skilled engineers, and the writer was impressed by the very thorough way these works are being carried out, and when completed there is no doubt a very great quantity of water will be conserved.

"The orchards already planted have been well laid out—the trees have been well cared for, and are making good growth. Every branch of the work on this Estate is being well done, and no expense is being spared to make the venture a success. Hundreds of thousands of trees are being raised in nurseries for future planting. These trees are being well looked after and properly trained.

"A thorough soil survey has been made, and it is quite apparent that only good citrus ground is being planted.

"In conclusion, I must say that I am quite satisfied that the African Realty Trust, Ltd., are doing everything possible to make a success of this Estate from the Plottolders' point of view, and I have no hesitation in recommending this proposition."

Mr. Simmonds' full report, also copy of the Union Government brochure referred to in the opening paragraph, together with particulars as to how an investor may participate in this industry on a basis which should return 75 per cent. per annum on capital invested, even reducing the estimated profit to £100 per acre, may be obtained by communicating with the African Realty Trust Ltd. (Capital, £400,000 fully subscribed, £183,000 paid up), Egypt House, New Broad Street, London, E.C.2.—Adv.

Company Meetings.

LONDON COUNTY, WESTMINSTER AND PARR'S BANK.

The Trade Outlook.

The annual ordinary general meeting of the London County Westminster and Parr's Bank, Ltd., was held at the head office, 41, Lothbury, E.C.2, on February 2. Mr. Walter Leaf (Chairman), presided.

The Secretary (Mr. F. Mytton) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

A Year of Courage.

The Chairman, in the course of his speech said:—Twelve months ago I spoke to you of the year 1920 as a year of disillusion. What shall I say of 1921? It has been a year of crisis, of acute contests, of heavy losses in many directions, of hope deferred; but I think we may fairly claim for it that it has been a year of courage. Facts have been boldly faced, formulae have been cast aside, principles have been fought out to the end; and in many directions we have good hope that peace is, if not actually won, at least well in sight. Peace is what the world needs more than any other boon. It is perhaps too soon to speak of a general spirit of peace, but it is a great deal that here and there, in regions of the highest importance, we should have won at least a partial peace. We have, I trust, won peace in that region which we can still fitly call by its old name of the Pacific. We hope, too, that peace has been won between England and Ireland; let us trust that it may be followed by peace between the two parts of Ireland itself. And we have won some peace, for the moment at least, in those labour disputes which, to the mind of the social philosopher, twelve months ago presented the gloomiest point of a gloomy horizon. The outstanding event of the year in our internal economy has been the great coal stoppage. That happily ended, not in a complete victory for either side, but in an agreement to set on feet a system of profit-sharing which constitutes, I suppose, the greatest experiment in partnership between capital and labour that the world has yet seen. That system has, I believe, been honestly accepted by both partners with a determination to make it a success. It has been followed by a notable easing of the industrial strain in many other directions, and the labour outlook no longer overshadows all other problems in our own country.

The Prospects.

Meantime, however, we are still in the midst of acute industrial depression, with its accompanying curse of unemployment; and though here and there we can see signs of a lifting of the clouds, the prospect of a return to conditions of active prosperity can hardly be described as immediate. The reason for this is plain. The past year has done little enough towards clearing up that large sector of the horizon which covers Central Europe, and of which the darkest point at the moment centres over Germany. Till that gloom is lightened we cannot say with any confidence that we are on the way to good times. It is in the export trade of the country that there is most need and at the moment least prospect of immediate recovery. Till we regain our export trade the outlook must remain far from cheering.

The Banking Year.

For the banks the year has been one of great anxiety, of diminished profits and considerable losses at home and abroad. All our own losses, whether realised or anticipated, we have, of course, amply provided for. They have been well within the limits which, considering the close and intimate connection between the banks and commerce and industry, we may regard as reasonable; indeed, it is not too much to say that a bank which had made no losses during the year would only prove that it had not done its duty in assisting the general cause. For the losses made in industry and commerce have been immense. It is fortunate that they have been on the whole so well borne, thanks mainly to the equally immense profits which were made during the preceding years. There have been no great disasters in Great Britain and no sign of panic; we have all pulled together in the common interest, and we have good reason to hope that the worst of the storm is weathered.

Overseas Trade.

The great need of the country is the recovery of our overseas trade which has so seriously fallen off during the year. And when I speak of overseas trade, I mean imports as well as exports; for you cannot have one without the other. The great markets of the Far East are still in a far from healthy condition. Stocks in India show but little sign of reduction, largely from political reasons. In China, it is believed that they are being reduced, and have nearly reached the point at which fresh orders will be placed—the more so because it is being recognised that prices have approached the irreducible minimum, and that no further fall can be looked for. But what we need most is the restoration of the markets of Central Europe and Russia. Of Russia I fear I can say little that is hopeful; I should be sorry to stake much on any result that may come from the promised conference at Genoa. It is to Central Europe, and notably to Germany, that we must look for recovery. Germany before the war was our best customer outside the Empire. Until we recover our trade with her we can have no hope of commercial boom.

The Position of Germany.

For the last six months we have heard very little about German competition—and with good reason. Germany's external trade has fallen off in an extraordinary way. Although the latest figures seem to show that the corner has been turned, she has been importing far more than she can export. This in itself goes far to account for the great fall in the mark. In speaking of the great falling off in the German exports, I am not depending on German statistics, which might be misleading. I take the figures of German exports to this country as given in our own Board of Trade returns. They are sufficiently eloquent. We will compare the figures of the second half of 1913, a year of booming trade; of 1920, when the effects of war were beginning to pass off; and of last year. They are roughly as follows: 1913 41·1·3 millions; 1920, 18½ millions; 1921, 8½ millions. In the second half of last year we imported nearly £10,000,000 less than in the same half of 1920, and just one-fifth of what we imported in a really good year. What does this mean from our point of view? Clearly that Germany's purchasing power for our own products is almost annihilated.

It would follow that our first policy should be to help Germany on to her legs again, to bring her nearer to the position of our best customer outside the Empire which she used to hold. Unfortunately, our Legislature has seen fit to follow an exactly opposite course, and the Safeguarding of Industries Act is so designed as to diminish, so far as possible, what little purchasing power Germany has left—to deprive her of the possibility either of buying our manufactures or of paying the reparations which we are all the time demanding. Moreover, we are driving her to compete all the more keenly with us in other markets. The latest German figures show that on the whole her exports increased during the last months of 1921, though her exports to Great Britain were less, as I have mentioned. That is to say, we are shutting her out from buying here and making her a more formidable rival abroad. Is that the object at which reasonable men would aim?

Real Peace Needed.

I return again to the theme with which I started—that what we need is real peace. Of that peace international commerce is at once the sign and the stimulus. It can only be attained by free intercourse, untrammelled by any artificial restrictions. Our own country should lead the way. I am happy to think that saner views, though they have not yet expressed themselves in legislation, are growing apace among men of sense. We are all learning that the nations have need of one another, that none can stand by itself, and the free interchange of commodities is only the first step towards the realisation of that high aim which, however distant, we must never leave out of sight—the union of all countries for the common good.

Ladies and gentlemen, I beg to move: "That the report be received and adopted."

Sir Montagu Cornish Turner (one of the Deputy-Chairman) seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The retiring directors were re-elected, the auditors were re-appointed, and after a vote of thanks to the chairman and directors had been unanimously adopted the meeting ended.

SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

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

Stamboul, January 28.

The market continues to present the same quiet appearance. The sales are insignificant, orders for Anatolia and Batoum having considerably decreased. The dead season is at its height; money is scarce in this market. Imports are down to the minimum, and the rates of the foreign exchanges fall gradually.

Manufactures.—Prices show a tendency to fall. Cabots which rose during the temporary revival in September last to £T12 are neglected at £T7-7.20. Batoum, which has been the principal outlet of late, records a complete stagnation of business.

Produce.—Sugar. A marked change has taken place in the sugar market. The rate, after a continued fall, has recovered suddenly. Speculators, believing that the time to come in had arrived, have made large purchases on the chief markets, so the rates are higher. Quotations are:—American £21-22 per ton, Dutch £23½ per ton, in Customs £T28 per 100 kilos.

Coffee.—The fall recorded last week arising from the weakness of the exchange and unexpected arrivals from Rio has come to an end following the intervention of the Brazilian Government. All the markets are harder. Stocks here being much reduced, cargoes *en route* are sold at advantageous prices. Quotations are:—Rio No. 2 55s. per 50½ kilos; here, in transit, 50-55 piastres per oke; in Customs 70-75 piastres per oke.

Rice.—An improvement has taken place due to the large purchases made by Japan whose crop is announced to be short. Here some transactions have taken place for Roumania.

Constantinople, January 28.

Sugar.—The market is a little better following the rapid improvement in the prices in centres of origin and a small demand for the Black Sea littoral. We have had no arrivals this week. Quotations for sugar is transit:—Crystallised first grade, £23; second grade, £22; cubes first grade, £28; second grade £27.

Coffee.—There is nothing special to report. The prices and the position remain unchanged.

Rice.—The market has rapidly firmed up. Here owing to the lack of arrivals prices have a tendency to improve. Quotations are (in transit):—Saigon No. 1 75 piastres.

Oleos.—The arrivals are about 400 barrels. The market is quiet, and the demand is almost *nil*. Quotations:—First grade 60 piastres per oke, second grade 58 piastres per oke.

Oils.—There is no change in the position. Quotations:—Cotton oil 55-56 piastres, soya oil 52-53. This last quality is the only one in demand at the moment.

Flour.—There has been a marked reaction following the arrival of 16,000 sacks of American. Present stocks 80-100,000 sacks. Quotations (per 63 kilos)—Gold Medal £T8.90, Juliette £T6.56, Durum £T6.75, Kirma (native flours) £T8.50.9 per 72 kilos according to quality.

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DULL AND IRREGULAR TONE.

Indian Stocks Weak.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Monday.

It has been a somewhat depressing week, with a very irregular tone prevailing, and prices tending downwards in most directions. Anxiety with regard to the position in India and Egypt has been mainly responsible for this, and in addition there has been a considerable amount of liquidation. It may well be that a more adverse view has been taken of the outlook overseas than is warranted; on the other hand it must be remembered that it does not take much to cause nervousness on the Exchange in these days. In fact quite a trifling incident is often sufficient to cause temporary depression. That being the case it is difficult to look forward to the course of the markets in the near future with any overwhelming degree of confidence. A certain amount of time must obviously elapse in the most favourable circumstances before the factors that are now affecting the markets are removed, and it seems, therefore, very probable that a succession of weeks of irregularity and depression lie before us. The prospect is in unpleasant contrast with the promising outlook just before Christmas. But by this time we have become accustomed to changes even of the most amazing description.

There have been very few new issues during the past week, and no great increase in the number is to be expected until the conditions generally improve. Of those to be made in the immediate future the most notable is the Shell issue, which is bound to prove very popular with investors. Other oil issues are on the tapis, but I imagine are unlikely to appear yet awhile.

Gilt-Edged Dull.

Gilt-edged have been very dull, with Indian stocks a particularly weak spot. Consols are $\frac{1}{2}$ down at $51\frac{1}{2}$. War Loan Fives are $\frac{1}{2}$ down at 93.1-8, while the Conversion Loan has shed 1-8 at 69 $\frac{1}{2}$. The India 7 per cent. Loan has dropped a point at 104, the 3 per cent. Loan is $1\frac{1}{2}$ down at $50\frac{1}{2}$, while the $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Loan is $2\frac{1}{2}$ lower at $58\frac{1}{2}$. In Near Eastern securities which rank with British Government stocks, Turkish Guaranteed 4 per cents. are 1 down at 74, while Greek Guaranteed $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cents. are $\frac{1}{2}$ up at $63\frac{1}{2}$.

The foreign market has been inactive, and changes are not of any great importance. French stocks have been harder, War Loan Fives being $\frac{1}{2}$ up at 41. German 3 per cents. are 1-16 lower at 2.7-8, while Italian Rentes are unchanged at $21\frac{1}{2}$. Japanese stocks have been fairly steady. The 1905 issue is 1 down at $86\frac{1}{2}$, while the 1910 issue is unchanged at 61. Chinese securities have been steady, with the 5 per cent. 1896 Loan up at 88, and the 5 per cent. 1913 Loan unchanged at $67\frac{1}{2}$. Brazilians have been quiet, while Mexicans are about the same. Russians have been weak, the 4 per cents. losing $1\frac{1}{2}$ at 7, while the 5 per cent. are 2 down at 13.

Greek securities have been hard. The 4 per cent. 1910 Loan at $32\frac{1}{2}$ shows a gain of $\frac{1}{2}$, while the 5 per cent. 1913 Loan is a point up at $41\frac{1}{2}$.

Industrials Weak.

In the Industrial group weakness has developed all round, partly as the result of a certain amount of liquidation, partly because of the prevailing conditions to which I have already referred, the result being that the tendency has been for prices to move to lower levels. Tobacco were dull, but displayed a tendency to rally at the close. Bats are 1s. 9d. down at 61s. 3d., while Imperial Tobaccos are unchanged at 61s. 9d. The adverse report of Dunlops was followed by a decline in the shares to 5s., but they subsequently recovered to 5s. 6d., practically the same as before. Jute Industries Prefs have been a weak spot, closing at 8s. 3d. Some support has been forthcoming for African and Easterns which are now 30s.

Tea shares and Textiles have been affected by the Indian position. Courtaulds, after being rather dull, improved, and close unchanged at 36s. 9d. Coats are unchanged at 2.19-32. Iron, Coal and Steel securities have been dull. Armstrongs have lost

9d. at 14s., Vickers are 9d. lower at 8s. 6d., while Guest Keens have shed 6d. at 28s. 3d. xd. Babcock and Wilcox are 1-8 down at $2\frac{1}{2}$, while Lamberts are 3-32 down at 1.7-8.

Shipping securities have been weak. P. and O. Deferred are 15 down at 280, Cunards have lost 1s. 3d. at 17s. 6d., while Furness Withys are 1s. lower at 24.

Mines have been rather more active, with Gedulds a firm spot at 2.5-8. Diamonds have been harder, and De Beers have been in some request round about 10.

Oils Lower.

It is some time now since there was any great activity in the Oil Market, and the past week has proved no exception, though instead of inactivity and dullness a very positive weakness developed in certain directions. Burmahs are $\frac{1}{2}$ down at 5.3-8, while Mexican Eagles have shed 3-32 at 3.11-16. Trinidad issues have been weak, with Centrals 5-16 down at $3\frac{1}{2}$. Kern Rivers are 3d. lower at 18s. 9d.

Among Egyptians Anglo-Egyptian B are 1-16 down at 1.5-10, while Oilfields of Egypt are unchanged at 3-16. In the Roumanian group Roumanian Consolidated have shed 9d. at 7s. 9d., while Phoenix are 6d. lower at 9s. 3d. Dacia Romanos remain at 11-16, while Steaua Romanas are 6d. lower at 9s. 9d.

Indian Banks Dull.

Among banking descriptions National of Egypt are $\frac{1}{2}$ up at 18.7-8. Chartered of India have dropped $\frac{1}{2}$ at $14\frac{1}{2}$, while National of India are $2\frac{1}{2}$ down at $34\frac{1}{2}$. P. and O. Banking Corporations are $\frac{1}{2}$ down at 11 $\frac{1}{2}$. Imperial Bank of Persia are unchanged at 5, while Bank of British West Africa are $4\frac{1}{2}$.

Land shares have been irregular. Béheras are $\frac{1}{2}$ down at $8\frac{1}{2}$, while Egyptian Delta Lands are 6d. lower at 7s. 3d. Gharbihs are 1-8 lower at 1.5-16, while Union Foncières are unchanged at $2\frac{1}{2}$. Sudan Plantations are 1-8 lower at $2\frac{1}{2}$.

Rubbers Lower.

There is little fresh to be said with regard to Rubbers. During the week the raw commodity has gone to a lower level, and as was to be expected the share market has responded. The movement is of no significance, and so long as the stocks here continue to decrease there is no reason for shareholders to be unduly pessimistic.

WATER POWER IN YUGOSLAVIA.

The Zagreb journal *Agramar Tagblatt* has published an article concerning the formation of a syndicate for the development of hydro-electric power schemes which would be worked in collaboration with the S.H.S. State Government. This syndicate for the study of the water-power of the Bosna and Drina was formed at Vinkovci on November 6, and the first thing agreed upon was the erection near Modric of a waterpower station of 8,000 horse power capacity, and the construction of another station on the lower Drina between Koviljaca and Janje of 29,000 h.p. The projected power stations are intended to provide current for Posavina, Podrinje, Slavonia, Syrmia, Backa, Djakovstina and Osijek and should be connected with the great overland electrical system which the state contemplates. There is also the intention to connect these systems, via Zagreb, with the power system of Fala so that the project of the central Government to provide an organised network of electric power lines in an East to West direction and in a thoroughly practical manner could be accomplished without great delay. It is specially emphasised that these great undertakings are assured of the co-operation of the State, so that the participation of foreign capital would only be permitted if native capital were insufficient, a contingency which the richness of the districts interested would seem to render unlikely.

Prague has now direct telephone communication with Zurich.

It has been decided by the Roumanian Minister of Finance that the export of gold extracted from Roumanian soil shall no longer be permitted and that it must henceforth be deposited at the National Bank for the purpose of covering bank note issues.

TRADE OF BUSHIRE IN 1920-21.

In a report on the trade of Bushire in 1920-21, H.M. Consul-General at Bushire says:—

The abnormally low rates of exchange of the kran in relation to sterling and rupees, at the opening of the period under review (the year ended 20th March, 1921), induced local merchants to place large orders for goods, both in Europe and India, in spite of the fact that at the time, owing to the trade boom, delivery could only be guaranteed after fairly long periods of delay. In addition to this many merchants made the great mistake of neglecting to purchase sterling or rupees against the time when the goods should arrive. In the meantime rates of exchange increased considerably. The result was that the market became glutted with goods, and, as the supply greatly exceeded the demand, local prices fell, the merchants had difficulty in meeting the bills of exchange drawn on them, and in many cases were compelled to declare themselves insolvent. In addition locusts played considerable havoc with what would have otherwise have been a good harvest, and the consequent shortage of cereals necessitated fairly large imports of rice and wheat from India in spite of the fact that India could ill afford to spare the grain.

Against these two adverse conditions may be placed the fact that the Bushire-Shiraz road, under the protection of the South Persia Rifles, has enjoyed unusual quiet and safety during the past year. Complaints of robberies, at one time so numerous, have practically ceased. The comparative security of the road had its effect in keeping down to a minimum the hire of mule and other animal transport. The Bushire-Borasjun Light Railway, which was erected by the Military Authorities in 1919, continued to flourish until after the end of the period under review, and facilitated the quick and cheaper transport of merchandise up country; in addition to which it was well patronised by a fairly large number of passengers.

Towards the end of the year the unsettled political situation in the north had its effect on the south, with detrimental results on the dispatch of goods to the interior; indeed, some merchants brought back their merchandise from the north and it now lies in warehouses in Bushire pending a more tranquil state of affairs in the interior. The withdrawal of the Indian troops from south Persia and the reduction of the local garrison has not been without its influence on the trade of Bushire.

The fluctuations in the rate of exchange have been extreme

during the period under review, in the case of sterling dropping as low as 20.4 krans per £1, and in the case of rupees as low as 241.8 krans per 100 rupees (both in April, 1920). The maximum rates reached were 54.17 krans per £1 (in March, 1921) and 365.8 krans per 100 rupees (in February, 1921). Average rates were 37 krans per £1 sterling and 300.52 krans per 100 rupees.

The enhanced price of bar silver in the open market, which has reflected itself with the same disconcerting results as have been seen in China and India during the same period, was an adverse influence, while the reduction in British military expenditure, ranking as a reduction in exports, helped the depreciation of the kran. Moreover, the slump in Eastern products in the home markets has discouraged exports, and Persia finds it increasingly difficult to balance her trade.

Since the close of the past official year, however, various changes have taken place which are likely to have far reaching and adverse effects on the trade of the country. The reduction of the strength of the protective military forces, for example, will result, it is feared, in the revival of unsettled conditions in the interior of the country. On 21st March last, the Bushire-Borasjun Light Railway ceased to carry passengers and public goods, and, all efforts to affect a reasonable sale of the railway as a going concern having failed, it was dismantled and shipped to India before the end of August. The increased export duty on gum tragacanth has met with great opposition, as it is believed that unless this tax is modified considerably there is grave danger of Persia losing the market entirely, as, owing to favourable rates of exchange, it is possible to place Anatolian gum tragacanth on the market at little more than half the price of the same quality in the Persian product.

CIGARETTE MAKING AT JAFFA.

The Department of Commerce and Industry of the Government of Palestine have forwarded a report on conditions in that country, in which it is stated that local labour, recently introduced, has proved peculiarly adaptable to the work provided in a cigarette factory at Jaffa, which the Director of the Department recently visited. At present no Palestine leaf is used in the factory, as none suitable has yet been offered, but the Department of Commerce has stated that, in order to assist Palestine growers, packets of even 50 kilogs. will be accepted.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 562—Vol XXI.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1922.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Government and Egypt.

At the time of writing Lord Allenby has not yet met the Cabinet, but he has had interviews with Lord Curzon, and Mr. Lloyd George is understood to have spent part of the week-end at Chequers in studying his report and Lord Curzon's memorandum upon it. It is possible that a decision may be taken on the subject before these lines appear, but we feel that no good could be done by attempting to forecast it. Those with whom the responsibility lies can have no excuse if they fail to realize its tremendous importance. Englishmen and Egyptians alike look to them to do the right thing, and if they fail, will want to know the reason why. Our Cairo Correspondent indicates that in Egypt there is a fear that the question may not be dealt with entirely on its own merits; that it may be subordinated, in fact, to considerations connected with party politics in one form or another. Whatever happens, it is to be hoped that events will lend no colour to such fears and suspicions. If, unfortunately, the contrary should prove to be the case, it would not help the political prospects of those responsible.

Roumania: A False Report.

In referring last week to a Frankfurt report that M. Bratianu's Government proposed to nationalise all foreign undertakings and banks in Roumania, we expressed the belief that Frankfurt had been misinformed. Our view proves to have been correct, for the Roumanian Legation in London has been in communication with Bucharest on the subject, and is informed that the statement referred to is entirely without foundation. It is well to have the lie nailed to the counter so promptly, for though it would hardly have gained credence in any well-informed quarters, there was just the possibility that it might do some harm. Roumania has quite enough difficulties to contend with these days without having them added to gratuitously; and it is unlikely that she will go out of her way to add to them in any such manner. The Government is almost sure of a majority at the coming elections, but the size of that majority is by no means a matter of certainty, and M. Bratianu is bound to walk warily just now.

A Yugoslav Cabinet Hitch.

A telegram sent from Belgrade on February 4 announced that the Minister for Commerce, M. Spaho, had resigned, and that M. Pashitch's Government

would probably be seriously embarrassed thereby. As M. Spaho is leader of the Bosnian Moslems, and the withdrawal of their support would leave the Government without a working majority, there appeared to be justification for the view expressed; but no further announcement having been made, it looks as if the storm has been weathered. Probably M. Pashitch has found means to assuage M. Spaho's indignation, which was apparently caused by failure to satisfy the Bosnian landowners in the matter of compensation for expropriations. In any case the Skupshtina has been working harmoniously enough to approve the commercial treaty with Germany by an overwhelming majority, and to express the desire for closer and more direct commercial ties with that country. In the absence of definite news to the contrary, therefore, we conclude that the veteran Premier has avoided shipwreck on this Bosnian Moslem rock, as he has avoided it so often before on other rocks quite as formidable.

"Come Over and Help Us."

A short time ago the Balkan Committee published a resolution reflecting upon the internal affairs of Yugoslavia. It was a rather ostentatious display of interference, and perhaps neither the attention it drew to itself nor the indignation with which it was greeted was wholly unexpected. But the news contained in a recent telegram from Belgrade puts the boot on the other leg. Sixty-three Croatian Members of the Yugoslav Parliament have proposed the drawing-up of a memorandum in which a claim on foreign Powers is to be made for the creation of an independent Croatian State, or at least for autonomy within the borders of Yugoslavia. It is stated by the Frankfurt Correspondent of the *Observer* that this memorandum will be presented to the Genoa Conference. If such a knotty proposal were ever to come before Genoa it would no doubt find support in more than one quarter, for there are politicians in certain countries who long for the dissolution of Yugoslav unity. But supposing that this report of the memorandum be correct, we can imagine no more certain way of frustrating interested politicians' hopes than foreign intervention. Yugoslavia will stand or fall through its own merits or demerits; and any attempt on the part of an outsider to loosen the mortar between the bricks will but make it set the faster. In recent times there have been numerous examples of the folly of trying from outside to disintegrate a State, and nowhere have such attempts been less successful

than in the Triune Kingdom. Though Empires may be felled from outside, States dissolve from within.

Bulgaria and the Aegean.

Our Sofia Correspondent, in his letter which we published last week, referred to a point that will have to be faced fairly and squarely by the Powers if the Near East is to have peace, and if respect for Western promises is not to perish altogether out of the Balkans—the question of Bulgaria's outlet to the Aegean. With this is linked up the future of Thrace; and when these points are being considered it would almost certainly be a wise thing for the Powers to discuss among themselves that old question of which we have not by any means heard the last—autonomy for Macedonia. But it is the problem of the promised free economic outlet to the Aegean that cries most urgently for an answer, clear and definite, if Bulgaria is not to be driven to the conclusion that her good conduct in doing her best to meet the Allies' wishes has been a mistake, and that she would have gained more by following a policy of obstruction. In any case she has been promised the outlet, and the Allies, big and small alike, are in honour bound to see that she gets it within a reasonable time.

An Opportunity for Statesmanship.

The question is, we realise, an extremely difficult one, and one on which feeling is apt to run high at times; but it will have to be faced sooner or later, and the sooner the better. We believe, moreover, that it will certainly pay Bulgaria's neighbours if they behave generously to her in this matter instead of insisting stiffly that she may have her pound of flesh, but not one drop of blood. A "free port" in another Power's territory is never entirely satisfactory to either party; in practice it is apt to prove far from free; and it would be far more satisfactory all round if the "free outlet" could be approached through a "free corridor"; in other words, if Bulgaria were given a strip of territory, however narrow, linking her up with her Aegean outlet. She would have to pay for it in one form or another, no doubt, but she should be ready to do that; and the freedom from 'incidents' of one kind and another that would be inevitable under any other arrangement would be an incalculable blessing to all parties concerned. The fact that there would be another barrier, however, slender between Turkey and Greece would surely make for peace in the Balkans; though we do not lose sight of the fact that South-Eastern Europe may feel a certain nervousness about a common frontier between Bulgaria and Turkey.

The Thracian Factor.

The question of an Aegean outlet for Bulgaria would be considerably simplified if the Powers decided to give to Thrace, or any considerable portion of it, a measure of autonomy. Any proposal of the kind would almost certainly meet with vehement protests on the part of the Greeks; but it is quite possible that in their innermost hearts, Greek statesmen, capable of taking a wide view, would not be sorry to have it made, and to be able to attribute responsibility for any action taken to the Great Powers among the Allies. For it is very much open to question whether it is to the best interests of Greece to hold Thrace. Recent travellers in that region have been impressed by the number of troops that have to be maintained there, and the cost in man-power and in money of keeping up such a force must impose a heavy tax on a nation which can ill afford unnecessary

burdens at this time. At all events, it would be no disservice to Greece to raise the question at the Conference, and the Thracian factor is one that cannot be ignored in any attempt to find peace for the Near East.

The Visit of Dr. Benesh.

It is probable that before these lines are read Dr. Benesh, the Czecho-Slovak Prime Minister, will have arrived in London. He is stated to have come to discover the real attitude of the British Government to the Little Entente and to learn how the proposed Genoa Conference will affect his own programme of economic reconstruction in Central Europe. It is said that intrigues have been afoot for several weeks for discrediting Great Britain in the eyes of the Little Entente, and however plain the value of such campaigns may appear here at home, where we know for certain that the Government supports the Little Entente, we can well understand the uneasiness that opponents of the Genoa Conference and, consequently, opponents of Great Britain's influence in Central Europe, have caused in these hotbeds of rumours and alarms. Dr. Benesh is a man of as far-reaching ideas as is Mr. Lloyd George himself: he is also a statesman who has the creation of a solid structure, made almost from débris, to his credit. We hope indeed that our Premier will be able to convince this Minister of the most successful of the new States that his schemes for the reconciliation of Europe will not adversely affect Czecho-Slovakia or any other member of that family which Dr. Benesh is nurturing in so statesmanlike a way.

Railways in Irak.

The railways built in Irak during the war played a highly important part in our conquest of that country from the Turk. Of their cost men speak, even to-day, with bated breath, but in comparison with outlay in some other fields it may be said to have yielded a good return, and upon the whole the engineers have reason to feel not dissatisfied with their work. Now, it is announced, the railways are being valued by the Disposal and Liquidation Commission, with a view to their being transferred, at the valuation price, to the Government of Irak. The official statement adds that King Faisal's Government may subsequently be prepared to sell or lease them to a private commercial company. That would in all probability be a wise course; for, whatever may be the case elsewhere, it is very questionable whether State ownership of the railways would be advisable in Irak. Whether, and how, the lines would pay we do not pretend to be in a position to estimate. It must depend, of course, to a very large extent on the amount paid for them; but there are other factors to be taken into account—the ability of a private company to protect its property, the number and type of the staff employed, and so forth. It will be extremely interesting if the lines are offered for sale, to see what native opinion on the matter is, as indicated by the desire, or otherwise, to invest in the enterprise.

Disturbed Persia.

Another of those 'incidents' to which the Persian Government, perhaps wisely, attaches so little importance in these democratic days is reported. A force of gendarmes, commanded by one Colonel Lahouty Khan, who is described as "a well-known Democrat," attacked and captured Tabriz, making short work, it seems, of the Cossacks whom they found there. The motive for their action appears to have been their unwillingness

to serve under the Cossack commander, but what lay behind is unknown as yet, and will probably remain so. What is clear, according to reports that come by way of Allahabad, is that the gendarmes were joined by the Nationalist party and that they arrested the Governor-General and appointed a Deputy-Governor after their own liking. But a Teheran telegram represents their triumph as short-lived, for on February 8 a detachment of Cossacks from Suj Bulak attacked Tabriz, and, the Government troops in the city co-operating with them, captured it after three hours' fighting. Colonel Lahouty Khan and some three hundred of his followers made good their escape across the Caucasian frontier. The bulk of gendarmes and a body of Caucasian Bolsheviks are reported to have taken up a position about forty miles from Tabriz. Reinforcements are being dispatched from Teheran; but we do not entirely envy the lot of the newly-appointed Military Governor of Tabriz, Ismail Khan; for it seems probable that the Bolsheviks mean mischief.

France in the East.

Before General Pellé left Paris on his return to the High Commissionership of Constantinople, he gave an interesting lecture on "The Position of French Interests in the Orient," and since the importance of the continental view is becoming increasingly urgent, it may be well briefly to indicate what he said. First he remarked the indecision of the respective policies of Italy and of Great Britain. Though Italian interests were, he said, apparently identical with those of France, Italian policy was still irresolute; while British policy also lacked unity, though on the whole he thought it eventually would become favourable to French projects. From this it would appear that General Pellé by no means despairs of French influence in the Orient, as is the sad and unceasing wont of many journalists in Paris; his outlook indeed seems to be optimistic. The plain truth of course is that there is room in the East for all, and that talk of hegemony and similar impossible things is so much idle bletcher. But the French High Commissioner was emphatic in his references to Turkey. Turkish ambitions, he asserted, would have to be very carefully watched, and chiefly because they had not been checked in time. French expert opinion has never made the mistake of underestimating Turkish potentialities, that mistake which has caused almost incalculable miseries.

THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Monday Evening.

The Geddes Axe.

The Geddes Economy Report is out, and Whitehall is weeping tears of rage at the prospect of retrenchment; moreover, there is a sneer on the face of bureaucracy at the stupidity of a public which prefers a probable reduction of income tax to the continuance of a really adequate (if rather expensive) administration. The report proposes savings amounting to £75,061,875, divided as follows:—Army £21, Navy £20, and Air £5 million; Education £18, Health £2½, War Pensions Administration £3-10 million; and on Trade, Export Credits, Agriculture, Police and Prisons and sundries, another five millions.

Not quite all this will be lopped off, of course, but a number of respectable people will certainly get the sack for the good of their country. The controversy over the reductions is divided, like Gaul, into three parts. There are those who hold that the axe might have cut off a good deal more; but after all there is a limit to man's

inhumanity to man. The Conservatives dislike the reductions of the fighting services, and are opposed to the suggested unification of Navy, Army, and Air—Sir Eric wants to amalgamate the services like a railway system—and they will raise the cry of security. Liberals hate the idea of economies on education, and they will raise the cry of progress and the next generation. Labour likes the idea of sacking soldiers, sailors, and policemen, but it loves an official—indeed most of the Labour leaders end their days in the Civil Service at £2,000 a year—and as it does not know exactly what to say in these difficult circumstances, it will as usual say nothing particular at all.

The idea of unifying the fighting services is probably fallacious, and the reductions suggested strike one as a little too drastic. We do not expect a war, but after all such things have happened before, and the Geddes report seems to leave us rather under than over, the minimum safety line. Of course security, in the military sense of the word, is impossible; it is like the man who spends his whole income in insuring against every possible risk. But it is just as well to see that your fire insurance is adequate.

It is very much the same with education. I am not naturally predisposed in favour of the teaching profession, and they have not shown to advantage in their public wrangles over salaries—the women teachers in particular used the war as an opportunity for profiteering—but there are some economies one cannot afford, and certain of the reductions proposed in this direction will cost more than they are worth.

On the whole I fancy that the £75 millions will be whittled down eventually to a reduction of £60 millions, and I have heard of bets in the clubs on that basis. But some people will bet on anything. There was actually a sweepstake on the papalelection for a hundred pounds, and somebody sold an Italian Cardinal whom he drew but did not fancy for double the price of the ticket.

Westminster.

Parliament has been dull, with the shadows of dissolution hanging over it; and the electioneering touches in the speeches have reminded the onlooker a little of the preliminary tuning of the fiddles in an orchestra. Everybody is so anxious to get the right note, and from time to time a ghastly screech is heard, like that of a soul in torment—it is a member who has made a platform point that has not come off. The King's Speech contained nothing noteworthy, and the debate on the Address was a mere preliminary rehearsal.

The Wee Frees talked of the sins of the Government, with the usual assumption (shared by Lord Robert Cecil) that honesty resides only in themselves; Labour talked of unemployment, but could only suggest the

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making of more roads out of the rates, and more Government trading at a loss, and Mr. Lloyd George talked of the pacification of Europe. He is proud of his Genoa cake, but unfortunately nobody except Russia seems to want to eat it. France does not believe in the virtue of conferences. America is suspicious of European entanglements again, and the Italian Government, which would have been host, has most unkindly fallen.

Ireland.

The situation in Ireland is again grave. The preliminary agreement between Ulster and the Free State has broken down, and last week there were serious riots between representatives of both sides. The Sinn Feiners led a foray into Ulster and kidnapped many representative Ulstermen, and there has since been a foray also by Sinn Feiners, at an Ulster frontier station. The repercussion of this was seen in the renewed outbreak of rioting at Belfast. The Ulster Government is calling for protection from British troops; the Free States authorities are seriously perturbed. These outbreaks appear to be due to the Republican faction, which has broken away from the Collins-Griffith provisional Government, and which is openly working to destroy the Treaty. Unfortunately the strength of the De Valera-ites is at least not diminishing.

The French Pact.

Meanwhile the proposed Pact with France is giving rise to some controversy. It is in fact a debt of honour, and is so regarded by most people in the country. But the Independent Liberals are in full tilt against it, despite the advice of Lord Grey—a Nestor who has been told to keep quiet for the present—and the *Daily News*, true to its old pro-Germanism, actually suggested last week that we should make a similar pact with Germany to protect that inoffensive sheep against the ravaging Gallic wolf. Labour, too, is anti-French, but its arguments were so confused that the Prime Minister had no difficulty in making fun of them.

Stock Disease.

The outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, which has spread over most parts of the country, has assumed serious proportions. Strict measures are being taken to deal with it, but it is the worst epidemic of its kind that has been known for over thirty years. It involves serious loss, as the affected cattle are always destroyed, but experience shows that that is the only way to eradicate it. Stock-breeding is so important an industry in this country that drastic steps are necessary to protect the herds from contamination.

The Theatre Again.

Short runs and heavy losses continue to be the rule rather than the exception in the theatre, and the whole dramatic world is now occupied in the pleasing operation of feeling its own pulse. Mr. Gordon Craig has attacked the cinema; the managers are attacking the entertainment tax; the public is criticising the authors, and the authors are criticising the critics.

But apparently the real trouble is being diagnosed as speculation in theatre rents, which renders it almost impossible to make a play pay unless it fills the house every night, and that is almost out of the question, unless the play is so extraordinarily good (or bad) that it makes the hit of the season. But there seems no means of

eliminating the speculator except a catastrophe, which would cure the disease, but might kill the patient.

Railway Fusions.

"Disappearance of the Midland Railway" made an effective headline last week, that Corporation being one of the greatest in the kingdom. It has, as a matter of fact, only disappeared in the sense of being amalgamated with the North-Western, in pursuance of the Geddes policy of railway fusion. The West Coast system will in future be operated at Euston, and will include the L.N.W.R., the Midland, Lancashire and Yorkshire, Glasgow and South-Western, and the Caledonian, as well as one or two minor lines of small importance. The other great system is the East Coast, which is already in process of fusing the Great Eastern, Great Northern, Great Central, North Eastern, North British, and Highland lines. Co-operation is to replace competition, which has been ineffective for many years; and the economy in working is expected to be considerable.

Ordinary fares have not yet actually come down, and they are still monstrously heavy. But all sorts of concessions are being made. On the South-Eastern Railway the other day for instance, a polite old station-master whom I have known since perambulator days told me that I could travel first class at the price of third after half-past ten in the morning; I have grown so used to travelling third-class at the price of first that the change came as a novel surprise. Another railway company advertises to supply "season tickets half-price for wives," at least for one wife, for the booking-clerk, who is a local preacher, is said to have looked slightly scandalised when asked how many wives the regulations admitted. Market and excursion tickets, too, are issued in increasing numbers, but the week-end is still a miserable Saturday to Monday affair, at single fares and a-quarter. If the railways want to be really popular they will restore the Friday to Tuesday trip. But for the moment they seem to be bent on improving the speed, rather than diminishing the cost, of travelling; and there is a good deal to be said for that policy.

Frocks and Frills.

The papers are full of pictures of Princess Mary's wedding, travelling and honeymoon frocks, and every drawing-room, I believe, is discussing the absorbing details of these creations. Such mysteries are beyond me, but in that ceaseless pursuit of truth which distinguishes the philosopher and the journalist from the common clay, I asked a usually sensible woman for her views. The verdict was that the Princess's taste in dress was exquisite, but that her hats were a little too subdued for the present day. I leave it humbly at that.

The Week's Books.

The ordinary biography of a royal person is couched in a vein of flattery that is a little nauseating. Miss Mabel Carey, in "Princess Mary" (Nisbet) has at least avoided the worst faults of her tribe; her real difficulty in writing the life of the Princess is that the greater part of the young lady's career is still ahead of her. She was only born in 1897! It is interesting to note that King Edward wished her to be called Diamond, in memory of the Diamond Jubilee year.

I cannot count myself among the admirers of Mr. Maurice Hewlett; in fact, as a rule, I cannot read him. The fault is mine, no doubt. But I must confess I modified my opinion after looking through some of his "Wiltshire Essays" (Milford). He understands the peasant. I think perhaps he makes rather too long a claim when he suggests that they can "trace their descent, through sire or dam, to the people who were here before Stonehenge was raised by Celtic colonists." I confess I should like to see one of those genealogical trees. Mr. Hewlett incidentally prophesies that an age of poverty is ahead of us when manufactures will cease and towns decay—when "There will be no Army, no Navy, no great estates, no great farms"—only a few peasants. I hope things will not be as bad as all that.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

From Our Own Correspondents.

EGYPT.

Cairo, February 4.

The Political Situation.

Since my last letter events have taken place which must have caused to many the surprise which I forecast might be created if the British Government did not speedily give a favourable reply to the proposals put forward by Sarwat Pasha and supported by Lord Allenby. A *communiqué* was issued last Monday to the effect that the High Commissioner had been summoned home in order to give the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs information and advice in regard to the present situation; and the *communiqué* added a statement explaining the policy, which the British Government had adopted and would continue to adopt, and declaring that the Cabinet could not possibly recommend to Parliament the recognition of Egyptian independence and the abolition of the Protectorate unless an agreement was come to which would be of a nature to assure Imperial communications, safeguard foreign communities in Egypt, and protect Egypt against all foreign interference, direct or indirect.

This *communiqué* caused not only surprise but considerable disappointment. In the first place it is evident that the British Government does not at all appreciate the local situation or its immediate requirements; for the proposals made by Sarwat Pasha do not in any way affect the *status quo* in regard to the conditions in respect to which the British Government requires assurances before it can recommend Parliament to recognise Egyptian independence and abolish the Protectorate. Sarwat Pasha's proposals leave quite unaffected the military position which has hitherto enabled us to assure the protection of Imperial communications and of the foreign communities, and safeguard Egypt against foreign interference of every description; they merely provide for the introduction of a constitutiona régime which will put an end to the anarchical state of affairs that has come into existence owing to the absence of the constitutional machinery necessary for the proper administration of the country; which will permit of the initiation of constructive work of every description that has for so long been retarded; and which will divert the energies of the population into channels of more practical utility.

Grave Misgiving.

It is felt that there is also an element of bargaining in the British statement which, to say the least of it, is most unfortunate at the present juncture, where on the contrary a generous gesture appeared to be called for. Again, the *communiqué* is remarkably inconsistent, for after announcing the reason why the High Commissioner has been summoned home it proceeds to put on record a decision in regard to the very matter on which he is expected to advise and inform the Cabinet on his arrival in London. The general impression which I find reflected in every section of the Egyptian and non-Egyptian community is one of grave misgiving as to the British Government's real intentions and the outcome of Lord Allenby's conference with the Foreign Office. There is, indeed, a growing conviction that the Egyptian question is not being dealt with on its intrinsic merits, but that other, Home, considerations of which the Egyptian public can know nothing, are influencing the Cabinet in its attitude towards the question.

Everyone awaits the result of the conference in London with anxiety, and the general feeling on the matter was illustrated by the send-off given to Lord Allenby when he left Cairo on his mission to London. The company assembled at Cairo station comprised representatives of every community, the Egyptians being headed by Adly Pasha and all the ex-Ministers, and the Europeans including all those having important interests in the country. Old residents declare that it was one of the biggest gatherings seen at the station since the days of Lord Kitchener; and the conversation

which one overheard at every point left no doubt in one's mind as to the sympathy and esteem felt for the High Commissioner, and the approval with which everyone regarded the policy he has followed during the past two months, and the proposals which he has put forward for the solution of the political deadlock that has arisen.

Lord Northcliffe's Visit.

It is surely a strange coincidence which has brought Lord Northcliffe on the conclusion of his tour round the world to this country at the present critical stage. The great journalist and publicist arrived here in Cairo on Monday last, the very day on which the above-mentioned *communiqué* appeared, and he leaves again to-night for Palestine. In the relatively short time which he has spent in Cairo he has been busy interviewing prominent representatives of every class of the community having a stake in the country, including business men from Alexandria and Egyptians of every shade of opinion. Knowing the ability, and one might almost say genius, of this Napoleon of the press, one can be pretty certain that he has by now been able to obtain a very accurate impression of the true state of affairs and the requirements of the situation, which should prove invaluable to his newspapers when the Egyptian question comes up for discussion at home, as it is bound to do in the very near future.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, January 30.

Political.

M. Bratianu, the Prime Minister, on the occasion of his taking over the reins of Government and in the absence of Parliament, issued a manifesto addressed to the country, in which he emphasized the necessity of a strong and experienced Government in the present distressful circumstances; and at the same time he published in the *Monitorul Oficial* a declaration outlining the programme of the new Government. The essential points of this programme may be summed up, as follows. A policy of social equity; completion of the Agrarian Reform; betterment of the condition of the working class; the restoration of the financial situation of the country commensurate with its riches; putting an end to waste; re-establishment of budgetary equilibrium; diminution and abolition of taxes which are not absolutely indispensable for the needs of the State; the fostering of production; reform of the administration; repression of abuses; the insuring of educational and religious rights to every nationality, language and creed; and finally, the restoration of Roumania's prestige abroad.

It must be admitted that the programme sounds very promising, and in the interest of this country it is greatly to be hoped that the new Government will be in a position to carry it out as speedily as possible.

The Elections.

In view of the fact that the elections were fixed at a very early date, the different political parties have not had much time to prepare their electioneering campaign, and have had to plunge straight into it. This will not

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be an easy matter, on account of the present inclement weather and the consequent difficulties of locomotion—circumstances which are in favour of the Government, who have the advantage of having the whole administrative apparatus at their disposal. Although there are signs that the contest will be very keen in practically every constituency, it is generally felt that the Government have a good chance to win through in the Old Kingdom, Bukovina and Bessarabia. This would be chiefly due to the fact that the Opposition is not so united as was at first announced. In Transylvania, however, if the Liberals do not succeed in coming to some arrangement with the Transylvanian National Party, the chances of the Government are considerably reduced.

Economy at the Foreign Office.

M. Duca, the new Minister for Foreign Affairs, intends to reduce the next year's budget of his Department by 70 to 80 million lei, by abolishing superfluous legations, by reducing the number and salaries of the staffs at the remaining legations, and by recalling most of the Roumanian Missions abroad. Although the budget of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs was originally fixed at 28 million lei, the Exchequer actually disbursed 300 million lei to cover differences of rate of exchange. Out of this amount 165 millions were allotted to the upkeep of the Diplomatic Corps abroad. M. Duca has, therefore, decided to suppress the following legations: Madrid, Lisbon, The Hague, Christiania, Helsingfors, Tokio, and Cairo. In order that Roumania should still be represented in the above countries, the Minister in Paris will act also at Madrid and Lisbon; the Hague will fall to the Minister at Brussels; and Christiania and Helsingfors to the Minister at Stockholm. The abolished legations will be reinstated as soon as the financial situation of the country allows. The Secretaries of Legation attached to the Minister at the Vatican will also be recalled. It is further intended to cancel the posts of Consul-General at Paris, Prague, Budapest and Lemberg; and beginning from February 1, all existing legations will have only one secretary, with the exception of London, Paris, and Berlin, which will be allowed to have two. The Government has also decided to recall all commercial attachés as well as all military and civil Missions, with the exception of those entrusted with the reception of goods for the State.

Raising of the Censorship.

In response to the Opposition's complaint that the elections will not be free under the prevailing exceptional measures and censorship, the present Government has decided to modify the text of the 2nd and 3rd articles of the former Cabinet's decree with reference to the censorship. The modification reads, as follows:—Art II. Meeting will be free. Newspapers, manifestoes and electioneering posters as well as publications of any kind will no longer be subject to previous authorisations and to preventive censorship. The parties concerned, however, remain responsible for any abuses committed, which may lead to the infringement of public order. Art III. In the military zones, during the electoral campaign, the military authorities will take the necessary measures to ensure the freedom of electoral propaganda.

Roumanian-Yugoslav Military Convention.

A military convention has been concluded between Roumania and Yugoslavia. The pith of this convention is a mutual obligation on the part of either country to give military assistance to the other whenever one of these States is unjustly provoked by a third party. This convention was signed on behalf of Roumania by General Cristescu, the Chief of the Roumanian General Staff, and on behalf of Yugoslavia, by General Petichitch and Colonel Milovanovitch. It is reported that General Cristescu was very warmly received in Belgrade and that he readily agreed to the proposals made by the Yugoslav General Staff.

The Banat Frontier.

According to a report from Temesvar, the Roumanian-Yugoslav Commission for the delimitation of the Banat boundary between these two countries has arrived at

the following settlement. The frontier has remained in the principle the same as that fixed by the Sèvres Treaty, with the following modification:—Roumania has obtained the villages Csorda, Bebe, and Pusztakerestur in exchange for the villages of Gross-Gay, Crivabara, Churian and Jibova, which have been ceded to Yugoslavia. By this settlement Roumania is supposed to have gained a territory of about 4,500 acres.

Communists' Trial.

The trial of the Communists was begun on Monday, January 25, before a Court-Martial. It is the biggest trial of its kind that has ever taken place in this country, considering the large number of accused, namely 250, among whom there are some women. They will all be tried at the same time, although the accusation embraces various degrees of offences, ranging from the adherence of some of them to the third International of Moscow, others for plotting under the Communist banner, and last but not least, for the outrage perpetrated in the Senate. More than 1,000 persons will be called as witnesses, among whom are several former Cabinet Ministers. Under these conditions the trial is expected to last at least three months.

General News.

Prince George and Princess Elizabeth of Greece accompanied by Prince Carol, Princess Helen and their baby, Prince Mihai, left Bucharest on January 29, for Athens via Yugoslavia. The Roumanian Crown Prince and his family will be the guest of the Greek Royal family for one month. General Dusmanis, who represented King Constantine at the christening of Prince Mihai, left Bucharest at the same time.

The Council of Ministers has approved the proposal of the War Minister to postpone the calling up of the 1922 class until April 1, instead of February 1. This measure has been taken to allow the young men of this class to participate in the forthcoming elections.

NEW CAREERS TO SUIT THE TIMES.

When contemplating the future of a son, or a change for yourself if present occupation is not all it might be, consider farming.

There is more in it than most people suppose. In fact, it is not claiming too much to say that it is a fascinating subject, well worth studying and understanding. There is, for instance, as much incentive, as much absorbing interest, and as much scope and reward for ability, in developing and working a commercial orchard, a cattle ranch, or a so-called "mixed" farm, as will be found in the hitherto more fashionable professions.

If this be doubted, write for the illustrated publication of two hundred and fifty pages, which describes some fifteen branches of farming in the Union of South Africa. There is no charge, nor attempt to boom or sell anything. Difficulties and risks are as frankly discussed as are the attractions of the life. The whole aim is to meet the requirements of the times, to assist those who are looking for new careers, by placing before them the pros and cons, so that they may have adequate evidence on which to judge whether farming in the Union of South Africa is likely to suit them.

Lack of farming experience need not deter. Practical training can be obtained in South Africa, on a Government farm at a cost of £50 a year for board, residence and tuition, or sometimes free as the working guest of an established farmer. But such training can be of use only to those who have the capital to acquire and work land. The minimum required is about £2,000.

Full particulars should in the first instance be obtained from the office of the High Commissioner for the Union of South Africa, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2.

GREECE.

Athens, January 29.

The Liberal Party.

Although nearly fifteen months have elapsed since the Venizelists were defeated in the elections and their Chief left Greece, the Liberal Party is still without a leader. At first it was hoped here that M. Venizelos' decision to disappear definitely from the Greek political horizon was but a temporary one, and that sooner or later the creator of Greater Greece would return to the country which had treated him in very much the same way that the Athenians treated the victor of the battle of Marathon, Miltiades, about 2,400 years ago. But when M. Venizelos' wedding was announced, and, later, his departure on a long tour in the United States of America, his friends in Greece began seriously to fear that their Chief's decision was irrevocable. All hope, however, is not yet abandoned among his followers, and the leading members of the Liberal Party apparently still believe that one day their idol will come back and continue the work he had so successfully started.

The party has therefore decided not to take any steps at present with a view to appointing a new leader, and the Assembly of all its leading members, which will take place shortly, will confine its activities to electing a new Administrative Committee.

In a statement made by General Danglis to the editor of the *Ethnos*, the former said that it would be difficult to find a new leader. The chief of the Liberals, added the General, is so great that he could not be replaced, and his decision to retire from politics is a great national loss.

General Papoulas' Declarations.

Prior to his return to Smyrna, General Papoulas made the following declarations to the Athens correspondent of a foreign newspaper:—"The Greek Army in Asia Minor has certainly a desire to return to its home. Nevertheless, sufficiently fed, well clothed, united in a complete fraternity, a stranger to politics, and with its moral always high and strong, it is ever ready to accomplish its duty towards its Motherland, provided it is ordered to do so. It is not likely that Kemal will attempt any important move in the near future, first, owing to the rigorous winter, which prevents any serious enterprise, and secondly, because he is deprived of those means which would ensure him success."

Speaking of the resumption of hostilities, in spring, the General said this would depend on the political situation, of which, being a soldier, he was unable to give an opinion.

Rumoured Abdication of the King.

Much excitement was felt early last week in Athens as a result of a paragraph published in the London *Daily Express*, which, was attributed to that paper's Athens correspondent, to the effect that the new British Representative to Greece had endeavoured to persuade King Constantine to abdicate in favour of his son, Prince George, in which case M. Venizelos would return to Greece and resume his political career. This information was published in the majority of the newspapers here, and caused a profound sensation.

However, on the following day, the Athens Press published a denial of the news, at the request of M. Cartalis, Foreign Minister, and also a statement of the British Representative to Greece categorically denying the information.

It is a matter of general conversation here that the Athens correspondent of the *Daily Express* has written to the Government and to the British Representative, stating that he had not sent the information to London. The origin of the news is so far a mystery.

Raid on Newspaper Offices.

Last week the police raided the offices of the bi-weekly Socialist paper *Metarithmissis* and seized and burned the issue due to appear on the following day. The police also seized and burned the copies that had been given for distribution and sale to the newspaper agency. It would appear that the authorities took exception to a caricature which was being published in this journal, depicting M. Stratos, the well-known Party leader, in

the form of a wild goat attempting to grasp the fruits of premiership. It is said that the editor of the *Metarithmissis*, M. Frangoulis, is a British subject.

Prince Christopher accompanied by Prince Nicolas' wife, Princess Helena, and her two daughters, left for Cannes via Marseilles by the s.s. 'Patris'.

The Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Roumania are expected to arrive in Athens early this week.

Mrs. Lindley, wife of the British representative to Greece, has arrived in Athens from London.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, February 5.

American Bulgarian Treaty.

The event of the week has been the disclosure of the negotiations that have been proceeding between the American and Bulgarian Governments with a view to the conclusion of a Treaty. America was never at war with Bulgaria, and although she signed the Treaty of Neuilly, she never ratified it. The new Treaty will be modelled on the Treaty of Neuilly, but will omit certain parts, notably those dealing with the Covenant of the League of Nations, the frontiers of Bulgaria, Reparations, War Graves, and Labour. The Treaty may include some commercial clauses designed to encourage trade between the two countries, but of this nothing definite is as yet known. In fact the Treaty has so far been completely shrouded in mystery, the first announcement of its existence appearing in *The Times* of January 30.

The Bulgarian Cabinet has approved of the Draft of the Treaty, which is now being considered by the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Commission of the Sobranie, and which should come before the Sobranie next month. In the almost certain event of its being passed, it will go to Washington for ratification by the American Senate. Although it does not radically differ from the Treaty that the U.S.A. concluded with Germany, the Bulgarians

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welcome its appearance, feeling gratified that America has chosen to contract a separate agreement with them.

It is worthy of remark that America has of late shown considerable interest commercially speaking, in Bulgaria, several prominent financiers having visited the country, and a good deal of Bulgarian news appearing in the American Press.

Bulgaria and Greece.

The Sofia Press has never been cordial towards Greece, but it has now begun to adopt an almost hostile attitude *vis-à-vis* her Southern neighbour. Greece is reproached for not having observed the rights of Bulgarian minorities in Thrace, and more particularly for having obliged Bulgarians to enlist in the Greek Army and fight against the Turks in Asia Minor. In addition, Greece is accused of having deported many Bulgarians from Thrace to Crete and other islands.

Bulgaria has, no doubt, a good deal of right on her side in the above mentioned matters, but she has made a great mistake in not renewing diplomatic relations with Athens. The Bulgarian Legation at Athens still stands empty, Bulgaria being represented by the U.S.A., who, to make matters more difficult are not officially in relation with King Constantine. If Bulgaria and Greece are to become more friendly, the first thing to be done is for M. Stambolisky's Government to dispatch a Minister to Athens. He will be able to protest through the usual diplomatic channels against the behaviour of the Greek authorities in Thrace, which will be a mode of procedure more likely to lead to success than the present one of printing anti-Greek articles in the Government Press.

The Communal Elections.

The elections are drawing near, and all the parties are feverishly engaged in their electoral campaigns. Last week an unpleasant incident occurred at Plevna, Dr. Daneff, an ex-Prime Minister, and now one of the leaders of the Obedinist Party, being arrested. Dr. Daneff had made a speech and afterwards was taken to prison by the local police. His sojourn there was, however, of short duration, as the electors whom he had been addressing demanded that he should be set at liberty.

As far as can be judged the Government should obtain approximately half the seats, the Bourgeois parties and the Communists dividing the rest, with a preponderance in favour of the former. The Bourgeois are confident that they will obtain more; but until the leaders of the Democrats, Obedinists, and Radicals can come to a working agreement, it is doubtful if the Bourgeois stand any real chance of success.

Re-opening of Relations with Germany.

Herr Mertens, the Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the German Reich, presented his letters of credence to King Boris on Friday, February 3. The new Minister knows the Orient well, having been German Consul-General at Constantinople for the last twelve years.

The speech of the new Minister was extremely cordial, and he made special reference to the commercial ties that he trusted would unite Bulgaria and Germany in the future. All of Bulgaria's former allies with the exception of Turkey have now accredited representatives to Sofia.

Radoslavoff Cabinet on Trial.

The High Court has now resumed its sittings and amongst the first to give evidence was M. Liaptcheff, ex-Minister of War, and a leading Democrat. M. Liaptcheff stated that Bulgaria would have remained neutral if the Entente had made serious and concrete proposals to Bulgaria. M. Malinoff, the Democrat Prime Minister at the time of the Armistice, also gave evidence, saying that three weeks before Bulgaria declared war, he, along with MM. Gueshoff, Tsankoff, Daneff, and Stambolisky, the chiefs of the Opposition parties, told ex-Tsar Ferdinand that it was essential for Bulgaria to remain neutral. M. Malinoff added that M. Stambolisky was not any more insistent than the others in his desire for Bulgaria to remain neutral. After he had become Prime Minister in the summer of 1918, M. Malinoff ordered a court of enquiry to be held

for the purpose of enquiring into the state of the Army. It was found that the food was insufficient, the clothing in a shocking state, and that the Government had not taken the proper measures necessary to ensure the proper maintenance of the Army. The money that should have gone to the keeping up of the Army had gone into M. Radoslavoff's and other Ministers' pockets. M. Malinoff concluded his evidence by saying that he did not attach any importance to the words attributed to Sir Henry Bax-Ironside (the latter was stated to have advised M. Radoslavoff to remain neutral and not support the Entente). M. Malinoff also paid a tribute to Mr. Fitzmaurice, who, he said, won great sympathy during the short time that he was in Sofia. It will be remembered that Mr. Fitzmaurice came to Sofia from Constantinople on a special mission shortly before Bulgaria declared war.

Miscellaneous.

On Monday January 30, King Boris celebrated his birthday. A service was held at the Cathedral, which was attended by the Cabinet and other high officials.

A memorial Service for the late Pope was held at the Catholic Church, Sofia, last week. King Boris was present, also the Cabinet, the Diplomatic Corps, the Inter-Allied Commission, etc.

Major Nicol, a member of the British Delegation of the Inter-Allied Commission, was presented on January 31, by Mr. Erskine, the British Minister, with the Military Cross. Major Nicol gained his M.C. in France in 1917.

It is announced that the Inter-Allied Military Commission of Control in Bulgaria will be closed down at the end of February. One officer from England, France, and Italy respectively will be left behind to supervise the carrying out of certain work that is in hand.

TURKEY.

Constantinople, January 31.

Peace Prospects.

The postponement of the Inter-Allied Conference which was to have been held on February 1 has somewhat eased the political situation for the time being. Both the Central Government and the Angora Government appear to be waiting to see what will be the outcome of the negotiations between France and Great Britain. There seems to be little hope of any concessions on the part of the Angora Government in regard to the National Pact, but the Central Government, so far as can be at present ascertained, whilst undoubtedly prepared to make a determined bid for the maximum of concessions, would not prove altogether intractable. Whenever the Allies do make up their minds to state their final decisions, the same trouble that arose last year will once again prove a stumbling block, namely, the question: Which Government has the right to represent Turkey? The Angora Government still refuses to acknowledge the right of the Central Government even to lend its name to a delegation appointed by Angora, and it will be by no means easy to arrive at a compromise in this connection. It is believed that negotiations are proceeding at the present moment with a view to settling the point, and it is said that if no agreement is possible the present Cabinet will be replaced by another administration charged with the task of settling peace without reference to the Angora Government. Mahmud Mukhtar Pasha's name is mentioned in connection with the proposed new Cabinet, but it is very hard to say exactly how much truth there may be in what amounts to little more than rumour at present.

Moderates v. Extremists.

If any confidence may be attached to the meagre news arriving by divers channels from Angora, it would appear that the little group of moderate deputies in the Great National Assembly, who are said to be in favour of compromise, have been considerably strengthened by the support of Rauf Bey, one of the Turkish signatories of the armistice of Mudros, who won fame as the commander of the Turkish cruiser 'Hamidieh' during the

Balkan War. It would appear that Rauf Bey has been unable to fall into line with Mustapha Kemal, not only in regard to the question of foreign policy, but also in regard to the constitutional issue. It is no secret that Mustapha Kemal has long been desirous of clipping the wings of the Sultanate, in order to further his own private ambitions; but Rauf Bey, having seen the world from an angle differing from the narrow perspective of Angora, must know well the disastrous consequences of attacking the Sultanate and Khalifate at the present moment. It is impossible to judge with certainty the progress of the conflict; but while it is probable that Mustapha Kemal will be prevented from meddling with the Constitution, it is unlikely that his position as the principal leader of the National Movement will be affected.

The Funeral of Said Halim Pasha.

The funeral of Said Halim Pasha, whose body was brought from Rome, took place on January 29, and was made the occasion of a most impressive ceremonial, which was witnessed by enormous crowds. The procession was formed by large numbers of clergy, dervishes students, naval and military cadets, as well as A.D.C.'s of the Imperial Family, Ministers, and government officials of all ranks. Even the political opponents of the late Grand Vizier, such as Dr. Riza Tewfik Bey, were seen amongst those who found it possible to pay that respect to the dead which they felt obliged to deny to the living.

Another Tram Strike.

Last week, without the slightest warning, the Tramway employees came out on strike, and the long-suffering Constantinople public had to plough backwards and forwards about its business through slush and mud, such as few other capitals in the world can produce. The tram employees appear to be making it a rule to enjoy the sport of watching the public trudge through the mud whilst they themselves lounge about at street corners with Bolshevik emblems in their button-holes. As usual, in such matters it is practically impossible to judge the right on either side, but there is no doubt whatever that Bolshevik propaganda has had a good deal to do with the unrest amongst the tram employees, who have been striking at fairly close intervals for the last two years. The company has on this occasion put up a fight, and is attempting to break the strike by running a number of trams with the assistance of about fifty or sixty loyalists. The strikers claim to have about 1,500 men out, and the company therefore will have to fight hard to win. Notices have been posted up to-day to the effect that all who do not return to work will be regarded as having been dismissed, and will not be re-engaged; but it remains to be seen whether this will have the desired effect.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

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

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRAK.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—The letter of "Sinbad" in your issue of February 2 calls for some comment.

It appears that upon his own conception of our trade and assets in Irak he advocates the maintenance of our garrison there. He does not seem to be aware that such a step means the re-introduction into the country of an army not less in strength than existed in June 1920, the cost of which was very much more than the trade of Irak ever amounted to, or is likely to attain in this generation. The consideration of this discrepancy was a great factor in the inauguration of the present policy, which, well or badly conceived and executed, had for its expressed aim precisely what "Sinbad" claims. Perhaps the hastening of the pro-

cess of withdrawal has been prompted by the realisation of the fact that an Arab army will never become a useful reality, and that hope of handing over to adequate local forces can never be consummated.

The Arab army, in December last, after a year of recruiting, consisted of two weak infantry battalions, the nucleus of a squadron of cavalry, a mountain battery, all drawn from low class townees, and commanded by ex-Turkish army officers. In how many years (granted freedom from *coups d'état*) will "Sinbad's" garrison be free at this rate? To talk of maintaining a British-Indian force large enough to combat possible invasions by Kemal from the north is to betray a total ignorance of the terrain and circumstances. Mosul vilayet can be assured to Faisal only by agreement with Kemal on larger issues, not by fighting him.

With regard to "substantial assets . . . in the shape of railways" etc., upon which "Sinbad" lays such stress, I fear he speaks with lamentably little knowledge. If, as he urges, Government would give us the figures of expenditure on military operations and on public works, they would probably be of such a nature as to convince the British taxpayer that several hundred years must elapse before he could be reimbursed.

It is not enough to state what public works have cost: it is what they are worth to-day that matters. Basrah harbour cost millions. To-day it is far too big for any expansion of Irakian trade, and the surplus is therefore derelict. Improvements in river navigation engulfed large sums. To-day (except for the Machariyah diversion) they consist of Tigris and Euphrates as before the war with a few bundles of reeds on sticks to show where the deep water was in 1919. Railways cost millions to construct, and were built largely from scrap bought at famine prices in India. They have been a mighty loss from the beginning, and three months ago asked for the modest sum of Rs8,500,000 at once to enable them to keep running. Irrigation, except for the Hindiyah barrage, which was built at Turkish initiative and cost, was abandoned some time since.

As to raising Irak State Bonds, considering that the country is practically bankrupt, that taxes in many districts remain uncollected, that Faisal conceived it necessary to spend Rs.700,000 in bribes to potential enemies recently, I should say such bonds would be a doubtful security.

And, finally, oilfields. It might seem that "Sinbad", like so many others in this country, imagines Irak to be as full of oil as an Arab of fleas. The only places in Irak where oil is known to exist are Hit, Kirkuk, Chia Surkh, Gil, and the Jebel Hamrin, where it is traversed by the Tigris. None of these is proved in the commercial and technical sense. Chia Surkh was twice exploited and twice abandoned by the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, when the place was in Persian territory. Kirkuk and Gil both lie in strata so faulted and distorted that any bulk of oil is highly problematical; and all of them are a respectable number of hundreds of miles from the Persian Gulf.

If, as "Sinbad" asseverates, it is high time to counteract the malign influence of egregious anti-wasters, it is equally high time to examine more carefully the value of the assets of Irak in terms of these values to Britain, and to refrain from enthusiastic generalisation.

I am, etc.,

E. B. S.

London,

February 5, 1922.

ITALY AND THE DODECANESE.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—I venture to enclose a copy of a telegram which I have just received from the Dodecanesian association in Athens named "Nireus."

You will see from this message that the local Italian authorities in Dodecanese, who lately infringed the ecclesiastical rights of the islanders by the forcible removal of their prelate, the Archbishop of Rhodes, now encroach upon the field of politics and attempt to abolish the old political system which has been always respected

from the Roman period, guaranteed even by the Sultans of Turkey, confirmed by the Powers, and repeatedly supported by Great Britain. It is noteworthy, moreover, that this Italian action is accompanied by the threat of casting the notables of the islands into the maw of the Kemalists.

I am sorry to be obliged to point out that these repeated hostile actions on the part of the Italian Administration in the Twelve Aegean Islands towards the unfortunate native cause natural indignation throughout Hellenism, inasmuch as the late Italo-Greek treaty, relative to the cession of the Dodecanese to the Motherland Greece, is thus reduced to a mere "scrap of paper."

Fully believing that this illiberal policy in the islands is conducted without the knowledge of the Italian people, who suffered so long from a foreign domination, and struggled hard for the realisation of their national unity, I venture, through the columns of your esteemed paper, to bring this new policy of the Governor in the Dodecanese to the attention of the Italian people as well as of all lovers of liberty and justice.

I am, etc.,

MICHAEL D. VOLONAKIS.
(Delegate of the Dodecanesians).

London, February 7, 1922.

(Enclosure.)

"By decree ninth December Italian Government changed electoral laws of Dodecanese and applied uniform with Rhioes. People foreseeing complete ruin their islands refuse postpone elections and take census of population. Italians threaten notables with prison fines and delivery to Kemalists.—Nireus."

GREAT BRITAIN AND TURKEY.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—In reading the letter printed by you from the pen of Mr. J. M. Kenworthy, under date January 11, the first thought that occurs to me is how much greater the necessity for Members of the House of Commons to concentrate on affairs nearer their own gate—affairs of no less, and possibly of greater, importance than those of the Near East.

Especially is this truth emphasised when it is so plainly evident that the knowledge displayed by Mr. Kenworthy of Near Eastern affairs is so superficial, and obviously gathered from incorrect information so freely published by the Occidental Press.

Mr. Kenworthy displays his ignorance in his contention that to the Greeks the present Greco-Turkish war is racial and religious. He might be interested to know from one who has made the closest study of the Greek Nation's attributes that the inspiration prompting the heroic endeavours of the country in her struggle in Asia Minor is the traditional one of her breed—the policy of maintaining her right to defend her own handiwork, and in so doing she is but obeying the dictates of a feeling inherent in the heart of every real Briton. Greece is striving to control and constrain a nation which historical facts and authentic figures prove has maliciously disturbed the peace of the Near East for centuries past—a nation which had become recognised as an oppressor of liberty.

The Armenian massacres have been proved beyond the realms of doubt, and are now generally admitted to have been the most outrageous exhibitions of Turkish barbarism since the Turk first established his dominion in Asia Minor. The complicity of Turkish Officers of the highest grade and of officials of high state in these inhuman atrocities has been clearly proved, and the lone hand of Greece is the one now lifted in its endeavour to avenge the blackest crimes recorded in history.

Mr. Kenworthy speaks of the Greeks' endeavour to annihilate their hereditary enemy, the Turk, and, like others with little knowledge of the Orient or its mental machinery, saddles Greece with the wrong motive. He states that independent observers have described the atrocities committed by the Greek troops, and that, whatever the massacres by the Turks, they could not have exceeded the cruelties of the Greeks. If Mr. Kenworthy desires I can produce irrefutable proof to

him, giving the direct lie to the above information.

He is, of course, probably unaware that the Greek Army in Asia Minor is at present caring for over 84,000 refugees who have sought its protection from the ravaging cruelties of the Turks. These refugees are being fed by Greek charity and housed by Greek labour, and the Government have already expended a sum exceeding 100,000,000 drachmae to help the sufferers from Turkish misrule and tyranny. In addition over 32,000 of these refugees have been taken by Greek steamers to other parts of the country and placed in special encampments formed for them, where they are sheltered and fed.

Mr. Kenworthy might, with advantage, study the later history of Greece, and I wager he would find it of engrossing interest, more interesting even than the history of her struggles of 1827. He will then appreciate and realise that the little country he so undeservedly maligns is now struggling, risking her very existence, fighting to the full extent of her resources in men, material, and money for the principle of nationality; for territory that is indisputably Greek; for the rights of civilisation and the redemption of pledges given by other nations.

I have no doubt whatever that Mr. Kenworthy, when he has closely studied the situation as it now stands, will, like the just and brave fighter we know him to be, concede to Greece the fullest and most favourable consideration of her claims for justice, and for her zeal for freedom and humanity.

I hold no brief for the country, and I have no interest in her political troubles, but the principles that are at present prompting her to superhuman efforts should command respect and support of her earnest endeavour to obtain freedom for her people in Asia Minor without restraint from any shackles that would be imposed upon them by the Turks, a nation that in all her actions during the present war has proved, as she proved in 1825, capable of the highest forms of despotism and cruelty.

I am, etc.,

EILEEN M. ROSS.

43, Kehayia St., New Phaleron, Greece,
January 30, 1922.

A GIFT FROM THE EMPRESS OF ABYSSINIA

The Empress Zauditu of Abyssinia has sent to the Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem (Dr. MacInnes), a beautifully illuminated manuscript copy of the Gospels in the old Ethiopic script, bound in brocade covered boards and enclosed in a leather case; also a brass benediction cross of the finest Abyssinian workmanship. With the gift her Majesty sent a letter, of which the interpreter gave this quaint translation:—"The prevalent Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the elected by God's grace Empress Zauditu, daughter of Menelik II. of Ethiopia to the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Jerusalem of Britannic Church. After we present our respectable salutation and request to God that He may bless your Lordship's function. And we have sent to your Lordship as a memory a Gospel of the Four Apostles in Ethiopic language, and a cross for benediction. We hope your Lordship will accept them with pleasure. (dated) Nehasse 22, 1913, years of grace." The presentation was made by the Governor of Abyssinia's Northern Province, who was visiting Jerusalem in connection with some ancient rights of the Abyssinian Church touching the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, rights which under Turkish rule were transferred to the Coptic community. Only two other brass crosses of the kind mentioned are known to be in the British Empire. Incidentally it may be remarked that the Empress of Abyssinia refuses to drop the traditional title "King of Kings" and to take its feminine equivalent.

FRENCH AIR ROUTE.

Among the schemes for French aerial services this year is one for the establishment of a regular line between Marseilles and Genoa, if the Aerial Navigation subsidy proves sufficient. It is not intended that Genoa should be the final terminus; it is proposed that ultimately, by way of Naples, Corfu, Athens, and Salonika, the line should be extended to Constantinople, thus furnishing an alternative route from France by air to the Near East. As much of the route will eventually lie over water, the first branch of the line, Marseilles-Nice, will be served by seaplanes constructed by the Compagnie Aéro-Maritime de la Seine equipped with two 275 h.p. motors and capable of carrying 10 passengers and over 34 cwt. of goods and luggage. The Compagnie des Transaériens de Tours will run this new route.

THE FUTURE OF PALESTINE.

Administration Outlined.

Details of the provisional drafts of Orders in Council, by which it is proposed to establish the future government of Palestine, were issued last week. The Colonial Office is still in consultation with the High Commissioner and with other authorities as to these details, which are subject to modification and have not yet reached final form.

The principal order provides for the appointment of "a fit person to administer the Government of Palestine," under the designation of High Commissioner and Commander-in-Chief and confers upon him the powers necessary for the execution of the duties normally associated with the office of High Commissioner and for giving effect to the provisions of the mandate accepted by Great Britain, at the request of the principal Allied Powers, for the general administration of the country and the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people.

The High Commissioner will have authority, with the approval of a Secretary of State, to divide the country into provinces or districts in such manner as may be convenient for the purposes of administration; all rights in or in relation to public lands will vest in him, and also all mines and minerals, subject to the subsisting right of any person to work such mines or minerals by virtue of a valid concession; and he may make grants or leases of public lands, mines, or minerals, or, on certain conditions permit such lands to be temporarily occupied. Subject to the direction of the Secretary of State, the High Commissioner may appoint such public officers of the Government as he may think fit, and all such officers will hold office during his pleasure.

For the purpose of assisting the High Commissioner there will be an Executive Council constituted in such manner as may be directed from time to time by his Majesty's Government.

Legislative Council.

From a date to be fixed by the High Commissioner in Executive Council there will be constituted a Legislative Council which shall replace any Advisory Council then existing. This Legislative Council will have full power and authority, subject to any conditions and limitations prescribed by any instructions issued by his Majesty's Government, to establish such ordinances as may be necessary for the peace, order, and good Government of Palestine; provided (1) that no ordinance shall be passed which shall restrict complete freedom of conscience and the free exercise of all forms of worship, save in so far as is required for the maintenance of public order and morals, or which shall tend to discriminate in any way between the inhabitants of Palestine on the ground of race, religion, or language, (2) that no ordinance shall take effect until either the High Commissioner shall have assented thereto or the assent of his Majesty has been given by Order in Council or through a Secretary of State; and (3) that the High Commissioner may reserve any ordinance for the signification of his Majesty's pleasure, and shall so reserve any ordinance which concerns matters dealt with specifically by the provisions of the mandate. Further, his Majesty reserves to himself the right to disallow any ordinance to which the High Commissioner may have assented within one year of the date of the High Commissioner's assent, and to signify such allowance through a Secretary of State.

The Legislative Council will consist of twenty-five members, in addition to the High Commissioner, of whom ten shall be official members and fifteen unofficial members. The unofficial members will be (1) twelve persons to be elected in accordance with such Order in Council, ordinance, or other legislative enactment as may from time to time provide for elections to the Council; (2) one person to be nominated by the Associated Chambers of Commerce in Palestine, and two persons, not holding public offices in Palestine, to be nominated by the High Commissioner, who shall exercise his power of nomination, having regard to the representation of any community or interest which, after the elections are held, shall be found to have insufficient representation on the Council, this power to be exercised in such a way that one of the nominated members shall be a Moslem, one a Christian, and one a Jew.

The elected members of the Legislative Council will be chosen by primary and secondary elections, the primary election consisting of the choice of secondary electors, and the secondary election consisting of the choice of members of the Council by colleges of secondary electors. Every male Palestinian citizen over 25 years of age will be entitled to vote at the primary elections unless he has lost his civil right or claims to be a foreign subject, or under foreign protection, or is otherwise disqualified. For the purpose of primary elections every district will be divided into voting areas. The governor of the district, in consultation with the president of any municipal council or local council in the district, and the mukhtars of the villages, will define such voting areas, and will determine the number of secondary electors to be elected in each area on the basis that every 200 primary electors will elect one secondary elector; provided that if any village or quarter has between 150 and 200 primary electors it will be entitled to vote for one secondary elector; if it has between 350 and 400 primary electors it will be entitled to vote for two secondary electors, and the same principle will be maintained where the number of primary electors exceed 400.

Any person may be elected as a secondary elector provided he is on the register of primary electors for the district.

The secondary electors will be formed into twelve electoral colleges according to the religious community to which they

belong; the number of colleges to be allotted to each religious community will be proportionate to the number of secondary electors belonging to the several communities; and each electoral college will elect one member of the Council.

Civil and Religious Courts.

The judiciary will consist of magistrates' courts, district courts, with jurisdiction in all civil and criminal matters which are not within the jurisdiction of the magistrates' court, and with an appellate jurisdiction a court of criminal assize, with exclusive jurisdiction in capital offences, land courts, a supreme court acting as a court of appeal from the district and other courts, and tribal courts for cases involving the application of local customs. There will also be (1) Moslem religious courts with exclusive jurisdiction in matters of personal status of Moslems, i.e., in suits regarding marriage, divorce, alimony, guardianship, legitimation and adoption of minors, succession wills and legacies and inhibition from dealing with the property of persons legally incompetent; (2) Jewish religious courts with exclusive jurisdiction in suits and personal status of Jewish persons; and (3) Christian religious courts with exclusive jurisdiction in matters of marriage, divorce, &c., of members of their community other than foreigners. In particular, these several religious courts will exercise exclusive jurisdiction over any case concerning the constitution or internal administration of a Wakf or religious endowment constituted before the religious court according to the law of the community. The judgments of the religious courts will be carried out by the process and offices of the civil courts, which courts will subject to various conditions, also have jurisdiction in matters of personal status, and may call in any competent jurist to advise them upon such questions.

General Provisions.

All ordinances, official notices, and official forms of the Government and all official notices of local authorities and municipalities in areas to be prescribed by order of the High Commissioner shall be published in English, Arabic, and Hebrew. The three languages may be used in debates and discussions in the Legislative Council, and, subject to any regulations to be made from time to time, in the Government offices and the law courts.

If any religious community or considerable section of the population in Palestine complains that the terms of the mandate are not being fulfilled by the Government of Palestine, it shall be entitled to present a memorandum through a member of the Legislative Council to the High Commissioner. Such memorandum shall be forwarded to the Secretary of State for submission to the Council of the League of Nations, unless the High Commissioner gives a written reason to the petitioners for not forwarding it.

Special provision is made for the Government of territories comprised in Palestine to the east of the Jordan and the Dead Sea.

The director of the American Near East Relief Committee in Constantinople states that the largest children's hospital in the world has been opened at Alexandropol in the Southern Caucasus. It will have 6,000 beds, and the patients are drawn from Russian Armenian, and Greek nationalities.

An Army Order states that the Governor-General of the Sudan has been appointed by the Army Council to be a "Superior Military Authority," in connection with the statutory power given to the confirming authority to suspend sentences passed by Courts-martial pending the orders of a Superior Military Authority.

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MUSICAL NOTES.

A Musician's Wanderings.

"A MUSICAL PILGRIM'S PROGRESS." By J. D. M. Rorke. (London: Humphrey Milford. 4s. 6d. net.)

The number of books written for the general lover (amateur) of Music is lamentably small; but even smaller, and more valuable, is that of books written by the amateur for his kind, so that in recommending this book as a work of the highest class both from writer's and reader's point of view, I wish to emphasize the rarity of Mr. Rorke's achievement and the double service he has done us.

This book is the history of the author's successive musical appreciations during about twelve years; a chronological confession made to a public whose corresponding indiscretions must appear black indeed against the white (and successful!) candour of Mr. Rorke. He ingenuously claims to be a "non-musician"—a preposterous claim, by which is meant, however, only that he was educated in large part by the player-piano. This modesty I say is false, as every page can show; for not only has he extreme intelligence, but his writing at times glows as with incandescent imagination. His description of the journey from Chopin to Beethoven as a "pilgrim's progress" I suppose we must accept, though progress implies a goal, and in music there are no pilgrims, but only wanderers, who pass and re-pass the visioned heights.

Mr. Rorke's awakening to Music began late, and, as nearly all amateurs begin, with Chopin's "Funeral March." After that, in impressionable University days, came more Chopin, and still more Chopin—in fact all was Chopin, blotting out other horizons. What freed the author from this detention was "Tristan und Isolde." The sapping of his confident world had commenced—"Music was entering upon the second stage of its conquest, and taking under its sway large new areas of thought and life that one had never known it could touch." Somewhere about this changing time came Debussy, of whom with most suggestive lucidity Mr. Rorke says he "depersonalises the world." I wish indeed that he had travelled farther down this dark road of thought. A brief period was then given to Tchaikowski, "a blind-alley"—one can see from its brevity how finely discerning a musician the author was already becoming. And then, not finally, but the last mentioned in this book, came Beethoven, of whom he has written so many memorable pages of sense that I would like to fill these columns with extracts. It is Beethoven of the last period in whom he finds a lasting repose, Beethoven especially of the later sonatas and quartets. In Beethoven for him the eternal heights are scaled, the overcapping heights where he may walk supreme and not giddily, where the atmosphere is not rarefied but purified, and where, far above the mists enveloping other peaks, he can realize the Truth transcending Beauty. It is fitting that Mr. Rorke's most distinguished writing should be reserved for this climax of his adventure, but of the many things that I have marked for quoting I may find room only for this: "Other art, when it floats free, floats outward through the quality of the dawn, Beethoven's inward, through the unutterable intimacies of a world that the evening gathers home."

There is nothing new in this journey, as Mr. Rorke discovered when he reached his latest stage, but in the methods by which he has, as it were, raised the signposts, blazing his trail, as he says, he had made the way

surely easier and far more interesting for others. As it happens, there is nothing in this book, except perhaps the pages upon Wagner (about whom I know nothing), with which I am not in hearty agreement, so that I'm going to borrow a few of his best expressions:—

Chopin's art puts a living significance into music for people who would never otherwise have found it there; but in the process it eclipses, for such people, the rest of music, rather than illuminates it. Chopin must be worked through. The cure for Chopin fever is Chopin *ad lib.* All these special qualities which make this music unique will in the end reveal their limitations.

Debussy stands for a sort of vision which sees so far into the infinite significances that the concrete drama of life is diminished to a tiny play of puppets rather than magnified into melodrama. It becomes difficult to believe that Debussy, or the tendency which he represents, is on the main road, as Wagner was on the main road, of that eternal search which is art.

There are moments in some of Beethoven's late slow movements when we find ourselves breathlessly still, surrounded by a light that shines downward from above, infinitely remote, infinitely near.

Tchaikowski. it was music that was for ever surging up, full of passion, desire or fear; and it was never attained.

Privately I suspected the rest of the world; outwardly I said simply, after innumerable trials, that Beethoven was not for me. If a mood of scepticism came, so drastic that all art seemed a sort of self-intoxication, all truth a delusion, all goodness an old wives' tale, I think I would find in Beethoven the foundation on which I could rebuild faith in their reality.

Sometimes I think of all the lovely things of which the story-makers used to dream in the old days—magic carpets, helmets of invisibility, inexhaustible purses, touch-stones that turned everything into gold. And I solemnly declare that if I had the choice of all such miraculous treasures, and a player-piano were added to the list, I should unhesitatingly ask for it, as by far the most profitable miracle of them all.

I wanted to show how Mr. Rorke's enthusiasm had infected me to make my own confession—as it will infect everyone—but there is no space for it. I have room now only to wonder which of his virtues it was that impelled Dr. Ernest Walker to write so delightful an introduction to his work—his shameful frankness, his wise charm, or his very precious insight. Perhaps it was just his consuming love for Music.

Chopin and Liszt.

I wonder whether pianists will always be so selfish as to give us in their programmes whole chunks of Liszt; for the pleasure of listening to this impostor of genius is not half equal to the pleasure of playing him, and though of course, pianists are aware of this fact, they dazzlingly ignore it. There are, it is true, one or two musicians who can give us Liszt's B minor Sonata so that we do not mind it—men like Busoni, Poulshnoff, or Cortot—but in the hands of smaller fry it is in its theatrical poverty intolerable. Now Mr. Harry Field, the Canadian pianist who gave a Chopin-Liszt recital at the Wigmore Hall recently, began with three disadvantages; first, he obviously was not well; secondly, he had an execrable instrument to play on; and lastly, his first item was this sonata. It proved impossible in face of these things very greatly to enjoy Mr. Field's playing, though it manifestly would be unfair to criticise him harshly. But at least one could justifiably wonder why this pianist, whose methods are above all things earnest and careful, whose technique is never free, and whose touch, though it has its merits, is not for romantic music, should choose to play Chopin and Liszt.

Andante.

THE INDIAN HOUSEWIFE.

Delivering the opening lecture recently in connection with the Société Internationale de Philologie, Sciences et Beaux Arts, at 8, Tavitoon-Street, Golden-Square, W.C., Mr. I. N. Thakor told of the daily home life of the Indian ladies. Ladies of all classes, he said, undertook similar duties, getting up at four or five in the morning. But that excellent mode of living had been departed from by those fashionable Indian ladies who had visited London and other places. More than anything else the English language was the cause of rooting out the good features of Indian domestic life. Indeed, he should give the English language secondary place in India. Its universal use would destroy the whole of the Eastern civilisation.

A Bill dealing with the question of Czecho-Slovak property pre-war debts, etc.—in England will be submitted to the Czecho-Slovak National Assembly in the course of the Spring Session.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE YUGOSLAVS.

"LE ROYAUME DES SERBES, CROATES ET SLOVENES." Par Albert Mousset. (Editions Bossard ; Rue Madame, 43, Paris, 1921).

"Hier stehe ich, Gott helfe mir, ich kann nicht anders, Amen." With these classic words of Luther did two Croat priests reply to an injunction of the Archbishop of Zagreb, and the result was that they were forcibly deprived of their parish: their names are Bozho Miloshevitch and Stiepan Zagorats, and their crime was the fact that they had rallied no less than eighty-four adherents among the lower clergy to their programme of reform, including the suppression of the breviary and the marriage of priests, for they were Roman Catholics, and they attacked the fundamental discipline of their Church. Their sturdy independence and moral courage are typical of the temperament of the vast majority of the Yugoslavs, and this incident shows strikingly that the Catholic Croat clergy are no less individualistic than their Orthodox Serb brethren; it also shows that there are very many Roman Catholic priests who remember that they were born Slavs and later became clerics, and this should not be forgotten when interested parties propagate the seeds of discord between Croat and Serb.

This and many another interesting fact will the reader find in M. Mousset's work, which is a compendium of up-to-date information on the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. The author knows his subject, and loves it, as he loves the people with whom he is dealing and with whom he has lived. With true French logic, he realises the actual value of the difference between Serb and Croat, a difference due to their history and circumstances, similar to the difference between Serb and Macedonian, between the Slav of the Voivodina and the Montenegrin, to the difference between Lowland Scot, the canny Lancashire lad, and the Sussex farmer. All who are interested in Yugoslavia, whether through commerce or sentiment, should study this work, for the reader will find many facts to surprise him: how, for instance, that "la vie universitaire est plus intense à Belgrade, ou vivent des savants de réputation mondiale comme Tsvitch, qu'à Zagreb et à Ljubljana", and how the *granickari*, or Serbian Cossacks of the Austro-Hungarian Empire showed the military virtues of their race on the fields of Malplaquet and Oudenarde, in the Seven Years' War, and on the field of Leipzig.

Serbia sank much of her individuality for the sake of the Union, and expects the Croats and the Slovenes to do the same. The peasant of the Shumadie, who suffered so much from the black and yellow armies, sees himself to-day commanded by officers whom he knew in the army of the enemy, and the Orthodox priests, who went to the stake for their nationality and for Christianity, whose force was perhaps more national than ethical, receive with open arms their brothers of the Roman Church, for under the Constitution, all religions are equal and free in Yugoslavia. The Orthodox are about 42 per cent. of the population, but in no way superior to the strong Catholic minority though their church is now autocephalous: the Mohammedans are under no disabilities at all; when King Peter entered Skoplye in triumph, the mayor, Reshad Effendi, welcomed him with the following words: "Sire, once we conquered this city by the sword: now we have lost it by the sword: it remains for me humbly to greet Your Majesty." This was on the morrow of Kumanovo, which avenged Kossovo, and the aged monarch replied: "Serbia is the land of absolute equality for all creeds: tell the Turkish population that no man fear aught, and let every man peacefully follow his profession and his business." In the same way, the 130,000 Protestants of Yugoslavia, the 30,000 Uniates and the Jews are absolutely free to worship in their own way. There are Memnonites and Baptists, and Moravian Friars, but they are not recognised by the law: also the *Novoverisro* New Believers, the so-called Nazarenes, whose cult

was introduced into Serbia by a Scot named Mackenzie, after whom is named the street Makenzieva Ulica in Belgrade; these came into collision with the authorities, for their creed forbade them to carry arms: they are, in fact, the conscientious objectors of Serbia.

Serbia has the Jews which it deserves: these are of the Spanish-speaking Sephardim, and the generous toleration of the Serbs has made patriots of them, and they did their fair share during the war. There is, however, a tendency towards an evolution for the worse, due to the contact of the German-speaking Askenazim from Central Europe. It is estimated that there are about 130,000 Jews in Yugoslavia; they are most numerous in Zagreb, where they have secured the greater part of the commerce.

Chapter II is a monograph of the internal politics of the country, with an account of the aspirations and characteristics of each party. Much of this will be familiar ground to the readers of *THE NEAR EAST* but this is probably the only account of the subject in one work, and as the writer is well-informed, is a valuable and interesting summary. The rest of the work will appeal more to the business man than to the general reader, for it is chiefly statistical, dealing with the resources in agriculture, minerals, forestry and industry of Yugoslavia, which leaves the reader with an impression of great wealth crying for development. It is to be hoped that Britons will not shut their eyes to the possibilities before them, so that their name may become as much respected in commercial circles in Yugoslavia as they have made it in the military world.

A LITTLE BOOK OF QUOTATIONS.

"VIATICUM OR TRAVELLER'S SCRIP." Verses and sentences chosen and arranged by J. H. Fowler. (London: Christophers).

We feel that Mr. Fowler must thoroughly have enjoyed choosing his verses and sentences and arranging them, each with a number and a heading—a sort of title to each quotation, intended to bring out its deepest meaning—and seeing them appear in such a delightfully and plainly printed and bound little volume. We feel that there will also be many who will enjoy reading it and recognising the favourites that they have in common with the compiler and finding others not so familiar to them. Four of the forty-seven small pages are taken up by a Preface. Some of the headings to the sentences make the general effect rather topheavy, but a few do help to throw a fresh light on the thought which they precede.

"THE INDIAN ANTIQUARY."

Sir Richard Temple, the proprietor and editor of the *Indian Antiquary*, has signalled the jubilee of his indispensable journal by the issue of a leaflet in which he recounts the story of the work originated by Dr. Burgess in 1872. Sir Richard writes with full knowledge, for he has conducted the journal for the last 37 years, but he characteristically understates the services it has rendered during this period to the study of Indian history. It still is, as it has always been, indispensable to the serious student, and to some people the most interesting part of his leaflet is the announcement that general indices of authors and subjects are now in preparation, the one thing that was wanting to enhance the value of the journal. The *Indian Antiquary* is published by the British India Press, Mazgaon, Bombay, and Messrs. Quaritch, of 11, Grafton Street, are the agents for Europe and America.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Bulletin of The School of Oriental Studies, London Institution." (London: Luzac and Co. 6s.).

"Nile Control." By Sir Murdoch MacDonald. Vol. I. Second Edition. (Cairo Government Press. Price: Two Volumes: P.T. 20).

"The Manufacture of Cane Sugar." By Llewellyn Jones and Frederic I. Scard (London: Duckworth. 25s. net.).

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.**To-Day.**

February 16 (New Style).

February 3 (Old Style).

Gumada II, 19, 1340 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.

Shebat 18, 5681, of the Jewish Calendar.

Major-General the Hon Francis and Lady Isobel Gathorne-Hardy have arrived at Cairo.

M. Nicolas Vladesco, Third Secretary at the Roumanian Legation, has left town for Paris.

Prince and Princess Djemaleddin have arrived at the Carlton Hotel from Cairo.

Mr. F. Rodd, of the British Legation, Bulgaria, is at present in England.

After a brief visit to Palestine and Syria Lord Northcliffe returned to Egypt on February 12. and sailed for France on the following day.

General Sir Claude Jacob and Lady Jacob are sailing for India by the P. and O s.s. 'China,' which they will join at Marseilles on February 17.

General Sir C. Townshend, who represents the Wrekin in Parliament as an Independent, has joined the Conservative Party.

M. Charles Maskens, Counsellor of the Belgian Embassy, who has been appointed Belgian Minister to Sofia, will leave London next month to take up his new post,

Mr. A. S. M. Anik, a distinguished Mohammedan in London, is to be installed Master of the St. Mark's Lodge of Mark Master Masons, at the Hotel Cecil, Strand.

The Hon. Ernest Scott, the Hon. Victoria Cadogan, and Sir Johnstone Wallace are among the recent arrivals in Cairo, where Sir John and Lady Ellerman are also staying.

Lord Islington, who was Under-Secretary for India in the first Coalition Government, and retained office under Mr. Lloyd George until January, 1919, has joined the Independent Liberals.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place in London at the end of February, between the Rev. Andrew Macfarlane, D.S.O., Indian Ecclesiastical Service, recently chaplain to the Black Watch, and Miss May Pendleton.

A marriage will shortly take place between Brigadier-General Rudolph Hogg, C.M.G., C.I.E., Central India Horse, Junior United Service Club, and Mildred Deborah of 10, West Bolton Gardens, youngest daughter of the late General Sir Henry and Lady Green.

Sir Bernard and Lady Hunter left London on February 9, by the P. and O. overland express to join the s.s. 'Mantua', which left Marseilles yesterday, for passage to Bombay. Sir Vansittart Bowater, for Port Said, and Lord and Lady Forteviot, for Colombo, are also passengers in the 'Mantua.'

Among recent visitors to the Sudan are Sir Robert and Lady Drummond-Hay, who have been visiting their son, Mr. E. W. Drummond-Hay, Deputy Governor Dongola Province; Sir William and Lady Reid; General Friend, formerly Director of Works and Stores, Egyptian Army; and Canon Burroughs.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Major W. D. Hall, M.C., 50th Kumaon Rifles, Indian Army, son of Mr. W. Hall (late Executive Engineer, B.B. and C.I. Railway, India), 3, St. James Road, Tunbridge Wells, and Dorothea, only daughter of the late Colonel Trenchard Fowle, C.B., R.A., and of Mrs. Fowle, Summer Cove, Kinsale, County Cork, Ireland.

Lady Annabel O'Neill was married to Major James Hugh Hamilton Dodds, C.M.G., at All Saints', Ennismore Place, on February 9. Lady Annabel is the eldest daughter of the Marquis of Crewe by his first marriage, and in 1902 was married to Captain the Hon. Arthur O'Neill, of the Household Cavalry (eldest son of Lord and Lady O'Neill), who was killed in action in 1914. Major Dodds, son of Mr. James Dodds, of Alton, Berkhamsted, served with the Imperial Yeomanry in the South African campaign. Afterwards he entered the Colonial service, and is now Chargé d'Affaires at Adis Abeba, Abyssinia.

The King has granted permission to wear the following Decorations which have been conferred in recognition of valuable services rendered during the war:—

Order of St. Sava (Serbia).

Third Class.—Lady Boyle (Beatrice, wife of Sir Edward Boyle, Bt.) for Services in Connexion with the Serbian Relief Fund.—Mr. J. Moffat.

Fourth Class.—Mr. C. E. Bryant.

The King has given permission for the wearing of the undermentioned foreign decorations:—

Order of the Nile.

Fourth Class.—Major E. S. Oliver, Major E. D. Bally, O.B.E., Captain T. R. Colville, Captain A. C. B. Critchley-Salmonson, D.S.O., Aide-de-Camp in the High Commissioner for Egypt; Major A. J. R. Lamb, D.S.O.; Lieut. J. K. Maurice, C.M.; Mr. L. B. Bayley; Mr. D. MacK Bennett, Chief Inspector of Customs, Sudan Government; Mr. A. A. R. Boyce; Mr. J. N. Cameron; Mr. F. H. Cobb, Divisional Engineer, Egyptian Public Works Department; Mr. W. Hallas; Mr. H. C. Jackson; Mr. G. N. I. Morrison; Mr. P. Munro; Mr. A. W. Skrine; Mr. H. C. Squires, M.D.; Mr. F. Wellburn, M.A., Senior Master, Egyptian Army Military School; Mr. F. T. C. Young.

The following were severally introduced on February 8 into the presence of the Sovereign, when the King invested them with the insignia of the respective divisions of the Orders into which they have been admitted:—

The Most Exalted Order of the Star of India.

To be a Knight Commander: Sir Alfred Grant. To receive the honour of Knighthood and to be a Knight Commander: Mr. George Curtis.

The Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire.

To be a Knight Commander: Sir John Biles. To receive the honour of Knighthood and to be a Knight Commander: Mr. Charles Bell.

The Most Exalted Order of the Star of India.

To be Companions: Col. Donald McVean, late Indian Army (also to receive a Bar to the Distinguished Service Order), Mr. Charles King.

The Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire.

To be Companions: Col. Thomas Stodart, Indian Medical Service; Lieut.-Col. Philip Buriton, Indian Army; Sir Edgar Bonham-Carter, Mr. Robert Church, Mr. Dadiba Merwanji Dalal, Mr. Scott Durrant, Mr. John Gwynn, Mr. Archibald McLagan, Mr. Francis Rennie, Mr. Alexander Stewart, Mr. Edward Thomas.

The funeral service for the late Sir Francis Barker was held on February 8, in St. Peter's Church, Eaton Square. The service was conducted by the Rev. Austin Henry Thompson, assisted by the Rev. Ethelbert Goodchild, brother-in-law of the deceased. Among the large and distinguished congregation were Lady Barker (widow), Mr. A. Barker and Mr. V. Barker (sons), Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Barker, Sir Maurice de Bunsen, Sir Charles Ellis, Sir Charles Parsons, Sir Glynn West (Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth and Co., Ltd.), General Sir Henry Mackinnon, Sir Trevor and Lady Dawson, Sir Vincent Caillard, Commander C. W. Craven, (representing Sir James McKechnie, and the Directors of the Naval-Construction Works, Barrow-in-Furness), Captain R. S. Hilton, Baron Rauch (Commissioner of the Russian Red Cross in Great Britain), Lady Edith Franklin, Lady Thynne, and Lady Wyldbore Smith. Mr. Douglas Vickers, Chairman, and Mr. V. C. Vickers, of Vickers Limited, were unable to be present owing to their having to attend the funeral of their aunt, Mrs. Grazebrook, at Banbury. Following the service, the interment took place at Chessington, Surrey, where Sir Francis Parker had his country seat.

APPOINTMENTS & PROMOTIONS.

The King has appointed Major Francis Henry Humphrys, C.I.E., to be Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to his Majesty the Amir of Afghanistan, and Mr. Harry Charles Augustus Eyres, to be Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the State of Albania. Major Humphrys is an officer in the Indian Army and Political Agent in the Khyber. He was created C.I.E. in 1920. Mr. Eyres, who was educated at Marlborough, was appointed a student interpreter at Constantinople in 1877. He was sent to Scutari in 1881 and served also at Van, Erzeroum, Damascus, and Beyrout. From 1896 till 1914 he was Consul-General at Constantinople.

The King has appointed Mr. Bernard Archibald Platt, of the Inner Temple, to be Judge of his Majesty's Supreme Court for Egypt.

THE PARTHENON IN DANGER.

The question of the restoration of the north colonnade of the Parthenon, which was taken in hand some months ago, has, in consequence of some comment of the journal *Politeia*, given rise to considerable discussion in archaeological circles, says a message from Athens.

The previous repairs of the Parthenon, the Erechtheion, and the Propylaea, which were carried out by M. Balanos, head of the conservation department of the Ministry of Education, were it is generally agreed, a success. In their execution M. Balanos very wisely sought the advice of the most competent British, American, and German authorities. This year scaffolding has been erected on the north side of the Parthenon, and it is proposed to proceed as soon as possible with the re-erection of the fallen columns and the architrave. Several of the most distinguished archaeologists in Athens, however, hope that the competent authorities will reconsider their decision before matters have gone too far. In the previous repairs to the Parthenon missing portions were restored in marble in order to ensure unity of treatment in appearance. Now, however, one learns with dismay that in the proposed re-erection of the north colonnade of the Parthenon, a compound of limestone and cement is to be substituted for the missing blocks of marble.

A BALKAN WOLF.

Through the kind services of Lieutenant-Colonel F. L. Giles, R.E., the British Delegate on the Serbo-Bulgarian Boundary Commission, the Zoological Society has received a wolf from the Balkans, presented by King Boris of Bulgaria. Colonel Giles captured a wolf in the mountains, and deposited it in the Zoological Gardens at Sofia, pending arrangements for its transport to London. This animal unfortunately died, and King Boris, to meet the disappointment occasioned by this event, very kindly gave orders for another specimen to be caught and sent. The animal, which reached the Gardens on January 14, is about ten or eleven months old, and is very tame, coming to the bars of his cage, with wagging tail, when called. In another year's time, however, the natural savageness of the species will surely assert itself.

WHERE TO STAY IN THE EAST.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1922.

BRITAIN AND INDIA.

There are now distinct signs that the British nation, ordinarily slow to move, is becoming seriously anxious at the continuance of disturbing news from India, news which is all the more disturbing that it is for the most part fragmentary, and sometimes published in a form barely intelligible to ordinary readers. It is in fact not easy to appreciate the significance of each successive item, or to fit isolated details into their place in the frame work, and we propose to-day to sketch the general situation as it appears to us, in the hope that we may thus facilitate the comprehension of the large issue which is at stake. That issue itself is plain enough. As was said in the statement published last week by the Government of India, the question is between lawlessness, with all its dangerous consequences, and the maintenance of the principles which lie at the root of civilised government. Let us first see how this question has arisen. The British nation, as sovereign of India, has directed the gradual introduction of democratic self-government. A minority of Indians reject the idea of democracy, and desire to bring about a reversion to the old order of social privilege and spiritual ascendancy. In order to realise their object, they must in one way or another defeat the British nation, and their activities have been directed consistently to this end. In the first place they endeavoured to capture the minds of the middle classes, who must take a large share in working the new political institutions. Their campaign of non-cooperation, as it was labelled, failed decisively, and they then turned to the attempt to inflame the masses of the people, unversed in politics, and accustomed to the position of spectators in the gamble for power which lasted in India for so many centuries. In this attempt they have had both luck and leadership on their side. Seasons have been bad, prices have been high, and it has been easy to persuade ignorant men that they will benefit by any change; while the events in the Punjab, together with the deplorable delay in settling the Turkish question, have provided them with catchwords thoroughly well suited to inflame passions and drive a mob to extreme courses. To these gifts of fortune they have added mendacity and intimidation. The stream of lies regarding British rule and individual British officers has flowed without cessation, while the bands of so-called volunteers, in many cases paid highly for their work, have been quick to threaten when they found cajolery would not serve. In all this they have enjoyed the advantage of a leader possessing the qualities which most appeal to India. Mr. Gandhi has no particular intellectual distinction, but he is a strong personality, and his austere habits are notorious. Legends concerning him have been propagated with vigour and success; his prestige is great; and many millions of Indians look up to him as one of those rare mortals, famed in their mythology, who can compel the gods to do their bidding. It is uncertain what weight he carries in council, but it is quite certain that in action he is a great asset.

The party of which we are speaking have now openly declared war against the established government. The accepted formula is "civil disobedience." It implies that, in the areas where it is put in operation, the people as a whole shall disobey the law in general, and in particular shall withhold payment of land-revenue and other

taxes. Here we are brought into touch with history, for time out of mind Indian peasants have withheld the revenue when they believed a change of rulers to be impending, well knowing that the successful competitor would eventually collect everything that might be due. In the villages, then, incitement to civil disobedience confirms the impression, already industriously created, that British rule is tottering, and to our mind this is the real reason for the adoption of the policy. By its side, however, we have the numerous local outbreaks of violence, which bulk so largely in the cabled news. Their origin is at present obscure in the sense that we do not know whether they are ordered from the headquarters of the movement, or from one or other of its local centres; but in one case after another they have been proved to be due directly to the efforts of agitators who look to Mr. Gandhi as their leader. Their immediate effect is local, and as a rule transitory, but they serve to propagate the idea that a time of lawlessness has already arrived, and they constitute a call to the disloyal which it is impossible to disregard. In estimating the importance of these occurrences, the safest rule is to measure their gravity by their location. In Calcutta or Bombay they may mean very little, and the same is true of the well-known cities of Northern India, where the administration is supported by troops, and any outbreak can be effectively repressed. It is different in the villages, where the strength of the administration is scarcely represented, where speedy communication is rarely possible, and where a trivial initial success will multiply a mob a hundredfold, bringing to it recruits who believe that the long-expected time has at last arrived, and that they can safely rob and murder as their ancestors were wont to do. The Malabar rebellion has shown the horrible possibilities of an initial success gained in favourable circumstances, but last year's outbreaks in the rural districts of Oudh were not less alarming for a short time, and, to glance at last week's cables, the trouble in the large city of Bareilly was obviously less important than the outbreak at Chauri Chaura, a village too insignificant to be found on ordinary maps. But, whatever the actual danger, the point is that these sporadic occurrences are undoubtedly designed to produce an atmosphere of insecurity, an atmosphere which India remembers only too well, and of which the turbulent sections of the inhabitants have so often taken advantage in the past.

In this way has arisen the issue between civilisation and anarchy, for nothing but anarchy could result from the campaign of civil disobedience supported by violence. It is the obvious duty of the Government to meet force with force, and we are glad to notice that Mr. Montagu, in the address he delivered last week, spoke more strongly on this topic than on any previous occasion within our recollection. But when we write of using force, we do not mean to suggest that any sensational measures are called for by the present situation. What is wanted is the enforcement of the ordinary law by the methods which gave peace to India for more than a century, but which have recently been discarded in the interests of political development. Offences against the law must be punished vigorously, but at the same time with discrimination, and with due regard to the traditional maxim that it is better to secure the conviction of one leader than of a hundred of his dupes. Punishment however is not everything. The falsity of the idea that British rule is tottering must be demonstrated by showing its force. Ordinary movements by troops, and of such modern aids as armoured cars or aeroplanes, can be so employed as to impress the strength of the administration on any localities which have begun to question it, while the time-honoured expedient of increasing the police-force in places where lawless acts occur will be particularly valuable at the present juncture, because it brings with it the certainty that the Government stands firm. In our view that is the essence of the whole thing: convince the people that the Government still is what it has been for so long, humane and tolerant, but firm, and the present campaign of anarchy will, like its predecessor, fail.

THE ENGLISHWOMAN IN BAGHDAD.

By an English Memsahib.

Here, in the city of the Khalif, where the work of Government and Commerce is carried on, life has a lighter and a brighter side little dreamed of by folk in England, who think of Mesopotamia as a dreary desert land of intense heat, where malaria and other tropical diseases abound, and where life and property are in constant danger from Arab marauders belonging to the desert tribes. The very greatest and pleasantest of surprises is in store for the Memsahib fresh from England, who so frequently comes out to join her husband in almost a self-sacrificing spirit, all the time dreading the climatic conditions, fearing isolation, and thinking of the dirt and squalor of the East. Sympathetic friends have wished her God-speed, and with a sob in their voices hoped that she would be happy in that "dreadful country!" After a journey of four or five weeks she arrives and finds herself in a picturesque city brimming over with social life. British women in Baghdad can now be counted by the hundred and each boat that comes to Basrah adds to the number. It becomes increasingly difficult to rent a house, and the prices asked are simply exorbitant—£750 per annum according to the present rate of exchange for one containing nine rooms being considered not unreasonable by the local landlords, who have grown rich since the British occupation. The majority of British women live in the town, but there is a gradual drifting to the outskirts of the city and the suburbs of Hinaidi, Karadah, and Al-siyah (where the Civil Cantonment is) are of mushroom growth and are becoming more and more popular.

There are several good hotels in the town, and at least three clubs for Britons. Dancing is as popular here as in England, and is continued all the year round, though it requires an enthusiast to dance through an evening after a day during which the thermometer has steadily climbed to somewhere about 125 degrees F. in the shade. During the cold weather, when night frosts are not infrequently experienced, one can dance every afternoon and evening at one or other of the clubs or hotels. Most of the floors are fairly good, though a spring floor is a luxury unknown. Many of us have memories of dancing whole evenings on a concrete floor, over which tarpaulin has been stretched, and have enjoyed ourselves to the full; though the next day there has been a decidedly "morning-after-the-night-before" kind of feeling.

The etiquette of calling is the same as that observed in India, and the new comer is the first to call, except in the case of brides. At present, if the newcomer does all the calling that is expected of her, she has a long programme to complete, which is made much more difficult by the very scattered positions of houses occupied by British residents; for there is no distinctly British quarter in the town. Coupled with this state of affairs, there is a confused maze of streets, and the Iraklis who drive our taxis and private cars rarely understand English,

and appear not even to know the principal residences in Baghdad.

Apart from club life, which is as much appreciated by the feminine element as by the merely masculine, there is much private entertaining—dinners, small dances and bridge parties.

Sports and pastimes there are to be had in plenty. In the hot weather, tennis, golf and riding are the favourites, but towards the end of the year, polo, football, hockey and shooting have many ardent devotees amongst



A BIG FISH FROM THE TIGRIS.

(Photo by Special Press.)

the men. There is even a football league, and a large number of teams are drawn from the Army, Air Force, various Government departments and commercial firms. As for shooting, although the immediate environs of Baghdad are practically "shot out," there is excellent sport to be had a few miles out in the desert. Sand grouse and partridge are very common and the sportsman who is sufficiently keen to wear thigh waders, and go through the mud and water of the marshes can get such a bag of wild duck that frequently, his car is unable to hold them, and many are given to the local Sheikh for disposal. Some few men on their return from leave, at various times have brought back with them good specimens of sporting dogs, and in time, it should be possible to purchase well trained dogs here. At present, hundreds of brace of game are lost, owing to the lack of retrievers.

Gardening is becoming a popular hobby, for, under the system of irrigation adopted by the Government, the very most will be made out of the land. There are



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many British who can keep their tables supplied with fresh vegetables nearly all the year round. Potatoes are not a success, and fruit culture is a lengthy and difficult undertaking, not worth while to the British resident, who usually has but a comparatively short sojourn in this land; but most English vegetables grow with extraordinary rapidity.

Rain rarely falls between April and November, and the number of rainy days in the remaining months is not large; but when the rain does come, it succeeds in dropping the maximum amount of moisture in the minimum amount of time. Most of the roads are merely desert tracks, and the surface is churned by traffic passing over it; cars plough through it, with the mud up to the axles of their wheels, and even on the one or two good roads, skid chains are an absolute necessity. For those living in outlying parts, supplies are difficult to obtain, but the Memsahib's spirit is undaunted, and she garbs herself appropriately and faces the elements. It must be a storm of unusual and extreme intensity to keep her within doors for any length of time.

The British housewife, to whom all credit is due, succeeds in overcoming most of the difficulties of house-

keeping out here, and quickly adapts herself to the new conditions of life. She is confronted with many troubles and occasionally finds the servant difficulty quite as great as in England, though in rather a different way. Her staff frequently consists of members of different nationalities. Out here one has various servants from India, many of whom were previously army followers, who have stayed because of the attractive rates of pay offered. Then there are Persians and the local Arabs. These last make good house servants, but

are rarely good as cooks. Latterly, many Armenian and Assyrian refugees have been employed, and are spoken of quite well; their women are replacing the Indian ayahs, and appear to be devoted to their small charges—and there are numbers of tiny British children here, who thrive excellently during the first years of their lives. Of course, they have to be sent home to be educated! The native Bazaars provide for all household needs, and the cook is responsible for obtaining the supplies. His commission is not a small item, but as no bill is ever given by the local traders, it is impossible to prevent him benefitting from these transactions at his mistress's expense. The mistress does no work in the house, but it is to her interest to exercise a large amount of supervision for many of the servants are dirty, lazy, and unreliable. Though these qualities are not peculiar to native servants only!

The Bazaars are of never-ending interest, and there are few houses which have not been Easternised by the addition of Persian carpets of gorgeous colouring, brass and copper ware which is weirdly and wonderfully engraved; while in Madam's wardrobe usually reposes at least one *abba*, which is the Arab woman's cloak. *Abbas* are made of hand-woven silk in black and in gay colourings, with broad and narrow stripes in heavy gold thread. There is no better cloak for evening wear in the heat of the year, for the *abba* is both picturesque and light! Amber beads are another favourite purchase, but the price paid is frequently in excess of that asked

in England. White sapphires are brought from Persia, and other precious stones, but again discretion must be exercised, or the purchaser may find her purse considerably lighter although the "gems" she has secured are practically valueless. Although the astute and cunning bargaining of the bazaar merchant of the East is a byword all the world over, it is extraordinary how many fall an easy prey to his wiles. Needless to say, silks there are of all shades and varieties, though many are of foreign manufacture. Japan is responsible for a large quantity of the less expensive kinds.

As for the climate, most English women stand it well, providing that they take reasonable precautions; and there are always experienced folk ready with kindly and useful advice for the unsophisticated Memsahib fresh from home. The winters are not so bad as those in England, and Arab houses are built to withstand the great heat of the summer months. There is always a *serdarb*, or cool room partly below ground, which is used in the middle of the day. Windows are closed and curtains drawn almost as soon as the sun rises, and the house is not opened up again till evening. Of course, the whole family sleeps on the roof, and it is the quaint-

est sight to see hundreds of beds all round one on the various roofs; beds of all kinds and conditions, native and European, large and small, old and new.

There may be a few hardships and certain inconveniences to be borne, but ask any woman whether she would exchange lots with her sister in England, who has the benefit of all the advantages that an advanced civilisation can offer, and I think that, in spite of a certain homesick feeling that all exiles must feel at times,

she would say unhesitatingly: "No, not for worlds."

PROFESSOR E. G. BROWNE.

In Pembroke College, Cambridge, last week, says *The Times* Professor Edward G. Browne, Professor of Arabic in the University, was presented with a volume of Oriental studies, the combined work of 43 authors, representing 11 nationalities, in recognition of his great work in the study of Oriental languages and arts, and also to mark his 60th birthday. Dr. W. S. Hadley, Master of Pembroke, presided, and the company present included the Vice-Chancellor (Dr. E. C. Pearce) and many other heads of houses and distinguished scholars, as well as many ladies. Sir Thomas Arnold, one of the joint editors of the volume, said there had been similar volumes presented to other learned Orientalists, but this occasion differed from most others in the admiration and affection with which the recipient was held throughout Europe. Professor Browne was the greatest living exponent of the genius of the Persian people. The volume was then presented by Dr. Reynold A. Nicholson, the other co-editor.

Professor Browne, in his reply, said one feature of the volume gave him particular pleasure, and that was, the fact that the various contributors were drawn from European countries lately at war. Thus English and German, Austrian and Belgian, and even German and French scholars had collaborated to produce the volume. He rejoiced to see signs of reconciliation between old enemies mainly through the channels of education. The Professor was also the recipient of many other interesting gifts, including a portrait of himself painted by a Persian artist from a photograph.

A fine bas-relief of the fifth century B.C. has been found in Athens near the Temple of Thesus.

A statement by the Madras Government says that on the tariff question, India, in its opinion, should regulate her policy with a view to the production and encouragement of Indian industries and the production of revenue.



NEW STREET BAGHDAD. (Unusually Deserted.)

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

In consequence of queries, the Editor thinks it advisable to state that the quotation from any article does not necessarily imply that the views expressed are shared by "The Near East." On the contrary, an attempt is made to include as far as is possible in the available space all sides of the various questions discussed.

Egypt and the Empire.

In the *New Statesman* of February 4 is a strongly-worded article upon "Egypt and the Empire." It begins by remarking that in a few weeks we shall be back at the position of last autumn, the "Churchill-War Office" plan having failed. Turning to the new plan as recently published by the Foreign Office, it anticipates a considerable struggle before agreement can be reached. It goes on to say that those responsible for the destinies of this country have chosen the wrong path in Egypt "because their minds are muddled and their hand-to-mouth policies constantly fail to take account not merely of principles but of facts." And it attempts, in summing up, an appreciation of the forces in Egypt, and popular reaction to them at home:—

The immense torrent of nationalism that was suddenly liberated three years ago is as real a thing in Asia and in Africa as it is in Europe. But, while the nationalists of Czecho-Slovakia or the Balkans or Poland are acknowledged as patriots, the nationalists of countries with which we have a closer concern are assailed with indiscriminating abuse; the demand for "self-determination" there is always the cry of agitators, extremists, disloyalists or ignorant mobs. This wanton misreading of the sentiment of nationality may succeed for the moment in creating a serviceable prejudice, but eventually it will lead to the grave blunders that we have seen in Egypt. Nor do our ministers appear to understand the psychology of the "liberalism" to which they pay so much lip-service in their speeches and manifestoes. The long reign of Mr. Lloyd George has obscured the meaning of many principles, and we are not accustomed in the breathless scramble of his political gymnastics to examine our views about the character of our Government overseas. Nevertheless, the British people are at bottom liberal in the largest sense of the word, and they have become more liberal since the war. This "liberalism" may be active—it may issue in enthusiastic, and even violent, idealism—or it may lurk in a more passive form, fading often into something like indifference. But, active or passive, it is a force to be reckoned with by politicians who think to ride the whirlwind and direct the storm of foreign affairs. The Imperialism of twenty years ago is a fallen idol; it may have a handful of votaries left in the office of the *Morning Post* and the military clubs, but the great mass of the nation has forgotten it. How many Englishmen regret the "loss" of Ireland? And how many Englishmen will thrill at the thought of an Egypt dragooned into the British Empire? We do not believe that one man in a hundred in this country cares a brass button to-day about the number of red splotches on the map of the world, and we are quite certain that not one in ten thousand is willing to pay for adventures to increase them. Our militarists, we suspect, have already got an

unpleasant hint on this last head from the proposals of the Geddes Committee for the reduction of the Army. If the statesmen could grasp the full significance of these effects of the war—the strength of national sentiments, the liberal-mindedness of the British public and the tightness of the British purse—they would save both us and themselves a great deal of anxiety.

In saying all this, we are not arguing against the genuine ideals of the Empire. We do not want disintegration, but re-integration. In point of fact, the surest method of disintegrating the British Empire is precisely that which the old Imperialists are so eager to pursue—the method of holding it together by force. The futility of that method has been exposed in Ireland, it is being exposed now in Egypt, and, if we are not careful, it will be exposed before long in India. The task of statesmen is to find new bases for their imperial policy. In Egypt, at least, the way is plain. Egypt is not, and never has been, a part of the British Empire. But there is no reason why Egypt should not be bound in the closest ties, and bound of her own free will, to the British Commonwealth of Nations. She will have her own status—a status not unlike that of the "client" kingdoms allied with the Roman Empire, yet better than this, because both freer and more secure from imperial aggression. Egyptians may not like the word "client" and there is no reason why we should use it. But in fact, we must for the present have a privileged position in Egypt, unless Egypt is to grasp at the shadow and lose the substance of her independence. And we, on our side, cannot assure our interests or anyone else's by bombs and bayonets. The British taxpayers will not pay for the bombs and the bayonets, and, even if they would, an Egyptian boycott could defeat them.

India and Egypt.

The *Saturday Review* of February 4 contains an article under the above heading, in which the opening sentence is a rather startling question—"Can India be saved to the Empire?" It attributes the whole of the present trouble to the permission by Mr. Montagu and the Indian Government of Gandhi's "organization of sedition." It criticizes the newly created institutions of India, and concludes:—

There has been far too much protection for the disloyal, and far too little for the loyal in India. It is this as much as anything that has told adversely on the once splendid services by which Britain maintained her just and even-handed rule. We do not wonder that there is much discontent among British officials and officers, as they never know the moment when they may not be repudiated by the Government. Last week we commented on the highly unpleasant fact that Gandhism, which has been permitted to flourish—not too strong a word—in India, has spread to Egypt, where it may be hoped, however, that it will not be suffered to take root and grow up into the menace it has become in its native land. But we cannot be sure of this, for although the leaders of Egyptian Gandhism were arrested, they were almost immediately suffered to go free with no more than a caution! We admit that Egypt and India are not parallel cases. We are in favour, as we said in previous

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issues, of making all possible concessions to Egypt, but we are convinced that a firm policy is as necessary there as in India—otherwise there will some day arise the question, Can British interests be saved in Egypt?

Articles to Note.

"Hungary under Admiral Horthy," by R. W. Seton-Watson, D.Litt; and "Spain's Adventure in Morocco," by Ignatius Phayre in the *Contemporary Review* (February).

"A Journey in Arabia," by Lieut.-Colonel C. E. Vickery, C.M.G., D.S.O., R.F.A., in *Blackwood's* (February).

"The Romance of an Indian State," by Brig.-General R. G. Burton; "Europe and Bolshevism," by Dr. E. J. Dillon; "Gandhi and the Prince's Visit to India," by Sir Michael F. O'Dwyer, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I.; "The British in the Middle East," by Robert Machray; "The Embers of Austria"; and "Turkey and Greece," by H. Charles Woods, in the *Fortnightly Review* (February).

"Central Asian Rugs: An Adraskand Carpet," by Major Hartley Clark, in the *Connoisseur* (February).

THE EXPEDITION TO MOUNT EVEREST.

Before a brilliant and crowded assembly in the theatre of the Royal Institution at 21, Albemarle Street, on February 3, Sir Francis Younghusband lectured on the expedition to Mount Everest. He said the mountain had been discovered in the Forties at the time of the great trigonometrical survey of India. Viewed from the Indian plains it did not stand out as a prominent peak, and, as it had no name, it had been named after the inaugurator of the survey. Its height had been then computed at 29,002 feet; recent observations gave a height of 29,141 feet. When viewed from the Tibetan side the mountain stood out well. There it was known as Chomo Lomo—the mother or goddess of the country—and by that name it had been described in the permit granted by the Grand Lama of Tibet to the expedition.

Last year's expedition, said the lecturer, had not been intended to reach the summit; its object had been to find a route by which the summit could be approached—previously no European had been within sixty miles of the mountain, and even Tibetans had not approached within twenty or thirty miles. Photographs showed a ridge on the north side of the mountain giving fair promise of an approach to the summit, but how to approach that ridge or to get on to it was not known.

The lecturer described how the expedition had gone by a circuitous route from Darjeeling to Tingra, and had endeavoured to get on to the ridge from the north side, but had everywhere been stopped by precipices. Eventually an exploration was made from the east side which was successful, the ridge was ascended and the mountain climbed to a point two miles from the summit, and at a level of about six thousand feet below it. A feasible route up the mountain having thus been found, another expedition would go out this year with the intention of reaching the summit. It would be under the command of General Bruce, who had spoken to Colonel Younghusband of climbing the mountain as long ago as in 1893. General Bruce would not himself ascend the mountain but would father the expedition; it would be his responsibility to see that all its members were well fed, well equipped and well looked after in every possible way. Native coolies engaged in climbing the mountain would be fed and clothed in exactly the same way as the Europeans. The greatest difficulty and hardships to be encountered were due to the lack of oxygen owing to rarefaction of the air. The climber always felt exhausted and could not sleep well at night. Beyond this the snow was so extremely cold that the feet were liable to frost bite while at the same time there was a risk of sunstroke because of the nearly vertical sun.

Among other things mentioned by the lecturer were the facts that barley was cultivated to a height of 18,000 feet, and the highest point at which plants of any sorts were to be found was about six thousand feet higher. Birds were found up to 18,500 feet deep. The naturalist of the party among his specimens had brought back two of fleas a new species, and seeds of previously unknown varieties of rhododendrons. These seeds had been distributed to Kew, the Royal Horticultural Society, and others interested.

A MALTESE PEERAGE.

A *Gazette* of last week gives a notification from the Malta Government Gazette that, on the recommendation of the Committee of Privileges of the Maltese Nobility, and without prejudice to any decision that may hereafter be given by a competent Court of law, the Most Noble Ethel Maud Sedley Wearing has been recognised as Marchioness dells Taflia, in succession to her father, the Most Noble Colonel Frederick Sedley, Marquis della Taflia, who died last year. The late Marquis was formerly a captain in the 5th Lancers and the 48th Regiment, and retired with the rank of hon. lieut.-colonel. He served in the China War of 1860, and had the medal with two clasps. In 1871 he married a daughter of the late Rev. G. H. Landgon, vicar of Oving, Sussex, and granddaughter of the late Admiral Sir John Ommaney. She died in 1889. The new Marchioness lives at Badgergate, Rye. In 1916 she married Captain J. W. Wearing, J.P., formerly of the 5th Battalion the King's Own (Royal Lancashire Regiment).

AN ANGLO-EGYPTIAN UNION.

At a meeting last week, at which Lord Milner was in the chair, it was decided to form a society to be known as the "Anglo-Egyptian Union" with the object of promoting a better understanding between Great Britain and Egypt. An executive committee has been appointed consisting of Sir Henry McMahon, Sir Rennell Rodd, Sir Valentine Chirol, Lord Edward Gleichen, and Mr. J. A. Spender, with powers to add to their number, Mr. J. Loder will act as hon. secretary to the committee, and all communications relating to the society should be addressed to him at 31, Lennox Gardens, London, S.W.1.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Over 7,000 members attending the annual gathering of the Ahmadiya Brotherhood in the Punjab have contributed one anna (penny) each towards the cost of printing a pamphlet on Islam to be presented to the Prince of Wales. Speeches were made urging the members to ignore the Caliphate and Gandhi propaganda, as the best interests of Islam were served by the maintenance of British rule in India.

Herr Mertens, Chargé d'Affaires at Sofia, and formerly German Consul-General at Constantinople, has presented his credentials as Minister to King Boris.

Over 8,500 Jewish immigrants entered Palestine under Zionist auspices during 1921, although immigration was suspended for some weeks after the May riots at Jaffa, and has been somewhat restricted since.

According to an unconfirmed message from Belgrade to the *Graz Tagespost*, a Cabinet Council held on January 28, voted the ex-Emperor Charles the sum of 2,000,000f. (nominally £80,000) annually on behalf of the Yugoslav kingdom.

According to the report of the Armenian Refugees (Lord Mayor's) Fund, of 96, Victoria Street, S.W.1., numbers of children in Armenia have been reduced to live on refuse as the local Soviet Government has exhausted its means of assistance and the foreign relief organizations require more funds.

Mr. T. C. Fitzherbert, civil engineer, returning to England from the Punjab, died from angina pectoris on the steamer City of Marseilles.

On February 10 the *Morning Post* correspondent at Belgrade reported that in some parts of Yugoslavia the snow was lying eight feet deep. Roads and railways were blocked and communications were practically at a standstill.

Dr. Norman Walker addressed the members of the Indian Legislature at Delhi on February 10 on the object of his mission to inquire into the teaching of midwifery in medical schools in India.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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The D.O.T.

The details I was able to give last week from an extract published in advance of the findings of the Geddes Committee in regard to the Department of Overseas Trade summarised the recommendations, and the report which has since become available contains little more that calls for comment. The Committee's duty was to effect economies wherever possible, and they advocate the abolition of the Department as a separate entity principally because the view is taken that it is no part of the functions of the Government to assist traders except by information with regard to tariffs and such like things. It now remains to be seen whether the Government will take the same view, or whether it will endeavour to effect the extra saving required in other directions.

A Question of Functions.

Frankly I find it very difficult to understand the Committee's action. No-one is a stronger opponent of Government interference with trade or indeed with any ordinary individual activities than I am. We have seen quite enough of that and its unfortunate consequences in the last few years to want no more of it. But this is a different thing altogether and why the assistance of trade should be considered outside the administrative province passes my comprehension. I am very glad to know that the Committee's view with regard to the Department is not shared by the business community as a whole. While the reports have generally been received with applause, tinged only with the regret that the Committee has not gone further, there have not been wanting protests at the threatened disappearance of the Department. That being the case it is possible to hope, though none too confidently, that the "axe" will ultimately be found to have been blunted in this instance.

The Consular Service.

It is of some importance to consider the bearing of this development on the Consular Service and officials outside it who are concerned with trade matters. At present their duties include investigations with regard to markets and generally assistance to British trade endeavour by the provision of early information with regard to developments. It seems unthinkable that their activities should be circumscribed in the manner proposed. I cannot imagine any other country taking such a course, and I am certain we should speedily regret it, for it goes without saying that our official representatives are often in a position to obtain intelligence that would not be available to the agent of a private firm.

The Genoa Conference.

So far as can be seen we are little nearer a solution of the Near Eastern and other problems which are hindering the trade revival and keeping valuable markets closed to British traders. The delays have been irritating and unnecessary, and as a result of recent developments an atmosphere of extreme uncertainty has been created, which will be scarcely allayed by Mr. Lloyd George's statement that the Genoa Conference will not

be postponed. I am inclined to attribute a great deal of the difficulty that has arisen to the fact that the problem of our relations with Russia is to be dealt with at the same time as other problems nearer home and easier to solve. The question of the resumption of trade with Russia is to my mind essentially a matter which ought to be the subject of a separate conference. The issue at the moment must be extremely doubtful, and the soundest policy would surely be to devote our attention first to the removal of trade barriers in regions where there is no question as to the possibility of commerce in favourable conditions.

Need for a Settlement.

Any further delay in bringing about a conference would naturally have the worst possible effect on commerce, and at the risk of repetition I would urge on the authorities the imperative necessity for speedy action in regard to a Near Eastern settlement and the baffling exchanges. A solution of the Greco-Turkish deadlock would beyond question have a very definite influence on the Near Eastern exchanges, would open important markets, and would have an invaluable effect on our trade endeavour outside the region of the geographical Near East. In view of the issues at stake it is difficult to understand why no greater progress has been made towards a settlement, and it is would not be surprising if the business community began to wonder whether the Government is really alert to the needs of the situation.

More Mail Delays.

Difficulties in regard to the mail service to the Near East appear to arise every few months. This time it is the mail service to Egypt that is the cause of complaint. It appears that of late mails to Egypt have taken up to eighteen days to arrive, and in addition the deliveries have been very erratic. This has been due, it is stated, chiefly to the mails not catching the Lloyd Triestino at Brindisi, a contributing factor being the unpunctuality on the Continental railways. There are fortunately a number of routes to Egypt, and if the strong representation, that will presumably be made by the authorities are unavailing the best thing would be to change the route. Probably the threat to do so would be quite effective.

Commentator.

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Commerce and Industry.

REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, January 30.

Miscellaneous.

As a result of the International Railway Conference held recently at Berne there will soon be five express trains per day between Bucharest and Western Europe.

Thanks to the abundance of snow the autumn sowings are well covered and protected from the frost.

GREECE.

Athens, January 22.

Exports of Emery.

According to statistics compiled by the Ministry of National Economy, 10,885,150 tons of emery were exported during 1921 from the island of Naxos. Of this amount 3,689,900 tons, *i.e.* about 33.54 per cent. were exported to Great Britain, France taking second place with 2,702,500 tons or 24.56 per cent. 2,050 tons were exported to Holland, 1,477 tons to the United States of America, 475 tons to Italy, and 300 tons each to Germany and Spain.

Miscellaneous.

This year's production of olive oil is estimated at about 30 million okes. Last year's production was practically the same.

A Jew has been arrested by the Piraeus port authorities for attempting to import from Smyrna $1\frac{1}{2}$ million kronen and 150,000 marks, contrary to the regulations of the Syndicate of Banks.

The Administrative Council of the National Bank of Greece has decided to pay to its shareholders a dividend of 300 drachmae for the second half of 1921.

The Greek State railways have had a loss of 17 million drachmae during 1921. In future expenditure is to be reduced to the minimum.

CYPRUS.

Cyprus, January 24.

Destruction of Trees.

It is a lamentable fact which tends to show that little change has taken place in the character of the people that malicious injury to property, especially to trees, is still one of the worst offences throughout Cyprus—an island in which everyone who plants and tends a tree is a public benefactor. Thieving and acts of

relation are to-day only too common. Special dates have to be fixed by the authorities for the gathering of the widely cultivated carobs (locust beans); otherwise owners would suffer ruinous losses from the depredations as the fruit approaches maturity. Acts of revenge very frequently take the form of cutting, ringing, and otherwise destroying fruit trees of all kinds.

Nearly a generation has elapsed since a law was passed to deal with the evil of damage, the perpetrators of which could not be traced. It provided that when damage or destruction was caused by persons unknown compensation should be paid by the taxpaying inhabitants of the village or villages in which the properties are situated. Although a good deal of good has been effected by the deterrent operation of this law the evil appears to be again rampant. The papers, including the *Aletheia* (Truth) of Limassol, the chief carob growing district—are taking the matter up. The *Phone*, of Nicosia, in an article headed the "Killers of trees," advocates the exercise of Church influence, and still more of that of the village school teachers. Nothing can course be done to stamp out this scourge until a moral change is effected in the rural classes through better education in its fuller sense. It would be well if instead of a great deal of the political agitation for which village agriculturists have little taste the town leaders would devote their influence to raising the tone of education in all the rural districts.

General News.

The general agricultural outlook is good, sufficient rain for the present having fallen. The local price of carobs is 15s. per kantar (£3 18s. the ton); of raisins 7 piastres (9½d. the oke of 2.4-5 lb). Wine fetches from 4s. 3d. to 6s. 8d. the "load" of 128 okes.

All 10s. and 5s. currency notes of 1914 will be cease to be current after January 31, and are to be changed at the Imperial Ottoman Bank or the offices of District Commissioners.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, February 3.

The Internal Loan.

Subscriptions to the internal loan now amount to approximately 100 million levas. The peasants have, however, not come forward at all willingly with subscriptions.

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

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Prices on January 27 were as follows:—Agricultural Bank of Egypt, £4 15-12; Alexandria Water Co., Ltd., £6.7-8; Anglo-American Nile Steam, £2.19-32; Associated Cotton Ginners, £13-16; Banque d'Orient, Fr., 50 Behera Ord., £17.7-8; Brasseries d'Egypte, Fr., 70; Building Lands of Egypt, £27-32; Cassi di Sconto Priv. Fr., 108; Ciments d'Egypte Priv., Fr., 50; Ciments d'Egypte Div., Fr., 30; Comptoir Fin et Com. d'Egypte, £15-16; Consolidated Lands, Pt., 5; Credit Foncier Fondateur, Fr., 950; Credit Foncier Act., Fr., 661; Credit Foncier 1886 Oblig., Fr., 332; Crown Brewery Priv., Fr., 950; Crown Brewery Div., Fr., 130; Eaux du Caire, Capital, Fr., 120; Eaux du Caire Jouissance, Fr., 107½; Egypt and Levant, S.S. Ord., 33s. 9d.; Egyptian Delta Light Railways, £3½; Filature National d'Egypte £10.7-8; Immeubles d'Egypte Soc an des., £5.32-32; Khedivial Mail S.S. Ord., 107s.; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co., Pref., £2½; Kom Ombo Ste An de Wadi, £4½; Kom Ombo Ste An Fondateur £34½; Land Bank of Egypt, Parts de Fond., £37½; Lots Turc. Fr., £30; Menzaleh Canal Navigation Pt., 210; Nungovich Hotels, £6.9-16; Ramleh Railways, £2.7-8; Salt and Soda, 29s. 7½d.; Tram d'Alexandrie Priv., Fr., 41; Tram d'Alexandrie Div., Fr., 50; Union Fonciere d'Egypte, £2.5-8; Egypt Hotels, £2.1-32; Urbaines et Rurales, £3.

According to figures published by the official Statistical Bureau, the imports into Czechoslovakia during the first nine months of the past year totalled 2,077,000 tons, while the exports were no less than 7,352,325 tons.

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Oil Notes and News.

OIL IN YUGOSLAVIA.

That petroleum occurs in what used to be southern Hungary and is now the northern part of Yugoslavia has been known for many years, and optimists have been confident of finding what they considered to be a continuation of the Roumanian oilfield in the valleys of the Save and of the Drave. Oil has actually been worked in the fork of the river Mur, known as Medjumurje, or Mur Island, but the output is quite small. In Croatia and Slavonia seepages have been known since 1852, and in a few places have given rise to petty local industries, as at Paklenica and elsewhere. Trial pits were sunk, but only to shallow depths, and borings, as at Mikleushka and Kloshtar, Paklenitsa, Ludbreg, Poganats Veliki and Pitomacha, but the science of oil geology was then too young to lead to very definite results.

The country between the Save and the Drave, the two affluents of the Danube, consists of large alluvial plains, rows of low heights consisting of Tertiary marls and sands, often with a heavy cover of loess, and several protrusions of older rocks such as crystalline schists, and some eruptive rocks as granite.

The first serious attempt to explore the country was made by the Hungarian government, which put down a boring at Bujavica, which was interrupted by the war and afterwards continued by the Yugoslav Government, with encouraging results, but no finality. Then in the spring of 1920, a Yugoslav syndicate was formed which succeeded in obtaining a concession from the Government, which took the hint, and at once issued a law specifying the conditions under which oil concessions would be granted to native applicants. This was immediately followed by a batch of applications, chiefly from Yugoslavs, but there were foreign interests concerned also, which had not been provided for in the law. The Government consequently made its own terms, and these are an interesting concrete example of the short-sighted xenophobe policy of Belgrade. The law was amended to admit foreign capital, but this was expressly limited to a maximum participation of 50 per cent. in any undertaking, and the Government claimed 20 per cent. free participation in the capital in lieu of royalty. As competition appeared this was raised to 25 per cent. too large a proportion, it is true, but not a bad way of taking royalties.

After negotiations had dragged on for four or five months, a batch of concessions was granted, mostly to native syndicates and individuals. One large concession was secured by M. Pashitch Junior, representing, it is believed, a Paris group, and another by the Shell interest, which appeared for a time to be the only serious adventurer, in partnership with a Croatian group owing to the Government's restrictions. This company at once set to work to bore and made a detailed geological survey. At the same time, the first Croatian company, mentioned above, secured the necessary financial support from England, from the Anglo-Perisan

group, it is understood, and undertook three borings, which are now in full swing. A year after the first negotiations were begun the Standard Oil Corporation appeared in the field, with a concession to the north of Zagreb, but work in the field has not yet begun. None of the other concessionnaires have so far shown any outward and visible sign of enterprise.

It is obvious that the development of an oilfield in Yugoslavia, will add immensely to the wealth and prosperity of the country, but it is to be hoped that the Government will reconsider its anti-foreign policy, for it is only groups with very great financial resources and wide experience that can hope successfully to win oil under modern conditions, neither of which are available within the country.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated February 6:—Condition of Crops.—February 3.—In Bengal, fair rain still wanted. In Central Provinces—Sesamum wheat and grain good to very good, and late rains have improved wheat and grain. Prospects in Bombay and North-East and Western United Provinces unchanged. Markets.—Cotton, February 2.—Bombay cotton market weak. Fine M.G. Oomras, Rs. 350 March Rs. 362 May. Bombay cotton arrivals from September 1921 to January 27, 1922 were 1,508,000 bales as compared with 787,000 bales in the corresponding period of the last year. Piece-Goods.—Bombay imported piece-goods market unchanged. Stock on December 31, 1921 was 59,618 packages. Hessians steady, with some business done. Tea.—at tea sale on January 31, mostly end of season offering general. Lower priced grades are declined about half an anna. Dusts strong. Final figures of crops estimated at 247½ Million Pounds.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the week ended January 20 amounted to £E10,900; total for year £E320,486. For the corresponding period of last year, receipts amounted to £E13,282 and £E408,982 respectively.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ..	Piastres to £....	97½	97.7-16
Athens	Drachmae to £....	25.22½	96½-97½
†Belgrade ..	Dinars to £....	25.22½	327½
Berlin	Marks to £....	20.43	861-877
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3.5-8-1.3.11-16
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3.5-8-1.3.11-16
Brussels.....	Francs to £....	25.22½	51.80-52.90
*Bucharest ..	Lei to £....	25.22½	550-580
Constantinople	Piastres to £....	110	625-645
New York....	Dollars to £....	4.86 2-3	4.36½-4.37
Paris	Francs to £....	25.22½	50.40-50.45
Prague	Kronen to £....	24.02	227-232
Rome	Lire to £....	25.22½	89.50-90.00
†Sofia	Leva to £....	25.22½	615
Teheran	Krans to £....	50	51
Vienna	Kronen to £....	24.02	12,500-13,500
Warsaw	Marks to £....	20.43	14,000-15,000
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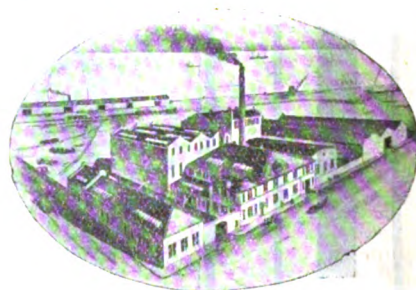
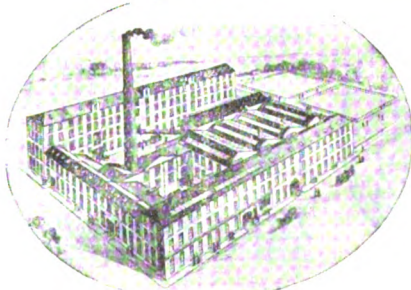
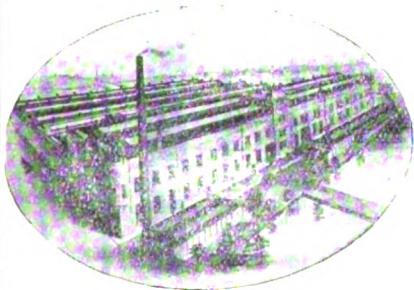
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Engineering Topics.

By Our Engineering Representative.

The Scottish Show.

Even in the motor trade itself there are those who wonder whether these constantly recurring motor shows are of any practical value. I am just back from a visit to the twentieth annual Scottish Motor Exhibition at Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, having felt it my duty to be there on the opening day at least, so that I might give as accurate a view as possible of the reception the show was receiving in the northern capital. Candidly I was surprised, not only at the scope and extent of the exhibits, but at the very large number of visitors who seemed to me thoroughly representative of Scottish and north country owner drivers and the trade. There was a first class display of every imaginable type of motor car, both private and commercial, motor cycle, tyre, wheel, engine, and chassis; there were hosts of components and accessories, and altogether the show was very much of a revelation to me.

I was inclined myself before my visit to think that after the commercial vehicle show held in London during October, and the big motor show of last November at Olympia and the White City that the Scottish show was to some extent superfluous; that it would be in effect merely a repetition of what had been shown before. It was however very far from that, and I consider that the British motor industry should benefit very greatly from this extremely fine display.

One of the points which should be brought home to the overseas public in particular is that whilst British productions of a motoring character have been steadily decreasing in price there is every reason to suppose that the fall has just about reached the bottom. I am aware that it has been the practice amongst American trade journalists to cry out that the limit has been reached every time a manufacturer made a reduction, the idea being to induce people to buy at once lest a rise took place. I am not speaking in that spirit at all: I honestly believe that we are at or very nearly at the rockbottom prices for every British product, and that no further appreciable reduction in the price of anything can be made until wages come down further, railway rates are reduced, and the price of coal considerably decreased. I think, therefore, that the Scottish show records the low water mark of prices, if not for the whole of the year, at any rate for the next six months or so, and that the steadily increasing demand now being experienced will stiffen or tend to stiffen prices rather than bring about a further reduction. With regard to this price matter there is another aspect, further, which should be considered. Whilst we are comparing the cost of the modern car and the value of the £1 sterling to-day with pre-war cars, prices, and relative values we should bear in mind that there is no comparison between the efficiency and road worthiness of the modern motor vehicle and that of pre-war days. I know for a fact that the post-war Rolls-Royce is better in a host of vital respects than any car the firm turned out prior to 1913, and the same statement, I believe, would be equally true of any other high grade make. The modern car may seem more expensive than its earlier prototype, but it is a far superior product in every way.

Oil and Steam Power.

A writer recently gave some interesting figures relating to oil production, and from them deduced that oil can never take the place of coal as a motive power, and that further the steam engine or turbine will remain the principal prime mover for an indefinite period. I do not know whether his readers are supposed to mourn or rejoice over this: it seems to me that if oil is at present making headway as a power producer either by means of ordinary internal combustion engines or by Diesels and semi-Diesels, it would not do so unless in some way it was found more suitable than coal-raised steam. We then, I fancy, should express some decent sorrow that coal is likely to be so long lived. I fancy, however, that the writer rather over argued his

case. He tries to show that coal is so much superior to oil as a power producer that no one with intelligence would ever use oil or petrol. And yet I know some apparently level headed people who even go so far as to drive their cargo vessels by means of oil engines. I gather however, that the total quantity of oil produced in the world is approximately 500 million standard barrels of 40 gallons, and that it is estimated that the heat value of a ton of coal is about equal to that of four barrels of oil so that the world's output of oil is approximately equal to 125 million tons of coal. But the total output of coal is about 1,250 million tons per annum—how nicely these figures compare!—and consequently there is ten times as much coal produced as oil, and, should the world's supply of coal fail, oil would consequently be able to supply only one-tenth of the required power. Candidly, that sort of argument means little, and leads nowhere. Before we could compare the heat values of oil and coal we should have to know what type of coal was referred to; there are 50 per cent. variations in coal. It would be necessary to know how we arrive at the annual output of both oil and coal; to what extent known but at present untapped deposits of both were being taken into account; what allowance was made for the use of shale and low temperature carbonisation oils and in short a thousand and one details we have not before us at the moment.

Electrical Hay.

A new device of an electrical character has been produced for making hay when the sun does not shine, or, in the words of the inventor, for preserving new mown grass without first drying it in the sun. The freshly cut grass is stored on metal plates in silos each of about 400 cubic feet capacity. The top of the silo is closed with another metal sheet, and this and the bottom plate are connected in an electric circuit so that an alternating current at a pressure of anything from 200 to 500 volts is passed through the grass, which is, of course, a fairly good conductor. It is said that the effect of this current flow is to destroy all bacterial life that would tend to cause the damp grass to decay. It can consequently be retained in this fresh and natural state for an indefinite time and I understand that from 130 to 200 kilowatt-hours will treat five tons of grass.

Electric Winches.

Until quite recently the electric winch, for use on shipboard, was regarded with strong suspicion. It was looked up as being likely to prove unreliable; there was a general feeling that the electric motor would prove itself unable to deal with heavy and sudden loads, and there is little doubt that, but for the advent of the motor ship, the improvements which have been effected in these machines would have been restricted to a very material extent. As the leading journal devoted to the motor ship industry rightly observes, the necessity for improvement was quickly realised when it was found that the type of machinery installed on board the internal-combustion-engined vessel lent itself specially to the adoption of electrical auxiliary plant. The result of all that is it is now considered, in all responsible quarters, that for reliability electric deck machinery is equal to steam plant whilst its economy is considerably greater.

A suggestion has recently been put forward that it would be a desirable course to provide steam vessels with electrical deck machinery as a standard arrangement. Reference has been made to the absence of pipe lines, which traverse the deck and constitute a source of danger to those employed on board, while the generally clean appearance of a motor cargo vessel's deck is apparently beginning to be envied by many steam enthusiasts. Considering the annoyances and difficulties associated with the maintenance of long runs of steam piping, it is probable that the higher cost of electrical plant has alone been responsible for not rendering the steam winch obsolete many years ago.

Stock and Share Markets.

STRENGTH OF GILT-EDGED:

(From Our Own Correspondent).

London, Tuesday Morning.

In view of the unfavourable conditions it would not have been at all surprising if the markets generally had displayed considerable weakness during the past week. As it happened a fairly steady tone was maintained except in a few directions, and gilt-edged descriptions resumed their advance, which has been such an outstanding feature of the past few months. It would be unwise, however, to draw the conclusion that because for once the markets have risen superior to their surroundings this is likely to continue. On the contrary it may be assumed that unless there is a very pronounced improvement in the political outlook there will be a severe setback. At the moment of writing it must be admitted that conditions are very far from favourable. Ireland again is disturbed, the position in regard to India and Egypt is very uncertain, while so far the various conferences on the Continent have given little cause for confidence. Against these influences the only bull point the market has is the expectation that the bank rate will be reduced.

There have been a few new issues of importance during the past week. The £3,000,000 seven per cent Seine Loan met with an excellent response, while the Bengal Iron Debenture offer was more or less neglected, presumably because of the unfavourable view taken of the position in India. Then yesterday there was the £5,000,000 Shell seven per cent. Second Preference issue, which was enormously successful, the lists being closed at a very early hour. I imagine that there is now likely to be a pause in new issues pending political developments, for the investor is scarcely likely to be found in a suitable mood while the outlook is so dubious. Before I leave the subject of new issues I must mention that it is expected that the negotiations for a Greek Loan will be shortly concluded; indeed it is just possible that matters may have been arranged before these notes appear. It should not be long, therefore, before the public is offered an opportunity of helping British trade with the Near East.

Gilt-Edged Firm.

Gilt-edged, as I have pointed out, have broadly speaking had a good week. Consols are 7-8 up at 52 3-8, War Loan Fives have gained 15-16 at 94 1-16, while the Conversion Loan is 1 3-8 up at 71 1-8. The exception has been presented by Indian stocks, which have been very weak. The India seven per cent. Loan is 1 down at 103, the three per cent Loan has shed $\frac{1}{4}$ at 50, while the $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent Loan is $1\frac{1}{2}$ down at 57. In Near Eastern securities which rank with British Government stocks, Turkish Guaranteed 4 per cents are 75 5-8, a rise of 1 5-8.

A very quiet tone has prevailed in the foreign market. French stocks have been fairly steady, and War Loan Fives are unchanged at 41. German 3 per cents are also the same at 2 7-8, but Italian Rentes are a point up at 22 $\frac{1}{2}$. Japanese stocks have been rather dull, the 1905 issue being $1\frac{1}{2}$ down at 85. Chinese securities have also inclined to weakness, the 1896 Loan being 1 down at 87, while the 1913 Loan has shed $\frac{1}{4}$ at 67. The demand for Brazilians has declined, and prices have eased off, while Mexicans have also been dull. Russians have been featureless, and rates are unchanged. In Greek securities the 1884 Loan is 38 $\frac{1}{2}$, the 1889 Loan has been done at 30 $\frac{1}{2}$, while Monopolies are 32 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Industrials Quiet.

A quiet tone has ruled in the Industrial group. There has been very little business passing, and the tendency seems to be to wait on developments. A fair business was done in tobaccos, Bats being unchanged at 61s. 3d. despite the improvement in the American exchange, while Imperial Tobaccos have firmed up 9d. at 52s. The result of the meeting of Dunlops was a relapse in the shares, but they recovered later to 5s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. In the Insurance group City Equitable Prefs are down to 3s. 6d. on the unfavourable developments. Tea shares have been a shade better, while Textiles are about the same. Coats are unchanged at 2 19-32, while Courtaulds are 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. down at 39s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Iron, Coal, and Steel securities have been rather dull. Armstrongs are unchanged at 14s. Vickers are 6d. down at 8s., Guest Keens are about the same at 28s. 6d., while Lamberts are unchanged at 37s. 6d.

Shipping securities have been dull. P. and O. Deferred are unchanged at 280, Cunards have shed 3d. at 17s. 3d., while Furness Withys are 6d. down at 23s. 6d.

Indian railway shares have naturally suffered as a result of the position in India, and are considerably down. If one were certain that nothing untoward will happen there are some excellent bargains to be picked up in this group, but seeing that there must be at least the possibility of a further fall it is obvious that it would be better to wait a little before entering the market. At the same time it must be emphasised that holders would be ill-advised to dispose of their holdings.

Oils Brighter.

The Oil market has made a much better showing during the past week, and indeed last night was in a state approaching buoyancy. Burmahs are fractionally lower at 5 5-16, but Mexican Eagles are on the up grade, and at 4 1-16 show a gain of 3-8 on the week. Trinidad issues have improved with Centrals at 3 17-32 fractionally better. Kern Rivers are 3d. up at 19s. As I have said before I regard Mexican Eagles and Centrals as particularly promising purchases for a small profit in the next couple of months or so. But that, of course, depends on developments generally outside the oil industry.

Among Egyptians, Anglo-Egyptian B are unchanged at 1 5-16, while Oilfields of Egypt are harder at 5s. 9d. In the Roumanian group Roumanian Consolidated are 3d. up at 8s. while Phoenix have advanced smartly to 12s., a gain of 2s. 9d. Dacia Romanos are unchanged at 11-16, while Steaua Romanas are 6d. up at 10s. 3d.

Indian Banks Lower.

Among banking descriptions Chartered of India have shed $\frac{1}{4}$ at 14 $\frac{1}{2}$, while National of India are $1\frac{1}{4}$ down at 33 $\frac{1}{2}$. P. and O. Banking Corporations at 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ show a decline of $\frac{1}{4}$. Imperial Bank of Persias are unchanged at 5, while Bank of British West Africas remain at 4 $\frac{1}{2}$.

In Land shares Béhéras are 3-8 up at 8 7-8, while Egyptian Delta Lands are 3d. down at 7s. Gharbiehs are 1-16 down at 1 $\frac{1}{4}$.

NEW COMPANIES.

Cox's City Nominees.

Cox and Co.'s City Nominees, Ltd., has been registered as a private company, with a nominal capital of £100 in £1 shares. Objects:—To act as nominees or agents, either solely or jointly, for Cox and Co., or others. The first directors (to number not more than ten) are to be appointed by the subscribers; subject thereto, so long as upwards of half the issued shares are held by Cox and Co., the directors thereof may at any time by resolution (a) appoint one or more directors, (b) remove all or any of the directors, (c) increase or reduce the number, or (d) convene or direct one of the officers of the bank to convene a general meeting of this company.

Asiatic Petroleum (Palestine).

The Asiatic Petroleum Co. (Palestine), Ltd., has been registered as a private company, with a nominal capital of £10,000 in £10 shares. Objects:—To produce, refine, and transport oil. The signatories to the memorandum of association (each signing for one share) are H. Kenneth Lee and F. P. Winterbotham, both solicitors, of 10-12 Bishopsgate, E.C. The signatories are to appoint the first directors. Registered office: St. Helen's-court, Great St. Helen's, E.C.

Cyprus Asbestos.

The Cyprus Asbestos Company, Limited, has been formed with a capital of £300,000 in 285,000 10 per cent. Participating Preference shares of £1 and 300,000 shilling Deferred shares, and there have been issued for cash 205,000 of the Preference and all the Deferred.

The concessions taken over were acquired from a Greek syndicate. The directors include Lord Inchcape, Sir Thomas Royden Bart., and Mr. F. B. Behr. The chief engineer and managing director in Cyprus is Mr. Clement Dixon, an engineer.

Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Sugar Cheaper.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Monday Evening.

Sugar.—The tone has been generally weak. There has been little material change in the home refined market. Tate's cubes, coffee crystals and mineral water sugar have shed 6d. at 52s., 52s. 3d. and 46s. 9d. respectively. London granulated and Lyle's granulated have gone down 6d. and 9d. respectively at 46s. 3d. In export descriptions West Indian crystallized has been done at 40s. 6d., a decline of eighteenpence, and Czecho-Slovakian remains unchanged at 19s. Raw sugar (96 per cent.) quotations are:—February, 15s.; March, 12s. 9d.; May, 12s. 6d.; and August, 12s. 9d. White sugar quotations are:—February, 18s. 9d.; March, 18s. 3d.; May, 18s. 1½d.; and August, 18s. 1½d. **Coffee.**—Prices are lower. Costa Rica is 15s. cheaper at 120s., and Indian is 4s. lower at 106s. Nairobi at 110s. is 5s. down, while Jamaica has remained firm at 150s. The supply is still small with regard to the Nairobi and Ugandas varieties. The Futures market has been quieter. Quotations are:—March, 51s. 9d.; May, 52s. 9d.; July, 53s.; September, 53s.; and December, 53s. 6d.

Tea.—The market has been unsteady. Fine China tea has dropped ½d. to 2s. 11½d., as also good Pekoe Souchong at 11d. lb. Common Java has gained ½d. at 9½d.

Rice.—The market has been normal. Saigon and Burmese rice have been steady at 14s., while Carolina rice has shed 6d. at 28s. 6d.

Dessicated Coconut.—The demand has fallen off this week, while prices have remained steady.

Almonds.—Valencia and Jordan almonds are very scarce, and prices are appreciating.

Green Fruit, &c.—In the early part of the week the demand for oranges weakened, but gained strength subsequently until ultimately it almost reached the previous week's level. Supplies of lemons are in excess of the demand, little business having been passing during the week. Selected fruit has been in good request, while the market is short of bold fruit. Prices of Valencia onions are generally higher, and the demand has been better. Barrels and boxes of apples are showing a good market.

Oilseeds.—The tone has been unsteady. Indian linseed is 1s. 3d. up at 20s. 6d. and La Plata has risen 2s. 3d. at 20s. 9d. Rapeseed has been variable with Toria, 7½d. up at 16s. 7½d.; brown Cawnpore unchanged at 18s., and bold Ferozepore 3d. down at 17s. 9d. Cottonseed has been unsteady with Indian 3d. up at 9d.; Sakellaridis unchanged at 11s. 4½d., and Egyptian black, 1½d. lower at 11s. 7½d.

Oil.—A variable tendency has prevailed. Linseed oil is 5s. 3d. up at 38s. 9d. Rape oil is unaltered with the crude variety at 51s., and refined at 56s. Cotton oil has risen with refined 1s. up at 43s., and deodorized a like amount up at 48s. Egyptian crude is 12s. down at 35s. Turpentine is 4s. lower at 69s.

Oilcakes.—Linseed cake has gained 10s. at 310s. ton. Cottonseed cake at 195s. ton, and palm kernal cake at 135s. ton, have risen 5s. and 15s. respectively. Arachis cake is firm at 215s. ton, while cotton-meal cake is 10s. up at 320s.

CROP CONDITIONS IN MESOPOTAMIA.

The following extracts are taken from the Agricultural Bulletin of Irak for the period November 16 to December 15:—

The November rains have been particularly propitious over the whole of the country. Already a larger area has been ploughed for wheat and barley than is customary, and ploughing will continue for another 30 days. The exceptional fortune of this season's cultivation is the very large area that has been sown where there are no facilities for irrigation. Normally the rain-fed crop in Lower Irak is cultivated under precarious conditions, and is generally a failure, but with the advent of one or two heavy showers of rain in the early spring it is believed that a very good crop will be harvested. It will be interesting in due course to observe the effect of a largely increased cereal crop on the local prices. There is already a drop of about 50 per cent.

in the prices of wheat and barley compared with those of 1920. The current prices are nearly low enough to make the export of wheat and barley a profitable undertaking, and in the coming year it is anticipated that the local supply will exceed the local demand to such an extent as to result in fairly large exports of those cereals.

The Director of Irrigation reports that a rise of 4.6' was recorded in the Tigris at Baghdad and 2.3' in the Euphrates at Ramadi. The construction of the Butera Regulator at Amara is progressing. Clearance of the Yusufiyah canal and excavation work on its extension continue. An Irrigation Survey has been detailed to Diwaniyah to investigate two local projects. Repairs to the Hindieh Barrage are nearing completion. A training school has been opened by the Irrigation Directorate in Baghdad where eight students are now training for the posts of Assistant Irrigation Officers.

Winter cereals have germinated well both in irrigated and unirrigated areas. Crops of winter vegetables are in good condition. The harvesting of the rice crop is now completed, but threshing has been delayed by rain, and in some cases much loss has been sustained due to damage by rain both in the field and on the threshing floor. The date harvest was completed before the rains, and old date fronds are now being removed. The picking of citrus fruits continues. The sweet orange crop is reported to be above normal, while the sweet limes are below an average crop.

The Director of Veterinary Services reports that rinderpest in cattle has been attended to in the Baghdad, Nasiriyah, DIALA, Mirkuk and Dulaim Liwas. 1,645 deaths are reported to have occurred before veterinary aid could be rendered. 817 animals which had been attacked recovered after treatment. Altogether 3,756 animals were inoculated. All unaffected animals that were treated were rendered immune to the disease. The question of stamping out cattle diseases is of vital importance to a country such as the Irak where the livelihood of the major portion of the population depends primarily on its facilities for crop production. Cattle continue to be the mainstay of the agriculturist.

Grazing had become exceptionally scarce up to the advent of the first rains. Within a fortnight after the first fall of rain, grazing was general and it is improving daily. Plough animals are, in general, in poor condition owing to the heavy strain of continuous ploughing.

Experimental work with cotton, wheat, barley, berseem, maize, flax and ground nuts continues favourably on the three agricultural stations at Baquba, Kut and Rustam. The two varieties of maize ("Dent" and "Flint") imported for the first time from America, though badly attacked by stemborer, have developed extraordinarily fine cobs. There is also a keen demand for the "Dent" variety from local cultivators. In regard to the flax crop, this grew well, but considerable difficulties were experienced in rotting and scutching the fibre owing to the absence of export labour. About 100 acres of wheat have been sown with a view to growing a supply of seed to meet the demand in the subsequent season. Small experimental plots of ground nuts have done extraordinarily well. The large Japanese variety gave an average of 1.1-3 tons of pods to the acre. A forestry section of the Agricultural Directorate has been started and tree nursery work is being undertaken on a fairly large scale.

Analysis of soils continue. A further analysis of the DIALA water at various points along its course confirms the opinion previously expressed, that the high salt contents of this river during the summer months is to be attributed to the fact that while the dam at Table Mountain functions the river bed south of the dam acts as a drain for the adjoining country.

With the advent of the rains there were renewed attacks of "Aphis" more particularly on the Peach tree. It was further observed that the fulgid bug that causes the "Mann" disease of dates lays its eggs at this season. Experimental work in spraying fruit trees previously conducted near Baghdad is having the desired effect and garden owners have started undertaking this work at their own expense.

In the coming season the cultivation of cotton will be confined as far as it is possible to the three tracts, DIALA, Saklawiyah and Yusufiyah. Owing to the heavy fall in the price of cereals, a fairly large demand for cotton seed is anticipated. The Silk Assistant has toured the DIALA area with a view to undertaking demonstration work in sericulture in the coming season.

ASIA MINOR FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended January 28:—

Sultanias.—The total estimated arrivals to date amount to 168,180 bags as compared with 94,800 bags. The total estimated sales are 159,180 bags as against 87,800, while the estimated stock unsold totals 9,000 bags as against 7,000 bags.

Markets.—Business in sultanias is extremely limited. Dealers maintain their price in local currency and with exchange steadily declining shippers have no inducement to operate, actual costs working out to several shillings above U.K. parities. Exchanges are daily weakening, sterling rate having touched this morning as low a level as 622.

CURRENT PRICES.

General Produce.—Bacon: (Continental), 132s. 6d. cwt.; (Canadian), 115s. 6d. cwt.; (American), 108s. 6d. cwt.; butter: (Danish), 188s. cwt.; (Australian), 115s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 140s. cwt.; cheese (Canadian), 97s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 95s. cwt.; lard, 72s. 6d. cwt.; eggs (Danish), 33s. 6d. per 120; (Styrian), 24s. per 120; chillies, 162s. 6d. cwt.; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 6½d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 102s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 130s. cwt.; (East Indian), 125s. cwt.; (Central American), 110s. cwt.; (Jamaica), 67s. 6d. cwt.; (Mocha longberry), 112s. 6d. cwt.; (Santos, superior), 61s. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochin), 57s. 6d. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 11½d. lb.; pepper (Singapore Black), 3½d. lb.; (Muntok, white), 7½d. lb.; pimento, 2½d. lb.; raisins (Valencias), 110s. cwt.; sultanias (Smyrna), 121s. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 78s. cwt.; currants (Amalias), 58s. 6d. cwt.; sugar: (Tate's cubes), 52s. cwt.; (Lyle's granulated), 46s. 10½d. cwt.; (Mauritius crystals), 44s. 3d. cwt. (West Indian crystallized), 40s. 6d. cwt.; (centrifugal), 14s. 7½d. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 1¼d. lb.; rice (Rangoon, No. 2), 14s. 7½d. cwt.; (bran, Rangoon), 45 18s. 9d.; ton; cinnamon (firsts), 1s. ½d. lb.; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 3½d. lb.; tea: Indian (common to good common), 1s., 1½d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 7½d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 9d. lb.; Ceylon (common to good common), 1s. 1½d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 8d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 9d. lb.; Java (common to good common), 8½d. lb.; wheat (English white), 49s. qr.; (Australian), 53s. 3d. qr.; barley (malting), 55s. qr.; barley (feeding), 39s. qr.; oats (English), 32s. 6d. qr.; oats (La Plata ex-ship), 27s. 6d. qr.; maize (La Plata), 38s. 9d. qr.; flour, 40s. sack.

Metals.—Aluminium, £122 10s. ton; antimony (English Regulis), £35 ton; bismuth, 9s. lb.; copper (standard), 261 13s. 9d. ton; copper (electro), £70 ton; gold bars, 95s. 8d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 90s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 90s. 3d. ton; galvanised sheets (24 G), £15 15s. ton; lead (soft foreign), 461 13s. 9d. ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 1½d. unit; molybdenite, 28s. 1½d. unit; nickel, £180 ton; platinum, 395s. oz.; plumbago, £20 ton; quicksilver, £11 7s. 6d. bottle; silver bars, 347-8d. oz.; spelter (G.O.B.), £24 7s. 6d. ton; tin (standard), £154 2s. 6d. ton; wolfram, 11s. unit; zinc sheets, £34 10s. ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 18s. 9d. box.

Chemicals.—Acids: Boric, 60s. cwt.; oxalic, 7½d. lb.; citric, 2s. 1½d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 3d.; ammonia (sulphate), £16 ton; arsenic (white powdered), £40 10s. ton; benzole (standard), 2s. 5d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £14 10s. ton; borax crystals, 31s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 121s. 3d. cwt.; Potassium: Bichromate, 7½d. lb.; chlorate, 5d. lb.; caustic, £33 10s. ton; nitrate, £42 10s. ton; permanganate, 10½d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 1½d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £15 5s. ton; Sodium: Crystals, £30. ton; bi-carbonate, £11 10s. ton; bi-chromate, 5½d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £8 12s. 6d. ton; chlorate, 3½d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £23 ton; hyposulphate £16 ton; prussiate, 9d. lb.; nitrate, £14 5s. ton; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £80 ton; glycerine (industrial, 1200 per cent.) £110 ton; lemon oil, 3s. 1½d. lb.; quinine, 3s. oz.; red lead, £38 ton; white lead, £41 5s. ton; white ground lead, £50 7s. 6d. ton; sulphate of copper, £28 15s. ton; sulphate of iron, 75s. ton.

Hides and Skins.—Ox and Heifer (first), 90 lb. and up, 7-7-8d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 7-7-8d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 7-5-8d. lb.; (second), 90 lbs. and up 6-7-8d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 6-7-8d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 6-7-8d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 6d. lb. Cows (first), 60 lbs. and up, 6½d. lb.; (second), 60 lbs. and up, 4½d. lb.; 50 lbs. and under, 4½d. lb.; Bulls (first), 5½d. lb.; (second), 4d. lb.; Kips (first) 6½d. lb.; (second), 5-3-8d. lb.; Calcutta Market. Prices in rupees per 20 lb. Arsenic hides (cows): Agras, 10 to 16; Durlhangas, 7 to 9; Patnas, 5-8 to 7. Salted cows, 4 to 7-8. Arsenic hides (buffalo), 3 to 8. Skins: Calf, 8 to 10 per 20 lb.; goat, 250 to 280 per 100 pieces.

Miscellaneous.—Cotton: (American), 9-70d. lb.; (Egyptian Sakel), 14-50d. lb.; Oilseeds: Linseed (La Plata), £18 17s. 6d. ton; palm kernels, £18 5s. 9d. ton; castor seed (Bombay), £14 17s. 7d. ton; sesame seed (China), £23 6s. ton; soya beans £13 ton; Oils: Linseed, £32 10s. ton; olive (Levant), £74 10s. ton; rape (crude), £49 ton; soya, £32 ton; petroleum, 1s. 4½d. gallon; petrol, 2s. 1d. gallon; fuel oil (ex-tank), £3 15s. ton; coconut (Ceylon), £40 10s. ton; cotton (crude), £35 10s. ton; ground nut, £43 10s. ton; Rubber: Plantation (No. 1 crepe) 8½d. lb.; smoked sheet, 8½d. lb.; fine hard Para, 11½d. lb.

ORANGE GROWING IN SOUTH AFRICA. EXPERT ADVICE.

The Union Government of South Africa has issued an important brochure on Orange Growing in South Africa which will well repay perusal by all who have already interested themselves in or are considering participating in any South African Orange Growing venture. Therein it is stated:—

"South African Orange Groves, in full bearing, have yielded from £200 to £300 per acre. That is to say, from ten acres of the land a yearly gross return of from £2,000 to £3,000 has been taken. Probably three-fourths of that was profit. There is consequently a widespread impression, strengthened as new groves come into bearing, that South African orange growing is one of the best paying undertakings extant, in which belief many of the country's keenest business men have been attracted, and capital amounting to hundreds of thousands of pounds is being invested.

"The result should be a considerable Orange Growing industry in South Africa during the next decade or so, and there can be no doubt that those who get in now when the industry is in its infancy, . . . will have seized an opportunity that does not often present itself. That is, if they get into a sound proposition, for it cannot be too strongly emphasised that the business of growing Oranges is a very technical one. Orange trees will grow almost anywhere in South Africa, but what they will yield depends on what soil and under what conditions of climate and management they are grown.

"Hence there are in South Africa, as in all citrus countries, growers whose operations return little or nothing, while others, as mentioned already, get very handsome returns."

A considerable number of officers having interested themselves in South African Orange-growing ventures, and having been somewhat perturbed by reports regarding certain South African land propositions on the market, the Officers Association decided to appoint an expert endorsed by the Union Government authorities to make a report on those ventures, whose promoters had expressed a desire to submit their undertakings to the scrutiny of independent experts. Colonel E. Thackeray, C.M.G., D.S.O., of Johannesburg, was deputed by the Officers' Association to take the necessary steps. The African Realty Trust, Ltd., having placed all available information at his disposal, Colonel Thackeray visited Zebediela Estates with Mr. C. A. Simmonds a Consulting Horticulturist endorsed by the Secretary for Agriculture of the Union Government of South Africa. Under date October 18th, 1921, Mr. Simmonds reported to Colonel Thackeray as follows:—

"On the 15th inst. I inspected the Zebediela Estates, and beg herewith to submit a concise report of same.

"I may say that I have known this property for some years, and on the occasion of my first visit I was struck by the great possibilities of these farms for extensive citrus culture.

"The climate is healthy and just right for producing first-class oranges that will keep well and carry to our most distant markets overseas.

"The lay of the land is all that could be desired, the slopes are very slight, with sufficient fall for efficient irrigation, with very little danger of erosion during heavy rainstorms, and, further, for this reason the lands would receive the full benefit of every rain.

"The soil is really first-class for citrus culture. It is deep, well drained, and is easily worked red loam. Oranges grown on this soil will be juicy, fine flavoured, and of a good colour.

"IRRIGATION.—This branch of the work is in the hands of highly skilled engineers, and the writer was impressed by the very thorough way these works are being carried out, and when completed there is no doubt a very great quantity of water will be conserved.

"The orchards already planted have been well laid out—the trees have been well cared for, and are making good growth. Every branch of the work on this Estate is being well done, and no expense is being spared to make the venture a success. Hundreds of thousands of trees are being raised in nurseries for future planting. These trees are being well looked after and properly trained.

"A thorough soil survey has been made, and it is quite apparent that only good citrus ground is being planted."

"In conclusion, I must say that I am quite satisfied that the African Realty Trust, Ltd., are doing everything possible to make a success of this Estate from the Plottolders' point of view, and I have no hesitation in recommending the proposition."

Mr. Simmonds' full report, also copy of the Union Government brochure referred to in the opening paragraph, together with particulars as to how an investor may participate in this industry on a basis which should return 75 per cent. per annum on capital invested, even reducing the estimated profit to £100 per acre, may be obtained by communicating with the African Realty Trust Ltd. (Capital, £400,000 fully subscribed, £183,000 paid up), Egypt House, New Broad Street, London, E.C.2.—Adv't.

Cotton & Cotton Goods.

EMPIRE COTTON GROWING.

Work of new Corporation.

The first general meeting of the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation was held at the Hotel Victoria, Northumberland-avenue, S.W. on February 8, the President of the Board of Trade, Mr. Stanley Baldwin presiding. Among those present were Lord Derby, Lord Emmott, Lord Colwyn, Sir Henry Birchenough, Sir Frederick Lugard, and Mr. Walter Runciman.

The report of the Administrative Council stated that the agreement with the Board of Trade, set out as a schedule to the Charter, which laid down the terms on which the Government grant was made, had been duly sealed, and the sum of £987,715 less sums advanced since April 1, 1921, and expenses incurred by the Corporation in connection with their occupation of an office in the Board of Trade had been received. The Liverpool and Manchester Cotton Associations began the collection of the levy from those firms who agreed to the charge on September 1, 1921. In the first four months the sum thus collected amounted to £15,067 10s., and the Liverpool and Manchester Cotton Associations had decided not to put into force the power taken by them under their by-laws to deduct from the sum collected the expenses incurred in administration, but to make no charge on that account.

The position with regard to the levy had been receiving the careful consideration of the Council. The assent of the owners of over 90 per cent. of the spindles in the country was obtained to the principle of a levy of 6d. per bale of 500 lb. on all raw cotton used in the country, and it was hoped that with so remarkable a degree of unanimity behind the proposal it might be arranged for the Liverpool and Manchester Cotton Associations to adopt a new by-law instructing their members to add this charge to all invoices forwarded to spinners. It had been found, however, that for legal reasons this could not be done. The Council felt that it would be unfair to allow the levy to become a voluntary matter instead of being obligatory on all, and, moreover, it would be impracticable for the Corporation to draw up any scheme of policy if it were dependent for its income on voluntary contributions which might fluctuate considerably; its work could only be carried on with hope of success if its income was assured and known approximately. Expressions of opinion were accordingly invited from the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations, and from the Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Associations, as to whether these bodies would be prepared to give their full support to measures being taken by the Corporation with a view to legislative action to make the levy compulsory. Both bodies had passed resolutions warmly supporting action that might be taken to make the levy compulsory, and had sent out letters to their members asking if they individually were willing to support such action, and if they would be prepared to continue to pay voluntarily if such action be not taken. Replies to these enquiries were asked for by December 30, but the final result was not yet known.

Although payment was being made voluntarily by firms representing about 80 per cent. of the spindles, it was known that several firms agreed originally to the charge on the understanding that it would be made obligatory and universal, and the answers received so far to the circular letters made it clear that many of those firms would cease their contributions unless steps were taken to secure that object. The Chairman's Committee had further been in consultation with their legal advisers, who had prepared for them the rough draft of a Bill by which the object in view might be effected. The whole position would no doubt receive the very careful consideration of the Executive Committee, which in terms of the Charter fell to be elected at an early meeting of the new Council.

The report also dealt with the prospects of cotton growing in various regions of the Empire, including India and the Sudan.

Mr. Baldwin said the scheme was a great act of faith, a great piece of pioneer work that would not only bear fruit itself, but would be an example and an encouragement to other businesses throughout the country. From his point of view the special importance of their venture lay in this—it was the first great practical attempt of a great industry to cultivate our own Empire, and to bring into production great tracts in the world

that hitherto had not been utilized. It always seemed to him that if we devoted our brains and our money to developing our own Empire, and especially its tropical areas, and to cultivating the enormous markets in the East, we should be doing much better for our people than by battling with reconstruction in the East of Europe. The Government had shown practical sympathy in giving them a million of money. He was no lover of Government interference, if it could possibly be avoided, but if at any time they told him that in their deliberate opinion it was necessary for the success of the Corporation that legislative steps should be taken in the matter of the levy and they convinced him, he would do his best to induce the Government to give effect to it. He fully recognized the importance of the status of the Sudan being made clear and definite, for without such a clear definition of its position it would obviously be impossible for them to raise the money that might be required for the completion of the various schemes now in progress in that country, seeing that the day was past when they could look with any prospect of success to the Treasury for any help. He realized to the full their anxiety in that matter, and he would undertake to do what he could to help them.

Lord Derby, dealing with the compulsory levy, said that he had had some experience in the last few years of voluntary efforts and compulsory efforts. In this particular instance they had something being done for the common good. They had something like 80 per cent. ready to make the levy on the assumption that everybody else placed themselves in the same position. Under these circumstances he had no hesitation in saying that, speaking as a layman, he believed that the fairest thing to do and the right thing to do was to make a compulsory levy.

Mr. Runciman said the problem which the Corporation had to meet was one of the most serious that could fall to the organization of any great industry. He did not believe that the British Empire could ever be self-supporting. In this he differed from some of his friends, and he went so far as to say that unless they learnt from recent experience the necessity of not being entirely dependent upon one source of supply, they would be extremely foolish. He expressed the hope that the small minority at the present time would agree to the levy. If, however, compulsion should be necessary, the Minister was ready to place himself at the service of the Corporation.

The new council subsequently met in private.

MANCHESTER MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Saturday.

Although the general conditions prevailing in the market remain very unsatisfactory here and there a rather better feeling has prevailed during the past week. The opinion is gaining ground that some of our customers are in urgent need of replenishing their supplies, but buyers are still adopting a policy of caution. There has been more talk of further financial trouble, and many firms are now facing big losses through differences chiefly in connection with yarn purchased a long time ago and not taken up. With regard to cloth the tone generally has been dull. No transactions of importance have been mentioned for the Near Eastern outlets. A prominent shipper to Egypt has given his opinion that it will be some time before trade with that outlet revives. Small lots of fancies have been put through for the Levant and Constantinople. A slow feeling has prevailed in Egyptian yarns. Fine combed numbers continue more favourably situated than carded counts. Prices on the week show very little change. Users have only taken up small lots to meet immediate requirements. Rather more cloth inquiry has been about for China, but a poor response has been registered for India in staple makes. South America has been quiet. Home trade buying has been very patchy. There has been a slight increase in the turnover in American yarns, but some wretched prices have been accepted by needy sellers.

As a result of the trip to the Balkans of the Prague Samples Fair Train Czecho-Slovak manufacturers received firm orders amounting to sixteen million kronen, negotiations for additional orders valued at ten million kronen being still pending.

COTTON PRODUCTION IN GREECE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, January 22.

The following figures have been obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture with regard to the production of cotton during 1921.

Provinces of Pthiotis and Phokis.—1,300,000 okas on a cultivated area of 18,500 acres, as against 400,000 okas on a cultivated area of 12,000 acres during the previous year.

Provinces of Attica and Beotia.—2,300,000 okas on a cultivated area of 36,000 acres, as against 3,150,000 okas on a cultivated area of 52,000 acres in 1920.

The Cyclades Islands.—12,350 okas on a cultivated area of 875 acres, as against 10,750 okas on a cultivated area of 490 acres in 1920.

It will be noticed from these figures that although the cultivated area during 1921 was smaller by 10,015 acres than that in 1920, 51,600 more okas of cotton were produced.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended February 8:—

Our market during the past week has been quiet, almost stagnant at times, and the course of values has again been downward. A somewhat steadier tendency has been noticeable during the last day or two, and this is all to the good, but there are, unfortunately, many disturbing factors, the influence of which will have to be modified before any sustained period of steadiness can be looked for. The political news from India is still disquieting, and although the boycott is supposed to be officially ended, its effects are still very apparent, and the native merchants, either from fear of the movement, sympathy with it, or from a purely speculative standpoint, are not coming into the market as might have been expected, and as in many quarters it had been hoped would be the case. The news from Egypt is more satisfactory, and it is hoped that Lord Allenby's visit to London may have the happiest results. Labour troubles in the U.S.A. continue to disturb the markets there, and subsequently react in Alexandria and in our market here. In short, nearly every country interested in the production of, or the manufacture of, cotton seems to be distraught with troubles more or less serious. As far as Lancashire is concerned, we are by no means out of the wood of financial troubles left us after the big slump, and at the present rate of consumption there is a visible supply of Egyptian cotton in Great Britain sufficient to last spinners for the next five months, that is, until next June. Average weekly deliveries to spinners continue in the neighbourhood of 6,000 bales, which compares with 10,000 bales for the same period in 1913. On the face of it, it looks as if the Egyptian section had settled down to a steady jog-trot, on the basis of a two-thirds production. In the meantime, yarns are moving off so slowly that large stocks must necessarily be accumulating at the mills. The weight of yarn, plus cotton, must be considerable. The enquiry here has been of limited extent and of general character, with attention being chiefly directed to the grades Fully Good Fair and below. Good to Fine cottons have been little in request, and they stand, particularly Sakellaridis, at what appears to be an exaggerated premium over the lower qualities; for examples, Fine Sakellaridis is quoted to-day at 22.25d., with Fully Good Fair at 15.50d, a difference of nearly 7d. a lb. Fine Uppers also seem at 14.75d. as compared with contracts, but there is so little business doing in these higher grades at the moment that it is difficult to test prices. C.i.f. business with Alexandria has continued very quiet. Liverpool is still much the cheaper market of the two. Sales 1,400 bales (includes 200 Sudan). Quotations are reduced 100 points for Sakellaridis, with the exception of Extra Fine, which is 75 points lower. Brown and Upper are reduced 50 points on the week.

Negotiations will shortly take place for the conclusion of a commercial treaty between Czecho-Slovakia and Portugal.

The Shemen Company are making preparations for the erection of a large oil factory in Haifa.

Narodni Listy states that as a result of the continued rise of the exchange value of the Czecho-Slovak crown the prices of hops have fallen recently by almost one half, and that a further decrease is probable.

BRITISH INDUSTRIES FAIR.

Some Facts and Figures.

With reports current on all sides of improving trade conditions, the greatest interest is being taken in the forthcoming British Industries Fair, the eighth of an unbroken series, which will be held from February 27 to March 10. The Fair, which is organised by the Department of Overseas Trade, will again consist of two sections, one for such commodities as engineering stock, hardware, tools at Birmingham, and the other for lighter goods at the White City, London. The two sections will be held concurrently and in both cases the exhibits will be displayed under one roof, or rather under one series of roofs, for no one building is large enough to hold a complete section of the Fair.

A quarter of a million invitations to buyers in the United Kingdom are being issued by the Department of Overseas Trade, and nearly 50,000 have already been sent to buyers overseas. The Fair has received considerable publicity overseas, and already a considerable number of overseas buyers have written expressing their interest and intimating their intention to attend. In many of these replies overseas buyers have raised questions of interest to themselves and British manufacturers, and as a result orders for British firms have already been secured. A point of interest about the Fair is that it is entirely self-supporting, all costs of construction, maintenance, publicity and so on being borne by exhibitors.

With the exceptions of textiles, the Fair will represent in its two sections practically every British industry. It is open to Dominions manufacturers to exhibit, but middlemen do not participate. The fact that all the exhibitors are actual manufacturers is of great value to buyers, especially those from overseas, since it eliminates the confusion and waste of time which is apt to arise when the same goods are shown at different prices and in different parts of the Fair. Other advantages for overseas buyers include the free use of a special club equipped with reading and waiting rooms, and the free services of interpreters.

Preparations at Castle Bromwich Aerodrome where the Birmingham Section will be housed, and at the White City, London, are now well advanced, and at both these big buildings the actual exhibits of many firms have already arrived. Some idea of the size of the Fair can be obtained from the fact that at the White City alone 200 tons of timber and 15 tons of nails have been used in the construction of the exhibitors' stands, which cover 200,000 square feet of actual exhibiting space. These stands, which are being painted to suit the needs of individual exhibitors have absorbed 20 tons of paints and distempers. Over 10,000 asbestos panels each weighing half-a-hundredweight have also been used. The total area of the stand walls amounts to a quarter-of-a-million square feet, the frontage of stands alone being 3½ miles in length. When the stands at Birmingham are added the total distance which a visitor will have to walk to inspect the whole Fair will be well over 5 miles.

To protect the exhibits, each stand has a muslin ceiling, no less than 12 miles of muslin having been used for this purpose. The counters which form so prominent a feature of the stands involve the use of nearly 46 miles of cloth as covering, while floor-coverings amount to 22,500 square yards. In order to ensure adequate light for the whole of these vast preparations, 13 miles of ordinary electric cable and 12 miles of flexible cable have been installed. Through this 25 miles of wire will be conveyed the current to light 8,000 lamps, each complete with shades and fittings. These lights are controlled through no fewer than one hundred and eleven fuse boards, and six miles of straining wire have been used to support this vast mass of electrical material.

COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION OF THE OTTOMAN PUBLIC DEBT.

NOTICE TO HOLDERS OF THE OTTOMAN 4 PER CENT. UNIFIED CONVERTED DEBT.

The Council of Administration give notice that the date for depositing for the payment of 1s. 3d. per coupon on account, coupons of the Ottoman 4 per Cent. Unified Converted Debt due March, 1915, to March, 1920, inclusive, by Allied and Neutral holders, has been extended from March 1 to August 31, 1922.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

THE FROZEN DANUBE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, January 30.

The recent heavy snowfall, which reached an average height of 40 c.m. throughout the country, has now been followed by an unusually severe frost. As a consequence the Danube is completely frozen right down to Sulina. At Braila the ice is said to be two metres thick, so that any attempt to break the ice for the purpose of freeing the icebound sea vessels is now quite out of the question, and these boats will have to remain where they are until spring. The inclemency of the weather has caused also a good many casualties. Many peasants were caught on the road by the drifting snow-storm and were frozen to death. Several cases of wolf attacks have been reported, and in one case a pack of wolves penetrated right into a village and wounded 28 men, who tried to beat them off.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

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

Anchor Line.—S.S. Vindelia for Bombay (Liverpool, February 18); s.s. Circassia for Bombay (Liverpool, March 6).

Anchor Broeklebank Line.—S.S. Stockwell for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, February 18); s.s. Mahrona for Calcutta (Birkenhead, February 20); s.s. Anchoria for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London March 7); s.s. Media for Calcutta (Birkenhead, March 8); s.s. Mahanada for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, March 21).

Bibby Line.—S.S. Somersetshire for Rangoon (Middlesbrough, February 21); s.s. Warwickshire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, March 1).

Byron Steamship Line.—S.S. Maid of Hydra for Patras, Piraeus, Constantinople, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, Braila, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, February 28).

Clan Line.—S.S. Clan Mackenzie for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (Birkenhead, February 23); s.s. Clan Urquhart for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, February 25).

Cunard Line.—S.S. Antigone for Gibraltar, Malta, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, and Constantinople (London, February 21); Sea Victory for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, and Catania (Manchester, March 16).

Ellerman Line.—S.S. Assyrian for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, etc. (Liverpool, February 23); s.s. Gerano for Gibraltar, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Vola, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas and Varna (Liverpool, February 25).

Ellerman's "City" Line.—S.S. City of Marseilles for Calcutta (Birkenhead, February 20); s.s. City of Baroda for Bombay (Birkenhead, February 21); s.s. City of Dunedin for Karachi (Birkenhead, February 21); s.s. City of Manila for Calcutta (Birkenhead, March 1).

Ellerman's "Hall" Line.—S.S. City of Dunedin for Malabar coast ports (Liverpool, February 24).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—Steamers sail fortnightly for Malta, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz and Braila.

Glen Line.—S.S. Carnarvonshire for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, February 23); s.s. Gleniffer for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, March 9); s.s. Glengarry for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, March 23).

Glynn Line.—S.S. Sotero for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Catania, Messina and Palermo (Liverpool, February 24).

Harrison Line.—S.S. Inventor for Calcutta (Liverpool, March 4). A steamer will sail on April 20 from Birkenhead for Port Said, Port Sudan, Aden, Mombasa, etc.

Henderson Line.—S.S. Amarapooora for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, February 22).

Holt Line.—S.S. Laomedon for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, February 23); s.s. Bellerophon for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, February 23); s.s. Agamemnon for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Swansea, March 2).

Johnston Line.—S.S. Pomaron for Piraeus, Syra, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, February 18).

Moss Line.—S.S. Assiout for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, and Alexandria (accepting cargo through to Moroccan, Algerian, Cyprus, and Syrian coast ports) (Manchester, February 18); s.s. Luque for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Malta, Famagusta, Beyrout, Haiffa and Jaffa (Manchester, February 20).

Papayanni Line.—S.S. Grodno for Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna and Constantinople (Liverpool, March 11).

P. and O. Line.—S.S. Kaiser-I-Hind for Bombay (London, February 17); s.s. Caledonia for Bombay (London, February 24); s.s. Nellore for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, March 10); s.s. Egypt for Bombay (London, March 10).

P. and O. British India Line.—S.S. Nevasa for Bombay and Karachi (London, February 17); s.s. Chilka for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, February 22); s.s. Manora for Bombay and Karachi (London, March 9); s.s. Mashobra for Bombay and Karachi (London, March 24); s.s. Margha for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London March 17);

Prince Line.—S.S. Black Prince for Tunis, Malta and Alexandria (Manchester, February 18); s.s. Soldier Prince for Malta, Alexandria and Syrian coast (London, February 25); s.s. Norman Prince for Tunis, Malta and Alexandria (Manchester, February 28).

FRUIT FARMING IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The question was raised recently by an Englishman who was going to retire shortly from service overseas at an age when most people still have an abundant store of energy left as to what was the best method of spending the remaining years of activity. For Anglo-Indians, or "Indiamen" perhaps one should say, the solution is usually residence at Bath or Cheltenham or Ealing, or some such place. But that is not to every-one's taste, even if circumstances enable one to figure fairly prominently in local society. But above all there is the question of climate, and in the case of many people it is only too clear that prolonged residence abroad has rendered them unfitted for some time for the rigorous uncertainties of the English climate. These considerations, and the obvious fact that pensions no longer suffice for the comforts that those retired have reason to expect makes very important the choice of a centre which yields comfort, a salubrious climate, and a congenial but not arduous occupation which will compensate for the shortcomings of the pension. It is said that South Africa meets these requirements with its ample scope for fruit farming, and those who are interested in the matter can obtain further particulars from the African Realty Trust Ltd., whose advertisement appears on page 230 in this issue.

It is reported that the sugar production of India from the 1921-22 crop will probably approximate to 2,350,000 tons of crude sugar, compared with the estimated yield of 2,500,000 tons from 1920-21 crop.

According to a Law recently promulgated by the "Grand Assembly" of Turkey, motor lorries for public purposes will be admitted into Turkey free of Customs duty. Spares and accessories conforming with the list laid down by the Ministry of National Economy, and oil and petrol will also be admitted duty free.

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INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IN JERUSALEM.

The Zionist Executive in Palestine are establishing an Institute of Agricultural Research in Jerusalem. The following will be in charge of the various departments of the Institute:—Prof. Warburg (Head of the Institute) Department of Botany; Mr. I. Wilkansky (Manager of the Experimental Station) Farm Management.; Dr. P. Bodenheimer, Department of Entomology; Dr. A. Treidel, Department of Chemistry; Mr. M. Winik (In conjunction with Mikvah-Israel) Department of Chemistry; Mr. M. Wilkansky, Department of Farming; Dr. L. Fainer, Plant-growing; Dr. N. Reichert, Pathology of Plants; Mr. Zemach, Editor of Agricultural Publications.

The Departments of tree-growing, cattle-rearing, irrigation and agricultural education will be opened next year. The headquarters of the institute will be in Jerusalem. For the present the Institute will be under the charge of the Colonisation Department of the Palestine Executive, but ultimately it will be transferred to the Research Institute of the Jerusalem University.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS.

Alliance Bank of Simla.

The net profits of the Alliance Bank of Simla for the six months ended December 31, amount to Rs.5,73,757, to which is added the amount brought forward, Rs.3,31,154, making a total of Rs.9,04,912. The directors propose to pay the usual interim dividend at the rate of 14 per cent. on the ordinary shares (free of Indian income-tax), and to carry forward Rs.4,97,872.

Bengal and North-Western Railway.

The net earnings of the Bengal and North Western Railway Company for the year ended September 30, 1921, were Rs.1,57,59,456, against Rs1,34,72,453. The Company's share is Rs. 93,62,357, against Rs.49,63,960. Adding gain in remittance, £12,780, net earnings are £636,937 (against £875,316, when the gain in remittance was £344,385) plus £145,839 brought forward. The directors recommend a final dividend of 4 per cent. and bonus of 2 per cent. on Ordinary stock, subject to tax at 3s. 6d., carrying forward £127,445. The dividend with bonus recommended for the year is at the rate of 11 per cent. per annum, the same as in the previous year.

Smyrna and Cassaba Railway.

Holders of Ottoman, Smyrna and Cassaba Railway and Extension Co. 4 per Cent. Bonds, 1894 and 1895, are advised that under the "Traité du Reglement Trans-actionnel" confirmed by the "Tribunal de Commerce de la Seine" under date of December 24, 1921, bonds may be deposited with the Imperial Ottoman Bank, Paris, for the payment of a sum in francs, and the issue of a funding bond, also in francs, in respect of dividends up to and including February, 1922, and also the issue of new coupon sheets to date from August 1, 1922. Details may be obtained and bonds deposited for dispatch to Paris at the Imperial Ottoman Bank, Coupon Office, 25, Austin-Friars, E.C.

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(Over 80 Branches in the Near East.)

The Bank has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

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THE DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir, As one who has for so many years been engaged in the work of promoting international amity and goodwill, I cannot but take the opportunity of expressing my profound gratification at the results achieved at the Conference just brought to a close at Washington. The practical outcome of that great gathering must, I am sure, have exceeded the most sanguine of our expectations, and there must be a feeling of intense satisfaction the world over at the prospect of seeing war, if not made impossible, at least relegated a long way into the background. The dispersal of the clouds hanging over the Pacific, and the welding together of the two great branches of the Anglo-Saxon race are themselves noble achievements, as are also the decisions arrived at with respect to the reduction of armaments. The last named will materially assist us to liquidate the financial burdens which the war has left us.

The thanks of all are due to President Harding, as well as to Mr. Hughes, Senator Lodge and other prominent Americans who have been associated with him—and we must not, of course, omit to mention the great work done by his predecessor, President Wilson—while in we England can feel especially proud when we think of the tact and ability displayed by the leader of the British Delegation. Mr. Balfour has deserved well of his countrymen in many ways, but in nothing has he so signally earned the esteem and gratitude of the nation as in his dignified conduct of the British case at this Conference. It is the crowning effort of a long and honourable career.

Personally, I have had a very special interest in the work of this conference. Before it began I was asked by the Editor of one of the leading journals in the United States to write for his paper my views on the Disarmament Question, and it says much for the keen interest taken in the subject by the American people, that on publication of that article I was requested by several other newspapers in the principal cities of the States to give further expression to my opinions on this important matter. These journals include the *New York Herald*, *The New York Tribune*, *The New York Commercial*, *The New York Journal of Commerce*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, and the latest of these articles was written for the *Textile World* of Boston, and will appear in that journal on the 11th instant.

The purport of all these articles was to emphasise the supreme importance to the English-speaking peoples of co-operating instead of competing in international affairs, and thus give an object-lesson to the other nations of the world of their interdependence. When the interdependence of all the nations is fully realised universal peace will be assured. During the past sixteen years the nations have co-operated harmoniously in the supply of the two prime necessities of life—food and clothing; and my experience of great international congresses, all over the world, has convinced me that the work that has been done by the International Cotton Federation and the International Institute of Agriculture could be extended to include almost all the affairs of life.

I am satisfied that in the supply of the world's needs there is room for all, and that there is no necessity whatever for the international jealousies which have for so long disturbed and threatened us. Reduce the burden of armaments and in future agree to co-operate in all matter for the common good and we should find plentiful outlets for enterprise in developing the great developed resources of the world, which would find ample employment for all.—Yours, etc.,

CHARLES W. MACARA,

York Street,

Manchester,

February 9, 1922.

THE LATE SIR FRANCIS BARKER.

Sir Francis Barker, a director of Vickers Limited, whose death at Cannes on January 28, was announced in "The Near East" of February 2, had been ill for some considerable time, having undergone an operation last year, from which, however, he seemed to be making a good recovery. He went to Cannes for his convalescence, and there a second operation was found to be necessary. From the effects of this he never rallied and passed away in a nursing home to which he had been removed.

Sir Francis Barker was born at Smyrna in June, 1865, the second son of the late Alfred Barker of Constantinople and Elmfield, Esher, and was educated privately and at Clifton College. He received his early business training in his father's bank in Constantinople, subsequently becoming private and confidential secretary to Sir Edgar Vincent (the present Lord D'Abernon) at that time Director-General of the Imperial Ottoman Bank at Constantinople. During this period he travelled extensively in Syria and other parts of Asia Minor.

In 1899 the Parsons' Foreign Patents Company, Ltd., was formed to exploit on the continent of Europe Sir Charles Parsons' patents for marine and land turbine work. Sir Francis Barker was appointed manager of this company, and as such was instrumental in forming subsidiary companies in various foreign countries and in establishing works under the Parsons' Patents for the manufacture of land and marine turbines in those countries. He maintained his association with the Parsons' Foreign Patents Company, Ltd., to the end, and at the time of his death was a director of the Company.

In Russia, and especially in Russo-British affairs, he always evinced the liveliest interest. He was President of the British Russia Club and Chairman of the Executive Council of the Russo-British Chamber of Commerce. As organiser and founder with Lady Barker, of Kitchener House, Grosvenor Place, Sir Francis will be held in affectionate remembrance by many officers and ex-officers who there received technical and commercial training in preparation for their entry, not only into civil employment, but in many cases, into Government service.

The production of fertilisers and artificial manures in Czechoslovakia has made continuous progress since the establishment of the Republic. Last year's output showed a very considerable increase on that of the preceding year.

The Board of Trade have received a copy of a Decree, dated November 22 laying down regulations regarding the manufacture, sale, packing and labelling of butter, margarine, lard, edible oils and fats in the French Zone of Morocco.

H.M. Representative at Belgrade reports that the Direction of Monopolies has imposed the following new taxes on tobacco products imported by travellers into the Serb-Croat-Slovene State (the figures representing silver dinars):—On cigarettes per 1,000, 280; on cut tobacco, per kilog, 250; on cigars, per 100 200; on snuff, per kilog, 100.

ENQUIRY BUREAU.

ADVERTISERS requiring agents abroad and readers abroad desirous of getting into touch with British Manufacturers, Export Merchants, etc, may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau," "The Near East," 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2." It must be understood that "The Near East" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.

114. Importer in Karachi (India) travelling throughout India wishes to get in touch with merchants and manufacturers in England and elsewhere. General merchandise.

115. An import and export firm in Spalato, Yugoslavia, wishes to enter into business relations with British manufacturers, importers and exporters. Specialities:—Exports: Medicinal herbs dried fruits, hides, timber. Imports: Oils, food products, tarpaulins, mackintoshes, sacks.

116. Import Merchants in Adana, Cilicia, Asia Minor, wish to represent British firms for any kind of British-made goods. Own account and commission basis. Good references provided. Send catalogues and samples with prices and terms.

117. Importer in Roumania, interested in Jute trade, wishes to get in touch with firms dealing in sacks, new and old Dundee, and Calcutta makes.

121. Exporter of Greek Ores in Athens, especially of purest quality Magnesite and Chromite wishes to be connected with interested British Firms.

122. Merchant in Galatz, Roumania, wishes to enter into business relations with British firms willing to ship goods on consignment terms. Guarantees by Leading Banks given. Full details on application. Correspondence in French.

TENDERS INVITED.

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

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

Egypt.

General Stores.—The Director-General, Cairo Tanzim Department, P.W.M., invites tenders for the supply of general stores during six months from April 1, 1922. Conditions may be obtained from the Stores Office, Sharia Sahel el Ghelal, Bulaq, Cairo, February 23.

Marine Boiler.—The Secretary General, Ports and Light-houses, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of a new multitubular marine boiler of the following description:—Diameter 11 feet; length 10 feet; two corrugated furnaces; boiler working pressure 180 to 200 lbs. per square inch. Built to Lloyds rules 100 A1 and supplied with all accessories as per specification. Offers will remain valid for one and a half months from March 1, 1922.

Grey Board.—The Government Press, Bulaq, invites tenders for the supply of 20,000 kilos of grey board. March 18.

Cleaning Materials.—The sub-Director of Stores, Ministry of Education, Sharia Qasr el Ain, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of cleaning materials required for the school-year 1922-1923. March 4.

Photographic Materials.—The Ministry of the Interior, Egypt (Personnel and Equipment Department, Supplies Office), invites tenders for the supply of photographic material for the year 1922 which will be received by the Director Personnel and Equipment Department, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, not later than noon on March 15. The photographic material required includes apparatus and accessories, chemicals, and plates and papers. Local representation is an essential condition of tendering. (D.O.T.).

Stores.—The Department of Overseas Trade has received from the Director of Stores, Bulaq (Cairo) a number of copies of the conditions of tender and specifications for the supply of stores required by the Stores Department of the Ministry of the Interior during the period commencing April 1, 1922, and ending March 31, 1923. The goods required cover a wide range and include arms and ordnance stores, clothing, harness and saddlery fire engines, furniture, tools, and miscellaneous stores. Tenders must be received by the Director of Personnel and Equipment Department, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, not later than noon, March 18.

Aluminium.—The Surveyor-General of Egypt, Giza (Mudir-iyah), invites tenders for the supply of aluminium and zinc plates for 1922-1923. March 20.

Palestine.

Paper and Machinery.—The Government of Palestine invites tenders for the supply of paper and stationery for the period of one year, 1922-23. February 28.

India.

Girder Bridges.—The Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Company invites tenders for the supply of girder bridges (Specification, company's offices, The White Mansion, 91, Petty France, Westminster, S.W.), February 24.

Pen Carbon Paper, etc.—The High Commissioner for India invites tenders for the supply of:—(1), Paper, Pen Carbon; (2), Paper, Typewriter; (3), Paper, writing and envelopes; (4), Ferrules, Steel; (5), Buffers, Draw-bar Hooks, Truss Bars, &c.—February 21 for 1, 2, and 3; February 28 for 4 and 5.

Plates, etc.—The High Commissioner for India invites tenders for the supply of:—(1) Plates, mild steel; (2) beaters, steel, plate-layers; (3) pencils, writing; (4) cloth tracing; (5) wheels and axles; (6) deck spans. Forms of Tender may be obtained from the Director-General, India Store Department, Belvedere Road, Lambeth, S.E.1., and tenders are to be delivered at that office not later than 2 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, February 28, 1922, for Nos. 1 to 4, and on Tuesday, March 7, 1922, for Nos. 5 and 6.

Yugoslavia.

Petroleum.—The Serb, Croat, Slovene Ministry of War and Marine invites tenders for the supply of 400,000 kilogrammes of petroleum. Local representation is essential. February 20 (D.O.T.).

Petrol.—The Economic Section of the Ministry of War and Marine, Belgrade, invites tenders for the supply of 400,000 kilos. of petrol. Tenders must be addressed to the "Directeur de la Section Economique du Ministère de la Guerre et de la Marine," and must have the inscription "Offre de pétrole par X" on the envelope. A deposit of 5 per cent. of the value offered is required from the Serbian, and 10 per cent. from foreigners. The Banque Franco Serbe, 30, Coleman Street, E.C. will be glad to furnish further particulars. February 20.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal from January 21 to 27 amounted to 2,040,000 francs, as against 2,870,000 francs.

Certificates of origin are necessary to secure "minimum" tariff benefits in Yugoslavia.

Anglo-Egyptian Oil Outputs.—Gemsah, week ended February 3, 9 tons (last week 9 tons); Hurgghada, week ended February 3, 3,610 tons (last week 3,226 tons).

Motor omnibuses for public services may enter Roumania at only 10 per cent. of the usual duty, if authority to import is obtained from the Ministry of Finance.

T. D. KARCHEFF, SON & CO.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 563—Vol XXI.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1922.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Egyptian Conversations.

It was announced last week that complete agreement had been reached between the Cabinet and Lord Allenby as to the policy to be pursued in Egypt, and by the time these lines appear in print the High Commissioner will probably be on his way back to Cairo. There he will present a letter to the Sultan and will communicate to the Egyptian political leaders the results of his conversations in London, and according to all indications no time will be lost in taking the first steps towards the execution of the policy now happily decided upon. Various statements regarding the details of that policy have been made in this quarter and in that, but until an official announcement is made regarding them—which is likely to be done soon after Lord Allenby's arrival in Cairo—it would be unprofitable to discuss the matter. For the present we content ourselves with congratulating all those who have worked to bring about a change in a situation which, it must be admitted, looked well-nigh hopeless a few weeks ago.

Violence in Cairo.

Egypt is now to have her opportunity of showing that she is fit for the independence on which she has so strongly insisted, and we shall all trust that she will take full advantage of the chance. For her sake it is to be hoped that, for the present at any rate, no chance of making any further mischief will be afforded to Zaghloul Pasha and other dangerous extremists. An illustration of the harm that can be done by preaching violence to the unskilled and as yet somewhat unbalanced Egyptians is afforded by the deplorable series of murders of, and attacks upon, Englishmen reported during the past week from Cairo. Moderate Egyptian opinion regrets and condemns such outrages as warmly as we regret and condemn them ourselves. But with so much 'political' excitement in the air in Egypt it is difficult for moderate opinion to make itself felt; and for the present, the best way to keep order is doubtless by the strong hand.

A Bulgarian Blunder.

An extraordinary incident is reported from Sofia by *The Times'* correspondent. The Bulgarian Government, he says, circulated officially the report that the Reparation Commission in Paris had decided to postpone for three years the payment of reparations by Bulgaria. The statement being entirely incorrect, the Inter-Allied Commission at Sofia requested the Government to publish a denial of it; and, on this request being refused,

asked the local Press to publish the denial. Acting, it is stated, on Government orders, all save one of the papers approached refused the Commission's request, and the Commission thereupon dropped a very strong hint to the Government; which sufficed to secure the desired object. What malignant sprite can have prompted M. Stambolisky's Government to behave in such a discourteous and extraordinarily unwise way it is hard to imagine. *The Times'* correspondent refers to the approaching communal elections; but Agrarian prospects will not have been helped by events as they have fallen out; and the Agrarians can hardly have expected them to fall out otherwise. There remains the possibility that the announcement may have been issued in all faith, on misrepresentations made by the representative of one or other of the Powers, who, finding himself placed in a false position, has since left the Sofia Government in the lurch. In any case the result is unfortunate for Bulgaria.

Turkey and the Genoa Conference.

From whatever aspect their activities be viewed, it would appear that the Nationalists of Turkey are growing day by day stronger and more intransigent in their deeds and demands. It is, indeed, with Russia alone that they seem anxious to keep on good terms. Not only do we hear of French cemeteries in Cilicia being spoiled by the Kemalists, and of the unhappy plight of the Christians still in that region, but from various reports concerning Mustapha Kemal and his Ministers we learn that, confident in their military strength, they are unwilling to abide by any decision made by the Allies unless Turkey be treated as an equal partner in the negotiations. Mustapha Kemal, for instance, is said to have threatened neglect of any provision made for Turkey by the Genoa Conference unless a Turkish mission assist at that Conference; and Ali Fethy Bey, the Minister of the Interior in the Angora Government, is stated by the Samsoun correspondent of the *Morning Post* to have expressed surprise that Russia had been invited to Genoa without Turkey. At the same time he demanded the unconditional restoration of Constantinople, Thrace, and Smyrna.

Substance or Shadow?

No doubt much of this is bluff, but as a matter of fact, in the matter of Genoa we share his surprise, for it is at least certain that Mustapha Kemal represents Turkey as fairly as Lenin represents Russia, and it should be no more difficult to negotiate with the first than with the second. In a sense it is this very intransi-

gence of Turkey that makes negotiation with her all the more urgent. As it happens, an opportunity of direct communication is now offering itself, and it would, we think, be a belated exercise of pride not to seize it. A Kemalist Mission, under the leadership of Youssuf Kemal Bey, the Nationalist Foreign Minister, recently reached Constantinople on its way to the capitals of Western Europe: why not invite it to Genoa?

Turkish War Losses.

It has long been stated that the Turks are a dying race, and it was interesting, in connection with this belief, to read the statement made by the Turkish War Medical Service of the Ottoman military and naval losses during the Great War. Turkey suffered over half-a-million dead, and upwards of a million were invalided as unfit for further service—figures which, as the Correspondent in the Near East of *The Times* points out, are undoubtedly underestimated, since irregulars, a class on whom the Turks have always largely depended, are not included in this casualty list. Turning to the particular locations of losses, we note something ironical in the fact that the front on which the Turks suffered most was that where now are their most powerful, if not most trusted, friends—the Caucasus front. It causes one to reflect that the Russo-Turkish alliance is one of the marvels of modern history, but we still think that old instincts and old memories will prevail over the very new principles of expediency. Whether it will be Russia who first spurns Turkey, or *vice versa*, we hesitate to guess; but as soon as the Russian prop is withdrawn we shall in all probability discover a hastening in the rate of Turkey's decline. Such wars as she has recently had she cannot easily sustain and survive, but it may well be that her enforced shrinkage may mean her ultimate salvation, that her loose and corrupt frame may become a narrower but better-knit and healthier body.

The Politics of Greece.

It would be idle to pretend that the visit of M. Gounaris has made Great Britain look more favourably on the aspirations of Greece, or that the loan which he appears to be finding so much difficulty in raising would in any sense be a popular one. We do not say that there has been in this country a revulsion of feeling in favour of Turkey, or that there has been any entertainment of such pro-Kemalist ideas as have been indulged on the Continent; but it does seem that the present régime in Greece is decreasingly liked by the British people. Superficially this change of feeling—a consequence of the prolongation of the Anatolian War—is unjust to Hellenism, for the choice of their ruler and politicians is the Greeks' affair alone, and in any case Great Britain must share responsibility for the Graeco-Turkish war. But unfair or not, Allied sentiments have to be regarded by Greek politicians, even in internal matters, and there have recently been illuminating changes of policy in the Government of M. Gounaris. When the Greek Premier set out to negotiate terms of peace, he was given a formal mandate by the Greek National Assembly to accept as minimum the integral maintenance of the Treaty of Sèvres; yet in November last he told Lord Curzon that the future of Greece lay unreservedly in the hands of the Allies. That being so, it was surely to the interest of his country that unanimity should be found among the Allies as quickly as possible, but it scarcely looks as though his recent efforts in various capitals of Europe have tended towards that end.

The Greek Patriarchate.

But in nothing has the change in the policy of the present Greek Government been so remarkable, or so significant, as in their treatment of the election of Meletius IV. at Constantinople. When we remember the precautions taken by the Greek Government against the election of Mgr. Metaxakis, their anger at his elevation, and the findings of the Synod at Salonika, annulling his election and condemning him to exile, it is with astonishment that we now perceive the Greek Government constraining their hostility and observing a strict neutrality in the matter. That this reversal of policy is due to the unofficial recognition of Mgr. Metaxakis, by Allied statesmen can hardly be doubted; and it is not a wild guess to suppose that, as a penetrating writer said recently in the *Journal des Débats*, M. Gounaris, in a last bid for the safety of his Ministry, is throwing ballast overboard. Certainly those who have felt all along that Venizelism was not a doomed thing now have reason for their hopes.

Seyyid Talib Pasha.

Seyyid Talib Pasha, whose deportation from Irak last year gave rise to some criticism, is now on his way from Ceylon to Italy, where he expects to undergo a course of treatment at a spa. To a reporter who interviewed him before he left Ceylon, he expressed a wish to visit England and the hope that he might be allowed to see the King; and, far from showing resentment at his arrest and deportation, he spoke highly of Sir Percy Cox and his policy in Irak. We recall that Seyyid Talib did undoubtedly give the British Government very valuable assistance at a critical time in Irak, and we regret sincerely that it ever became necessary to deport him. But we hold that both the circumstances of the moment, and the success that followed the step fully justified the action taken. It is satisfactory to find the person chiefly concerned expressing himself in a way to show he bears no grudge; and it is no less satisfactory that replies given in Parliament lately to questions regarding his arrest show that it was not carried out in the calculated and treacherous manner that has been represented.

Another Abdication Rumour.

In reporting that the Shah of Persia passed through Baghdad *incognito* on February 1, on his way to Europe, the Baghdad correspondent of the *Morning Post* mentions a rumour that is ripe there, that H. I. M. intends to abdicate as soon as he reaches Europe. As to the truth of the rumour, it is naturally not possible for us to write with authority. But it is certainly not surprising that such reports should be abroad. The Shah, though still so young, has probably had more than enough experience of the discomforts of a Throne in these days, and if he hankers after peace and quiet, very few people would find the fact strange. But supposing the rumour should turn out a true one, what will the effect be upon Persia? Probably the Sardar Sipah would have a great deal to say on that subject, and since he has proved himself capable of taking time by the forelock, it would cause little surprise to learn that he had his plans already cut and dried.

The Outlook in India.

In India, the immediate outlook is somewhat better than it was, but it is too soon to say whether the improvement is likely to be lasting. The decision of the leading agitators to "call off" the strike against taxes and revenue is important, in so far as it means a sus-

pension of the campaign of incitement to break the law and if the law is not broken, there will be no need of punishment, though it may still be desirable, as we argued last week, to bring the real strength of the Administration more prominently before the eyes of people who may have been misled. The agitators of course claim perfect "liberty" to renew the campaign later on, and the peace of India must rest on some foundation more stable than Mr. Gandhi's changing moods, but there are indications that the extremist party is not just such a happy family as it was, while a few of the men on the fence are showing a tendency to come down on the Government side. Madras has declared decisively for law as against violence, and, if the spring harvest weighs out as well as it promises, the North of India may be inclined to think less of grievances. Temper is, however, harder to forecast than the weather, and, even at the best, it must take some time for the country to settle down.

The Debate in the Commons.

Last week's debate on Indian affairs arose on what was practically a vote of censure on Mr. Montagu, and personal questions inevitably assumed a disproportionate bulk. To our mind, its most interesting feature was the Premier's outspoken declaration that India is going to remain within the British Empire; the declaration itself was by no means new, but the fact that Mr. Lloyd George should have thought it necessary at this juncture is significant. We heard the other day of a young Indian in this country who said that "only a few murders" were needed to raise India to the condition of Ireland: there is perhaps rather less optimism about Ireland now, but apart from that question, there is no doubt of the feeling of expectation which is abroad, and the Premier's intervention was timely. So experienced an observer as Mr. Sastri interpreted the debate as indicating a stiffening of opinion in England on the Indian question. We trust that on his return to India he will succeed in bringing this undoubted change home to Indian politicians; it would be a mistake to say that they are generally distrusted over here, but they have certainly lost some ground of late, and the inclination to leave them a free hand is less than it was.

Mr. Montagu's Position.

The day after the debate *The Times* launched a thunderbolt at Mr. Montagu, and declared that a new head is wanted at the India Office. This view is pretty widely expressed just now, partly by people who believe the change to be desirable for India, partly by people who think it would be politically convenient in this country. For ourselves, though we are not great admirers of Mr. Montagu, we see no particular advantage in "swapping horses" at the present juncture. The policy laid down with authority during the debate is the policy which in our opinion is called for by the circumstances; we see no reason why Mr. Montagu should not carry it out; and it is well to remember that his popularity is much greater in India than at home. The Indian Legislative Assembly interrupted its business last week to express its confidence in his administration, and, while that action commits nobody but the members, a change just now would be rather like a slap on the face. What we ask for is the certainty that the Government in India shall not be deterred from enforcing the law by interference, or fear of interference, from the India Office. If words mean anything, Mr. Montagu has given that assurance; and, that being so it is the Government, and not the India Office, which really matters.

THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Monday Evening.

A Quiet Week.

Politics have been quiet, dull, and good-tempered during the week. There was a debate on the Geddes Axe, in which the critics of the Government merely destroyed each other. Everybody was for wholesale economy, but everybody had some pet department which was to be exempted for its good works. The result was that nobody objected very much when Mr. Chamberlain remarked that, while economies and even drastic retrenchment would be made, the report would not be carried out in full. The natural consequence is that the departments are now competing with each other for public and governmental favour, and a Darwinian struggle for life is proceeding in Whitehall.

On the principle of the survival of the fittest, there is not much room for doubt: the Navy and Education are the winners. The Admiralty, which hates Sir Eric Geddes and all his works—was he not once First Lord?—has torpedoed the report by a deadly retort of its own. Rumour has it that it was written by Mr. Amery, who learned to write in *The Times*; the dish was salted by Lord Beatty, and peppered by Mr. Churchill. It was a scaring document, but it was well received. The Government was a little tremulous over this display of direct action, but recovered its breath when it found that the public was chuckling—"Just like the Navy to be ready for battle at a moment's notice." In this case at least, Sir Eric's axe will be blunted, and the Admirals will still have jam for their tea. Even Labour, which likes to pretend that it does not believe in a navy, had no criticism to make.

Education is another story. If there is one thing that Labour is keen on, it is education, and there is no suggestion that the money is not well spent. The reductions proposed are too drastic, and although the teachers may have to jettison some of their cargo, their ship will remain afloat. The only Department that nobody has a good word for is the Labour Exchanges.

Ireland.

The Government will have no difficulty with its Irish Bill—the second reading passed by a large majority, and the Die-Hards had little to say. Indeed, they could have made out a better case than they did over the boundary question between the Free State and Ulster.

But the interest of the Irish question has passed from Westminster across the St. George's Channel. There have been further raids, kidnappings, and outrages; and Mr. Collins has caused some disquiet by his admission that a *coup d'état* is probable. The Provisional Government has no real authority until it is definitely elected, and it seems to be making a mistake by not hurrying on the election; meanwhile the Republican faction under De Valera are using every weapon to their hand, and it is not denied that their influence is increasing. They are, in fact, a minority, but they seem to have some hope of terrorising the majority. Should that occur, the situation would be grave indeed.

Unfortunately, as between Ulster and the South the position is certainly more critical. Into the complex question of the boundary I need not go; there has been a muddle, the South proposes to nibble pieces out of Ulster by referenda in small units, and charges of bad faith are freely flung on both sides. This would not matter so much were it not for physical violence; but Ulster has now called for the protection of British troops. It is evident that there can be little immediate improvement.

Fewer Prisons.

Some surprise has been expressed at the published decision of the Government to close no fewer than eight prisons. Whether this is due to the instinct of economy, and prisoners are to be packed like sardines in a tin to save the taxpayer's pocket; or whether we are really becoming less criminal, we have not been told. Bill

Sikes is too modest a person to write to the papers about it.

Public Schools Reform.

Sir Rennell Rodd is the latest to break a lance with the public school system. He has formed a Parents' Association, and has denounced the the Latin Grammar and all its works, to the horror of the pedants and the classicists. All power to his elbow; if he can break the tyranny of "Amabo, Amabas, Amabat" I will subscribe a month's income towards setting up a statue to the greatest liberator of them all.

The new protagonist remarks that boys hate school because they are crammed with useless knowledge. I believe he has hit the mark. I well recollect the fortunate accident of my youth which made the family doctor shake his head, and insist on no more school; the result was that I was revelling in Rabelais and Voltaire at a time when other luckless youths were still grinding away at Cornelius Nepos. I should not recommend the curriculum for everybody—but after all, it was not I who stocked the family library—but it had one curious result. Most boys who had a classical education hate the very name of Virgil and Horace. I am ashamed to say I never read either of them till I was thirty; when I fell in love with them at once.

A City Failure.

The City has been very depressed this last week by the failure of the City Equitable Insurance Company, which has brought down one or two allied ventures, and an old and honoured firm in the Stock Exchange. The head of the enterprise, Mr. Bevan, is on the Continent, and pending his return, the failure is somewhat of a mystery. Some lurid stories have been published about him in the sensational press, but these have been denied; it was said, for instance, that he had fled to Constantinople, but an authoritative statement declares him in France for a few days' rest after a breakdown. The failure involves well over a million of money, and several directors who are prominent public men; it is said, too, that one of the banks has lost rather heavily.

The catastrophe will not, of course, affect the stability of the great insurance companies, far less the banks; but it has made people a little nervous—a deplorable result when it is recollected that confidence was beginning to return. As it is, Stock Exchange business is practically confined to gilt-edged securities, which are quietly booming. That is always a sign of stagnant trade.

A Dispute At Edinburgh.

The usually quiet city of Edinburgh is rent by faction. In Princes Street it boasts the most beautiful thoroughfare in the world, and it is now proposed to erect overhead wires for the trams along its length. The trams have been operated for years past by underground cables; they are reasonably quick and comfortable, and there seems no reason for the change. The overhead system is unsightly and quite unworthy of the northern capital. Scotland will certainly not stand where it did in the esteem of visitors if it permits these wrinkles in the face of its fairest beauty.

Mr. Bottomley Again.

These can hardly be happy days for Mr. Bottomley. At the Old Bailey he tacitly withdrew his charge against Mr. Bigland; in a similar case in the Midlands last week

he could not well do so, and Mr. Bigland made the most damaging charges against Mr. Bottomley, while the latter refrained from giving evidence, and therefore deprived himself of the opportunity of denying them. In the result the jury acquitted Bigland, and Mr. Bottomley will now have to consider in what way he can clear his honour. He has in effect been charged by Bigland with misappropriating large sums of money subscribed by ex-service men and others to a club, and also with faking the draws in sweepstakes and prize competitions. It is to be presumed that Mr. Bottomley has a satisfactory answer, but in his own interests he would do well to clear the position up without any further delay.

The Week's Books.

"Lord Byron's Correspondence" (John Murray) has had to wait nearly a century after the poet's death for publication. Does anybody read Byron nowadays? More people on the Continent than in England, I fancy, where we have definitely placed him in the second rank of poets, below Shelley and Keats—thus reversing the opinion of his contemporaries. These volumes will make no difference to Byron's reputation as a poet; they will hardly enhance his reputation as a man. The correspondence reveals him as definitely more sensual and less spiritual than Shelley, in spite of the endless (and tedious) "chatter about Harriet."

Shelley's criticism of "Don Juan" in a letter to the author is superb in its combined courtesy and insight; "Altogether a masterpiece of portraiture; of human nature laid with the eternal colours of the feelings of humanity. Where did you learn all those secrets? I should like to go to school there. I cannot say I altogether think the bitter mockery of our common nature quite worthy of your genius. The power and the beauty and the wit, indeed, redeem all this—chiefly because they belie and refute it. Perhaps it is foolish to wish that there had been nothing to redeem."

Shelley is less happy in his appreciation of Keats. It is extraordinary to find that he thought "Hyperion" the best thing Keats had done. And this is amazing: "The energy and beauty of his powers seem to disperse the narrow and wretched taste in which (most unfortunately for the real beauty which they hide) he has clothed his writings." Had Shelley never read the "Odes"?

When Mr. Saintsbury writes a book, the only thing to do is to buy it; he is one of the only two Professors in this country who can write English, and he is the only critic who can be read with pleasure. Even when he wrote a book about wine—which he published most unkindly, at the very time when medical authority forbade me to touch it—I bought the little volume, to discover, naturally, that "A sorrow's crown of sorrows was remembering happier things." However, there are no such regrets about the present work; "A Letter Book, Selected with an Introduction on the History and Art of Letter-Writing" (Bell). The introduction alone is worth the six shillings; personally, I don't think the letters are, but that is a mere private prejudice, for the only published letters I ever read with enjoyment were those of Swift, Huxley, and William James. But no doubt that is merely original sin, for which the Professor would have ploughed me in his examining days.

"Peaceless Europe" (Cassell) by Francesco S. Nitti, ex-Prime Minister of Italy, is an important work, the burden of which can be summed up in a sentence. "Europe can only recover her peace of mind by remembering that the war is over and done with."

I may add a word on behalf of "The Virgin of the Sun" (Cassell) by Sir H. Rider Haggard. Those who want another "King Solomon's Mines" will enjoy this romance; those who don't, don't matter.

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On the invitation of the Cabinet at Belgrade negotiations are being carried on with a view of reaching an agreement on the attitude of the Little Entente towards the Soviet Government at the Genoa Conference.

THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

From Our Own Correspondents.

EGYPT.

Cairo, February 11.

A Lull.

There has been a lull in the local political situation since the departure of Lord Allenby, and discussions are now divided between a criticism of the proposals made by Sarwat Pasha, and submitted with his strong support to London by Lord Allenby, and the statements on the Egyptian question which have been made in the House of Commons. There seems to be general agreement that at this vital juncture it would be impolitic and dangerous for the Egyptians to make any move, and that it must be left to Viscount Allenby and those in England who support him to fight out the question with the Cabinet. Sarwat Pasha would appear to be gaining ground amongst the thinking and responsible Egyptians, but as usual it is the less moderately minded element, which has everything to gain by a continuation of the present state of affairs, that is the more vocal; and thus for every writer who ventures to support the Sarwat proposals there are a dozen who endeavour to prove that he is not considering the interests of his country, and that therefore even if the British Government in the end agree to them the nation should reject them unless Zaghoul Pasha is repatriated and gives them his benediction.

The Mixed Courts.

When in November last the mandate of the Mixed Courts was extended for an indefinite period an exception was made in the case of Greece and France, who, pending further discussions, would agree only to an extension of three months. The period in question terminated at the end of last month, by which time Greece had given her assent to an indefinite prolongation, but France required further explanations and would agree only to another extension of three months. As all decisions with regard to the powers of the Mixed Courts have in the past been taken in virtue of decrees signed by the Sultan on the advice of his Ministers, and there has been no Cabinet since December 23, the High Commissioner has been compelled to issue an order under martial law extending the powers of the Mixed Courts indefinitely as regards Greek subjects and for three months as regards French subjects; this order to be replaced by a decree as soon as such a measure could be promulgated according to constitutional procedure.

This episode aptly illustrates the difficulty of administering the country under existing conditions. Although the High Commissioner, in virtue of the powers given him under martial law, has conferred on the Under-Secretaries of State all the powers enjoyed by Ministers in administrative matters, it is quite impossible for him to give them those enjoyed in legislative matters. It would, moreover, be impolitic to say the least of it for legislation for promulgation according to constitutional procedure to be submitted to the Sultan by Acting Ministers who owe their powers to martial law; and it follows that until such time as Egyptians can be found to form a Council of Ministers all measures, of no matter what nature, if they are to have the effect of law, must be promulgated by the High Commissioner himself in virtue of the powers which martial law grants him.

This is a state of affairs that cannot be allowed to go on indefinitely and the High Commissioner, for this reason alone, is fully justified in trying to persuade the home Government to agree to a compromise which will permit of the reintroduction of the constitutional regime and thus will set a term to a procedure that, permissible in an emergency, should not be resorted to as a regular thing in time of peace.

The Anglo-American Hospital.

A meeting of subscribers to the Anglo-American Hospital was held last Monday at the Residency under

the Chairmanship of the new American Diplomatic Agent, Dr. Morton Howell. The Committee reported that the scheme for a new British Hospital to take the place of the Anglo-American Hospital would have to be abandoned, owing to lack of support both here and in England, and it was decided to concentrate on improving and developing the present hospital. For this more funds would be required, but although the institution of a scheme of insurance in the form of annual subscriptions had increased the numbers of subscribers fivefold, the money available was not nearly sufficient to put the present hospital on a more satisfactory footing, and the Committee appealed to the community to give it more support in its uphill work.

There is little doubt that the Committee, which has done yeoman work in rescuing the hospital from bankruptcy, has been well advised to drop the new hospital scheme; for apart from the fact that the present is a very bad moment for raising funds for such an object, it would have been injudicious to embark on a costly scheme intended to meet the requirements of the present Anglo-American community at a time when the outlook is so uncertain and there is a possibility of the size of the community being reduced in the near future as a result of the present political discussions.

The Committee have promised to remedy some of the short-comings of the present hospital, particularly in regard to providing means of transport and more accommodation and a resident doctor, and there is no reason why the many improvements which it is proposed to make should not enable the hospital to meet all the requirements of the community. As mentioned, however, to achieve this more money must be provided, and although the Anglo-American community of Egypt is not generally speaking a rich one, the individual members could nevertheless well give it more practical support than they do at present.

The fact, that, although there are over 1,600 subscribers, barely one hundred, including the Committee, attended the first general meeting held since 1913 would certainly appear to indicate a deplorable lack of interest on the part of the community in the work which the Committee is doing on their behalf and in their interest. It is scarcely fair to the Committee, or to those who are trying to bring the hospital up to the level of a modern nursing home, which is intended to meet the needs of the community and is in fact made great use of by that community, to withhold from it support which it must have in order to make this much needed and exceedingly useful institution as successful as similar ventures run by other nationalities in Egypt.

GREECE.

Athens, February 4.

Fresh Troubles in Crete.

The situation in Crete, which has improved during

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the last three weeks, is again becoming serious, and is causing a good deal of anxiety to the Government. Last Monday a large number of insurgents concentrated on the heights of Nerohora and opened violent fire on the Government troops which were holding positions in the plain below. A fierce battle ensued, which lasted throughout the day, and was resumed on the following morning, the rebels being finally dislodged by the regular troops. The latter were obliged to use artillery.

The seriousness of the situation is proved by the fact that the Minister of Interior himself, accompanied by the new military Governor of Crete, Brigadier-General Dimitracopoulos, has left in all haste for Canea. Considerable reinforcements are being sent to the turbulent island.

The Greek Prisoners of War.

At the request of the Hellenic Red Cross Committee, M. Pésix, a Swiss, representing the International Red Cross Committee, is now on his way to Angora to visit the Kemalist prisoner-of-war camps. A considerable sum of money for distribution among the Greek prisoners was handed by the Greek Government to M. Pésix, who is also authorised to open negotiations with regard to the question of the exchange of prisoners, particularly of those belonging to the sanitary corps, who are considered non-combatants. It appears that the prisoners of war in Mustapha Kemal's hands are neither fed nor receiving any pay, whereas the Turkish prisoners in Greece are both rationed and well paid for the work they are doing. The total number of Greek prisoners of war actually in the hands of Turks is only 312.

Restoration of Antiques.

As a result of energetic protests by the Greek Government to Bulgaria, the latter has forwarded to Athens a long list of objects of archaeological value which were carried off during the war from various towns and villages in Macedonia occupied by Bulgarian troops. In accordance with Article 126 of the Treaty of Neuilly, these antiques should have been returned to Greece long ago.

M. Sotiriou, the archaeologist, is leaving shortly for Sofia in order to take delivery of these objects.

More Classes Called Up.

A Royal Decree was published in the Official Government Gazette on Thursday calling up the infantry, artillery and engineers of the 1910 and 1911 classes, as well as the cavalymen of the 1910 class, belonging to the circumscriptions of Macedonia, the island of Thassos, and the Greek Archipelago Islands. It is stated that this sudden calling up of more classes, especially at a time when everyone was hoping that some of the older classes would be demobilised, is due to the fact that in addition to many movements of a suspicious character which have been noticed of late in Eastern Macedonia and Thrace, the Government has received reliable information to the effect that important forces of well equipped and armed Turkish and Bulgarian *Komitaçis* have concentrated on the frontier. Greece is therefore obliged to reinforce her army in those regions in order to frustrate any attempt on the part of these *Komitaçis* to invade her territory. On the other hand it is quite possible that the situation in Crete, which is causing much anxiety in official circles, has something to do with the calling up of the two fresh classes.

The Thracian Deputies.

A delegation of the Thracian deputies called on the Minister for Foreign Affairs *ad interim*, M. Cartalis, with reference to a telegram announcing that the proposal of Lord Curzon includes a rectification of the Thracian frontiers, and would allot a part of Thrace to Turkey. The delegation at the same time emphasized the anxiety of the population of Thrace as a result of the publication of this news. M. Cartalis replied that the Prime Minister *ad interim*, M. Protopapadakis, would be in a better position to answer, whereupon the delegation called upon the latter and again formulated its enquiry. The Prime Minister replied that the Government had not received information justifying their fears, the more so in view of the fact that the negotiations between the Allies were so far only of a preliminary nature.

General News.

The Crown Princes of Greece and Roumania, accompanied by their wives, Princess Elizabeth and Princess Helena, have arrived from Bucharest.

The new French diplomatic representative to Greece, M. de Marcilly, has arrived from Paris.

The High Commissioner of Smyrna, M. Stergiadis, has arrived in Athens. He will probably be offered the post of Greek High Commissioner at Constantinople, when, it is thought, relations between the Hellenic and the Allied authorities in the Turkish capital will become more friendly.

An attempt to blow up the railway station of Kizeldjakeuy, near Xanthi, in Western Thrace, was fortunately frustrated. The perpetrators of the attempt were four Turks, two of whom were actually employed by the Railway Company. Three have already been arrested and confessed that they were acting on instructions received from the Turco-Bulgarian Committee.

Two Turkish bandits who last year strangled the young son of M. Zographos, a Greek, were executed last week in Aidin.

The Athens and Piraeus bakers are again threatening to go on strike.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, February 7.

Political.

As the electoral campaign advances, the original determination of the Opposition to oppose the Liberals *en bloc* at the coming elections becomes less pronounced. The demeanour of the Opposition is rather puzzling in the circumstances. With the exception of the "Takists" (M. Také Jonescu's party), who are merely carrying on a *pro forma* opposition, all the other parties are fully alive to the fact that an eventual success on the part of the Liberals would mean a serious blow to them. Moreover, the real democratic parties further realize the

FRUIT GROWING: A CAREER MERITING CONSIDERATION.

The sunny mild climate of portions of the Union of South Africa is not only pleasant residentially but peculiarly suitable for even the rarer crops.

Such delicate fruits as peaches and grapes (pears, plums, apples and oranges do equally well) are grown there to perfection. Not as a hobby, in the hot-houses of the rich; but in the open, as a business proposition affording means of livelihood to men starting with moderate capital.

South African fruit-growing has become a large industry. Able men have devoted themselves to its development. They had confidence in the country, and invested much capital. Their confidence has in the main been justified. They have overcome most of the difficulties incidental to establishing such an industry. The way has been considerably smoothed for those who start now. There is available a wealth of experience, for which the pioneers paid, but from which the newcomer may freely draw. He may do so by serving an apprenticeship in South Africa, either with an established grower of repute, or on a Government training farm.

Fruit-growing, in the Union of South Africa, implies a congenial, open-air life, in pleasant and often noble rural surroundings, yet within reach of towns, schools and general amenities. Capital, not less than £2,000 is required for a start.

Fuller particulars of the position and prospect, and of the facilities for obtaining free training and guidance before investing capital, should in the first instance be obtained from the Office of the High Commissioner for the Union of South Africa, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2.—(Advt.).—

danger that they would suffer an additional blow by the fact that the Liberals, as soon as they secure a majority in Parliament for the "Constituante" will mould the new Constitution to suit their own views and ends. Notwithstanding this contingency, the Opposition owing to personal questions, ambitions and party interests, seems unable to pull together; so that the Liberals, besides other advantages, have in their favour the Opposition's differences, which they will not fail to use to their full benefit.

It is true that the Leaders of the Tzaranists and the Transylvanian National Party have recently come to an understanding to support each other at the forthcoming elections, but in Transylvania only; and that a similar arrangement is reported to have been concluded between the groups of MM. Take Jonescu and Jorga! These partial collaborations, however, do not represent the strong combination so boldly announced at first. Besides, with arrangements like the above there is also the risk that the views of the Leaders may not be shared by the party committees in the province, owing to local and personal considerations.

As far as M. Také Jonescu's particular attitude is concerned, it is not surprising that he is not taking an active part in the Opposition's campaign against the Government. It is no secret that M. Jonescu favours the "two parties rotation" system, or, in other words, he admits that M. Bratianu should run the country for a few years, so that in due time he should again be called to power.

The People's party, better known as General Averescu's party, has lost a good deal of its former popularity, owing to the unsatisfactory economic conditions which prevailed during its time of office, and is, therefore, not expected to carry much weight at the poll. The Socialists, since their disintegration into three different groups following on the fiasco of the general strike of last year, and still more on account of their leaders' having been imprisoned and implicated in the pending Communists' trial, will hardly be sufficiently organized to be taken into account at the forthcoming elections. Other parties such as the "Progressists" under M. Marghiloman and M. Jorga's group, apart from being small in number, have as little sympathy for each other as they have for the Liberals. The majority of the ethnic minorities, comprising the Germans, Hungarians, Poles, Ruthenians, Jews, Russians and Turks, will either abstain or will vote for the Government, for obvious reasons.

Thus, the only two parties that are sufficiently strong and organized to oppose the Liberals effectively are the Tzaranists in the Old Kingdom and Bessarabia, and the Transylvanian National Party on the other side of the Carpathians. Taking all points into consideration the chances of success seem more or less balanced. If the pre-war system of voting were still in force, there would not be the slightest doubt that the Government would easily come out on top, but since universal suffrage has got to be dealt with—though in its infancy—it would be rather daring for anyone to forecast the final issue at the present stage of the electoral campaign.

General News.

On Thursday, February 2, Sir Herbert and Lady Dering gave a fancy-dress ball at the British Legation, which was honoured with the presence of King Carol, Queen Marie, and Princess Marie. The other 200 guests consisted of the Diplomatic Corps and the *élite* of the Bucharest society.

With the recent change of Government the Municipal Council of Bucharest, headed by Dr. Gheorghiu, has resigned, and pending subsequent municipal elections a Liberal interim Commission has been appointed, under the presidency of M. G. Corbescu, a former Prefect of Bucharest.

M. Victor Antonescu, the new Roumanian Minister to France, who left Bucharest last week for Paris, has, at the same time, been entrusted with a special mission to continue negotiations with the French Government and bankers with reference to the settlement of the

three great financial questions, which the present Government is doing its utmost to solve as speedily as possible, namely: the consolidation of the Treasury Bonds floating abroad, the betterment of the Roumanian rate of exchange, and the question of extending Roumanian merchants' debts in foreign inflated currencies.

M. Titulescu, the new Minister for London, who is expected to leave for England in the course of this week, has been entrusted with a similar mission.

Reports from Transylvania state that the Spanish 'flu is severely raging throughout that province and especially at Cluj, where one-third of the population is said to be afflicted with this epidemic. In consequence, the schools have been closed in most towns of Transylvania.

On Monday, February 6, this country celebrated in the usual traditional way the re-union of Greater Roumania. Prior to the war, January 24, old style, represented the day of union between the two old principalities Moldavia and Wallachia, which took place in 1858 under the Moldavian ruler, Prince Cuza. As the other three provinces Bessarabia, Bukovina, and Transylvania, joined their mother country at different dates during the European War, it has since been decided to celebrate all these historical events on one single day. The 24th of January, old style, is therefore, Roumania's foremost national holiday, embodying the realisation of Roumania's national aspirations as well as the re-integration of the Roumanian nation.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, February 12.

Western Thrace.

A meeting that was held at Sofia on February 5 to consider the question of Western Thrace was marked by scenes of great enthusiasm. The *venue* selected was the Military Club, and the large reception hall was crowded to its utmost capacity, many people being unable to gain admittance. The Society of Bulgarian Authors and Artists was responsible for arranging the meeting, and the speakers were M. Gueshoff, Former Prime Minister, Professor Moloff, ex-Minister, and General Loukoff, late Chief of Staff. After the speeches had been made the following resolution was proposed and unanimously carried:—

"With regard to the coming Conference on the Near Eastern question, the public meeting held at Sofia on February 5, 1922, after having heard the speeches of M.M. Gueshoff, Moloff, and Loukoff, are of opinion that notwithstanding the fact that two years have elapsed since the Treaty of Neuilly was ratified, and sixteen months since the Treaty of Sèvres was signed, the Near East is far from being in a peaceful state. This meeting is further of opinion that the Conferences which have been held, have not resulted in any decisions being taken likely to restore Peace, and that the access of Bulgaria to the Aegean Sea still remains problematical. In addition the presence in Bulgaria of more than 200,000 Thracian refugees constitutes a serious obstacle to the economic development of a country which is already saddled with very heavy treaty obligations. In these circumstances the meeting has decided to make an appeal to the Conference of Foreign Ministers of Great Britain, France, and Italy, that when they study the Graeco-Turkish question, they will not forget the vital interests and the legitimate rights of Bulgaria."

A copy of this resolution was conveyed the following day to the Ministers of Great Britain, France, and Italy, for transmission to the Conference.

Radoslavoff Cabinet on Trial.

A great deal of interesting evidence was given before the High Court during last week. The former Bulgarian Military Attaché at Berlin, Colonel Dotcheff, told the story of an "Army Boot" deal, arranged by a certain Guermanoff and Colonel Gantcheff. The price paid per boot was 40 marks, while boots were really procurable at 14 marks. The deal had apparently the full consent of the Minister of War, General Naidenoff, M. Tchapp-

rachikoff, former Bulgarian Minister at Belgrade, said: "In December 1914, M. Pashitch asked for an interview with M. Radoslavoff. But the latter refused. In 1915 M. Pashitch promised me that Bulgaria should have as far as the River Vardar, if we took the side of the Entente. In May and June 1915 the Entente offered more territory, in fact practically all that was in dispute between the two countries. The Serbs, however, took up an unsatisfactory attitude. The military party in Serbia wished for war against Bulgaria." Perhaps the most interesting evidence given up to date was that of M. Draguiëff, the former leader of the Peasants Party. He stated that the peasants were not for the Entente, but were for neutrality. The Narodniaks, Democrats, and Radicals were the only parties for the Entente, according to M. Draguiëff. This statement is quite contrary to what the Peasant Party have made out to be the case. They say that they, and they alone, were the friends of the Entente. In any case, such evidence coming from the former leader of the Party, is entitled to be accepted as true.

The Cold Snap.

For the last four days Bulgaria has been suffering from an intensely cold snap of weather. The result has been a heavy increase in the number of influenza cases.

ALBANIA.

Tirana, February 12.

The Handing In of Fire-Arms.

The new Minister of the Interior, Ahmed Mati, has issued an order calling upon the population to hand in their firearms to the authorities. This operation has been proceeding throughout Albania since January 18, and continues smoothly, without the slightest opposition being encountered. It must be remembered that the Albanians always had, under the Turkish régime, firearms in their possession, and that a very large number of rifles were left in the country by the Austrians and the Italians; and it was, incidentally, through the possession of these rifles that the Albanians were able to fight against the Italians at Valona, and to sustain the attacks of the Serbs.

But in view of the fact that an Albanian militia has for a year been in process of formation, it is a wise step that the Minister of the Interior has taken in ridding the people of weapons that might become dangerous in their hands.

The people, who have always been loth to give up their arms, are at present conforming obediently to the order of the Government; as at Durazzo, so at Shiak, at Tirana, at Elbasan, at Pekiù, at Karaja . . . in fact, everywhere the arms have been handed in. The surrender of arms has been proceeding equally smoothly at Scutari and in the Malissia, where Ahmed Mati was present in person to supervise the disarmament. A *béssa* (truce) has been concluded by the population of the prefecture of Drin—which includes the places evacuated by the Serbs—in order to help the Government in its plan of action and to maintain peace in the interior; anxiety been shown to avoid "incidents" on the Serbian frontier. According to Articles III and IV of this *béssa* those persons living on the Serbian frontier who have become tools in the hands of the Yugoslav authorities against Albania have been invited to return to their country, and to make their submission. It is to be hoped, in connection with these efforts at the maintenance of correct relations with Serbia, that the authorities at Belgrade will adopt a similar attitude.

Abnormal Rainfall.

During the past two months the rainfall has been quite abnormally heavy, and all the rivers have been swollen by flood waters. Numerous bridges, big and little, have been damaged, and this has resulted in a good deal of inconvenience for travellers, and interruption of communications.

Inter-Allied Troops at Scutari.

After the struggle between Albanians and Italians in June and July 1920, and the Agreement signed at Tirana on August 2 of the same year, the Italians withdrew from all Albanian territory except Saseno, where they

still are, temporarily. However, a small force of Italians has been maintained at Scutari all this time, not in the character of Italian troops, but as an international force, replacing and representing the French and British contingents which left the town in March 1920. Now that the Conference of Ambassadors at Paris has taken a definite decision, the reason for the maintenance of the Italian force at Scutari has disappeared; and the Albanian Government has just addressed a request to the Conference of Ambassadors, that it will secure the evacuation of Scutari by all foreign troops.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, January 25.

The champions of the Greek "union" cause are carrying out their campaign according to plan, and are disseminating their proposals for organization for the enlightenment of even the most remote villages. The people are told to listen to no voices except those of the patriots who are being chosen to express their views and wishes. The Legislative Council is simply ignored. The new paper *Peirasmos* (Temptation) continues to make fun of its proceedings. The members consist of the official and Ottoman representatives and two Maronites. The National Council is in fact to supersede the Legislative body in the eyes of all Greek Cypriots.

Apart from the monotonous efforts of the "Unionists," there is an almost complete dearth of local news of any interest; and the papers are chiefly filled with telegrams and articles concerning Greece and the Dodecanese. As regards the latter, the outlook is now regarded as gloomy, since the Italian Government is under no obligation to cede the islands, seeing that the Sévres Treaty has not been, and is not likely to be ratified; and the fate of Cyprus is always considered as likely to be bound up with that of the Dodecanese. Italy is suspected of exercising pressure on the islanders in order to obtain expressions of a general desire to remain under her rule.

Mr. W. Bevan, Director of Agriculture, is appointed to act as a member of the Executive Council during the absence of the Treasurer. The Hon. Irfan Bey, M.L.C., is also appointed as a member of this Council.

ASIA MINOR.

Smyrna, February 4.

Sensational Rumours.

The past week has been perhaps the most exciting since May 15, 1919, when the Greeks landed in Smyrna. The Greek authorities forbade the circulation of Athenian newspapers because there were several articles admitting that the Greeks would have to leave Smyrna eventually. It may be safely asserted that all the foreign population and at least half the Greek population realise that the Greek army, at any rate, must leave Asia Minor before very long. It is believed that certain French establishments in the city have received orders to hold their premises in readiness for reception of French troops; and, in fact, the first of March is freely given as the date of the landing in Smyrna of French and British troops. Some of the Greek officials have also turned away troublesome applicants with the remark that, as the Turks are coming back here, it is useless to worry the Greek officials. It is also rumoured that Lord Northcliffe, who is visiting Palestine and Syria with Mr. Graves, *The Times* correspondent, will pay a visit to Smyrna and Athens.

It is not surprising that extraordinary rumours should prevail in Smyrna when the diplomatic correspondent of a London daily professes to have learnt "that several weeks ago two Greek steamers were blown up in Smyrna harbour in circumstances distinctly suggestive of foul play, and that the stringent naval enquiry then held failed to show convincingly that the explosion had been engineered from within. Indeed some of the experts referred to the possibility of submarines." No steamers have been blown up in the Smyrna Harbour since two were blown up either by the Turks or the British on March 12, 1915.

THE MYSTERY OF THE ORIENT.

By EDWARD DRIAULT.

(Continued.)

This is why the Ottoman Empire has disappeared, as disappear organisms which have become atrophied by inaction, condemned by their uselessness. For the time has come when the constitution of the human city and the exploitation of the riches of the globe exact the application of all nations. The time has come to eliminate the idle.

The Turks commenced early, more than three hundred years ago, to beat a retreat, fated by the same causes to the same destiny as the Mongols, gone without leaving a trace, like those hurricanes of sand which the desert occasionally uplifts for engulfment of caravans; the hurricane passed, other caravans set forth towards the distant markets. And the obvious leading fact, singularly impressive, in the modern history of the Orient is the reflux of the Turks from Europe towards Asia; it is the disappearance of the Ottoman Empire.

Who would deny it would deny the daylight: a phenomenon as striking as the grand sun of the Orient. **Consider the Dates.**

In 1571, Soliman the Magnificent had been dead five years, the Christian Fleet of Don John of Austria destroyed the Turkish Fleet at Lepanto, and from that moment the Mediterranean, even the eastern, escaped from the domination of the Ottomans. For never had the Christian Nations accepted the Ottomans among themselves; they always considered them as a foreign body disturbing the general economy of Europe, and destined to disappear one day or other, for lack of assimilation.

In 1683, the Turks momentarily reformed by the rough Grand Viziers, the Köprili, made a supreme effort against Vienna, and terror spread throughout the West. The King of Poland, John Sobieski, won over the Ottoman Grand Army the victory of Kahlenberg, and from there they fell back the length of the Danube into the Balkans, where Christian Europe besieged them from all sides.

Already the Almanacks of 1687, finely expressive of popular sentiment, deposited "the sick man" on his death bed, and all the doctors of Europe hastened to spare him too long an agony. Immediately, in short, the Turks lost Hungary and Transylvania. At the beginning of the 18th Century they lost even Serbia, which was restored to them temporarily by the diplomatic intervention of France at the Treaty of Belgrade of 1739, and Austria was not able to penetrate farther into the Balkan Peninsula. For the Turkish heritage was not reserved for Austria.

Then Russia came down to the Black Sea, won, under Katherine, the Crimea and the mouths of the Danube, and thought to open "the road to Byzantium." But Napoleon halted her advance there. It would have been serious for all Europe had Russia taken Constantinople, and become there the mistress of the world. And yet, even to our own days, to the days of the Great War, it looked as though Russia would be the heir of Turkey by re-establishing to her benefit the Empire of the Orient. How terrible a menace would rest upon Europe and upon the world if Bolshevik Russia of to-day reigned at Constantinople!

The Great Problem.

For this problem is ever the same, and its solution remains mysterious:—The Ottoman Empire at last has disappeared: to whom will fall the immense succession on which hangs even the fate of humanity?

Can one believe that the decadence of Turkish Islam will be stayed after three centuries of retreat and decomposition? And must one reckon with an Islamic renaissance? A contemporary historian, Mr. Lothrop Stoddard, in a remarkable book, "The New World of Islam," announces it while basing his thesis on solid

arguments. He controverts directly the late Lord Cromer's formula, "Islam cannot reform herself; or, if she reforms herself, she will be no longer Islam." But he himself abandons the Turks to their ruin, which he considers definite, and reserves the rebirth of Islam to the action of the great religious confraternities which have formed themselves in the Arab lands, the Wahabites and the Senussi: a Moslem renaissance by the Arabs, perhaps, but not by the Turks.

And thus the problem of the Turkish succession remains entire. The Great War has put an end to the Ottoman Empire, as to the Habsburg Monarchy, whatever be the condition and extent of the pieces preserved.

Its Solution.

The solutions of the future, however mysterious they may still be, fall at least within the scope of the principles proclaimed at the end of the 18th Century, by the American Revolution and the French Revolution, the right of peoples to dispose of themselves.

Now the Ottoman Empire having been merely a military encampment, its succession, from the day the Turks withdraw their tents to Asia, is to be found in the restoration of the nations which it had temporarily subjugated; and it is the moral greatness of the 19th Century and of the war of yesterday which crowned it, that it has assured the liberation of almost all the nationalities oppressed.

Already Napoleon had attempted to raise Poland from the tomb where Austria, Prussia and Russia had buried her, and he had given to Italy her national consciousness. It is known that he had also dreamed of the liberation of Greece, and had had some correspondence with Kara-George, the hero of the Serbian insurrection. He appears thus, a century after his death, as the prophet of the new times.

For a whole century and up to the time of the Great War, one has witnessed everywhere the affirmation and frequently the triumph of the principle of nationalities, and the Orient has taken on an entirely new physiognomy.

I will borrow from M. Lavissee, the illustrious Professor of this Sorbonne, an image of incomparable plenitude. Just as, says he, on the walls of Saint Sophia, once covered over by the plaster of the conquering Mussulman, the mosaics of Justinian re-appear little by little, a head of Christ, a figure of the Virgin, so in the place of the Ottoman Empire, on the political map of the Orient, have reappeared, more striking than ever, the colours of the young Christian nationalities.

TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

The subjoined headings are those of the Official Report.

Egypt: School, Assiut; Settlement Negotiations—Sudan.—Asia Minor.—Near East (Policy).—Iraq. (Thursday, February 9).

Egypt: Military Measures (Protests); School, Shebin-el-Kom. (Friday, February 10).

India (Constitution).—Tangier.—Greece (Loans).—Foreign Affairs (Presentation of Papers).—Attacks on Europeans, Egypt.—India: Rebellion (Legislation); Military Officers (Extra Pensions); Civil Service; Moplah Rebellion; Surplus Army Officers.—Egypt: Zaghlool Pasha; Non Co-operation; Government.—(Monday, February 13).

Indian: Moplah Rebellion; Defence (Vote); Government (Cost); Lala Lajpat Rai; Mr. Gandhi (Speeches); Government of India Act, 1919; Imperial Airship Service; Government Service (Pensions).—Iraq: British and Indian Forces; Sultan of Nejd; Saiyid Talib.—Indian Subjects, East Africa.—Ceylon.—Palestine (Greek Church Property).—India: Army Pay (Officers) Opium.—Debate on the Address: India (Tuesday, February 14).

Refugees (British Expenditure).—Palestine: Jewish Settlement.—Iraq: Arab Prisoners.—Egypt (Zaghlool Pasha).—India: Vizagpatam Harbour; Bengal Police; Press Acts; All India Moslem League; Train Disaster, Malabar.—Middle East Policy.—Egypt.—Palestine: Advisory Council; Immigrants; Attacks on Passengers.—(Wednesday, February 15).

* Earlier portions of this paper appeared in The Near East of December 29 and January 12.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

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

BRITAIN AND INDIA.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir, I venture to think that the political crisis in India has arisen from unsound economic conditions which have not received adequate attention. In common with the whole civilised world India is suffering from the destruction of life and wealth caused by war. A chain will break at its weakest link: the social structure of India shows signs of collapsing under a strain which is severely felt in more advanced countries. Her people are born Conservatives; given a reasonable degree of material well being and non-interference with religious prejudices, they are peaceable and law-abiding. But hunger is proverbially an ill councillor: it was inevitable that men who found the price of necessities soaring upwards should be gulled by demagogues who ascribe all India's woe to foreign rule rather than to the feckless improvidence of her people. In 1798 Thomas Malthus published his famous "Essay on the Principle of Population"; his thesis being that every form of life tended to increase in a far greater ratio than the means of subsistence. In the case of the human species, however, an unstable equilibrium between the growth of life and the supply of food was maintained by the agency of war, pestilence and famine and "moral restraint." His doctrines met with a storm of disapproval from people who believed with J. J. Rousseau and Godwin that mankind was perfectable; but their essential truth is now admitted by everyone whose judgment is free from ingrained prejudice. Let us see how far Malthusianism applies to India. A century and a half ago the whole peninsula was plunged in anarchy. Satraps of the effete Mughal empire threw off their allegiances and fought among themselves for territory. Pestilence and famine raged unchecked; the countryside was ravaged by marauding bands. "Moral restraint" has never operated in India, where Hindus and Moslems obey the precept "Increase and multiply" without regard for the future. Thus every check enunciated by Malthus, except moral restraint, was in full operation; and in the last quarter of the eighteenth century the population of India cannot have exceeded 90,000,000. The British Raj, which dates from that epoch, ended internal warfare. Railways, roads, steam navigation and irrigation lessen the risks of famine, which is dealt with most effectively when it occurs. Pestilence is stamped out with equal vigour, and medical help is within the reach of every villager. The results were revealed by every decennial census. In 1881 the population of India was returned at 253,000,000: in 1921 it reached 319,000,000, showing a growth of twenty six per cent. in forty years. There are congested regions in the Gangetic Delta where an overtaxed soil supports 1200 souls to the square mile! This abnormal increase has not been attracted by any proportionate addition to the means of subsistence. Incredibly archaic and inefficient are the agricultural implements in common use; fertilizers are scarcely known; owing to the lack of grazing-grounds the cattle are miserably undersized;

the cost of food and clothing has risen of late years by 250 per cent., and 75 per cent of the population of Bengal suffer from malaria. The remedies for conditions which threaten India with utter ruin are to be found in subsoil drainage, river training, technical and civic education, the influx of British capital and relief for congested tracts by aided emigration. But social diseases of ancient growth cannot be eradicated in a day. Peace and order are essential to the regeneration of India: her plight demands cordial co-operation between the best elements of the British and native races. My moral is that a short shrift should be given to irresponsible demagogues who seek to destroy the British Raj, but have no constructive programme to offer in its place.

I am, etc.,

F. H. S.

February 19.

GREAT BRITAIN AND ASIA, PAST AND PRESENT.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—I have been in England for nearly four years, and although I am used to the abusive language with which Greece and the Greeks have some times been treated in the British Press, I never remember to have come across such expressions, as those used in Sir Graham Bower's letter in your to-day's issue, against my countrymen whom he calls the most cruel, the most intolerant and the most barbarous of all the Balkan peoples. Your correspondent's letter embraces many subjects, which are rather difficult to follow, and there is a somewhat Shavian tinge in it, when we are told by the writer that he was present at the "first" funeral of Lord Mayo.

Sir Graham Bower speaks of the Greeks, as some papers do, when they treat them as the only cause of the Moslem Indian unrest. If the Spaniards have been beaten by the Moors, and if the Italians are now being "licked" in Tripolitania, or if, in the near future, the Java Moslems happen to rise against the Dutch, there will apparently be nobody else to blame but the Greek.

By a curious coincidence I have heard to-day the other "son de cloche" at the Manchester Y.M.C.A. Mr. Carter, of the Indian Y.M.C.A., spoke on "India as it is to-day" and Sir Graham Bower ought to have been present, so that he would have had exposed to him the real causes of Indian unrest. The speaker referred of course to the Sèvres Treaty but in spite of all, he insisted upon the other serious claims which the Nationalists in India put forward, as for instance, the strangulation of Indian industry for the sake of the Lancashire competition. Mr. Carter told us also some true facts which are not all to the credit of the British Raj.

Denunciations must be made in the proper manner, and in the proper language and, most essentially, within the proper limits, but, when you reach big words, it is of no use retaliating, especially when you come to think that you are only a guest of a country which you have been taught to respect for its tact, fair-mindedness and fairplay.

I am, etc.,

Theodore D. Moscona.

32, Oxford St., Manchester, February 9.

FRENCH MILITARY MISSION IN GREECE.

✠ The following message dated Athens, February 16, has been received in London from a Greek semi-official source:—The Minister for War to-day received General Grammat, head of the French Military Mission, who introduced the members of the Mission who have recently arrived in Greece, following the renewal of the Military Convention. The French officers will later be attached to various branches of the Greek Army.

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MUSICAL NOTES.

An American Guide to Music.

The differences between the respective attitudes towards music of the British and American publics are many, but nowhere are they more remarkable than in the writing of popular expositions upon the art. In the work of "highbrows" all the world over there may be points of resemblance; but I do not think that such a work as Charles D. Isaacson's "Face to face with Great Musicians" could reckon on a large public anywhere but in the United States. This book, the second of its kind, has recently been published by Messrs. Appleton at 8s. 6d. net. It is American, thoroughly American, alike in its enthusiasm and in its sentimentality.

It appears that its author, Mr. C. D. Isaacson, has been a missionary for music, for Dr. Frank Crane's busily terse introduction informs us that "he has organised popular concerts and brought the best music to the masses." So far very good. It is noble work, this apostolicism on behalf of humanity. But it is a different matter when Mr. Isaacson seeks, as in this book, to "humanise the masters." He believes that a knowledge of a composer's intimate and personal history is, for newcomers at any rate, essential to the understanding of that composer's works, and his plan is to bring the reader what he calls "face to face" with various musicians. Certainly he suggests vividly and faithfully enough the personalities of men like Wagner, Berlioz, Franck, Field, Rubinstein, Grieg, Dvorak, Moussorgsky, and many others which may be conjured up from a study of their biographies; he has the smart brevity which gives you your definite picture. But in his whole aim I believe he is profoundly wrong. A composer exists in history because of his music; his life does not matter a rap. The "understanding" of music is formed through the imagination, and through the imagination alone: knowledge, whether technical, biographical, or historical, scarcely affects it. No amount of study of Beethoven's inner life, or everyday life rather, will make you understand the Arietta of Op. III, unless you have imagination; no knowledge, however precise, of Chopin's loves, will give you the key to the "Fantasie" Ballade. These presentations of composers' personalities, therefore, cannot create in any permanent way the appeal that their works make; they can but supplement or consolidate appreciation of those works. And it is not even certain that such knowledge makes good judgement sure, as this book amply shows. I do not imagine that anyone in this country could with impunity rank Patti, for instance, or Balfe, or Stephen Foster, as "great musicians." A warm catholicism is a wise thing to have, no doubt, but an indiscriminating omnivorousness becomes an unedifying and quite unconvincing spectacle.

Settings of Shakespeare.

No singer in this country has occupied himself so thoroughly in the performance of native song as John Coates, and it might have been thought that he had exhausted every possible kind of programme of British songs. But he has too much up his sleeve ever to become exhausted. At the Chelsea Town Hall on February 14 he hit upon the ingenious and delightful plan of forming a programme from settings of Shakespeare, singing first the old (17th or 18th century), then the modern setting. As songs pure and simple, that is as flights for the voice, most of the palms went to our Arnes, our Morleys and our Boyces; but as music pure, the modern song with its concentrated imagination in the pianoforte part, more often won. For instance, between the respective settings of "Blow, blow thou winter wind" by Arne and Quilter there is no question that the first has infinitely the better melody; and there is even a greater gulf between the effortless directness of Wilson's "Take, O take those lips away," and Parry's passionate striving to attain its content. Of "Lawn as white as driven snow" alone Mr. Coates gave us only one (Linley's) setting: no wonder, because no one will ever equal this. We can't be grateful enough to him

for hunting out all these glorious old songs (at least he makes us think they're all glorious; we don't discover how empty some of them really are until we study them for ourselves), but it is impossible, every time he gives a recital, ceaselessly to reiterate his magic praises. Won't someone persuade him to write a book on the history of English song? He knows more about it than anyone else. And we might then find out what he really thinks about the different composers he sings, all of whom he pretends are equal.

Andante.

NAVAL MOVEMENTS.

Captain A. R. Palmer, who was until recently in command of the Mining School of the Navy at Portsmouth, last week took up the post of Senior Naval Officer in the Persian Gulf, with his pennant in the special service vessel Triad. He succeeds Captain J. L. Pearson, C.M.G., on the completion by the latter of two years in the appointment. Captain Palmer is well acquainted with his new post, as from 1916 to 1919 he was flag-captain to the Commander-in-Chief in the East Indies. The force he is to command consists of the Triad, and the sloops Crocus, Cyclamen, and Espiegle. The Triad is a yacht, purchased in 1915, which served in the Dardanelles, and from which some of the naval and military dispatches of that campaign were addressed.

At Constantinople last week, Commander F. B. Favell and Lieutenant-Commander A. D. D. Smyth began duty as Assistants to the British Captain at the Port. Commander Favell, until recently Admiralty Port Officer at Immingham, on the Humber, succeeds Commander W. P. Townshend, R.N.R. There are some 26 British naval officers on duty at Constantinople, apart from those in the Fleet, two being stationed at the Turkish Ministry of Marine.

SERBIA AND ALBANIA.

We have received from the Legation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, the copy of a telegram despatched from Belgrade on the 14th inst. It runs as follows:—

Légation Serb Londres. Journal de Londres Near East du 9 février publie une correspondance de Tirana dans laquelle entre autre on dit que le discours président conseil ministres Pasic a Skupstina 27 janvier dernier, produit impression pénible dans cercles slovenes car Pasic aurait declare que Royaume serbes croates slovenes doit obtenir region Lima que Conference Paix nous donna. Nous sommes autorisés déclarer que cette partie cette correspondance ainsi que passage ou l'on pretend que M. Pasic aspire au partage Albanie et desire se venger des Albanais ne correspondent pas verite. Dans meme discours President Conseil Ministres Pasic declara que notre délégation conference paix soutint aspirations Essad Pasha comme unique représentant legal peuple Albanais et que on reconnaisse independance sous condition ne permettre aucune puissance étrangère d'ingerer affaires albanaises. Telles sont actuellement encore aspirations de M. Pasic.—Buropresse.

(Of course we accept the assurances contained in the message, while awaiting a communication from our Albanian Correspondent.—Ed.)

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

AN ENGLISH HAKIM IN BABYLONIA.

"AN ADMINISTRATOR IN THE MAKING : James Saumarez Mann. 1893-1920. Edited by his Father. With Illustrations and a Map (London: Longmans Green and Co. 16s. net.)"

Amongst many magnificent qualities of character the one that impresses us most on reading this life of Captain Mann, which is told almost entirely in his own letters, is that of enthusiasm. In all his activities during the seven and a half years, 1913 to 1920, which these letters cover—a period which found him at Oxford and which ended with his death in the siege of Kufa—we are struck by the eagerness with which he devoted his keen intellect and all his powers to each new problem with which he was faced. We first find him spending much of his energy on the Balliol Boy's Club, and we see increasingly the same intense interest and the same fiery desire to give his best to the work in hand after he was whirled away from the expected routine of his brilliantly begun career on volunteering for the Army in August 1914.

Captain Mann had the gift of writing letters which, although absolutely natural and unaffected, give very vivid descriptions and tell of those things which are of real interest and will continue to be of interest. A very definite idea of different aspects of the war is given in the letters which tell of his nine months' training, the year in France in the Trenches before he was severely wounded, the year which he spent as Adjutant with the Cadet Training Battalion at Trinity College, Cambridge, the time when he had returned to France, and was with H.Q. of the 4th Army, doing counter-battery work, and at the end where he was among the first to enter some of the towns and villages which were hastily abandoned by the Germans before the Armistice.

In spite of attractive offers of work at home, Captain Mann set his heart on the East, and in July 1919 he went out to take up an appointment as Editor of the *Baghdad Times*. As a matter of fact, in his arrival in Mesopotamia he was sent as A.P.O. to Eastern Shamiyah, and the greater part of this book is taken up with his letters from Umm al Ba'rur, near Najaf, the Holy City of the Shiah.

It is a wonderful picture which these letters give us of a young man in a country absolutely new to him, amongst strange people in disturbed and troublous times, the first English Hakim in his District, mastering with extraordinary skill the difficulties of the language, the character of his people, and the windings of the endless ravelled skein of intrigue, falsehood and mistrust, and striving with all his heart to bring peace and prosperity to his District and to give justice to its inhabitants. "I think I am as good a Radical and Nationalist as ever I was in England," he writes, but he came more and more strongly to feel that the British position in Mesopotamia was justified, and he states his case clearly in a letter to the *Nation*, which is given here. The conditions of the country and the nature of his work and of his many and varied difficulties are wonderfully vividly shown. Of the Arab he writes that he "is such an inconsequent mixture of the knight of chivalry, the high-spirited child, and the fawning, false tongued Oriental; he is essentially not an Oriental at all, and his mind, like that of the Jew, is European compared with the real Eastern races. Altogether he is a funny customer; and the hardest thing about him is that he doesn't really know his own mind, and has

only the vaguest idea of what he wants, beyond the one common to all mankind, that wealth would pour down upon him without labour from the skies."

His descriptions of his different Sheikhs are delightfully clever character sketches.

One of the Sheikhs, Marzuq, although not pro-British in his sympathies, when the rising in July 1920 grew serious, stayed with Captain Mann to protect him, he having refused all official protection "on grounds of policy." We are shown that it was owing to the great esteem in which Captain Mann was held by his Sheikhs, and to the fearless energy with which he tried to make peace that a four days' truce was arranged, which allowed of the relief of the garrisons at Rumaitha and Abu Sukhair. By the terms of this agreement he was not allowed to return to Umm al Ba'rur, and five days later he was killed in Kufa by a sniper's bullet. At the end of the volume there are some appreciations of Captain Mann, written by those who knew him well and those with whom he had worked, but anyone reading this book is bound to carry away the impression of a rare personality and to feel the tragedy of the early ending of what promised to be such an exceptionally useful and brilliant administrative career. One friend writes of Captain Mann's love of music, of which there is much evidence in the letters, and some of his verses are given, verses full of the enthusiasm and idealism of youth, but haunted by the cruel sadness of the years in which it was his destiny to labour and to fight.

ACHILLES ON SCYROS.

"THE ISLAND OF YOUTH" by Edward Shanks. (London: Collins, 8s. net).

The poem which give its name to Mr. Shanks' fourth volume of verse is a long idyll describing the life of young Achilles on the island of Scyros. Achilles, it will be remembered, was destined for a glorious life and an early death, and it was to avert this doom that the goddess Thetis, his mother, brought him to Scyros and enchanted him to live there as one of the maidens of the island. While thus living Achilles fell in love with Deidamia, the king's daughter. It is of such a fragile story that Mr. Shanks has made his exquisite work. The poem begins with the awakening of the maidens of the island to the presence of a stranger in their midst, followed by a description of Scyros, the island that is now, through its possession of Rupert Brooke, notched in the minds of all Englishmen—a description full with those lush details of which Mr. Shanks has so splendid a store:—

The island Scyros floated on the sea,
And in the water shone her crags and towers,
A second self existing in the wave,
Mysterious and lovely, like the double
Which, as some yet believe for comfort's sake,
Attends each man from birth to death, remaining
What in a kinder world he might have been.
But few in Scyros were the flaws and scars
Which the transmuting mirror-sea might smooth,
And in that summer Thetis' blessing lay
Especially upon her.

Then are told the perfect conditions of life on the island in which these maidens lived and grew. It is in this part, incidentally, where the meeting of Achilles with Deidamia takes important place, that the poorest and most wooden lines of the poem occur: the stranger (Achilles) is vying with the maidens in their games:—

In their games
She was the better player. When they ran
With skirts trussed up she outran them easily,
And she was quicker with the tossing ball.

But some strange fear of Achilles suddenly possessed his play-mates, from whom he fled to the mountains, there to commune with himself and to ponder over his destiny. After "long long day" had "added to long long day in summer's fragrant count," Achilles happened to perceive a sword, brought by merchants to the island. The sight of this weapon soon made him

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realise the nature of his fate ; his " dreadful guessing " on the future was now to be turned into action ; he had cast his die. He determines to relinquish his disguise, to be only Achilles : and upon the consequences of this resolution are written some of the loveliest lines in the poem :—

Gone was the Stranger. Whither ? Ask as well
Where the flower's beauty goes when petals fade
And the rough seed thrusts out. Yet it may be
That still a spirit haunts the isle, a ghost
Of dew and light and air, revisiting
The beach where long ago the maidens played,
And finds perhaps in some far, narrow vale,
The rude grave of a poet, dead too young,
Whom death, or life, frustrated of his hope,
Presses her faint lips to the soil and breathes
One word of half-remembered sisterhood.

From here to the end, which is the consummation of the love of Deidamia for Achilles, the poem marches with beautiful lightness and grace of step. But throughout there is an admirable proportion preserved between the deity, the human, and Nature ; nothing obtrudes and practically nothing is carelessly finished, this perfection being all the more necessary because the whole thing is of the finest and frailest texture.

There is but one other poem in this book the subject matter of which intimately concerns readers of this journal : it is called " Constantinople," and " was written in February, 1920, on reading the announcement that Constantinople was to be handed back to the Turks." It is not a very convincing effort, partly because of Mr. Shanks' audacity in supposing that the spirit of Rupert Brooke would visit in hell the spirits of Justinian and of Constantine Palaeologus just to inform them that their unworthy successors had failed to retake St. Spohia, but chiefly because of the square form of the poem. Mr. Shanks thinks, as all Western poets think, that Constantinople will one day return to Christendom, and in Justinian's last speech it is said—Nought given in the city's cause is wholly lost. The walls remain.

O raise your head, my friends, and know that while the soaring
dome shall stand
Though heathens hold it for a space the city still is Christian
land.

We should much prefer to linger on some poems vastly superior to this : on " Memory," for example, in which there is as perfect delicacy as that of which any modern English poet is capable ; or on " The Sky at Campden," which is like a painting in the finish of its conception and detail ; or on " The Nightjars," which is an admirable example of Mr. Shanks' extraordinary gift in the creative projection of the sense ; or on " The End," a grotesque study in imagined annihilation. But, though it be vandalism to which only a reviewer would stoop, we will snatch a few lines from the most artistic work in the volume, a work the cunning ethereality of which is comparable only to the harmonies of Delius, " Morning on the Hill " :—

Softly, softly, the long bare boughs are rubbed together,
A dry leaf spindles down, like a bird's light feather.
Still, oh still—
Silence hath laid, in her woods and on her hill,
The sighing wind asleep,
And thin clouds smoke over, gently creep
Across the bare furrows and rubbed grass and settle down,
Coiling faint wreaths among the golden stones of the town.

Still, oh still ! There is harm in speaking,
Sleep is too hard, speech only means waking
Into a world of words where lovely things are bound by names,
Where we pursue colour and call her flowers or flames.

One final, ungrateful word. We can't understand why so sensitive an artist could have allowed his work to be published in so hideously yellow a cover.

A V.A.D. AT SALONIKA.

" SISTERS' QUARTERS, SALONIKA." By Marguerite Fedden. (London : Grant Richards, 6s. net.)

Many books have been written about the war, but so numerous were the kinds of work and the experience of those engaged in the various campaigns that there is still room for many other records, before we have a complete list.

" Sisters' Quarters, Salonika," deals with the ad-

ventures and work of a Red Cross V.A.D. cook, who was one of the pioneers in Salonika in that particular branch of the service. Generally, it is a volume that will be of interest to those who like to read of other lands, for Miss Fedden was fortunate enough to visit Marseilles, Malta, and Egypt, *en route* ; and she gives some accounts of the customs and history of the people, and also of the work of the British hospitals in Salonika during the war. But the book will be of especial interest to those who served out there. Already we are beginning to forget the joys and miseries of camp-life, the joy of waking in the early morning to see the summit of Olympus rising above the mist, the misery of a night on duty spent in cold and rain and wind. But each chapter brings to mind thousands of little details, flies and mosquito-nets, match-rations on Saturday nights, Vardar winds, half-days with tea at Flocas, and the ride on the front of a lorry along the bumpy Monastir road.

The work of the cooks was of great importance. It was through their efforts that the necessary delicacies were prepared to tempt the appetites of the sick patients, and many thousands profited by their labours. All the work was undertaken under the greatest difficulties, and some idea of the quantities dealt with may be obtained on learning that it took four or five people three hours each day to grate or peel the lemons for the lemonade, so much appreciated in that intense heat when all the water was chlorinated. But the cooks, like everyone else in the hospitals, felt that no trouble was too great for those splendid patients who were generally so very cheerful in spite of their wounds or sickness, and of the fact that most of them saw no prospect of leave for years to come.

Miss Fedden's book is illustrated by Lieutenant F. V. Carpenter with some charming little pen and ink sketches. Particularly good is the reproduction of the intense sunshine and shadows, so vivid a recollection of Salonika : it is very well carried out by the massed black and white of the illustrations. There is also a foreword by General Sir Bryan Mahon.

MOSQUES OF CAIRO.

" SOME CAIRO MOSQUES AND THEIR FOUNDERS." By Mrs. R. L. Devonshire. Illustrated. (London : Constable & Co., 17s. 6d. net.)

Mrs. R. L. Devonshire first appeared before the public as an author during the early days of the war, when she wrote " Rambles in Cairo," describing the chief sites of Cairo for the benefit of the members of the British forces. Her effort met with such success that she decided to write more detailed biographical notes about the monuments of Cairo ; and her latest venture combines an historical with an archaeological description of some of the less known, but none the less famous mosques of Cairo. It will probably not appeal to the mere tourist, who takes usually but a superficial interest in the places he visits or the sights he sees, but to those to whom early Moslem and Egyptian history presents attractions and who see in the relics with which Egypt is strewn something more than mere stones and mortar, this informative little book should be very welcome.

It is to be hoped that Mrs. Devonshire will be encouraged to extend her activities to the other mosques of Cairo and give us similar entertaining accounts of their foundation, and of their founders, for beyond the relatively scanty references in the guidebooks there is very little information available to the general public, and a further contribution on the lines of this book will fill a real want in popular Egyptian bibliography.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.**To-Day.**

February 23 (New Style).

February 10 (Old Style).

Gumada II, 26, 1340 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.

Shebat 25, 5681 of the Jewish Calendar.

Cardinal Bourne is now on a visit to Malta.

Lord and Lady Plumer are enjoying a week's holiday in Sicily. They are due to return to Malta tomorrow.

The Hon. Lady Alexander, who is now convalescent, will leave Paris shortly for India.

Lord Cawley, who has been to Gallipoli and Egypt, has returned to London.

Mme. Gavrilovitch, wife of M. M. B. Gavrilovitch, Attaché at the Yugoslav Legation, has left for Paris.

M. Nicolas Vladesco, Secretary at the Roumanian Legation, has returned from Paris.

Prince Ghika, Roumanian Minister in Paris, will shortly be succeeded by M. Averesco.

Prince Djelaleddin, who has arrived from Monte Carlo, is staying at the Carlton Hotel.

M. Titulesco, the newly appointed Roumanian Minister to the Court of St. James, will arrive in London this week.

Viscount and Viscountess Goschen, who are travelling in Egypt, will remain abroad until April.

M. Vladimir Milanovitch, Secretary at the Yugoslav Legation, has been transferred to the Foreign Office in Belgrade.

M. Frederic Nano, Secretary at the Roumanian Legation, has been made an Officer of the Order of the Star of Roumania.

Lieut.-Colonel Douglas Capitaneano, Military Attaché at the Roumanian Legation, is back in London from Paris.

Lord Manners has left Cairo to visit Brigadier-General and the Hon. Mrs. Arthur Asquith at their home on the Sudan Plantations.

M. R. T. Djuvara, who is to remain as First Secretary at the Roumanian Legation, returned to town last week.

The Earl and Countess of Carnarvon, Lady Evelyn Herbert, Lady Guernsey, and Lady Stanley are among the visitors at present in Cairo.

M. Miran Sevasly, representative of the Armenian National Delegation at Washington, and Mme. Sevasly have arrived in London and are staying at the Grosvenor Hotel for a few days.

M. Diamandi, Minister in the Roumanian Diplomatic Service, arrived in London last week from Paris in connection with the adjustment of claims between the two Governments arising from the war.

The Right Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri (Member of the Council of State of the Viceroy and Governor-General of India) who recently returned from Washington, had an audience of the King last week.

Marshal the Viscount Allenby (His Majesty's High Commissioner for Egypt) and Field-Marshal Sir Henry Wilson, Bt. (upon relinquishing his appointment as Chief of the Imperial General Staff), had audiences of the King on Friday.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place in London on March 7, between Captain Henry Dane, Indian Army, younger son of Sir Louis and Lady Dane, and Victoria Alexandrina, daughter of General Sir Reginald and Lady Wingate.

The engagement is announced of Captain C. W. Sanders, 1st. Brahmans, eldest son of Colonel G. L'E. Sanders Indian Army (retired), and Mrs. Sanders, and Rachel Colquhoun, elder daughter of Mr. J. N. Swann, of Inglehurst, Malvern.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place early in April, in Edmonton, Canada, between Francis Guy, youngest son of the late Bishop of Bombay and the late Mrs. Pym, and Octavia Florence, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ruggles-Brise, of Spains Hall, Finchingfield, Essex.

Sir Dhunjibhoy Bomanji, who was knighted at Buckingham Palace last week, arrived in England recently from Bombay, where he acted as chairman of the entertainment Committee, for the visit of the Prince of Wales, and entertained the crew of the H.M.S. Renown, besides sending them by special train from Bombay to Delhi.

The Rev. Walter Levin, H.C.F., minister of the North London Synagogue, is engaged to Rose Sophie, only daughter of the Mrs. Minnie Forwood and the late E. N. Frankenstein, of 25, Palace Gate, and Abbott's Cot, Bourne End. The Rev. Walter Levin served in senior chaplain to H.M. Forces in Italy, Egypt and Palestine.

In accordance with the Serbian custom, a memorial service for the late King Peter, who died six months ago, was held on February 17 at the Russian Church of St. Philip, Buckingham Palace Road. The Yugoslav Minister, M. Gavrilovitch and the personnel of the Legation, and many of their compatriots in London, were in the congregation.

It is proposed to publish a Biography of the late Rev. Professor Alexander van Millingen, M.A., D.D., the Byzantine archaeologist and writer, of Robert College, Constantinople. All friends having letters, or facts relating to his life and work either as Preacher, Teacher or Historian, are asked kindly to communicate with Mrs. van Millingen, c/o The British Linen Bank, 38, Threadneedle Street, London, E.C.2.

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The engagement is announced between John Ponsonby Trousdell ((Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation), Captain I.A.R.O., third son of the late W. B. P. Trousdell, formerly of the 7th Hussars, and Mrs Trousdell of Maryland, Maidstone, and Helen Francis (Peggy) Landon, youngest daughter of Harcourt Palmer Landon, and the late Mrs. Landon, of the Lodge, Shenfield, Brentwood, Essex.

A Reuter message from Belgrade dated February 18, states :—It is announced here to-day that the marriage of King Alexander of Serbia with Princess Marie of Roumania has been fixed to take place on February 22. M. Pashitch, the Premier, and M. Mintchitch, the Foreign Minister, propose to accompany the King to Bucharest, for which city the party will leave tomorrow.

While in Bucharest the Yugoslav Ministers propose to take advantage of the opportunity to confer with the Roumanian Premier, M. Bratiano, in regard to the attitude to be adopted at the Genoa Conference.

APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS.

M. Stephan Angheloff has been appointed Second Secretary at the Bulgarian Legation.

The King has given permission to wear the following Decorations, conferred in recognition of valuable services rendered during the war :—

Order of the Star of Roumania.

Insignia of Grand Officer.—Viscount Burnham, C.H. ; H. A. Gwynne, Editor of the *Morning Post*.

Insignia of Commander.—Sir W. Grey-Wilson, K.C.M.G., K.B.E.

Order of the Crown of Roumania.

Cross of Commander.—Sir H. J. Mackinder, M.P. ; H. T. M. Bell ; O. de La Chapelle, Legal Adviser to the Roumanian Legation ; F. W. Emmett ; the Very Rev. M. Gaster, Chief Rabbi of the Spanish and Portugese Jews' Congregations in London ; M. A. Gerothwohl, Ph.D., LL.D. (Dublin) ; R. P. Goldschmidt, Consul of Roumania at Manchester ; H. Locke, Cashier of the Roumanian British Chamber of Commerce ; G. S. Orr, Consul of Roumania at Glasgow.

Cross of Officer.—C. E. Musgrove, Secretary of London Chamber of Commerce ; P. W. Runciman.

Order of the White Eagle (Serbia).

Class IV.—C. F. Roundell, C.B.E., General Inspector, Ministry of Health.

Class V.—H. Campbell, C.B.E. ; G. A. Powell, C.B.E.

Order of St. Sava (Serbia).

Class II.—The Lady Dowager Boyle.

Class IV.—Mary A. Blair, M.D., B.S.

Class V.—Miss H. Bellows, of Tuffley Lawn, Gloucester ; G. K. Bowes, M.D., M.R.C.P., M.R.C.S. ; J. R. Coventry, of Liverpool ; J. W. Harvey, of Headingly, Leeds ; M. A. Tancock.

Order of George I. (Greece).

Cross of Commander.—J. O. Jeppe, Hon Consul-General of Greece at Cape Town.

OBITUARY.

The death is announced from Madras of Bishop John Robinson, of the Methodist Episcopal Mission. He died at Bangalore, after 30 years of service in the East.

We regret to have to announce the death of Ethel Mary Pears, the eldest daughter of Lady and the late Sir Edwin Pears, which took place on February 14 at Bournemouth.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENT.

Death.

PEARS.—Ethel Mary, the eldest daughter of Lady Pears and the late Sir Edwin Pears, on February 14th, at Bournemouth.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1922.

THE SITUATION IN PALESTINE

With the Egyptian Question approaching a solution, and one which will probably lighten very considerably our commitments in the Near East, it is likely that the future of Palestine will receive more attention from both the British Government and the British Public. The average Briton is perhaps more interested in Palestine than he is in Egypt. At any rate, he generally makes acquaintance with its history—or part of it—and its geography earlier in his life than he does with those of Egypt; and lately he has begun to take that added interest in the subject which usually accompanies the prospect of having to pay for a thing in one form or another. Since Great Britain accepted the responsibility of the Mandate he has cast an eye, rather troubled at times, on Palestine now and again; and recently, there can be no doubt, he has been feeling vaguely that all is not well out there. The Palestine Arab Delegation has been telling him so ever since its arrival in London, and now Lord Northcliffe, through his many newspapers, has told him the same thing in the plainest and most forcible manner. For his lordship has said in so many words that in his opinion, "unless the situation be firmly dealt with and greater respect shown for the rights of the 700,000 Palestinian Moslems and Christians, the country runs the risk of becoming a second Ireland"; and that is not a prospect that the British taxpayer can face with equanimity. The position is in fact unsatisfactory, or there would not be so many murmurs and rumours as reach us from so many different quarters. Lord Northcliffe, therefore, has done good service in grasping the nettle boldly, and his suggestion that "a complete and public investigation of the affairs of Palestine" should be insisted upon appears to us an excellent one. Such an investigation, conducted by a competent and impartial authority, should set at rest most of the complaints and murmurs to which we have referred, and we are glad to see that Dr. Ch. Weizmann expresses his own cordial approval of the suggestion, and the belief that the overwhelming majority of Zionists would welcome such an inquiry. The Moslem-Christian Delegation has not yet expressed its views, but they can hardly be less favourable to the proposal.

If we ask ourselves what is amiss in Palestine, what makes the position so unsettled and so potentially dangerous, we are forced to the conclusion that it is the fear of Zionism felt by the Christians and Moslems. Although in a proportion, for the time, of about 10 to 1, the latter profess to be, and undoubtedly are, alarmed about the power of the Jews; and they are letting it be more and more clearly understood that if things go on as they have been going, there will be serious trouble, in which the Moslems and Christians will be united, and which may very speedily extend to the Arab world.

And the point which chiefly concerns Great Britain is that she is accused, by implication at any rate, of unduly favouring the Zionists. It is all very well for British politicians to assure the Arabs that they have nothing to fear, or to endeavour to persuade them that the introduction of Jewish capital and Jewish brains into Palestine must prove to their ultimate advantage. The Arabs retort that they see the land passing rapidly into the hands of Jewish owners, Jewish immigrants coming into the country at an alarming rate, and Jews occupying official and administrative positions in numbers quite out of proportion to their total in the land; while as for the Jewish capital and Jewish brains, they would much rather be without them at the price. These Arabs, too, find support from many Europeans and Americans. Quite lately, for instance, a well known traveller declared that "To-day there is complete Zionist domination in Palestine"; while many others, besides Lord Northcliffe, have deplored the arrogance of the extremists among the Zionists. Indeed, it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that it is the lack of restraint in expression that is responsible for much of the hostility that is evidently felt towards Zionism by most people in Palestine save Zionists. If all the Zionists had shown the wisdom of Dr. Weizmann and other prominent leaders of the movement, there might still have been opposition to Zionism, but it would not have been nearly so strong or so widely spread as it is to-day. But in any movement inspired by a great ideal there are almost sure to be fanatics, who are likely by their fiery zeal to imperil the success of the cause they have at heart; and Zionism is no exception to the rule.

Now, the future of Palestine depends very largely on the relations established in the immediate future between Jew and Arab. If more bad blood is created, the situation will become almost hopeless, but if Jew and Arab can possibly be induced to pull together all will be well. It will be Great Britain's part, as Mandatory, to endeavour to make them pull together. Both of them claim that she has given them pledges, and unfortunately both of them—or at any rate sections of both sides—declare that she has broken, or is breaking these pledges. The facts of the case are too familiar to need recapitulation here; the difficulties arise over the interpretation to be given to the Balfour Declaration and perhaps to certain documents in which it is embodied. This famous Declaration, which was endorsed by the San Remo Conference, must be regarded as expressing the considered view and determination not only of Great Britain but of the Allied Powers, and it is strange indeed that no authoritative definition of its meaning has been forthcoming. It would certainly be a step towards settled conditions if the British Government gave such a definition, and if the Allied Powers indicated their approval—or disapproval—of the definition given. It would also be well to let it be known whether any check, and if so what, is to be put upon Jewish immigration into Palestine, and what steps are to be taken for "ensuring that the rights and position of other sections of the population are not prejudiced" by such immigration. Doubtless, too, the Moslems and Christians would like to receive a positive assurance that the Zionist organization while "recognized as a public body for the purpose of advising and co-operating with" shall in fact be "subject always to the control of" the Palestine Administration, which should—and, will, of course—be kept in turn in the control of the Mandatory. Given these conditions, we believe, most of the unrest that is now so painfully evident would die away, and Jew and Arab might live together again on friendly terms, as they did in the days of Turkish rule. But for the sake of Arab, Jew and Briton alike, we should welcome that "complete and public investigation of the affairs of Palestine" suggested by Lord Northcliffe. The sooner some inquiry of the kind is undertaken the better for all parties concerned. The policy of drift cannot be followed much longer without disastrous results.

THE TURKISH SETTLEMENT.

By Sir Valentine Chirol.

It will surprise nobody if, in such a sea of troubles as he has now to face nearer home, Mr. Lloyd George, who at the time of the Paris Peace Conference, was persuaded that the East was never in a hurry, and that Turkey could therefore wait till it suited the convenience of the Big Five to deal with her, now persuades himself that no Near East settlement can be of much avail till Russia is in a position to take a hand in it. The argument is a specious one and has an element of truth in it. Russia to-day is merely an anarchical force in the Near East as everywhere else. But she will not be so always, and when she recovers from her present nightmare, she may be a more really constructive force than ever in the past. Meanwhile, however, we have to take things as they are, and bad as they are, and every day that passes without any attempt at a settlement makes confusion worse confounded. Whilst the proposed Conference in Paris still hangs fire let us try at least to clarify our ideas as to the purposes which it can hope to achieve and the methods by which they can be achieved. To this end we must have a clear idea of the situation.

First of all, there is the state of war actually existing between the Hellenic Kingdom, and that part of the Ottoman State in which not the Ottoman Sultan's, but Mutapha Kemal's writ actually runs. The Greek army landed at Smyrna at the request of the Allies, and mainly at our instigation, when the demobilisation and withdrawal of our own forces had prematurely relaxed the pressure which we could ourselves exert on the Turkish forces of resistance that revived with the long delay in framing the Turkish peace terms in Paris. The Greeks fought a first and successful campaign against the Kemalists with the consent of the Allies, and then halted in accordance with the programme agreed upon between M. Venizelos, then Greek Prime Minister, and the Supreme Council. The Kemalists were not discouraged by a temporary and strictly localised defeat, nor by the Treaty of Sèvres which followed it. The Treaty—whether wise or unwise scarcely matters now—was the last and terribly belated effort of Allied unity during the war. Friction set in between the Allies, and France especially was estranged altogether from Greece, when King Constantine was recalled to Athens and M. Venizelos driven into exile. French *haute finance*, which has always had powerful friends at the Quai D'Orsay, and had done very well out of pre-war Turkey, yearned again for the fleshpots of Constantinople, whilst Great Britain, herself handicapped by Mesopotamian discontents and by Zionism in Palestine, not to speak of Egyptian troubles, was suspected of secret opposition to France's high-handed interpretation of her mandate in Syria. Italy, whose army of occupation had been creeping along from the Gulf of Adalia into very close proximity to Smyrna when the Greeks first landed there, had neither there nor in the Dodecanese nor in the disputed borderlands of Albania any good will towards Greece. Even the British Government grew alarmed at the growing agitation amongst Indian Mohammedans against the Treaty of Sèvres which remained unratified. Meanwhile, the Greek army was being left in the air, as King Constantine could not face the unpopularity of ordering its withdrawal, and the Allies would not agree to let it go forward against the Kemalists, now more and more firmly established at Angora and closely linked up with Bolshevik Russia, who, hand in hand with them, was making hay of all the small states of the Caucasus, including the "independent" state of Armenia, to which the Allies had pledged themselves under the Treaty of Sèvres. Greece took the law at last into her own hands, and ordered her armies to march upon Angora. The Allies disclaimed all responsibility for the consequences, but Mr. Lloyd George was understood at Athens to have conveyed a significant hint that the British disclaimer did not amount to a prohibition of the Greek offensive. He certainly still desired to see the Treaty of the Sèvres enforced, even though the

Secretary of State for India, and other British Ministers were to say the least very lukewarm about it, and what hope was there of enforcing it unless the Greek army smashed the Kemalists at Angora? The Greek offensive had the results we know of, partly because a large number of heavy guns originally surrendered by the Turks to our forces after the Armistice were carelessly left behind to fall back into their possession when our troops were withdrawn, whilst the French and Italians directly helped the Kemalists by trafficking with them in war material of all sorts. The Greeks, victorious at first, failed to reach Angora and had to fall back upon the lines which they are still holding. Winter suspended all military operations. But the spring is approaching, and neither Greeks nor Kemalists can afford to postpone indefinitely another clash of arms, and a decisive Greek victory is less likely than ever. This is recognised in Athens, where the withdrawal of the Greek forces from Asia Minor would be accepted—though with what consequences for King Constantine cannot be safely predicted—so long as some provision was made for the protection of the Greek and other Christian populations against Turkish reprisals of the customary character, which would flood European Greece with a fresh inrush of refugees, already a sufficiently heavy strain upon her resources in land and money.

But Angora will insist also on the surrender of Eastern Thrace. The Turks, however, cannot drive them out at present, and the Allies would have to coerce Greece themselves. Probably nothing less than a blockade of the Greek coasts would compel the Greeks to go out of Thrace, and even if they were willing, anything beyond a rectification of the new frontier, which might even restore Adrianople to Turkey, raises the question of the Straits, and indeed throws the whole of the Balkans once more into the melting pot. The Enos Midia line would place Turkey once more in possession of both shores of the Dardanelles, and in close contact with Bulgaria, who has not yet by any means resigned herself to the loss of Western Thrace and to exclusion from the Aegean coast. In the event of a future conflict, this would mean for us Gallipoli over again in spite of all paper provisions against permanent fortifications. Can we consent to that? Can we as a naval power give up the one lever which we can use against a refractory Turkey, not merely in our own interests, but in those of a civilisation with which the Turks have so far never entered into any real communion?

Can Europe let Turkey entrench herself once more behind the Dardanelles Narrows? That is the *crux* which we have to face, let those who decry sentimentalism, or who dwell rightly enough upon the need for reopening trade with Turkey, or who dread a Kemalist menace through Kurdistan to Mesopotamia, clamour as loudly as they may for peace with Angora. And, though it should not be so, it is as matters now stand, the *crux* for us in particular, because the French, and perhaps the Italians too, would, in their present mood, it seems, prefer to see the approach to Constantinople by sea closed against us, who could alone make effective use of it, to conceding what they regard as the advantage to us more than to any one else of having it kept open. The French believe that, established in Syria, they can always in case of need bring their own pressure to bear upon Turkey in Cilicia, whence they have withdrawn for value received, without worrying about the Dardanelles. Unless harmony can be restored between the Allies we shall be going not to Angora but to Canossa. Yet we seem to be steering, in London, and in Paris at least, towards much the same hopeless deadlock as the Silesian question landed us in a few months ago. We found an issue from it then by calling in aid the much derided League of Nations. The solution which it proposed on that occasion was adopted, and though it was much criticised at the time, it has worked out on the whole very satisfactorily. Why should not the assistance of the League be invoked again? We desire nothing in the Near East for any selfish purpose of our own any more than we did in Silesia. The French can

hardly be prejudiced against the League by its action in regard to Silesia, since it upheld their views rather than our own as to a fair settlement. Nor can the Italians, who had themselves advocated a solution not far removed from that which the League finally proposed. Let the whole question of Thrace and the Dardanelles within the limits I have already indicated be submitted for consideration by the League of Nations, together with that of the guarantees required for the protection of the subject races and minorities in Asia Minor; and the Allies, bound in advance to accept its recommendations, could then go to Angora not only presenting once more a united front, but armed with renewed moral authority.

A few words in conclusion with regard to the relations of Angora with Bolshevism and Pan-Islamism. We can hardly hope to wean Kemalism definitely from Bolshevism or Bolshevism from Kemalism except by some settlement that shall relax the external pressure which has unquestionably rallied to them a large measure of more or less genuine national and patriotic support. Left to themselves they may possibly disintegrate from internal and especially economic weakness; which, however, is likely to operate more rapidly in Russia than in such a primitive organism as Turkey is and has always been. Russia, too, is, after all, at least semi-European, whereas Turkey is thoroughly Asiatic, and, if Christianity is not much of a live force in Soviet Russia, it still counts for something. In Turkey on the contrary, we have to reckon with Islam in its most aggressive form, so long as a state of war continues in Asia Minor, and Islam is being wrought into a ferment of revolt against the West, and especially against Britain, throughout a large part of the East. It is perhaps too late now to discuss how far the pro-Turkish *Khilafat* movement in India is, or was at the outset, artificial, and how far the singular encouragement given to it by the Secretary of State for India and the present and late Viceroy, who have not shrunk from condemning publicly the policy adopted by the Imperial Government towards Turkey in the Treaty of Sèvres, has promoted the now open and almost violent disaffection of large numbers of Indian Mohammedans. The fact must be admitted that their disaffection actually constitutes a grave menace to the peace of India, if not to the security of the British *raj*. Their demands go even further than any which Angora has yet publicly put forward. They include the restoration of the Sultan's authority *qua* Khalif over the whole of Arabia and therefore the abandonment by us of all the pledges we have given to the Arabs, and notably to the King of the Hejaz, whom we encouraged to revolt against the Turks, and of his son King Faisal, whom we have placed on the throne of the new kingdom of Irak at Baghdad. Curiously enough since the French concluded a treaty with Angora, Indian Mohammedans have ceased to take any vehement exception to the position assumed by France in Syria. Religion, it is true, used to sit very lightly on the Turkish Committee of Union and Progress which still dominates Angora, and Pan-Islamism, which yielded the place of honour at Constantinople to Pan-Turanianism during the great war, has come to the front again at Angora mainly as a powerful anti-British weapon. One may therefore perhaps reasonably expect that, if we can come to terms with the Kemalists concerning Asia Minor and Thrace, including the Dardanelles, they will not show as much fervour as the Indian Mohammedans for the recognition of Turkish sovereignty, whether temporal or spiritual, over Arabia, with which the Turks have no racial ties. But the task of negotiating with Angora will not be rendered more easy by the presence not merely of a representative of the Government of India already largely committed to the Indian Mohammedan view but of an Indian Mohammedan delegation to "assist," as the *Khilafat* propagandists euphemistically put it, the British negotiators in placing peace with Turkey on a broad basis which, they contend, must be acceptable not merely to the Turks but to the Mohammedans of India who are themselves not apparently quite sure of the Turks' soundness in matters affecting the religious

rights of the Ottoman Sultan as the spiritual head of Islam.

This is, however, a factor which concerns only India and ourselves. It cannot be expected to weigh very much with our Allies, and it is on the restoration of an united front with them, whether by direct negotiation or by the instrumentality of the League of Nations, on the points in which all of them are still concerned, that a tolerable settlement at Angora depends which shall not be a mere surrender of British interests and of Western civilisation.

THE CARAVANSERAI.

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

—OMAR KHAYYAM—

The following advertisement appeared not very long ago in a Roumanian paper, *Le Progrès* :—

Demoiselle étrangère 18 ans, gentille, bonne famille, honorable, instruite, bonne pianiste désire mariage sérieux avec personne agée et très riche. Ecrire en précisant nom et situation. S'adresser au journal sous : M-elle Lilly.

Will Miss "Lilly," I wonder, allow me to say that I admire her doubtless lovely cheek, and that I should like to know whether she has yet hooked the rich old man she angles for so openly. But what chiefly sets me thinking about the advertisement is the mention of 'serious marriage.' Is not marriage always a tolerably serious affair? I am told so by all my married friends and acquaintances; and in these days of high prices I find it easy to believe that it is no joke. But perhaps my knowledge of French is at fault. If so, will any kind reader let me know what other kind of marriage the Progressive young lady can have had in her mind?



A Correspondent informs me that in a town in the Delta of Egypt, which shall be nameless though probably all places are suffering alike, some supporters of Zaghloul Pasha (and incidentally themselves as well), recently went round to the various native houses collecting twenty piastres (about four shillings) from each householder, to enable them to send an affectionate telegram to their beloved Zaghloul. If any one demurred and said that he thought every one, including Zaghloul himself, was better off with things as they were, he was met with the pious remark that it would be a sad calamity if during the next peaceful political procession, Allah permitted his house or shop to be wrecked. On thinking it over the recalcitrant one would decide that twenty piastres was a fairly cheap insurance against such a lapse on the part of Allah, and accordingly pay up. So if anyone doubted the universal popularity of Zaghloul there was the twenty piastres to prove it. I say *was*, because it is estimated that at least sixty pounds was collected in that particular town only. Now, you can send a real nice, loving, affectionate telegram for at out twenty pounds, so where have the other forty gone? But the real humour of the thing lies in the fact that whatever was paid for the telegram simply goes to help swell the dividends of an already wealthy English company, and this at a time when our Egyptian hosts are concerting measures to boycott us out of the country. Truly Egypt as "the land of humour" might be added to the list of attractions, along with sunshine, dances, hotels, and so on.

Corsair,



PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

In consequence of queries, the Editor thinks it advisable to state that the quotation from any article does not necessarily imply that the views expressed are shared by "The Near East." On the contrary, an attempt is made to include as far as is possible in the available space all sides of the various questions discussed.

The Near East.

The *Nation and Athenaeum* of February 11 contains a by no means optimistic article called "The Confusion in the Near East." It points out "that the chances of a settlement have grown no brighter in recent weeks," and continues:—

It may now be common ground that the Greeks must quit Smyrna, though not without stringent guarantees for the safety of the large Greek minority but everything else in the settlement is in dispute. France apparently is backing the Turkish demand for an effective restoration to Turkey not merely of the city of Constantinople, but of the Straits and the whole of Eastern Thrace. The real question at issue here is the future of the Straits. The present arrangement, which is theoretically an Allied and practically a British or at most Anglo-French guardianship, is indefensible in principle and would in the long run prove unworkable. Other Powers will not, and ought not, to acquiesce in our predominance, nor will a Franco-British partnership work smoothly. Russia's interests have to be considered, not to mention those of the other Black Sea States and of neutrals. Moreover, it is just this armed shadow over Constantinople which reduces the Sultan-Caliph to a puppet, and infuriates Moslems all over the East. To this bad alternative the French propose the logical opposite, and their scheme must be rejected or accepted as a whole. If Turkey is going to be the guardian of the Straits (subject, no doubt, to treaty provisions for their freedom), then it is natural and even necessary to restore Thrace also. Your guardian must have proper military means for fulfilling his task. It is said that Moscow prefers this solution to the present system, and it may well be so, for it would give her equal rights at the Straits. At present she has no rights at all, and depends on the tolerance of the West.

We confess that we approach this question with some bewilderment. As to Thrace, we have no wish to see the Greeks in control, but neither do we wish to restore Turkish rule. Either would work harshly to the other race. Thrace is greatly underpopulated, and our own preference would be for any *régime* under which fugitives of all races might be brought there to colonize its empty towns. We cannot forget Bulgarian interests in this connection and we are not hopeful that they can thrive under the Greek flag. The ideal arrangement would be to make the whole of Thrace, with Constantinople, and at least the northern shore of both Straits, an international territory under the League of Nations. We should also have welcomed an American mandate to guard such a territory. These, we fear, are Utopian solutions at present. Failing them, we are not disposed to reject the restoration of Turkish sovereignty, provided this whole territory, with the exception of the city itself, were placed under international guarantees. If that is going to be done for Smyrna, why not also for Thrace? But when we say "international" we mean the League, and not the Supreme Council. If there are to be officials and officers (as there must be) we would draw them largely from neutral States. The one thing that must be avoided is the reduction of the Sultan to the position of a vassal of Britain or France, or, worse still, of both. A genuinely international control does not involve the same humiliation, nor could it be used to control the whole of Turkey in the interests of British or French Imperialism.

For our part, if we were in the case of the Turks we would withdraw the political capital to Konia, or Brusa, and let Constantinople become a cosmopolitan free port. But that is a question which they must decide. For the rest, if it be argued that some compensation is due to the Greeks for their disappointment in Smyrna, we would answer that the remedy is in our hands. What business have we to retain Cyprus, with its nearly solid Greek population? There are other pressing matters that must be settled. The promise given to Bulgaria that she should have a commercial outlet on the Aegean has not been kept, and ought now to be fulfilled.

Egypt.

In the *Outlook* of February 11 is an article called "Spoiling the Egyptians," written by "An Anglo-Egyptian." It begins by hoping that the Government will make up its mind on Egypt with the least possible delay, and will then stick to its policy. The article is short, and, since it represents a considerable body of opinion in this country, we quote the rest of it *in extenso*:

The present troubles in India and Egypt are ascribed by political wiseacres of the "special commissioner" type to all sorts of fantastic causes: to a new-born passion among Asiatics and Arabs for democratic forms of government which we are reluctant to give them; to a sudden outburst of national sentiment, uniting in a brotherhood, which may be national, but is certainly not natural, Ceylon and Assam, Madras and Peshawar, Coptic clerks of Alexandria and the desert Bedouin—people who resemble each other in language and appearance less than we do the Bulgars; or to what is vaguely described as "the unrest in Islam," a phenomenon which has become the latest and favourite bogey man of those who once used to terrify us with stories of the "Yellow Peril." It never occurs to anyone to ascribe these troubles to our own weakness and vacillation. So long as there is a real chance that riots will produce concessions the agitators will continue to organise riots. The friends of Zaghloul Pasha can hardly be blamed if they try to get him back from exile in Ceylon by the simple method of beating up the European quarters of Cairo and Alexandria, since that is precisely the method by which they got him back from Malta a few years ago. I am not opposed in advance to every kind of concession; I am not an admirer of what has been described as the "Serve 'em right" school of Imperialism; all I ask is that the Government should make up its mind and stick to it. It is idle to talk about the impossibility of setting bounds to the march of a nation. There are nations that spring up in the night like mushrooms. In the year 1916 if a Coptic newspaper talked about "the nation" it meant by that the Copts. The Copts had among themselves a feeling of solidarity, which we can call, if we like, nationality, but it was only for themselves—a little community of Christians numbering about one in twelve of the population. Now we are presented with an Egyptian nation ready made! And the most remarkable feature of the new nations that are coming into existence all over the world is not the ease and rapidity of their birth, but the amazing precocity of their childhood. In a matter of a few months these ingenious Orientals will take a stride along the path of Western progress which we, who invented the thing, only compassed after centuries of blood and tears. Egypt, in fact, is learning the art of democratic government so quickly that she requires a new Constitution every few years. The important reforms introduced by Lord Kitchener just before the war are spoken of now, if they are spoken of at all, as though they were an event of the reign of Rameses I. Does anyone seriously believe that this lightning transformation is taking place in the land of the Pharaohs? Or are these pretences, which deceive no one, bringing the whole

principle of nationality into disrepute?

All I desire to establish for the moment is that it cannot be necessary on the grounds of national progress for the British Government to change its policy every two months. If it is, then we ought to say so, and not keep pretending, as we did last December, that we have definitely made up our minds. I will add that no one can express an opinion on the Egyptian situation with an authority equal to Lord Allenby's. If, as is known to be the case, Lord Allenby is in favour of making certain concessions to Egyptian opinion, both in the matter of the British garrisons and in the control of foreign affairs, in order to induce Sarwat Pasha or some other Pasha to form a Ministry and restore normal Government, that opinion will have an influence both in Parliament and in the country that will probably be decisive. All one asks is that these concessions, whatever they are, shall not be announced as the Government's last word on the subject unless the Government really means to stand by them. It would be better to give the Egyptians Cabinet responsibility, secret ballots, manhood suffrage, and all the rest of it straight away, with authority to form what treaties they like with anybody, and nothing but a British Army on the Canal bank to protect them from the inevitable consequence, than to dole out concessions with a niggard hand every few months, each time protesting that it is the last. That is the Oriental method, which the Oriental will beat us at every time: And it is, in a new sense, "spoiling the Egyptians."

Palestine.

The Times of February 17 contains an article on "The Condition of Palestine," and, referring to the serious condition of affairs in that country to which Lord Northcliffe has been calling attention, it says:—

We have strongly supported the Zionist ideal, which seemed to us to afford an opportunity of releasing the Jews from the ambiguous and anomalous position that they occupy in many countries, and of enabling them to recover a natural equilibrium by a progressive affirmation of their national individuality. There are many Jews who have completely identified themselves with the countries in which they live, and who are distinguished from their fellow-citizens only by their religion. To these Zionism makes no appeal. There are many hundreds of thousands of others, particularly in Central and Eastern Europe, whose condition is such that the ideals of Zionism seem to hold out to them the only hope of full and self-respecting manhood. Yet it is evident that it is a task of the utmost difficulty and delicacy to import into modern Palestine, with its quiet, easy-going Moslem and Christian population, the dreamers of the Ghettoes of Eastern Europe. They come with the marks of bitter racial and party conflict upon them. They come with the disturbing, often with the revolutionary, ideas and habits that they have imbibed during these later years of storm. They come to the home of their remote ancestors, to the cradle of their ancient tradition, with extravagant hopes and impossible claims, and have no perception of very complex realities. They condemn and criticize, often unjustly and unfairly, with a peculiarly irritating asperity, everything that conflicts with their preconceived ideal. Their very salutation of *Shalom!* or "Peace!" often has the character of a sharp challenge. In the confusion and conflict certain Bolshevik elements creep in, and the large native population that for centuries has been accustomed to regard Palestine as its own home is seriously alarmed. Lord Northcliffe rightly appeals to the numerous moderate Zionists throughout the world to restrain the extremists, whose activities are endangering the realization of the ideal. We trust that the Zionist leaders will be able to act

vigorously and authoritatively in making it clear that Zionism, if it is to succeed, must move step by step, in close and friendly co-operation with the Moslem and Christian natives of Palestine. Lord Northcliffe pays a pleasant tribute to the impartiality of the High Commissioner; but the situation bristles with so many difficulties and misunderstandings that it is high time, in the interests of the Zionists, of the Palestinian Arabs, and of the British nation, which is at present responsible for the conduct of Palestinian affairs, that a complete and public investigation of the growing complaints and disturbances should be made by a competent and impartial authority.

THE FIGHTING AT TABRIZ.

A Reuter message from Teheran, dated February 19, states:—Mukhber-es-Saltaneh, formerly Governor-General of Tabriz, has left for Teheran, *via* the Caucasus. He was ordered to return here following the recent fighting between Gendarmerie and Cosacks. Mossadegh-es-Saltaneh has been appointed Governor-General of Tabriz. It is stated that at the request of the Persian Government the Russian Minister has promised to arrange the extradition of Colonel Lahouty Khan, the Democrat leader, who headed the attack of Tabriz from the Caucasus, whither he fled when the town was taken by Government troops.

YUGOSLAVIA AND RUSSIAN DISTRESS.

The Belgrade correspondent of the *Morning Post* states (February 16):—The Cabinet yesterday decided to ask Parliament to sanction a credit of 6,000,000 dinars for the relief of distress in Russia on the condition that the Soviet Government guarantees that the relief shall be distributed by special Yugoslav delegates and that Yugoslav subjects who are still detained in Russia and number some tens of thousands shall be released. This credit is additional to the 6,000,000 dinars monthly which the Government is already spending on Russian refugees in Yugoslavia.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

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The D.O.T.

Presumably we shall have to wait some little time before knowing whether the Government intend to endorse the recommendations of the Geddes Committee in regard to the Department of Overseas Trade or not. They have had ample evidence by now that the abolition of the Department would be against the wishes of a very large section of the business community. Indeed I do not think it an exaggeration to say that the Department has probably found at least as many supporters, if not more, among those where views have been given to the Press as any of the Departments who would be affected by the operation of the "axe." From overseas too timely support has been forthcoming in the shape of a resolution by the Australian Association of British Manufacturers viewing with alarm the recommendation and describing the proposal as "suicidal." I do not think the phrase at all too strong, and I only hope it will carry some weight with the Government.

The Genoa Conference.

It was in none too optimistic a vein that I referred to the Genoa Conference last week, and developments in the past few days appear to have made the outlook distinctly more dubious. We have had the Italian Cabinet crisis for one thing, of itself a most unfortunate happening in the circumstances. Then France desires the postponement of the Conference for a considerable period which suggests a very plain answer to the question whether our Ally was ever more than lukewarm in favour of the meeting. And while we have these delays—unavoidable admittedly—trade is suffering, and the prospects of a really successful twelvemonths from the commercial point of view become more and more remote. As I have so often pointed out in these columns the position of no country at the present time will permit of the indefinite continuance of present conditions. The wheels of commerce must be set going, and for this to come about it is essential that the Near Eastern questions should be settled at the earliest possible moment and a reasoned policy evolved to meet the riddle of the exchanges. Is it too much to ask of the politicians of the Entente that they will concentrate on this?

The Trade Position.

If some progress had been made in regard to these problems it would be possible to look forward to the future course of trade with a very considerable degree of confidence. Overseas markets are generally becoming increasingly short of stocks. The position in Roumania, described by our Correspondent this week, will serve to indicate the general situation. In a few words the openings for our produce exist, and it is only the prevailing circumstances that prevent us from taking

advantage of them. Once conditions improve our manufacturers will have no need to complain of lack of orders from fields for which they cater. There should be a veritable rush of orders. But for the moment we are waiting for the politicians.

Next Week's Fair.

It may be thought from what I have written that the prospects for the coming British Industries Fair are now none too hopeful. That is far from being my opinion. Obviously the Fair can never reach its fullest utility until world commerce is once again normal, and there will certainly be far fewer buyers from some countries of the Near East than would be the case if the exchanges were near parity and Greek and Turk were once again at peace. But there will be quite a number all the same because buyers have to consider the future and not the immediate present, and with the prospect that a trade "boom" of a very different character from that which we experienced shortly after the Armistice is not very far distant it is to be expected that a very considerable amount of business will be done at the Fair, quite enough at any rate to eclipse last year's figures. And if that is the case the Fair will be a success.

An Opportunity.

One of the greatest advantages afforded by the Fair is the publicity it gives to British industrial endeavour as a whole. Every buyer who attends it is indirectly a representative of our industries on his return, and I would like to emphasise the point that British manufacturers could not find a better time for launching a publicity campaign in foreign markets than in the period immediately following the Fair. They like buyers have to look ahead, and now is undoubtedly the time to bring their manufactures to the attention of overseas outlets, particularly regions like the Near East, which have so far only been entered spasmodically and without any real enthusiasm except on the part of a few firms who know the value of the business that is to be obtained and are determined to get their share of it.

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The Gezireh Project.

The letter in the December issue of the *Journal* of the Sudan Chamber of Commerce from the Director of Agriculture, Sudan Government, dealing with the above question, reference to which was made in these columns in the issue of January 12, is replied to in an article in the current issue of that periodical. The writer emphasises the point that it is on account of the inadequate supply of labour that 50,000 feddans is in his view the extent of development in the Gezireh for many years. "This great restricting factor" he points out "has been the prime cause of the exorbitant actual costs and if not surmounted will eventually cripple development, and it appears to me that the readiest means would be an offer of some tangible inducement to settlers with a view to encouraging immigration on a vast scale."

Question of Extent of Cultivation.

The writer goes on to argue that, though the first year's task may be comparatively easy, the real difficulties will be met with when the cultivation of an area of 50,000 feddans in cotton is exceeded. "The abstract idea of 100,000 feddans in cotton, 100,000 in wheat, and 100,000 at rest in each year, both as regards area and rotation of crops is, in my opinion," he says "excellent, but, with all deference, I confidently assert that many years must pass before anything approaching 200,000 feddans can be put under cultivation of which 100,000 will be in cotton; and I further assert that, if this area cannot be put under cultivation within a very few years, the annual charge for interest on capital will become an intolerable burden to the country."

Pump Irrigation.

Dealing with the question of pump irrigation the writer says that if, as alleged, "the present position of private pumping stations in Khartoum District and North, is shaky, I beg leave to substitute for the reasons given. . . (1) the scarcity of available labour, and (2) the heavy freight rates on coal and cotton, and the heavy ginning expenses charged by the Sudan Government Railways. Agriculture, being the most important factor in the prosperous development of the country, these charges should be reduced to a minimum, and private enterprise encouraged by every practical means. If such charges could be reduced and sufficient labour at reasonable rates obtained the area at present under private cultivation could be greatly extended, with practically the same management expenses, and the yield then obtained would justify development."

Commentator.

BRITISH INDUSTRIES FAIR.

Special Trains for Business Men.

To the enterprise which has always gone hand-in-hand with the British Industries Fair must now be added that of the great railway companies who have arranged to run special excursions at greatly reduced fares for the benefit of the trade buyers visiting it.

The Fair, which is organised each year by the Department of Overseas Trade, is one of the most important trade Fairs in existence, and, in addition to representing practically every British industry, has the merit of being self-supporting. Only trade buyers are admitted to the Fair, the general public being, at the special desire of the exhibitors, rigorously excluded. The Fair will be held concurrently at the White City, London, and Castle Bromwich Aerodrome, Birmingham, from February 27th to March 10th next, and buyers from all parts of the kingdom will find that both sections can be reached with a minimum expenditure of time and money.

The fare will in most cases be approximately the price of a single ticket for the double journey where passengers making use of the special excursions, return on the same day. For passengers who desire to make a stay of from two to six days the cost of a return ticket will be about one-third more than the usual single fare.

There are already in existence numerous excursions between London and the provinces which will be available, but the special supplementary services will undoubtedly prove a great boon to buyers visiting both at London and Birmingham Sections of the Fair. Special facilities have been arranged for business men desiring to visit the Fair from stations in the Manchester, Liverpool and Birmingham districts.

It is stated that the production of naphtha in the Baku district during the past year decreased by 48,700,000 poods compared with the previous year. The reduction was chiefly owing to the smaller number of new wells exploited, which were only five, compared with 25 in 1920.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting	Parity of Exchange	Latest. Quotations.
Alexandria ..	Piastres to £....	97½	97½
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	96.50-97.00
†Belgrade ..	Dinars to £....	25.22½	327½
Berlin	Marks to £....	20.43	955-958
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1,3.15-32
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1,3.15-32
Brussels.....	Francs to £....	25.22½	50.65-50.75
*Bucharest ..	Lei to £....	25.22½	—
Constantinople	Piastres to £....	110	625-645
New York....	Dollars to £....	4.86 2-3	4.39½-4.39½
Paris	Francs to £....	25.22½	48.20-48.25
Prague	Kronen to £....	24.02	233-238
Rome	Lire to £....	25.22½	87½-87½
†Sofia	Leva to £....	25.22½	615
Teheran	Krans to £....	50	51
Vienna	Kronen to £....	24.02	12,500-13,500
Warsaw	Marks to £....	20.43	15,000-16,000

*Nominal. † Sellers.



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Commerce and Industry.

REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

EGYPT.

Cairo, February 9.

Great Decrease in Trade.

The December statistics just issued by the Customs Administration give us the final figures for the foreign trade of Egypt during 1921 and, as was foreshadowed by the periodical summaries previously issued, there is a very marked diminution in the foreign trade of this country. Imports amounted to only L.E.55,507,984 and exports to L.E.36,356,062 as compared with L.E.101,880,963 and L.E.85,467,061 respectively during the previous year. There is therefore a falling off of over 45 per cent. in imports and nearly 60 per cent. in exports, but thanks to the increase in re-exports there is a slight improvement in the balance in trade which is still 13 millions against Egypt.

Imports.

Under imports the chief items during the year have been:—Meat, L.E.266,478; cheese, L.E. 284,021; hides, skins, and leather goods, L.E.534,665; wheat, L.E.1,322,777; maize, L.E.418,493; barley, L.E.609,702; rice, L.E.459,584; potatoes, L.E. 179,042; flour, L.E.7,183,929; oranges, L.E.170,727; sugar, L.E.260,792; tea, L.E.131,104; coffee, L.E.561,071; vegetable-oil, L.E. 416,511; kerosene, L.E. 1,389,176; benzine, L.E.300,401; oil-fuel, L.E.553,986; other mineral oils, L.E.261,455; paper and printed matter, L.E.998,545; construction wood, L.E.1,591,143; railway sleepers, L.E.256,785; furniture, L.E.275,701; coal, L.E.3,371,946; patent fuel, L.E.107,054; cement, L.E.197,620; synthetic indigo, L.E.119,159; nitrate of soda, L.E.537,304; household soap, L.E.611,384; machines and machine parts, L.E.1,163,723; motor vehicles, L.E.494,163; cotton yarn, L.E.591,618; sewing cotton, L.E.297,746; cotton piece goods, L.E.7,942,683; cotton hosiery, L.E.458,662; cotton laces and embroideries, L.E.205,414; ready made cotton clothing, L.E.117,209; mixed cotton textiles, L.E.260,480; woollen and worsted cloths, L.E.780,257; tarbooshes, L.E.100,955; ready made woollen clothing, L.E.189,595; carpets and rugs, L.E.331,676; silk yarn, L.E.268,024; silk cloths, L.E.695,063; sacks, L.E.302,540; manufactured iron and steel, L.E.1,273,141; copper and brass sheets, L.E.319,554; plated and gilt metalware, L.E.138,591; scientific and surgical instruments, L.E.127,875; and tobacco, L.E.1,973,128.

The general drop in prices is to a great extent responsible for the remarkable shrinkage in imports and in many cases such as kerosene, coal, coffee, soap, and Manchester goods (by weight) the quantities imported are either in excess of or negligibly less than those imported during the previous year, while the values in each case show a marked diminution. At the same time there is no doubt that the decreased purchasing power of the people due to the fall in cotton and cereal prices is responsible for the general decrease in the quantities of other commodities imported during the past year.

Exports.

Under exports the principal item was of course cotton which accounted for L.E.28,375,249. The other important items were eggs, L.E.339,779; hides and skins, L.E.443,248; wheat, L.E.203,416; rice, L.E.482,053; cotton seed, L.E. 2,423,225; cotton seed cake,

L.E.586,809; onions, L.E.357,607; sugar, L.E.313,041; phosphate, L.E.185,598; cigarettes, L.E.703,720. Re-exports which were more than twice the value of the previous year were represented by maize, L.E.187,833; flour, L.E.1,952,016; coal, L.E.197,373; cotton piece goods, L.E.272,444.

With regard to the share taken by the various countries in the foreign trade of Egypt the United Kingdom imported a smaller proportion than in 1920, 30 per cent. as against 38 per cent., while the United States increased from 10 per cent. to 15 per cent., and France from 6 per cent. to 8 per cent. The chief imports from the United Kingdom were of course textiles and under the heading "cotton piece goods, classified as light and heavy" the British share was 85 per cent. out of a total of L.E.7,942,683; the nearest competitor being Italy with L.E.750,200. About one third of the coal imported came from the United Kingdom, 40 per cent. of the household soap, 35 per cent. of the cotton yarn, two thirds of the sewing cotton, 80 per cent. of the woollen and worsted cloths and half of the machinery. As regards exports the share of the United Kingdom increased from 42 per cent. to 47 per cent., and that of the United States decreased from 30 per cent. to 16 per cent. The United Kingdom took practically all the eggs, and cotton seed cake, 70 per cent. of the onions and 45 per cent. of the cotton. The falling off in the share of the United States was due to smaller cotton purchases the proportion falling from 30 per cent. to 20 per cent.

Trade between Egypt and the Sudan likewise showed a contraction, imports from Egypt falling from L.E.2,286,986 to L.E.923,273, and exports from L.E.3,954,217 to L.E.2,455,460. The importation of cattle fell off by more than half and that of sheep by nearly 75 per cent., which demonstrated the change in social and economic conditions in Egypt, while a similar contraction is shown under cereals. As regards exports from Egypt into the Sudan the chief items were wheat and wheat flour, L.E.71,221; sugar, L.E.431,450; cotton textiles, L.E.685,574; all of which were considerably less than the previous year; and tobacco, L.E.244,001 which showed a slight increase.

GREECE.

Athens, February 4.

Importation of Alcohol.

A Decree is being promulgated by the Minister of Finance prolonging up to April 30 the delay which had been granted for the importation of foreign alcohol to be used for the manufacture of paraffin. The total quantity of alcohol which may be imported from abroad must not exceed 600,000 litres. A tax of 20 lepta per litre has been imposed.

Customs Receipts.

The receipts of the Piraeus Customs during the second ten days in January (O.S.) amounted to 2,892,723.30 drachmae in paper and 52,490.90 drachmae in gold. In comparison with the receipts during the corresponding period last year there is an increase this year of 415,310.75 drachmae in paper and a decrease of 43,331.70 drachmae in gold.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, February 7.

Scarcity of Goods.

Since the sudden drop of the leu last autumn local merchants have not been able to place orders abroad

SERBO-CROATIAN:

Translations, technical and legal undertaken. M.B., c/o "The Near East," 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2.

for fresh supplies. In consequence existing stocks are getting more and more reduced, so that it is generally felt that there will be a great scarcity of goods for the spring and summer season, especially in the cotton line.

I give below the official export figures (in tons) of Roumania's principal products during 1921 (the figures in brackets representing the corresponding totals for 1920):—Wheat, 75,691 (238); wheat-flour, 19,423 (1,902); rye, 55,864 (39,634); barley, 387,168 (419,205); oats, 165,466 (35,361); maize, 769,149 (430,390); crude oil, 15,511 (3,500); heavy fuel oil, 15,210 (24,102); refined oil, 172,971 (148,425); petrol, 145,115 (54,325); lubricating oil, 13,533 (16,560); timber, 138,792 (63,271), fir-wood trunks, 20,029 cubic metres (3,251 c.m.).

New Export Taxes.

The following new export taxes have now been put in force: Coal and lignite 10 lei per ton; wicker articles, such as trunks, baskets, etc. 10 lei per ton; fresh and preserved meat 50 lei per ton; resonance wood 15 lei per cubic metre.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, February 12.

Senator Hollis and Bulgaria.

In view of an article that recently appeared in a leading North of England daily, it is interesting to give the declarations that Senator Hollis made to me before leaving for Rome. Senator Henry Hollis who is a Democrat, and not a member of the present Senate, served for some time on the American Disposals Board in Paris. He had charge of selling United States war material in France and other European countries. A lawyer by profession, he is the legal adviser of the General Electric Company of America. His reasons for visiting Bulgaria were non-political, and have nothing to do with the treaty that is being concluded between the United States and Bulgaria. He had hoped that it might be possible for an electric railway to be constructed from the centre of Bulgaria to a port on the Aegean Sea. A visit to the area in question has, however, convinced him of the impossibility of such a scheme. The present frontiers render the construction of any railway down to the Aegean very difficult, whilst the steep gradients are a further obstacle to an electric railway.

The International Bank.

The Government scheme for forming an International Bank, details of which are given below, is also engaging the Senator's attention, as he is convinced that there is a great future for a bank that can command a large amount of foreign capital, preferably American or English. He told me that he was astonished at there being no British Bank at Sofia. Owing to the political situation Senator Hollis is of opinion that it may be possible to open up banking connections more easily by way of Constantinople than Paris. There is already one big American banking establishment, the Guaranty Trust Company of New York, at Constantinople, Senator Hollis, whose knowledge of the Balkans is not confined to Bulgaria, intends to return here in the spring, and assured me that he considers Bulgaria is a country which both deserves and is worthy of support. Once she is freed from her present impossible treaty obligations, she is capable of making vast strides. The Senator also remarked that Bulgaria was at present suffering from the indifference with which she is regarded by both America and England. It will be interesting to see if Senator Hollis succeeds in dispelling it.

The Law providing for the creation of an International Bank, is as follows:—The National Bank of Bulgaria and the Bulgarian Agricultural Bank are authorised to found a bank which shall be called 'The Bulgarian International Bank,' with head office at Sofia and branches in Bulgaria and abroad. The principal aim of this bank is to help international commerce in Bulgaria by its organisation and its powers. It will give credit to limited companies, private businesses, Co-operative societies, etc., that are of Bulgarian origin

and that do an export and import trade with Bulgaria. It is immaterial whether these companies are situated in Bulgaria or abroad.

The bank is constituted on the same lines as a Bulgarian limited company, and will conform to the Bulgarian Commercial Law. The National Bank and the Agricultural Bank will be the first to take part in the foundation of the bank, and they will take up 10 and 5 millions levas of capital respectively. The capital taken up by the banks can be doubled without any fresh legislation, providing there is an increase in the capital of the bank. The putting into force of the statutes of the bank, the total of the capital, and the conditions appertaining to subscriptions, will be decided by the National and Agricultural Banks, with the previous consent of the Ministerial of Finance, who is charged with seeing that the Law is put into execution.

ASIA MINOR.

Smyrna, February 4

Export of Barley.

The British Consul-General has just issued a notice that the Allied High Commissioners at Constantinople have authorized the exportation of 2,000 tons of barley from the port of Smyrna during the months of January and February and have expressed the hope that further extensions may be granted.

Smyrna, February 8.

Lord Northcliffe.

The Smyrna British Chamber of Commerce telegraphed to Lord Northcliffe, who is in Jerusalem, cordially inviting him to visit Smyrna in the interests of British trade. His Lordship, however, has replied that he is unable "at present" to accept the invitation owing to his early departure for Europe.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, January 25

The Asbestos Mines.

The fortunate holders of shares in the late Asbestos Company have received £1,100 for each share of £200, thus making a net profit of £900 per share. It is hoped that all success will attend the operations of the new company.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated February 13.—Conditions of crops. February 10.—Prospects in Bengal, Bombay and Central Provinces unchanged. In North-East United Provinces, late-sown crops profited considerably by January rains. Punjab prospects good, but more rain wanted in South-East. Markets. Cotton February 9.—Bombay cotton market steady. Fine M.G. Oomras, Rs. 330, March; Rs. 341, May. Bombay cotton arrivals from September 1, 1921 to February 3, 1922 were 1,625,000 bales as compared with 889,000 bales during the same period of the last year. Piece-Goods.—Bombay imported piece-goods market lifeless. Some retail enquiries showing. Jute—February 11—Calcutta jute and gunny markets very quiet. B. Twills Rs. 35. Liverpool Rs. 41. Tea.—At tea sale on February 7, selections uninteresting and composed of small lots of final invoice. Exceptional best liquoring sorts and dusts, prices generally ruled easier. 541,292 packages sold up to date at an average price of 10 annas 1 pie per lb. Next sale (probably final) postponed till February 21. Shellac.—February 7.—Prices practically unchanged. T.N. from Rs. 160 to Rs. 162. Rice.—February 10.—Special Straits Quality Rice, Rs. 450. No change in bank rates.

The fig crop of the Messenia district of Greece is estimated at 16,800,000 lb. as against 24,000,000 lb. for last season.

During the five months of 1921, from April to August inclusive British India imported glass and glass-made goods to a total value of over a milliard rupees. The largest share in this amount fell to Japan which accounted for over 40 millions. Czechoslovakia supplied 5 million rupees' worth, occupying the fifth place in the list of exporting countries, after Japan, England, Germany and Belgium.

Engineering Topics.

By Our Engineering Representative.

Engine Lubrication.

The subject of solid lubricants, particularly graphite or black lead, for engine use has been discussed in these columns on more than one occasion and the general conclusion drawn has been that whilst a good quality of solid lubricant is ideal for use with steam engines, it is not quite so suitable for engines of the internal combustion type.

In connection with the latter type of prime movers it is obvious that the subject is one which must be continually reviewed. A system which suits an engine to-day may be quite unsuitable to-morrow. Higher piston speeds are constantly being introduced and air cooling is now being adopted to an extent which an engineer of 1913 would have thought impossible or at any rate inadvisable. The matter is complicated still further by the modern tendency to use fuel of a lower volatility; a tendency which will in all probability increase as the demand for fuel overtakes the supply. For that reason the paper recently read on the subject by Mr. E. L. Bass was of exceptional interest to engineers, constituting as it does the latest word on a question of supreme importance.

A leading engineer has recently suggested that an oil lubricant used in ample quantities would be of value as a cooling agent; and that by its means heat generated could be absorbed, carried away and dissipated. I have recently had an opportunity of inspecting an engine in which this suggestion was embodied, and was greatly struck not only with its efficiency but with the great prospects of development.

At present we have three methods of lubrication so universally used, in engines of different classes, as to be almost entitled to be called standard. These are the splash, forced feed and semi-forced-feed methods and are familiar to all my readers. Mr. Bass expressed the view that the full forced-feed or pressure lubrication to the bearings is by far and away the most scientific; a view which in my opinion is rather too sweeping. There is no need to go into that however; he made it clear that it was absolutely necessary with such a system that the pump and strainers must be kept in perfect condition and must be readily accessible for inspection and cleaning.

It is generally recognised that the pump in such systems should be completely immersed in the oil and the fitters used should be of the largest possible diameter as regards the screen. Further a fairly fine mesh must be used for the screen; under no circumstances should the mesh be coarser than one-sixteenth of an inch. Should a finer mesh be used it must be remembered that a greater resistance to the flow of the oil is interposed and consequently a tube of larger internal diameter must be used.

Solid Lubricants.

We have dealt with solid lubricants for steam engine use, for wire ropes and for various other purposes, and in the paper in question their value in internal combustion engine use is touched upon. In the view of the authority mentioned solid lubricants can be used for piston lubrication to considerable advantage as, being unaffected by heat, they will withstand the temperature of combustion without deterioration. He also adds the somewhat obvious remark that when graphite is employed for lubricating an engine less oil is needed.

Now the only way in which the expression "piston lubrication" can be used in connection with the piston rings and the cylinder wall. Regarding this lubrication our authority says "if properly applied they (the solid lubricants) become attached to the bearing surfaces so that they are interposed between them at all times." He further states that internal combustion engines, where solid lubricants are used in this way start up more easily and wear better.

From a theoretical point of view all this is no doubt correct; from a practical point of view it is far more open to question. First, with regard to lubrication between the cylinders walls and the rings, it is a fact that at the tremendously high speeds of the internal combustion engine it is practically impossible for any dry lubricant to "become attached to the bearing surfaces."

What really does happen is that at every stroke the graphite dust is pushed up and down the cylinder and is blown by the force of the explosion and the compression into the grooves behind the rings where it cakes in a solid mass. In course of time this accumulation of graphite becomes so pronounced that it pushes the rings outwards and so adds considerably to the friction between piston parts and cylinder wall. This friction becomes greater eventually than the dry lubricant can deal with, and a gradual loss of efficiency results. Further, the accumulation of graphite behind the rings, becomes incandescent, and by keeping the piston extremely hot further reduces the efficiency of the engine.

There is however, another aspect of the matter, and that is the claim that with solid lubricants an internal combustion engine will start more easily than it will when a good and suitable oil is used. However true this may be on the blackboard, it is not the case in practice.

Practical Disadvantages.

A considerable amount of judgment is used in the design of piston rings, the object aimed at being in the nature of a compromise. If the rings are too tight too much friction is set up; if they are too loose a loss of compression results. The practical outcome of this is that the engine designer depends on oil lubrication of his cylinders to effect a double purpose; *i.e.* to prevent friction between the rapidly moving piston and the cylinder and—and this is equally important—to form a seal between the piston grooves and the rings and between the rings and the cylinder wall. Not only does the oil act as a lubricant but it prevents the escape of mixture past the rings and so makes compression rather more than a figure of speech.

But powdered graphite, unless it is mixed with a suitable oil, in which case there would seem no need to use the graphite, does not form a seal as does the oil. Compression, at the comparatively slow speed of turning used when cranking an engine round by hand, is practically non-existent, and as a result the engine is extremely difficult to start. Further, until the graphite has begun to cake in the objectionable manner mentioned above this compression continues poorer than when a good oil is used.

Consequently whatever the theoretical value of a solid lubricant, as dry graphite, may be we have the practical disadvantages that with it an engine is extremely hard to start, is inefficient at first through loss of compression, and, as soon as that is remedied, begins to become increasingly inefficient owing to actual increase in friction and to internal heating.

Nobody's Business.

There is a popular quotation to the effect that everybody's business is nobody's business, and this is very true in regard to more than one thing in connection with motoring, a matter which has just been discovered by the *Motor Owner*. There is no law, for instance, to prevent a driver from running through city streets with his head lamps full on. It is unnecessary and unsportsmanlike, and is not often done, but it may be done and sometimes is. Everyone realises the inconvenience but no one can take action. The matter of cyclists rear lamps, so obvious as not to be worth further argument, is, we believe, on the eve of some settlement, but there is another equally grave failing in our motoring regulations. It is possible for a driver to halt his car on the wrong side of the road with his side, or even head lamps on, thus causing a painful amount of uncertainty and, in some cases great danger, to approaching traffic.

TRADE IN THE CAUCASUS.

(From a Correspondent).

Now that public attention is directed to the conference on Russian affairs that is to take place at Genoa at an early date it may not be inopportune to point out the prospects that exists for trade in the Caucasus.

The oil-fields of the Caucasus have a world wide reputation, but there are many products and minerals that have not been developed. Vast areas are covered with forests, in which many varieties of the best kinds of timber are to be found, including wood suitable for the dyeing of leather and other purposes. These forests are generally situated near the coast, so that the matter of transport is rendered less difficult. In 1919 a representative of a New York syndicate obtained a valuable concession for the exploitation of a forest. The conditions were very favourable, and the means of transit to the coast presented no difficulties, so as to render the work a most profitable enterprise.

Among other valuable products are caracul, silver fox and marten. The tobacco grown is of excellent quality, but up to the present time the cultivation has not been conducted with energy and skill. The cultivation of tea is in its infancy, and there is no doubt that under proper conditions and care it could be produced to compare favourably with Assam or Ceylon teas. Grapes of the finest quality are grown in abundance, and under proper management wine should be a lucrative article for export. There are many kinds of valuable minerals such as manganese which mineral is to be found near the coast. The silver deposits are well known. Quicksilver, copper, and sulphur require only to be worked, to give a large and profitable trade. Turquoise of the most beautiful colour are to be found, and under skilful control should provide scope for profitable enterprise.

The many varieties of enamelled silverware so extensively sold throughout the East and Russia are well known in Europe. These articles are manufactured from Caucasian silver. Some enterprising American firms have already representatives prospecting in order to see what can be done in the way of trade. In 1920 the Soviet Government, realising the commercial possibilities existing in the Caucasus sent to that country. Professor Fedoroff, of Moscow and Karkov Universities, the well-known geologist, to make investigations with a view to the exploitation of the mineral wealth and valuable products of that region.

UNBREAKABLE GLASS.

(From a Correspondent).

Dr. Horak, manager of the well-known and old-established Kavalir glass factory in Sazava, Bohemia, has succeeded, after thirteen years of research, in producing unbreakable glass. The first tests of the new product were made at the recent glass exhibition at Hradec Kralove, where the inventor demonstrated before an interested public that his glass plates and vessels remain intact when thrown to the ground from a height of over twelve feet. He roasted meat on a thin glass plate over an open fire at a temperature of 400 degrees centigrade, he melted tin in a glass pot and drove nails into a hard piece of wood with a piece of his new glass. A tiny glass tumbler scarcely a millimeter thick was heated in a stove to such a degree that wood placed into it was immediately charred to ashes. The glass, however, not only stood the heat, but even remained unbroken when plunged into cold water while still in this overheated state. The manufacture of this glass which is known as Silex-glass required special mechanical treatment and new machinery. The carborundum stones used for cutting ordinary glass are of no use in the case of Silex glass. Even a diamond sometimes fails to cut it. American, Swedish and Czech capitalists have already offered Dr. Horak large sums of money for the utilisation of his invention, although it is not yet known what particular goods he first intends to produce wholesale.

The Kavalir factory was founded nearly a hundred years ago by an ordinary glass worker, who however soon became famous for his chemical glass products and before his death he was elected an honorary member of many academies, etc. His glass was bought by Pasteur as well as by the great German chemist, and it was his factory which gave the first impetus to the great German glass industry at Jena. The Kavalir chemical glass is famous all over the world, and the new invention of Kavalir's successor will considerably enhance its wide reputation.

TENDERS INVITED.

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

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

Egypt.

Grey Board.—The Government Press, Bulaq, invites tenders for the supply of 20,000 kilos of grey board. March 18.

Cleaning Materials.—The sub-Director of Stores, Ministry of Education, Sharia Qasr el Ain, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of cleaning materials required for the school-year 1922-1923. March 4.

Clocks and Cast Iron Weights.—The Physical Department, No. 1, Sharia El Ensha, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of cast-iron weights and office wall clocks. Tenders close March 15 and March 20 respectively.

Various.—The Inspector-General of Prisons, 43, Sharia El Bustan, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of various articles, such as cloth, clothing, sacks, thread, tents, cotton yarn, paints and oils, electric articles, leathers, tools, iron, ironmongery, and miscellaneous, etc., required for the Financial Year 1922-1923 by the Prisons Department. March 9.

Aluminium.—The Surveyor-General of Egypt, Giza (Mudir-tya), invites tenders for the supply of aluminium and zinc plates for 1922-1923. March 20.

Winter Clothing.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo Stations, invites tenders for the supply of winter clothing for the season 1922-1923. April 6.

Yugoslavia.

Tin Plates.—The Directeur des Monopoles invites tenders for the supply of:—30,000 kgs. tin plates 0.32 thick, measuring 250 x 250 mms.; 90,000 kgs. tin plates 0.32 thick, measuring 500 x 250 mms.; 1,500 kgs. tin ware covered zinc, 4 mms. diameter; 3,500 kgs. tin solder; 3,500 kgs. lead solder; 6 kgs. sal-ammoniac; 250 kgs. muriatic acid for technical purposes. Samples are required as follows:—1 tin plate; 250 grammes lead and tin solder, sal-ammoniac and muriatic acid; $\frac{1}{2}$ metre wire. A deposit of 5 per cent. is required from the Serbian and 10 per cent. from foreigners.

Morocco.

Earthworks.—The Tangier-Fez Railway invites tenders for the construction of the earthworks of the second section ("Gharb" section) of the Tangier-Fez Railway. The length of the section is 19.09 kilometres. Tenders should be addressed to "M. le Président de la Commission Générale des Adjudications et des Marchés au Dar-en-Niaba, a Tangier." April 4.

Lighthouse Lantern, etc.—The Fedhala Lighthouse invites tenders for the supply of a lantern and lighting apparatus for the Fedhala lighthouse. The light will have a range of 11 miles in its red sector. The lantern will be mounted on a stone or reinforced concrete tower, the interior diameter of which will be about 2.2 m. Contractors desirous of competing should communicate with M. l'Ingenieur, chef du Service Maritime, Travaux Publics, Casablanca, enclosing documentary evidence that similar work has been previously executed. Communications should be in French. February 25.

India.

Sewage Scheme.—The Director of Development, Bombay, invites tenders for constructing and running for six months sewage scheme for Ambernath Industrial Area. (Spec., Rs.500. Superintending Engineer, No. 3 Project Division, Directorate-building, Old Customs House Yard, Fort, Bombay). March 15.

Steam Hammers, etc.—The Madras and Southern Mahratta Railways Company, Limited, invites tenders for the supply of 7 steam hammers (7 $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt., 10 cwt., and 15 cwt.); 11 Bogie Carriage Underframes, Broad Gauge; 1 4-Wheeled Brake Van Underframe, Broad Gauge; 5 4-Wheeled Luggage van Underframes, Broad Gauge. 50 Pairs Wheels and Axles, Broad Gauge; in accordance with the Specifications, which may be seen at the offices of the company. Tenders must be sent in addressed to the Secretary, and marked "Tender for Steam Hammers" or as the case may be. March 7.

Plates, etc.—The High Commissioner for India invites tenders for the supply of:—(1) Plates, mild steel; (2) beaters, steel, plate-layers; (3) pencils, writing; (4) cloth tracing; (5) wheels and axles; (6) deck spans. Forms of Tender may be obtained from the Director-General, India Store Department, Belvedere Road, Lambeth, S.E.1., and tenders are to be delivered at that office not later than 2 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, February 28, 1922, for Nos. 1 to 4, and on Tuesday, March 7, 1922, for Nos. 5 and 6.

COMMERCIAL BREVITIES.

It is reported that the large Czech factories are in a bad way, the world slump having affected them very seriously.

To supplement the rail service the majority of Algerian farmers use motor trucks to transport their products.

The Compagnie Generale Transatlantique has established a passage bureau at Prague.

An important Industrial Fair is to be held at Zagreb from June 3 to 15 of this year.

Czecho-Slovakia is to make a 20 per cent. reduction in the foreign telegraph rate.

Despite the amount of new building which took place in Athens during 1921, it is understood that 9,000 houses are still required.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended February 4 amounted to £7,442.

The contract for the building of the British Empire Exhibition had been placed with Messrs. Sir Robert McAlpine and Sons by the executive council of the Exhibition.

The maiden voyage from London to Bombay of the British India Company's 8,000-ton motor liner Domala has completely fulfilled expectations.

H.M. High Commissioner at Constantinople telegraphs that the quarantine measures against plague imposed on arrivals from Beyrout have been withdrawn.

It is estimated that 150,000,000 kronen is concealed in gold and silver by Czecho-Slovakian citizens, who refuse to deliver it to the State Bank.

A reduction which took effect from February 1 (last) has been made in the duties payable on the export of timber from Czecho-Slovakia.

The Yugoslav merchant marine consists of 800 ships of over 10 tons, totalling 139,000 tons, and 142 steamships totalling 128,000 tons, 112 of which are engaged in coastwise traffic.

It is estimated that Greece's olive oil yield of 1921-22, will be about one-third that of the preceding season, which was 44,701,000 gallons.

H.M. Acting Consul-General at Algiers reports that the exportation of oats from Algeria to all destinations is now permitted.

The opening of the British Empire Exhibition has been postponed from April, 1923, to April, 1924, it being found that the project is so vast that it could not be adequately prepared by next year.

The total number of vessels entering Bourgas during 1920 was 739 with a total net tonnage of 334,924 tons, while as regards Varna 730 ships entered with a total net tonnage of 473,048 tons.

The Roumanian Minister of Industry and Commerce has prohibited the importation of the following luxury articles:—champagnes, wines, and liquors; fine preserves; toilet powder and powder puffs; fabrics containing more than 50 per cent. of silk; perfumes and cosmetics of all kinds.

All exports of cereals from Roumania have been prohibited for the present pending the completion of the latest returns regarding the quantity of cereals available says Reuter. Permits not yet executed are to be revised and new regulations will be published shortly.

According to the report of the official Statistical Bureau the exports from Czecho-Slovakia in August last amounted to 950,000 tons, and imports to 300,000, this producing a credit balance of 650,000 tons. Of the imports, 40,000 tons came from the U.S.A., while of the exports, 15,000 tons went to England.

The Indo-Burma Oilfields (1920), Ltd., state that since the last official announcement the following wells have come in on the Yenamma fields: No. 26, producing 18; No. 27, producing 3; No. 30, producing 61½; and No. 31, producing 25 barrels per day respectively.

A message from Constantinople, says Reuter's Paris Correspondent, announces that the Ottoman Government has abolished Customs duties on the entry into Turkey of motor vehicles destined to ensure the public services. Oil and the material necessary to ensure these services will also be admitted without charge.

During the week ending January 23, the amount of paper money in circulation in Czecho-Slovakia decreased by over 423 million crowns, and the total circulation is now over 808 millions below the maximum limit allowed by law. The amount of foreign bills and other foreign securities in the hands of the State Treasury rose by 293 millions.

A Dahir, dated December 28, last, has been issued providing that, as from January 1, 1922, goods imported into Morocco by the Algero-Moroccan land frontier are to pay a uniform duty of 5 per cent. on their value at the place where they are declared. Export duties on goods exported over this frontier are to be the same as those levied on goods exported from Moroccan ports.

It is officially stated that the railways built in Irak by Britain during the war are at present being valued by a representative of the Disposal and Liquidation Commission, with a view to the r being handed over at a valuation to the Irak Government, and that it is possible the Irak Government will be prepared to sell or lease them to a private commercial company after they have been handed over.

The conference between the coal owners and the strike committee in Czecho-Slovakia has resulted in an agreement. The collective contracts now in force are to hold good until the end of June, and the arbitration commissions will then revise the rates of pay in the different areas. The lignite miners will waive their claims to special clothing allowances. The general conference of miners will probably accept these conditions, and it was expected that work would be resumed in the course of last week.

PALESTINE CRAFTS AND INDUSTRIES EXHIBITION.

It has been decided to hold an Exhibition of Palestinian Crafts and Industries in the Citadel, Jerusalem, in April. To that end a committee has been appointed by the High Commissioner to carry out the necessary organisation. This committee will be a sub-committee of the main Crafts and Industries Commission. The following gentlemen are members:—Mr. Bowman (Chairman), Mr. Antonius, Mr. Ashbee, Mr. Epstein, Sherif Eff. Nashashibi, Dr. Ruppin, Mr. E. H. Samuel and Mr. Whiting.

In deciding the lines on which the exhibition is to be run, the sub-committee, following the terms of reference proposed for the main Commission, has decided to exclude:—(a) All products made by the aid of mechanical power (b) All food products, save the products of the olive. It has further been decided that, for the purpose of exhibition, Palestinian industries should be divided into two main groups; traditional industries and modern Industries. Traditional industries are those native to Palestine, and of a type known to have existed in Palestine for over half a century, such as weaving, tanning, pottery making. Modern industries are those that have been introduced recently into Palestine, and are based on European models—such as cement tile making etc.

For the collection of exhibits of modern industries, the committee has decided to circularise all known modern manufacturers, Chambers of Commerce and the Press, inviting them to send in samples for exhibition. The collection of exhibits of traditional industries cannot be done in this way, therefore one of the members of the Sub-Committee, Mr. Ashbee, will, in co-operation with local Administrative officials visit in turn as far as possible the various producers in the different towns of Palestine and himself select the Exhibits required. Exhibits of traditional industries are being further divided into three sections, according to use; the articles being:—(1) personal; (2) domestic and (3) outdoor including (a) agricultural, (b) building, (c), transport; (d), marine.

A sales section is being arranged where some of the duplicates of exhibits in the three "traditional" sections can be bought. It is hoped to show groups of Palestinian craftsmen actually at work in the exhibition grounds, the weaver weaving, and the potter making pots, their products being for sale at the exhibition. Where craftsmen cannot be shown at work, photographs of the more important processes will be on view.

APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

Englishman, ex-officer, age 30, unmarried, seeks prospective position of any description in Near East. Particularly cognisant with Textile Trade, and Accountancy. Country preferred Serbia, also knowledge of Language. Excellent references and good address.—W. H. H., 120, Richmond Road, Kingston-on-Thames.

Stock and Share Markets.

BOOM IN GILT-EDGED.

Indian Stocks Strong.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Tuesday Morning.

It has been a wonderful week in the gilt-edged market. For many weeks with a few rare setbacks one has been able to chronicle continued strength in this market, but it has been a question of small rises whereas during the past few days the tendency has developed into boom-like conditions, and the usual staid Consols market has been the centre of very animated scenes. What has been happening may, perhaps, best be indicated by pointing out that War Loan Fives and Fours, the Funding Loan and Victory Bonds are at the time of writing ahead of their issue prices. But the advance during the past week considerable though it has been scarcely brings out the change that has taken place. It is only when one compares present prices with the lowest touched by the war stocks that it is brought home. In some cases the difference amounts to 15½ points.

Causes of Rise.

Of course the main reason for the rise is the fact that trade at the moment offers no scope for the employment of the large surplus funds, and in the circumstances the tendency naturally is for money to gravitate towards the investment class of securities. Why it has been so pronounced during the past week has been due to special reasons. In the first place there has been the suspension of the 5 per cent. Treasury Bond issue, and the offer to holders of War Bonds about to mature of an exchange into 3½ per cent. Conversion stock—the first step towards placing British credit on a stronger basis since the war. But an influence which has had an even greater effect has been the reduction of the Bank Rate to 4½ per cent. The result of that was to bring down the rate on deposits at the banks to 2½ per cent., and that had the very natural effect of driving money on deposit into more remunerative channels. Hence the buoyant condition of the gilt-edged market, which so far as can be seen is likely to continue for the present until what may be termed the economic level is reached, when it is to be presumed that a Funding Loan will be floated.

The Prospects.

It is an axiom that activity in Gilt-edged is the invariable predecessor of developments in other markets, and signs are not wanting in the present instance as to the probability of this. But the time is scarcely yet. Isolated groups such as Oil may and probably will benefit almost immediately; indeed the group specified has of late been showing signs of considerable animation, but before any general recovery can take place the trade position must be more satisfactory than it is at present. It is a commonplace that we are nearing a boom, however, and the knowledge of that fact should serve to encourage holders of Industrials, Rubbers and other shares which at present stand far below their real value. The present is essentially the time for the investor, for not for generations is there likely to be the possibility of picking up so many bargains. Those who are sufficiently courageous to avoid the Gilt-edged group and enter instead the inactive markets are likely to be congratulating themselves in a not very far distant future.

Gilt-Edged.

And now to turn from the general to the particular. This week it has not been a question of fractional advances in Gilt-edged but of really substantial gains. Consols are 4.5-8 up at 57, War Loan Fives have gained 2.7-16 at 96½, while the Conversion Loan, at 73½ is 2.3-8 up. Even India stocks have not been able to resist the prevailing atmosphere as a result of the suspension of "civil disobedience" and a significant recovery is to be recorded. The India Seven per cent. Loan is 4½ up at 107½, the three per cent. Loan has gained 5 at 55, while the 3½ per cent. Loan is 5½ up at 62½.

The foreign market has displayed quite unusual activity, and in a number of directions strength has developed. French stocks have been a firm spot, with War Loan Fives 2½ up at 43½. German three per cents, have been dull, and are closing

1-8 down at 2½, while Italian Rentes are unchanged at 2½. Chinese securities after being very firm toned down somewhat, but are above the previous week's levels. The 1896 Loan at 89 shows a gain of 2, while the 1913 is 5 up at 72. Brazilians have been in quite exceptional demand, Fundings being 78, and the 1911 Loan 55. There has been nothing doing in Russians. Greek securities have displayed considerable strength, the 1884 Loan being 1 up at 39½, while the 1889 Loan has gained a similar amount at 31½.

Industrials Harder.

A better tone has prevailed in the Industrial group. There was a good deal of activity in tobacco shares which have made a firm showing, Bats being 1s. 6d. up at 62s. 9d., while Imperial Tobaccos are 1s. 9d. at 53s. 9d. Crosse and Blackwell have been in some demand, closing at 6s. 7½d. Dunlops have rallied somewhat, and are 10½d. up at 6s. 9d. Tea shares have improved on the better outlook in India, and this group, in my view, holds out considerable prospects for the investor who looks for capital appreciation.

There has been very little change in the Textile group. Coats are 1-32 up at 2.5-8, while Courtaulds have gained 1s. at 37s. 4½d. In Iron, Coal and Steel securities there has been a fair demand for Debentures, but the ordinary shares have been more or less neglected. Armstrongs are 1s. down at 13s., Vickers have shed 3d. at 7s. 9d., Guest Keens are 6d. up at 29s., while Lamberts are unchanged at 1.7-8.

Shipping securities have been brighter, a good demand sending the shares up. P. and O. Deferred are 20 up at 300, Cunards have gained 9d. at 18s., while Furness Withys at 24s. 3d. also show a gain of 9d.

Oils Better.

A considerable amount of activity was in evidence in the Oil Market throughout the week, and the leaders have advanced. Burmahs are 13-32 up at 5.23-32, while Mexican Eagles show a gain of 1-16 at 4.1-8, though they have been well over that rate. Trinidad issues have been firm, with Centrals at 3.9-16. Kern Rivers are 1s. 6d. up at 20s. 6d.

Among Egyptians Anglo-Egyptian B are 5-16 up at 1.5-8, but Oilfields of Egypt are 6d. down at 5s. In the Roumanian group Roumanian Consolidated are 6d. up at 8s. 6d., while Phoenix, which have again come in for support on favourable rumours are 1s. up at 13. Dacia Romanos are unchanged at 11-16, while Steaua Romanas at 11s. 3d. are 1s. up.

Banks Firm.

A buoyant tone has prevailed among banking descriptions. Chartered of India are 1½ up at 15½, while National of India have gained 2 at 35½. P. and O. Banking Corporations are ¼ up at 5½, while Imperial Bank of Persias have advanced ½ to 5½. Bank of British West Africas are unchanged at 4½.

In Land Shares Béhéras are unchanged at 8.7-8, while Egyptian Delta Lands are the same at 7s. Gharbiehs are 1-16 up at 1.5-16, while Sudan Plantations are 2.7-8.

YUGO-SLAV BONDS.

The General Directorate for Public Debts of the Ministry of Finance of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes announces that the Minister of Finance, by his Decree of September 28, allowed the General Directorate for Public Debts to commence from January 1, 1922, the exchange of the old coupon-sheets of the 2 per Cent. Lottery Loan of 1881, with new coupon-sheets containing coupons No. 41 with the date January 1, 1922, up to No. 57, with the date January 1, 1938. Holders of these bonds abroad can send their bonds to the above-mentioned Directorate, Belgrade, together with the coupon-sheets, mentioning at the same time the series and numbers of their bonds, as well as the last number in the coupon-sheets. Holders should send to the Directorate the number of the bonds, their series, and proofs of their proprietorship before the war, as well as the proof of their citizenship.

OIL OUTPUTS.

Anglo-Egyptian—Gemsah (week ended February 17th), 9 tons (last week 8 tons); Hurglada (week ended February 17th), 3,455 tons (last week 3,798 tons).

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

THE PREVENTION OF PILFERAGE.

Conditions at Ports.

The final report of the committee appointed by the Chamber of Shipping to investigate claims in respect of pilferage and theft at all ports in the world which has just been issued, contains the following references to conditions at Near Eastern and India ports :—

Piræus.—The Consuls of the various Governments represented at Piræus should be requested to formulate and administer a plan for the reception of cargo from steamers discharging at that port and for delivery to consignees. An essential part of the arrangement should comprise the release of the shipowner from all responsibility in connection with the cargo from the time that the goods have been delivered ex-ship; receipts for such goods should be given immediately upon discharge within sight of the ship's rail.

Alexandria.—Conditions at this port are unsatisfactory. Cargo is discharged into Customs Sheds after which a considerable time elapses before receipts are given. During this period ample opportunity is afforded for pilferage and all loss or damage discovered prior to the giving of receipts is thrown back upon the ship. Receipts should be given immediately upon discharge within sight of the ship's rail.

Calcutta.—The Port Commissioners' system of tallying is not only highly unsatisfactory, but also untrustworthy. Evidence has been adduced before the Committee which shows a system prevailing at Calcutta discreditable to the port. The system is that on discharging the tallies are understated and the Authorities eventually adjust their tally to the actual deliveries from their premises; any deficiency which may then appear is thrown back upon the ship. Harbour Boards which have specific obligations placed upon them should not endeavour to evade those responsibilities by methods of this description.

TRAFFIC AT FEDALAH.

In the course of the year 1921, there was dealt with at the port of Fedalah, 22,000 tons imports, and 10,000 tons exports, or a total of 32,000 tons, corresponding to an average daily handling of 90 tons as compared with 400 tons in 1920. There was, moreover, 7,000 tons of fresh water shipped. This great fall in the tonnage handled is explained by the improved facilities provided at the port of Casablanca.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

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

Anchor Line.—S.s. Circassia for Bombay (Liverpool, March 6).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Anchoria for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, March 7); s.s. Media for Calcutta (Birkenhead, March 9); s.s. Mahanada for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, March 21).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Warwickshire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, March 1); s.s. Leicestershire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, March 15).

Byron Steamship Line.—S.s. Maid of Hydra for Patras, Piræus, Constantinople, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, Braila, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, February 28).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Urquhart for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, February 25); s.s. Clan Macbeth for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, March 9); s.s. Clan Macbrayne for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (Birkenhead, March 9).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Sea Victory for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, and Catania (Manchester, March 14); and Swansea, March 21; s.s. Pavia for Gibraltar, Ceuta, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza and Sulina (Swansea, March 14).

Ellerman Line.—S.s. Gerano for Gibraltar, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas and Varna (Liverpool, February 25); s.s. Andalusian for Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria (Liverpool, March 4).

Ellerman's "City" Line.—S.s. City of Marseilles for Calcutta (Birkenhead, March 1); s.s. City of Manila for Calcutta (Birkenhead, March 4).

Ellerman's "Hall" Line.—S.s. City of Dunedin for Malabar coast ports (Liverpool, February 24); s.s. City of Paris for Bombay, Karachi, and the Punjab (Liverpool, March 2).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—Steamers sail fortnightly for Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz and Braila.

Glen Line.—S.s. Carnarvonshire for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, February 23); s.s. Gleniffer for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, March 9); s.s. Glengarry for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, March 23).

Glynn Line.—S.s. Sotero for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Catania, Messina and Palermo (Liverpool, February 28).

Harrison Line.—S.s. Inventor for Calcutta (Liverpool, March 2); s.s. Governor for Calcutta (Liverpool, March 20); s.s. Electrician for Port Said, Port Sudan, Aden, Mombasa, etc. (Birkenhead, April 20).

Henderson Line.—S.s. Chindwin for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, March 8).

Holt Line.—S.s. Laomedon for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, February 23); s.s. Agamemnon for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Swansea, March 2); s.s. Sycæon for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, March 9); s.s. Deucalion for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, March 23).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Dromore for Piræus, Syra, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, March 25).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. Maronian for Melilla, Malta, and Alexandria (Liverpool, February 25); s.s. Grodno for Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna and Constantinople (Liverpool, March 11).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Caledonia for Bombay (London, February 24); s.s. Nellore for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, March 10); s.s. Egypt for Bombay (London, March 10); s.s. Nankin for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, March 24).

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. Merkara for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, March 10); s.s. Australia for Bombay and Karachi (London, March 11); s.s. Mashobra for Bombay and Karachi (London, March 24); s.s. Margha for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, March 31).

Prince Line.—S.s. Soldier Prince for Malta, Alexandria and Syrian coast (London, February 25); s.s. Norman Prince for Tunis, Malta, and Alexandria (Manchester, February 28).

ANCHOR LINE

First-Class Passengers only.

LIVERPOOL TO BOMBAY.

KARACHI via Bombay calling at Gibraltar & Egypt

LARGE STEAMSHIPS. UPPER DECK CABINS.

FITTED WITH ELECTRIC FANS.

RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

PASSENGER SAILING DATES—

CIRCASSIA, MARCH 10.

OLYMPIA, MARCH 22.

SCINDIA, APRIL 6.

CASTALIA, APRIL 21

MASSALIA, MAY 8.

ELYSIA, MAY 19.

CIRCASSIA, JUNE 22.

OLYMPIA, JULY 5.

Anchor Line (Henderson Brothers), Ltd.,
16, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.3.

Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Recovery in Sugar.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Monday Evening.

Sugar.—There has been a marked improvement in the home refined market during the week with prices 3d. higher all round with the exception of Tate's cubes which are firm at 52s. The revised prices are 47s. for mineral water sugar; and London granulated and Lyle's at 46s. 6d. respectively. Export descriptions have been steady, while there has been an exceptional demand for West Indian crystallized. Prices are firm at 40s. 6d. for West Indian crystallized and 19s. for Czecho-Slovakian. Cane sugar (96 per cent.), quotations are:—February, 15s.; March, 13s. 9d.; May, 13s. 6d.; and August, 13s. 6d. White sugar quotations are:—February, 19s. 0d.; March, 18s. 10½d.; May, 18s. 9d.; and August, 18s. 10½d.

Coffee.—Steady prices have been the feature of the week. Costa Rica has risen 6s. to 126s., while Indian is firm at 106s. Nairobi and Jamaica have remained firm at 110s. and 150s. respectively. The Futures market has been steady with March at 51s. 9d.; May, 52s. 6d.; July, 53s.; September, 53s. 6d.; and December, 53s. 9d.

Tea.—The quality of Indian tea in many cases is poor. Supplies of Ceylon tea are small and offers are indifferent. Fine China tea is firm at 2s. 11½d., and good Pekoe Souchong is unaltered at 11d. lb. Common Java has been steady at 9½d.

Rice.—A firm tendency has prevailed, and prices have risen somewhat. Spanish Japan rice cannot be obtained, supplies being exhausted. Very little of this commodity is afloat at the present time, and exorbitant prices are demanded.

Dessicated Coconut.—Home trade has improved considerably during last week, export varieties have also improved.

Almonds.—Prices for all grades of almonds are increasing, and little more business has been passing.

Green Fruit.—There is still an abnormal demand for oranges, and the imports are larger and the quality is generally better. Spanish oranges have been in excellent demand and there is an abundant supply on the market which is likely to be maintained for some considerable period. The demand for Seville sour is poor. The lemon market has made good progress since last week, some larger buying having been in evidence. Prices have hardened as a result. Some shipments of Naples lemons have been offered during the week at exceptionally high rates. There has been a falling off in the demand for Valencia onions and reports show that the quality is poor. Apples are still in good request especially for box fruit.

Oilseeds.—A variable tendency has prevailed. Indian linseed is 6d. down at 20s. and La Plata has shed 1s. at 19s. 9d. Rapeseed has been weak with Toria 3d. down at 16s. 3d.; brown Cawnpore, 6d. lower at 17s. 6d. and bold Ferozepore unchanged at 17s. 0d. Cottonseed has risen with Indian, 6d. up to 9s. 6d.; Sakellaridis, 1s. up at 12s. 3d.; and Egyptian black 9d. up at 12s. 6d.

Oil.—Higher prices have ruled during the week. Linseed oil has dropped 9d. at 38s. Rape oil has been a firm feature with the crude variety at 51s. and refined at 56s. Cotton oil is higher with refined 1s. up at 44s.; Egyptian crude is 2s. up at 37s. and deodorized has gained 1s. at 49s. Turpentine has risen 3d. at 69s. 3d.

Oilcakes.—Linseed cake is firm at 310s. ton. Cotton seed cake is the same at 195s. ton, as also palm kernal cake at 135s. ton. Arachis cake is 10s. higher at 225s. ton, while cotton-meal cake is firm at 320s. ton.

SMALLER SOWINGS IN ROUMANIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, February 7.

According to the official report of the Ministry of Agriculture the autumn sowings covered a total area of 1,445,000 hectares. This is considerably less than the autumn sowings of 1920, which covered an area of two million hectares. It is intended to make up this difference by sowing spring wheat.

OPIUM MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended January 31:—

Notwithstanding the restrictions by England, America, etc., put upon this narcotic, we have again to report fairly good sales every week which amount in all to 101 cases for this month. The average price paid for above quality in piastres is 776.50 per oke, but the reduction to sterling or dollars per lb. of above depends entirely on the falling exchange in sterling and dollars. We started the year with an exchange of Ps. 720 per pound sterling for cheque and 0.58 dollars per Turkish pound, and to-day (January 31), we are at Ps. 650 for the former, and 0.65 dollars for the latter; therefore the above average opium piastre price will be 8s. 9d. per lb. for the beginning of the month, and now 9s. 4d. as compared to 1.65 and 1.96 dollars respectively. Our stock in first and second hands is now 1336 cases.

EGYPTIAN CROPS.

The Bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture gives the following particulars of crop conditions in January:—

Wheat.—During the month under review the weather was on the whole favourable. The rain which fell during the month has had a beneficial effect on the crop. Many fields which suffered from the rainstorm reported in last month's Bulletin have recovered and the first ears have formed in early sown localities in Middle and Upper Egypt. With the exception of an eel-worm attack reported from Rosetta, the crop is free from pests and is growing satisfactorily, its condition being a little below the average.

Barley.—Extensive areas were sown very late. The crop is growing well and in some localities ears have already appeared. The condition of the crop is slightly below the average.

Beans.—Rain and winds have caused a certain amount of flower-shedding in some places. Flowering is general and pods are forming. Broom rape (Halook) attacks is reported from Giza, Minya, Girga, and Qena Provinces, but so far the damage caused is very slight. On the whole the condition of the crop is fairly satisfactory, though a little below the average.

Helba.—Flowering is general and the crop is growing well. Pods are forming in early-sown fields, and the condition of the plants is quite normal.

Onions.—The crop is healthy and its condition is normal.

Lentils.—The condition of the crop is normal. The plants are progressing and are free from pests.

Sugar-Cane.—A good proportion of the crop was cut during the month under review. Attacks of mealy-bug and stem-borer (*Sesamia cretica*) are again reported, but the damage done does not seem to be serious. The condition of the crop is slightly above average in spite of these attacks.

Bersim.—The first cut was general during January, while the second was progressing. Unfavourable climate conditions in certain provinces have slightly affected the crop. Some fields under temporary bersim were being ploughed up for cotton. The condition of this crop is slightly below the average.

ASIA MINOR FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended February 4:—

Sultanas.—The total estimated arrivals to-date amount to 168,180 bags as against 95,000 bags for the corresponding period of last year. The total estimated sales are 162,180 bags as compared with 88,000 bags and the estimated stock unsold totals 6,000 bags as against 7,000 bags for 1921.

Shipments.—3,118 boxes of sultanas, 100 boxes of figs, and 1,108 bags of figs are being loaded on the s.s. Mourino for London, also 250 boxes of sultanas for Hull. The s.s. Karnak is due in Liverpool with a shipment of sultanas.

Markets.—A fresh estimate of the existancies of sultanas on the Smyrna market reduces the stock to 6,000 bags. Arrivals from the country during the past fortnight have been almost nil. Dealers refuse to make any concessions in price and with exchanges continually declining, shippers cannot possibly work business with any chance of profit. Exchanges have fluctuated sharply during the week, moving between 608 to 654 and finally closing at about 635.

ADVANCE IN RAW FUR PRICES.

The report of the London Fur Trade Association on the January raw fur sales states:—The sales just completed have been attended by an extremely large number of buyers from nearly all countries interested in fur skins. The large quantities of staple articles met with strong competition, and the result must be reported as most satisfactory, considering the adverse rates of exchange and the unsettled conditions in many other trades. The home trade bought freely in skunk, opossum, musquash, white fox, pale red fox, and wolves. The American buyers secured beaver and marten of all sorts, also kid crosses and skins. France bought freely in numerous articles, especially in silver, blue, white and red fox. Germany bought skunk, musquash, opossum, otters, and many other articles, a considerable number of buyers being present, and the buying well divided. The comparison of prices are based upon the last October sales.

Badger, unaltered; black bear, unaltered; brown bear, unaltered; grizzly bear, declined 20 per cent.; white bear, unaltered; beaver, declined 10 per cent.; civet cat, advanced 10 per cent.; chinchilla, full October prices; ermine, advanced 10 per cent.; fisher, unaltered; fitch, advanced 15 per cent.; blue fox, declined 10 per cent.; cross fox, slightly easier; grey fox, advanced 20 per cent.; red fox, declined, 15 per cent.; silver fox, best dark silver unchanged. All others declined 25 per cent.; white fox, advanced 10 per cent.; south American fox, advanced 15 per cent.; white hare, best skins sold well. Poor neglected; kolinsky, advanced 15 per cent.; Persian lamb, unaltered; lynx, declined 10 per cent.; American marten, advanced 10 per cent.; baum marten, unaltered; stone marten, advanced 10 per cent.; minx, best grades unaltered. Others advanced 15 per cent.; mole, declined 15 per cent. monkey, declined, 50 per cent.; black musquash, advanced 10 per cent.; brown musquash, unaltered; southern musquash, advanced 10 per cent.; nutria, unaltered; American opossum, full last prices; otter, best sorts declined 10 per cent. lower sorts advanced 15 per cent.; raccoon, firm at last October prices; Russian sable, unaltered; skunk, a collection of fresh skins. Black and short stripes full October prices. Long striped advanced 15 per cent. White advanced 20 per cent.; squirrel, advanced 15 per cent.; wolf, did not show much alteration; wolverine, advanced 10 per cent.; fur seals, Cape of Good Hope declined 15 per cent. Other sorts withdrawn.

Australian Furs.—Red Australian fox, declined 15 per cent.; Australian opossum, advanced 20 per cent.; Wallaby, best qualities about last October prices; lower qualities advanced 25 per cent.

Chinese and Japanese Furs.—Civet cat, advanced 15 per cent.; red fox, declined 15 per cent.; goat rugs, declined 10 per cent.; black goat skins, unaltered; grey goat skins, unaltered; white goat skins, advanced 10 per cent.; kid skins and crosses, sold at extravagant rates; kolinsky, advanced 15 per cent.; slink lamb, unaltered; Thibet lamb skins, declined 10 per cent.; Thibet lamb robes, advanced 12½ per cent.; leopard, unaltered; marmot, advanced 10 per cent. to 15 per cent.; minx or weasel, steady; pahmi, unaltered; white rabbit, advanced 10 per cent.; raccoon, none sold; wolf, rather better demand.; Japanese badger, none offered; Japanese fox, only few sold at slightly higher prices; Japanese marten, none offered; flying squirrel, a poor collection. Mostly unsold.

ALCOHOL INDUSTRY IN CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.

According to the report of the Czecho-Slovak Spirit Commission, the production of spirituous liquors during the season 1920-1921 amounted to 684,083 hectolitres, of which 340,916 were made in the agricultural distilleries. The total production exceeds that of the previous season by 244,952 hectolitres. The home consumption amounted to 455,478 hectolitres, exports to 53,419, and 123,128 hectolitres were kept in hand as reserve stock. The Spirit Commission, it will be recalled, is a State institution under the control of the Ministries of Finance and Food Supply, and the result of its activities for 1920-1921 is that it has a credit balance of over 244 million crowns. During its three years' existence the Spirit Commission has contributed, directly or indirectly, to the revenues of the State a total sum of over 894 million crowns.

CURRENT PRICES.

General Produce.—Bacon: (Continental), 132s. 6d. cwt.; (Canadian), 121s. 6d. cwt.; (American), 112s. 6d. cwt.; butter: (Australian), 210s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 127s. cwt.; cheese (Canadian), 110s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 95s. cwt.; lard, 71s. cwt.; eggs (Danish), 35s. per 120; (Stryrian), 27s. 6d. per 120; chillies, 162s. 6d. cwt.; cloves (Zanzibar): rs. 4½d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 102s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 122s. 6d. cwt.; (East Indian), 125s. cwt.; (Central American), 105s. cwt.; (Jamaica), 67s. 6d. cwt.; (Mocha longberry), 112s. 6d. cwt.; (Santos, superior), 63s. 6d. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochín), 50s. 6d. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 11½d. lb.; pepper (Singapore Black), 3½d. lb.; (Muntok, white), 7½d. lb.; pimento, 2½d. lb.; raisins (Valencias), 110s. cwt.; sultanas (Smyrna), 121s. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 75s. cwt.; currants (Amalias), 58s. 6d. cwt.; sugar: (Tate's cubes), 51s. 6d. cwt.; (Lyle's granulated), 46s. 4½d. cwt.; (Mauritius crystals), 44s. 6d. (West Indian crystallized), 41s. cwt.; (centrifugal), 13s. 6d. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 1½d. lb.; rice (Rangoon, No. 2), 14s. 7½d. cwt.; (bran, Rangoon), £5 18s. 9d.; ton; cinnamon (first), 1s. 3½d. lb.; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 3½d. lb.; tea: Indian (common to good common), 1s. 1½d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 7½d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 9d. lb.; Ceylon (common to good common), 1s. 2d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 9d. lb.; Java (common to good common), 9d. lb.; wheat (English white), 53s. qr.; (Australian), 56s. qr.; barley (malt-), 55s. qr.; barley (feeding), 39s. qr.; oats (English), 33s. 6d. qr.; oats (La Plata ex-ship), 27s. 6d. qr.; maize (La Plata), 39s. 3d. qr.; flour, 44s. 6d. sack.

Metals.—Aluminium, £122 10s. ton; antimony (English Regulus), £35 ton; bismuth, 9s. lb.; copper (standard), £61 13s. 9d. ton; copper (electro), £68 ton; gold bars, 95s. 1d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 90s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 93s. ton; galvanised sheets (24 G), £15 15s. ton; lead (soft foreign), £21 13s. 9d. ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 1½d. unit; molybdenite, 29s. 1½d. unit; nickel, £175 ton; platinum, 395s. oz.; plumbago, £20 ton; quicksilver (G.O.B.), £24 7s. 6d. ton; tin (standard), £152 17s. 6d. ton; wolfram, 10s. 6d. unit; zinc sheets, £34 10s. ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 18s. 9d. box.

Chemicals.—Acids: Boric, 60s. cwt.; oxalic, 7½d. lb.; citric, 2s. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 3d.; ammonia (sulphate), £16 1s. 3d. ton; arsenic (white powdered), £40 5s. ton; benzole (standard), 2s. 5d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £14 5s. ton; borax crystals, 31s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 121s. 3d. cwt.; Potassium: Bichromate, 7½d. lb.; chlorate, 5d. lb.; caustic, £33 10s. ton; nitrate, £42 10s. ton; permanganate, 9½d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 1½d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £15 5s. ton; Sodium: Crystals, 130s. ton; bi-carbonate, £11 5s. ton; bi-chromate, 5½d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £8 18s. 9d. ton; chlorate, 3½d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £23 ton; hyposulphite £15 10s. ton; prussiate, 9½d. lb.; nitrate, £14 5s. ton; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £80 ton; glycerine (industrial, 1260 per cent.) £110 ton; lemon oil, 3s. 1½d. lb.; quinine, 3s. 1½d. oz.; red lead, £36 15s. ton; white lead, £40 10s. ton; white ground lead, £49 12s. 6d. ton; sulphate of copper, £28 5s. ton; sulphate of iron, 75s. ton.

Hides and Skins.—Ox and Heifer (first), 90 lb. and up, 7-7-8d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 7-7-8d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 7-5-8d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 6-1-8d. lb.; (second), 90 lbs. and up, 6-7-8d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 7d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 6½d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 6d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 5d. lb. Cows (first), 60 lbs. and up, 6½d. lb.; (second), 60 lbs. and up, 5d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 4½d. lb.; Bulls (first), 5½d. lb.; Kips (first), 6½d. lb.; (second), 5½d. lb.; Calcutta Market. Prices in rupees per 20 lb. Arsenic hides (cows): Agras, 10 to 15.8; Durbhangas, 8 to 10.8; Patnas, 6.8 to 7.8. Salted cows, 4.8 to 7.8. Arsenic hides (buffalo), 4 to 6.8.

Miscellaneous.—Cotton: (American), 9.68d. lb.; (Egyptian Sakel), 15.00d. lb.; Oilseeds: Linseed (La Plata), £20 17s. 6d. ton; palm kernels, £17 11s. 3d. ton; castor seed (Bombay), £14 17s. 6d. ton; sesame seed (China), £24 ton; soya beans £12 10s. ton; Oils: Linseed, £38 10s. ton; olive (Levant), £74 10s. ton; rape (crude), £50 ton; soya, £35 5s. ton; petroleum 1s. 4½d. gallon; petrol, 2s. 1d. gallon; fuel oil (ex-tank), £3 15s. ton; cocoanut (Ceylon), £40 5s. ton; cotton (crude), £35 10s. ton; ground nut, £43 ton; Rubber: Plantation (No. 1 crepe), 8½d. lb.; smoked sheet, 8½d. lb.; fine hard Para, 11½d. lb.

ENQUIRY BUREAU.

ADVERTISERS requiring agents abroad and readers abroad desirous of getting into touch with British Manufacturers, Export Merchants, etc, may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau," "The Near East," 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2." It must be understood that "The Near East" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.

114. Importer in Karachi (India) travelling throughout India wishes to get in touch with merchants and manufacturers in England and elsewhere. General merchandise.

115. An import and export firm in Spalato, Yugoslavia, wishes to enter into business relations with British manufacturers, importers and exporters. Specialities:—Exports: Medicinal herbs, dried fruits, hides, timber. Imports: Oils, food products, tarpaulins, mackintoshes, sacks.

MANGANESE INDUSTRY IN TRANSCAUCASIA.

There has been practically no new mining of manganese in Transcaucasia during the past few years, partly because of difficulties with labour but more particularly because of the general political and economic situation, says a recent American Consular Report. Mine owners have not felt inclined to invest money in labour and other operating expenses with little or no probability of being able to profit or even to reimburse themselves by sales of manganese.

In July, 1919, the Menshevik Government of Georgia, in place of an out-and-out nationalization, organized the so-called "Temo" Export Manganese Co. by combining 27 different companies—2 English, 1 French, 2 Belgian, 9 Greek, 2 Armenian, 1 Russian, and 10 Georgian, the 10 Georgian companies representing 38 per cent. of the mines. The formation of this combination did not result in any new mining, but did result in the sale abroad of certain manganese stores already on the top of the ground. From July, 1919, until February, 1921, the "Temo" company is said to have exported and sold abroad 75,000 to 80,000 tons, of which 75 per cent. was washed manganese. The proceeds of these sales went in part to the Menshevik Government of Georgia, and the balance was divided up among the different manganese companies.

At the present time there are said to be 60,000,000 poods (62 poods equal 1 ton) of manganese on top of the ground at the mines in the Tchiatouri region, of which 35 per cent. is washed manganese. There are also said to be 8,000,000 poods already at the port of Poti, on the Black Sea, convenient for shipment by boat. The mines are in a neglected condition, many roofs having fallen in, so that in the case of some of the mines a year's work would be necessary before new manganese could be taken out. Under the circumstances, it appears safe to predict that no new mining will be undertaken so long as political uncertainties continue. At Tchiatouri there are 28 manganese-washing installations, but none of these are working. Also, the manganese on top of the ground at Tchiatouri can probably not be transported to Poti (6 hours) because of the condition of Transcaucasian railways. Therefore the only manganese stocks immediately available for sale are the 8,000,000 poods already at Poti.

ROHILKUND AND KUMAON RAIL- WAY.

The report for the year to September 30, 1921, states that the net earnings of the whole system were Rs.27,99,853, against Rs.25,89,721 for the previous year. The company's share is Rs.12,56,688 against Rs.11,71,810. The directors recommend a further dividend of 4 per cent., plus a bonus of 2 per cent. on the ordinary stock, less tax at 3s. 6d. in the £; forward, £44,204. The dividend and bonus for the year are equal to a rate of 11 per cent. per annum.

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CHEAPER TEXTILE MACHINERY.

Larger Takings by China.

The total weight of textile machinery exports from the United Kingdom during January was 17,800 tons, the value of which was £2,634,271. For the previous January the comparative figures were 14,108 tons and £2,357,025, and in January 1920, 3,629 tons, and £465,510.

India, China, and Japan are the three chief markets in the order of their importance, and to each the tonnage exported in January this year was considerably in excess of that for the corresponding month last year. In the case of China the increase amounts to over 70 per cent. Larger quantities have also been shipped to Australia, the United States of America and Germany. South America, France and Holland have reduced their takings.

An interesting feature of the returns is that the prices paid by foreign customers show a tendency to ease. In January the average price per ton was £143 compared with £157 in December and £160 for the whole of last year. For the year 1913 the figure worked out at £47.

MANCHESTER REPORT.

(From Our Own Correspondent).

Manchester, Saturday.

The tone of the market during the past week has continued firm. There is evidence for believing that some buyers have continued a policy of going short, and in certain sections during the last few days there has been more inclination to keep fully covered. There now seems to be less probability of lower values prevailing. For some time past there has been a big curtailment of production of manufactured goods, and there is a feeling that this must create a shortage in the long run in distributing centres abroad. With regard to cloth advices from Constantinople have caused a certain amount of uneasiness, and only a few minor transactions have been recorded. Buyers for Egypt have not been altogether idle, and grey staples have attracted rather more attention. Some producers of Egyptian yarns have met with an important turnover, but on the whole this section remains in a poor way. Prices have ruled steady, but many needy sellers are still to be found. The most encouraging cloth demand has been for China, and quite an encouraging turnover has taken place in bleaching descriptions, with steady buying in grey shirtings, sheetings and fancies, such as dyed goods. A few lines have been booked in light fabrics for Calcutta, Bombay and Madras, but on the whole India has continued very disappointing. Home trade buyers have taken more interest in prices, and some scattered sales have been arranged in fancies and specialities. American yarn quotations have been firmer. A fair business has been done in export numbers for Calcutta and China, and cops have been in request for Holland and Germany.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows under date February 15:—

The somewhat steadier tendency noticeable in our market at the end of last week, and referred to in our previous report, has been well maintained. The enquiry has broadened out a little, and sales show an increase of 500 bales on the preceding week, and for the first time this year a substantial rise in spot values can be recorded. This change of sentiment has been brought about by the strength displayed by the Alexandria

futures market, and the reports of more business doing in Manchester and district. These reports have been very frequent during the last few days, and there must be obviously a certain amount of truth in them, but we doubt very much if the volume of business actually put through has been large enough to warrant a rise of over twopence a lb. in Liverpool spot values. We fear that those who are expecting a large increase in sales to accrue automatically as a result of this rise will be disappointed. It is from the Manchester end, as we have so often pointed out, that the change will have to commence, when it does come. It would appear at the moment as if a start had at last been made, but until we perceive something more concrete, in the shape of actual business, we would counsel our friends not to base their hopes too strongly on any sustained improvement. China is apparently taking an increased quantity of goods, and one hears even of some lines booked for India, but by all accounts the prices obtained are far from profitable to the sellers, and in the latter country the political situation is still so unsettled, and the possibilities of disturbance are still so grave, that it is improbable that business will broaden out there just yet. An increase of 13,000 bales was added to the stock in Great Britain during the week ending 10th inst. During the same period deliveries to spinners showed a marked decrease on previous weeks. The local enquiry has been chiefly for Sakellariadis, Fully Good Fair to Good, and there would seem to be plenty of cotton available to meet buyers at prices which, though somewhat irregular, have shown a decided stiffening during the week. Low Sakel cotton has again been in request; the selection here is not a large one, and Alexandria c.i.f. prices when tested are generally found to be too dear to suit local buyers of this cotton. Pilon, Brown and Uppers have been comparatively neglected. A little enquiry has been experienced for re-cleaned Sakellariadis, and if shippers would be content to sell at reasonable prices, this business might broaden out a little, but as a rule we find that too great a gap exists between sellers and buyers to effect business, and "straight" cotton is bought in preference. Sudan cotton contributes its usual quota to the sales total. We advise those of our friends who are anxious to make a turnover, to take advantage of the present level of prices, i.e., with Fully Good Fair Sakellariadis at 17.75d. and meet buyers when possible. C.i.f. business on the whole remains quiet. Sales 1,900 bales (includes 330 Sudan). Quotations are raised 25 points. Fair Sakellariadis exceptionally 275 points dearer.

MOTOR TRANSPORT IN CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.

State motor transport has developed very considerably in Czecho-Slovakia within the last two years. In 1914 the whole of Austria contained only 1,583 kilometres of motor routes, of which 20 routes with an aggregate length of 470 kilometres were located within the present territory of Czecho-Slovakia, while towards the end of October, 1920, State motor transport in Czecho-Slovakia was taking place on 47 routes with an aggregate length of 972 kilometres. Two types of motor bus are being used for the purposes of passenger traffic. One, supplied by the firm of Laurin and Klement, seats 16 passengers and has a 40-h.p. engine, the other, manufactured by the Paga Works will accommodate 20 passengers and has a 50-h.p. engine. The maximum speed of these vehicles is 25 kilometres per hour, and the passenger rates are 80 hellers per person per kilometre.

The Minister of Posts and Telegraphs has received 300 applications for the establishment of State motor routes in all parts of the Republic. When the orders placed in 1921 have been delivered, the Ministry will have 112 motor-buses, 21 motor-lorries and 20 motor transport vehicles of the "Walter" type. The increase in the transport rates has been rendered necessary in the main by the higher price of motor spirit.

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PALESTINE RAILWAY PROVISIONING DEPARTMENT.

A Palestine *communiqué* states :— It has been alleged in certain quarters that the Railway Provisioning Department is run at a loss, which is borne by Government subsidy or military revenues—that it usurps the place of ordinary merchants and trades-people to their commercial detriment, and enjoys an unfair advantage over them because it has privileges to respect of Customs and freight charges.

When the Railways in Palestine were taken over by the Civil Administration in October, 1920, it became necessary to devise immediately a substitute system of rationing its employees, some thousands in number, who had been hitherto rationed by the military authorities. As the alternative to rationing could only have been an increase in wages involving in turn higher freight charges adverse to the interests of the general public, it was decided to form a Railway Provisioning Department, and for this purposes sanction was given for the loan from railway funds of £E5,000.

So far from being financially a failure, this department has already repaid interest at 5 per cent. more than £E3,000 of the loan, and has contributed to, rather than taken from, railway revenues, by the payments which it has made to the Railway Administration for rents, lighting, freighting, and the like. Business houses in Haifa have benefited from it, for it has placed with them extensive orders, and opened up a wider field for their operations.

Only officials of the Palestine Railways, members of H.M.'s Forces, stationed at Palestine, and all officials of the the Administration are entitled to purchase from the Department. The regulations of the Railway Provisioning Department prohibit the extension of its service to the general public.

THE INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT.

The following *communiqué* has been issued :—A short time ago a notification by the Government of India announced that the main principle of the recommendations of a Store Purchase Committee, which had been appointed there, regarding the agency to be established for the purchase and inspection of stores for Government Departments in India, had been accepted and that a new Indian Stores Department was accordingly being constituted, in the first instance on a temporary basis, under a Chief Controller of Stores.

From allusions in the press it appears to be inferred in some quarters that the practice of indenting for Government requirements through the Store Department in London, which is now controlled by the High Commissioner for India, will be discontinued. This inference is not correct. The primary function of the new Department in India is to ensure that, in accordance with the general policy of the Government of India, stores of Indian manufacture, where these can be satisfactorily procured, should be bought in preference to imported stores. That policy is in no way a fresh departure, and the new Department in India, with a central purchasing and inspecting agency, it designed to facilitate it. No change is, however, intended in the practice of obtaining through the Department in London such stores as must still be obtained by India from outside.

SMYRNA MARKET FOR SMALL TOOLS.

The trade in modern small tools in Smyrna district is still in its infancy, as the artisans of the city, numbering perhaps 1,500, still cling to their time-honoured instruments (says an American Consular Report). However, considerable progress has been made by England, France, Sweden, and especially Germany, in supplying the Smyrna market with hammers, hatchets, wrenches, nail pullers, handsaws, files, pliers, screw drivers, planes, and boring tools. These articles, though poor in quality and haphazard in selection, are regarded with increasing favour by merchants, tradesmen, and the public in general. They are invariably made of cast iron or drop-forge material and are not much superior to the tools made locally of malleable iron. Tools designed for the finer kinds of mechanical work—those of an unusual or specialized nature, carefully and scientifically tempered or made of crucible steel—are practically unknown in this district, their need not yet being imperative.

NEW COMPANIES.

Sharristan Steamship Company.

The Sharristan Steamship Company has been registered as a private company with a capital of £45,000 in £1 shares (22,500, 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares). Objects :—To acquire and hold ships, boats and vessels of all kinds. Arrangement with Frank C. Strick and Co., Ltd., and Gray Dawes and Co. Registered Office : 27, Leadenhall-street, E.C.

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

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

Prices on February 3 were as follows :—Agricultural Bank of Egypt, £4 23-32; Alexandria Water Co., Ltd., £7,1-8; Anglo-American Nile Steam, £2,10-32; Associated Cotton Ginners, £13-16; Banque d'Orient, Fr., 50; Behera Ord., £E8,5-8; Brasseries d'Egypte, Fr., 70; Building Lands of Egypt, £27-32; Cassi di Sconto Priv. Fr., 108; Ciments d'Egypte Priv., Fr., 57; Ciments d'Egypte Div., Fr., 35; Comptoir Fin et Com. d'Egypte, £15-16; Consolidated Lands, Pt., 5; Credit Foncier Fondateur, Fr., 935; Credit Foncier Act., Fr., 672½; Credit Foncier 1880 Oblig., Fr., 335½; Crown Brewery Priv., Fr., 120; Crown Brewery Div., Fr., 130; Eaux du Caire, Capital, Fr., 83; Eaux du Caire Jouissance, Fr., 107½; Egypt and Levant, S.S.Ord., 31s. 10d.; Egyptian Delta Light Railways, £3½; Filature National d'Egypte £10,3-8; Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. an des., £6; Khedivial Mail S.S. Ord., 100s.; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co., Pref., £2½; Kom Ombo Ste An de Wadi, £6; Kom Ombo Ste An Fondateur, £34½; Land Bank of Egypt, Parts de Fond., £38; Lots Turc. £T31½; Menzaleh Ramleh Railways, £2,7-8.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal from January 21 to 27 amounted to 2,940,000 francs, as against 2,870,000 francs.

Edible oil olive may be expected from Tunis to all destinations without limitations as to quantity, subject, to the payment of an export duty of 50 francs per kilogs. Olive oil exported by parcel post is to pay duty at the rate of 4.25 francs per package of 10 kilogs., and 2.10 francs per package of 5 kilogs. These duties are to be levied until October 31 next.

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THE NEAR EAST.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Yugoslavia and Bulgaria.

A fortnight ago our Sofia Correspondent referred to the mistake that, in his opinion, Bulgaria was making in not resuming diplomatic relations with Greece, and it is safe to say that in the Balkans the greater the facilities for a prompt exchange of views between two Governments the better the prospects of maintaining peace. It is therefore good news that Bulgaria and Yugoslavia have just taken a step in the right direction, their representatives at Belgrade and Sofia respectively having now presented their credentials. Another step in the same direction, towards a friendly understanding, has been taken by Yugoslavia, who has waived her right to try Bulgarian war criminals. The Belgrade Government is to be congratulated on its action, which, it is not to be doubted, will bear good fruit. If it should set a precedent in encouraging the taking of a more generous outlook on the point of view of other States in that part of Europe, the gain for all concerned will be very great.

The Bulgarian Army.

The disarmament of the Bulgarian Army in accordance with the Peace terms is complete, and the Inter-Allied Military Commission of Control is leaving the country. The head of the Commission, General de Fourton, has expressed appreciation of the loyal manner in which the Sofia Government has fulfilled its Treaty engagements, and the Allies will doubtless bear this in mind in their future dealings with the Bulgarians. It would be a disastrous thing if the impression, already abroad, should gain ground that it paid better to follow a policy of obstruction than to abide by your word and behave honourably. We observe that in replying to questions put by Lord Newton and Lord Sydenham in the House of Lords last week, Lord Curzon declared that the question of allowing Bulgaria to recruit her Army on a voluntary basis was in the hands of the Conference of Ambassadors, who have to see that the terms of the Treaties are carried out. Lord Curzon added that the voluntary principle "was applied all round and would be applied to Turkey later on." If the first part of this statement could be taken literally, there would be no more to be said, and Europe would undoubtedly be the gainer; but unhappily that is not the case, and it is even possible that the Bulgarians would declare that certain of the Allies set them a poor example in this respect. And, after all, example is better than precept.

Poland and the Little Entente.

According to the Vienna correspondent of the *Observer*, the Little Entente is no more, for it is henceforth to include Poland and is to be known as the Quadruple Alliance. If this report be true, the credit for it must largely go to the fallen Roumanian Prime Minister, M. Také Jonescu, who unceasingly urged the desirability of an alliance with Poland. This Quadruple Alliance will immensely strengthen the position, external and internal, of all the countries which are contained in it. For not only will it present a solid defensible block in Europe, but intercommunication will surely be facilitated. We rejoice to perceive that differences in foreign policy, on which Roumania and Poland must hold views very different from those of Yugoslavia and Czecho-Slovakia, have not hindered Central European statesmen from realizing that stability is the first and immediate essential.

Consequences of the Quadruple Alliance.

It will be noted that Greece, Albania, and Bulgaria remain alike unallied, and though perhaps Greece is, through her recent connection with Roumania, nearest to an *entente*, we cannot easily see any one of these countries soon becoming attached to the Quadruple Alliance. Convinced though we may be that it is the natural destiny of Roumania and Greece, as the most "Western" powers in South-Eastern Europe, to become linked with each other, and that Yugoslavia will eventually join with Bulgaria, we see in the fundamentally and necessarily different policies in regard to Russia which these two groups will pursue the bases, not certainly of discord, but of disunion. Russia is a young country, whose development is a matter of course, and it is in the light of that development that the policies of the Balkan peoples, as being nearest to her, will be moulded. But, to revert to the short view of affairs, it may incidentally be remarked that this Quadruple Alliance makes hay of the rumoured suggestion of an alliance between France, Turkey, and Poland. The suggestion, a quite credible one, was this: on the accomplishment of a Graeco-Turkish peace, the veiled, subsisting hostility between Russian and Turk would re-assert itself, and in the event of a Bolshevik attack Turkey and Poland would come to each other's assistance, with France thus succeeding in her vendetta against Bolshevik Russia.

The Condition of Greece.

He would be a bold thinker who would guess the future of Greece, even in three months' time. Disquieting things are happening there, and how it will all turn out

no one knows. The harm that the bitterness with which party strife is being carried on is doing to the country is incalculable, and one cannot well predict an easy time for it unless a spirit of compromise becomes more prevalent than it now is. Obviously the Government is in an unhappy condition, for the internal difficulties appear to be increasing. First, there is the revolt of Crete, the seriousness of which can be gauged from the letters of our Athens Correspondent: the latest report is that the sons of M. Venizelos have been arrested in the island. There is the extremely difficult question of the Patriarchate, dividing the Church on plainly political lines. There is, again, the absurd position in the Ministry of Education: half the professors of the University have been removed during the past year. Then there are the financial difficulties, the threatened intransigence over either Asia Minor, or Eastern Thrace, the insistent and apparently unquellable rumours of the King's abdication. In fact, the outlook for Greece is about as discouraging as it well might be.

The School of Oriental Studies-

It was matter for shame that until five years ago Great Britain possessed no Oriental School in which to train that endless stream of young men which flows yearly into Asia and Africa. We were reminded, when we read last week the excellent letter issued to the Press by the Governing Body of the School of Oriental Studies in London, that the success obtained by France and by Germany before the War in their commercial methods and in their general cultural standing in the East was in no small measure due to the knowledge of languages, customs, and country which the agents of that success gained at the Schools in Paris and in Berlin. It is, in fact, impossible to over-estimate the practical value to this country of a School of Oriental Studies in Great Britain, for, as the letter referred to points out, its students, men and women, "represent a great variety of interests, including officers of the Army and Navy, Colonial and Indian officers, business men, missionaries, and undergraduates and post-graduates."

An Omission of Ignorance.

But in addition to its practical value, the school offers opportunities for Oriental research which were denied to those great men who gave England an international reputation in the study of the East. We were surprised therefore, and grieved, to learn that there are still many who do not avail themselves of the use of the School—an omission doubtless due to ignorance. There is a tendency nowadays, possibly inevitable after the War, to think that, in dealing with Asia and Africa, knowledge and sympathy are superfluous, that force and a supposed moral superiority are all-sufficient; but it is a great error. For to-day, more perhaps than at any time in history, understanding of Eastern races is the first requisite in the entering into of relations with them, as it is the only basis on which permanent mutual benefit can be achieved, and it is precisely that sympathetic understanding that may be acquired at the School of Oriental Studies.

"From the Desert."

During the War we became accustomed to receiving our news from strange sources and through unaccustomed channels; but there is still a touch of novelty about a message from the Basrah correspondent of *The Times*, who announces that a report reaches him "from a correspondent in the Desert." For our part, we find the phrase refreshing, and our acquaintance with the

Desert and its people predisposes us in favour of the Desert correspondent and his reports. In this case he tells us that an important conference is shortly to take place at Koweit, where King Faisal of Irak, the Sultan Abd el Aziz es Saud of Nejd, Sultan Ahmed ibn Johar of Koweit, and the Sheikh of Mohammerah are to meet Sir Percy Cox. There are several subjects that may profitably be discussed by the Arab rulers mentioned; and though some of them will certainly require delicate handling we may hope that, with Sir Percy Cox's tactful guidance, the discussion will be both amicable and profitable to all concerned. For reasons which will be readily understood by those who have followed post-war developments in the Arabian world, the position of the Sultan of Nejd is just now somewhat peculiar. He is easily the most commanding figure among the Arabs to-day, and it is to be hoped that the British authorities both at home and on the spot, will make it clear to him that they appreciate his difficulties, and value his loyal friendship.

Mecca and Versailles.

A Cairo paper announced lately that King Hussein of the Hejaz had at last signed the Treaty of Versailles, but there is reason to fear that the report must be regarded, even now, as premature. Colonel Lawrence did his best to obtain King Hussein's signature, but he failed; and though King Hussein appears to be willing to sign it under certain reservations, that is unlikely to satisfy his Allies. The difficulty lies, of course, in the recognition of the French position in regard to Syria, and the hope of finding a way out of it looks very slender. A consoling reflection is that the withholding of the signature has not, so far, produced any very serious complications.

But there can be no denying that for the sake of our position—and France's—in the Arab world, it would be a good thing to get the signature.

Ireland and Transjordan.

A curious instance of the way in which 'home' politics are being studied in quarters where formerly they attracted no attention at all was afforded by a statement made in the House of Lords last week. In asking for information as to the Government's Transjordanian policy, Lord Raglan stated positively that the Emir Abdullah had held up Sinn Fein as an example to Palestine. The "distressful country" appears to have achieved this kind of fame in quite a number of places where even its name was unknown ten years ago, and it is now not surprising to be told that such views are expressed here and there by Arabs. Even so, it is a little hard to understand why the Emir Abdullah should have used such unwise language; for though he has never concealed his mistrust and dislike of some of our Allies, he has heretofore always appeared to be decidedly pro-British in his leanings. Probably the remark expressed only a passing mood of irritation. At the same time, we hope that Mr. Churchill will deal very fully with the subject of Transjordan when he presents the Middle East estimates.

India.

The week has brought no marked development of the situation in India. The welcome accorded to the Prince of Wales at Agra and Delhi, cities with a wide experience of royal personages, should not be read as indicating a change in the popular attitude, but rather as a manifestation of what the people really feel. The fact that they thought the manifestation to be safe shows that the illegal pressure of the Extremists has weakened for the

time ; but the continuance of this improvement cannot be counted on, and the news of an ugly riot in Assam, a purely political strike on the East Indian railway, and one or two other items, suggest that the position is still unstable. Some of our contemporaries in this country continue to put forward proposals for spectacular action of one kind or another, but we adhere to the opinion we have previously expressed that steadiness of purpose is the chief requisite just now. Passionless enforcement of the law is no doubt dull work, but Naaman the Syrian took that view of bathing in the Jordan, and yet it proved effective when at last it was given a trial.

The Position of the Services.

In the absence of definite news, a good deal of space has been given recently to a discussion of the present position of the chief Indian Services, and the public has enjoyed the benefit of enlightenment from Oxford, Kensington, and other places where they know, but little has been heard from the men who have the best right to speak. We have been at some pains to find out the views of the rank and file of the men now actually serving in India, and we think the result may fairly be summarised in the statement that there is no change of spirit, but some loss of heart, due to apprehension for the future, rather than to anything which has so far actually happened. Five years ago the man in the district knew that he must often act on his own responsibility, and that in doing so he could count on reasonable support from the higher authorities ; his expectation of support has been appreciably weakened, not by concrete instances of its being withheld, but by vague indications of the kind which most of us accept as guides to action in ordinary affairs ; and since failure to obtain support would make his work useless to India, he is less inclined than formerly to take the risk.

The Letter and the Spirit.

The official attitude towards such feelings is that they are unreasonable, because support is guaranteed by the instructions issued to the Governors of provinces. The rejoinder is that it is not a question of the letter of the instructions, but of the spirit in which they are interpreted, and that, judging by the experience of administration during the past year, it is not likely that a Governor will carry his support of an individual officer to a point

where it might involve difficulties with his Ministers or his Legislative Council. There are of course differences between Governors, and the intensity of these apprehensions appears to vary from province to province, but we have found them wherever we have looked, and they suffice to explain the loss of heart to which we have referred. An officer has often to risk momentary unpopularity, and it has been the tradition of the services to take that risk ; but when unpopularity may involve the withdrawal of the support necessary to make the action effective, it is idle to expect the same degree of resolution as has in the past so often saved the lives and property of the Indian subjects of the Empire.

THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Monday Evening.

Three By-Elections.

Three by-elections last week yielded three successive defeats for the Government. The first, when a Manchester Labour man beat a Conservative, was of little consequence ; it was a recognised Labour seat that only went Coalition in the hectic days of 1918. The Government must expect to lose all such seats as certainly as the Liberals in 1910 lost most of the seats they won by luck or accident in 1906. The second defeat, where a Labour man beat a Conservative in Camberwell, was rather more significant ; the turnover of votes was heavy, and Camberwell is a fairly representative London suburb—and like a good many metropolitan constituencies, rather more fickle in its politics than the provinces. But there was no mistaking the significance of the third defeat, at Bodmin in Cornwall, where an Independent Liberal beat a Conservative by a thumping majority.

In each case the vote seems to have been given against the Government rather than in favour of any particular type of Opposition candidate ; and against a particular aspect of the Government. The candidates ran as Free Conservatives, and the fact that they were all beaten shows that the country will not put its money on that horse just now. The fact could have been foreseen. The one constructive idea of the Conservative party is the reform of the House of Lords—a matter on which the country, in the noble and expressive phrase of the first Duke of Wellington, does not care “a two-penny damn.” Their other great idea is economy in education, a matter on which the country cares a great deal, but not quite in the way that the Conservatives intended.

The Axe that Failed.

The Geddes axe, in fact, has failed ; it is as blunt as a shilling razor after a single shave. The idea of economy is popular in the City, at the Treasury, and all the places, in short, where they think in figures. But England does not think in figures, and there is no doubt that some of the suggested economies have been condemned by public opinion. The Navy, for instance, had a good press when it protested against its rationing ; but something like dismay was caused by the theory that we could not afford to educate our children properly any longer ; and the Liberal and Labour Press has cleverly made a good deal of capital out of the way in which Conservative opinion undoubtedly welcomed the opportunity of cutting down the amount of education given to “the lower classes.” This was, of course, the old reactionary element in Toryism, for a good many Conservatives have personally admitted to me that they disapproved of this attitude.

However that may be, the country simply will not have it. It does not like the idea of rationing education, or any other department ; it is in the adventurous mood that refuses to count the pennies.

Sir Eric Geddes had hard luck. He did his work very well, but the country did not like the finished article. It wants certain things, and, like Mr. Mantalini,

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does not care what the "demnition bill" works out at.

The upshot is that, in order to restore the popularity of the Coalition—which has been squabbling internally again—Mr. Lloyd George is expected to make a great series of speeches in the country in the near future. As a platform orator he has, indubitably, no rival, but it is clear that his policy will have to support the Liberal, rather than the Conservative wing of the Coalition; that is, of course, his natural orientation.

Ireland.

It is difficult to understand precisely what is happening in Ireland. It was expected that a general election to approve the Treaty would take place in a month or six weeks, and that the Provisional Government would insist on this being done to regularise their position. Last week, however, an agreement was come to between the Provisional Government and the Republican Opposition to defer the election for three months; the result of which must be that the Treaty remains in the air. Ireland, having got what she wanted, now seems inclined to put it aside as an empty toy; perhaps even to regard it as a gift-horse to be looked in the mouth.

Since the Provisional Government has no constitutional authority until the Treaty is ratified by a new Sinn Fein Assembly, the postponement seems inadvisable in every way; particularly it gives the Republicans a further opportunity of damaging the Collins-Griffith administration while the latter is immersed in administrative work. The arrangement took the British Government by surprise, and the Cabinet has frankly confessed itself puzzled; it has put off the further stages of the Treaty Bill at Westminster until it has had an opportunity of consulting the Irish Government. Delays are dangerous.

An Engineering Strike

There is a prospect of another grave industrial conflict, this time in the engineering trade. The employers appear to have been somewhat aggressive, not as much in the matter of wages and overtime, as in that of asserting their "control" of the factories; the engineers' union apparently does not welcome the prospect of a strike, and has striven to come to terms, but the men (as well as the employers) are rather more bellicose.

Much the same situation has appeared in the publishing trade, where the packers are on strike against the advice of their union. These methods tend to weaken trade unionism, and are causing considerable anxiety among the Labour leaders.

In the Courts.

There were some interesting cases in the Law Courts last week. Perhaps the most curious was an action in which a married woman, divorced by her husband for adultery with a chauffeur, alleged that after the divorce the husband came back to her again, and proposed marriage to her! It was not disputed that they lived together again for a time, but eventually the husband married another woman, whereupon the action for breach was brought. There was no known precedent for such a case, but it was, of course, perfectly "within the law." The jury believed the lady's story, and awarded her substantial damages.

Meanwhile, the Public Prosecutor has summoned Mr. Bottomley to appear in a few days to answer in the

police court as to the disposal of certain funds in the Victory Bond Clubs. This is the natural outcome of the recent litigation, and was not unexpected.

It is thought that the City Equitable case, which has brought down several subsidiary insurance companies and is now engaging the attention of the Official Receiver will eventually involve the appearance of some of the parties concerned in another court.

Quicker Travelling.

An agitation is afoot for faster trains. It is said that locomotive speeds are less than in 1914, that the journey from London to Glasgow takes longer than in 1888—but surely the more difficult it is to get to a place like Glasgow the better?—and that only the Great Western is really up-to-date. The suggestion is that locomotives are sufficiently powerful, but that they are not run at anything like their full speed.

There is probably something in this, but railway performances vary in the most mysterious fashion. When I was a boy, the Great Northern was the fastest line in the world; it is now as slow as its catering is bad. But then thirty years ago the South-Eastern was a byword of contempt, both for slowness and unpunctuality. It is now as punctual as the sun, and its non-stop express, making allowance for the difficulties of the road, rank among the best performances in the country.

The Stock Exchange Boom.

One had become so used to reading the adjectives depressed, stagnant, lifeless, or even dead, in connection with Stock Exchange reports that it gave something of a shock last week to discover that the investor had suddenly woken from his long sleep. The reduction of the Bank rate and the cheaper Government borrowing provided the appropriate stimulus, with the result that the investment market in gilt-edged securities boomed heavily. British Government and Colonial stocks rapidly appreciated; foreign stocks and home rails rose in sympathy; and jobbers and brokers, for the first time for many a long day, were able to take a liqueur with their coffee. There were even some enquiries for the safer type of industrial shares, but the day of the industrial market is not yet. A few new capital issues have been made, however, and seem to have been well subscribed.

The rise in Government stocks automatically suspends purchasers by the Government broker, and thus directly saves the State a great deal of money—which comes in time to help next month's Budget. It needs all the help it can get, after the disastrous trade experience of last year.

The Week's Books.

"The Foundations of Sovereignty" (Allen and Unwin by Harold J. Laski, is a book of political reconstruction. Starting with the proposition that "a State in which sovereignty is unified is morally inadequate and administratively inefficient," the author proceeds to develop the theory of a pluralistic State, which is "an attempt to remedy these defects by substituting co-ordination for a hierarchical structure." It is based on a study of the impulses which are at work in the business of production and the channels we have erected for the satisfaction of those impulses; and it is indicated that "we must start from the admission that the allegiance of man is diverse and that where his loyalties conflict it is ultimately both safer and better for the community that the instructed conscience should be the source of his decision." The author follows largely in the footsteps of Graham Wallas and G. H. D. Cole.

"The Problem of War and Its Solution" (Allen and Unwin) by John E. Grant, is a book whose title almost explains itself. It denies that war is inherent in human nature, and examines it in its biological and historical aspects.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

From Our Own Correspondents.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, February 15.

British Gift to Roumanian Farmers.

A few weeks ago I reported that the Agricultural Relief for Allies Committee, had shipped to Roumania a variety of pedigree cattle, pigs and fowls, to the value of about £10,000, to be distributed as a gift to Roumanian farmers, for the purpose of improving the breed of Roumanian cattle, etc. This shipment arrived safely last week at Constantza on the Johnston liner 'Aviemore,' and with the assistance of the Roumanian authorities was speedily forwarded on to Bucharest. This consignment, consisting of 30 bulls and 58 cows of the Shorthorn breed, 22 boars and 60 sows of the York breed, and 475 fowls of the very best English strains, is now on exhibition at the Agricultural School on the Chaussée Kisseleff, under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture. Major J. H. Marples, assisted by Mr. R. J. Euren, the representatives of the British Committee, are entrusted with the handing over of the gifts to the respective authorities. During the whole voyage the cattle were under the care of seven English farmers, who volunteered for the job.

On the opening day of the show, the King, the Queen and the Princesses Marie and Ileana were present, and, under the guidance of Major Marples, examined with great interest the different varieties of the animals exhibited. As it was proposed that the Royal family should also be presented with a couple of each variety for their estates, the Queen made it a point to do the selecting herself. Besides the British Minister and the Legation staff, a large number of farmers and experts were present, who greatly admired the purity of the breeds. The local press expresses lively appreciation of the generous gift of the British people.

The Roumanian Government has placed a sum of 200,000 lei at the disposal of the Ministry of Agriculture in connection with the upkeep of these animals.

British Club in Bucharest.

The British colony in Bucharest has for many years felt the need of a British Club, where the members can meet together for social intercourse, and which would serve as a recreation centre not only for Britons residents here, but also for visitors from Home. More than one endeavour has been made to start such a Club in Bucharest, but owing to difficulties, such as too small a number of permanent residents, the expense involved, and last but not least the want of the right spirit, these efforts remained fruitless. It is true that since the Armistice the colony has grown considerably, and it is now estimated at about 300. As a proof that the moment was ripe for launching such a scheme, a few weeks ago when a small number of ladies and gentlemen met to attempt another start, the idea caught on like wild-fire; and within a very short time since the initial steps were taken, the British colony in Bucharest can now boast of a fully organized Club with suitable rooms in the very centre of the town (Passagiul Imobiliara—at the back of the "Select" Restaurant). It must be admitted that the pecuniary difficulty was surmounted chiefly through the generous offer of a few gentlemen of the colony, who guaranteed the rent of the rooms for the first year. It is further thanks to the keenness and zeal of the same gentlemen that the whole work of organizing the club was carried out so rapidly to a successful issue. In recognition of their services in these matters, they were elected at the first general meeting, which took place on January 28, as members of the Committee and officers of the Club. They are:—Chairman, Mr. G. S. de M. Rogers; members of the committee, Messrs. J. H. McGaffin, W. M. Watson, H. R. Saltmarsh, J. Pitts, and J. Young; Hon. Treasurer, A. J. A. Rogers; and Hon. Secretary, A. Rolton. The British Minister, Sir Herbert Dering, has kindly consented to be Honorary

President of the Club. It is only fair to make a special mention of the activity and keenness displayed by the First Secretary of the Legation, Mr. E. Millington Drake, in assisting the Organizing Committee to start this Club.

The outstanding feature of this Club is the idea of making it a mixed Club, thus embracing the entire British Community in Bucharest. The Ladies Committee consists of: Mrs. E. Millington Drake, Mrs. A. J. A. Rogers, and Miss Thom.

Bulgarian Komitajis.

After a lull of several months, Bulgarian Komitajis are reported to have again started to attack the villages on the Roumanian side of the Dobruja frontier. This time, a gang of about 80 under the famous *komitaji* leader, Petre Enciu, made a night attack on the village Ahmatlar, and surrounding the town-hall, school and gendarmerie post, killed three Roumanian officials and wounded two others. They were armed with rifles and hand-grenades.

General News.

King Alexander of Yugoslavia is expected to arrive in Bucharest on Monday, February 20. He will be accompanied by M. Pashitch, the Yugoslav Premier, and M. Nintchitch, the Minister for Foreign Affairs. During his five days' stay in Bucharest, of which only the first three days will be official, the customary Church betrothal of King Alexander and Princess Marie will be conducted. On this occasion, among other festivities, there will be a grand reception and gala dinner at the Royal Palace and a special performance at the National Theatre.

M. Yovanovitch, the well-known Serbian painter, arrived in Bucharest a few days ago. He has been sent to Roumania by King Alexander to paint the portraits of the King and Queen of Roumania and Princess Marie. M. Yovanovitch became famous after painting the portraits of the late Emperor Franz-Josef and of the ex-King Karl of Hapsburg.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Belgrade, February 22.

Genoa Conference Prospects.

Prospects of the future conference at Genoa have caused great excitement in both political and commercial circles. Politicians are very anxious to see what will be the effect of the *début* of the Little Entente on the political scene of Europe. This will be the first time that the Little Entente will appear as one body, probably lead by Dr. Benesh, Premier of Czecho-Slovakia. Neither a detailed programme nor the attitude which they are to take at the Conference has yet been decided upon, but great importance is attached to the coming sub-conference of the Little Entente Premiers, which is to take place in Liubliana as soon as Dr. Benesh has finished his tour in England and France.

The news that England is not inclined to invite the delegates of the Little Entente to the preliminary Conference of Allied experts has caused some papers here to publish Anglophobe articles.

Separatists in Croatia led by the famous Raditch have

SUDAN.

¶ All interested in the commercial development of the Sudan are invited to communicate with the offices of the

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where information regarding produce of the country, facilities for transport, etc., may be obtained.

prepared a Memorandum to be addressed to the Conference, in which they complain of the terroristic methods applied to them by the Government in Belgrade. The Memorandum itself is nothing but a highly condensed mass of—to use the mildest possible expression—extremely exaggerated and falsely presented incidents. According to the general belief, the object of this Memorandum is really to ease off very tight relations between the leaders of the Hrvatski *bloc* and the rural population who are already beginning to see that none of the wonderful promises made by their hotheaded leaders are coming true. Whatever game M. Raditch is playing at in Croatia, unless he adopts for his motto "Viribus Unitis" he will not be much use to his country and a bitter awakening is in store for him in the near future.

The Budget in Parliament.

The Budget for this year has finally been brought up for discussion in the Skupština. From the very beginning, the sitting assumed a stormy appearance and the members on the left and extreme left took an openly hostile attitude as soon as the Speaker opened the session. The Minister of Finance read out so-called minimum estimates, but even these did not seem to satisfy the majority of the House, and all have been returned to the Reduction Committee with the exception of those of the Ministry of Communications, the Minister of which made the question of his retaining his portfolio doubtful, unless the credits are passed *en bloc*. In a very open and elaborate statement he made it clear to everybody that the life and the prosperity of the country depend solely on its communications, and that in the present state of affairs the railways are going to ruin very fast.

War Operations in Thrace.

The constant flow of rumours coming from Greece relating to the possibility of a transfer of the warfare from Asia Minor to Thrace has begun to find an echo in the Belgrade Press, and a certain amount of uneasiness is already felt regarding the peace and security on the eastern borders of Yugoslavia. The aim of the Belgrade Government will doubtless be to preserve the strictest neutrality and to maintain the state of affairs brought about by the various peace treaties. It is worth while noting that the possibility of Bulgaria's taking a hand in the deal is not now met with the bitterness which used to be observable in the Belgrade Press in all matters concerning Bulgaria. Let us hope that this may mean the beginning of a period of better understanding between the two nations.

King Alexander's visit to Bucharest.

Two days ago King Alexander left for Bucharest in connection with his betrothal to Princess Marie.

After the Requiem Mass for the late King Peter the Belgrade Court went out of mourning on February 16, and the King is now able to attend to all ceremonial duties connected with his engagement.

The Premier, M. Pashitch, and the Foreign Minister, M. Nintchitch, are accompanying the King and will act as civil witnesses representing the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, February 19.

The Communal Elections.

Ninety per cent. of the peasant population, representing 70 per cent. of the total population, are to-day participating in the Communal Elections. In ordinary times these elections pass almost unnoticed, but this year all parties have conducted very vigorous electoral campaigns and the results are awaited with impatience by Government and Opposition alike. If the voting goes in favour of the Government, the news will be known to-morrow, but if the Opposition succeed in securing a majority there will be a delay of some days in announcing the results. As is generally the case with elections, one encounters optimism on all sides; the higher officials in the Government declare that the Government is certain to have a majority, although lesser lights prophesy that the Agrarians will only obtain 50 per cent. In the event

of the Government securing 50 per cent, their position will be considerably strengthened, as the Bourgeois and Communists will individually be in a minority. In fact the Government will have nothing to fear if they have a clear majority over the Bourgeois, as the latter will never be able to combine with the Communists. The latter have worked as hard as any of the other parties but it is thought that their vote is likely to show a falling off. The crux of the whole matter is whether the Bourgeois parties will beat the Government. The three main groups, Democrats, Obedinists, and Radicals—although still at variance in Sofia, have made common cause in many of the villages, and the enthusiasm shown for the Democrats is especially striking. No startlingly new election cries have been raised by Government or Opposition, but the Agrarians maintain their programme of government by the people, and insist that a return to government by Bourgeois would be as disastrous as it has proved to be in the past. The Bourgeois argue that the Government has failed to carry out what it promised, namely to improve the financial and economic state of the country, failed to get on good relations with foreign Powers, failed to maintain internal law and order, and, last but not least, failed to do away with bribery and corruption. The Communists claim that neither the Agrarians nor the Bourgeois can give to Bulgaria what she really wants—*viz.*, a replica of Lenin and Trotsky's Government.

An Election Ruse.

There has been one election ruse, which for sheer audacity deserves a place in the annals of electioneering stories. A week ago, the Ministry of the Interior issued a *communiqué* to the mayors and prefects of all villages throughout Bulgaria, informing them that the Allies had agreed to grant Bulgaria a three years' delay in the payment of her reparations. At the same time the news appeared in many newspapers, including the official organs of the Government. The natural inference to draw was of course, that the Government had succeeded

IN THE GREAT SOUTH.

Attention increasingly turns to the Dominions, and not least to the great countries of the South. Amongst thousands of people the conviction grows that their future, or that of their children, lies there.

The Union of South Africa is receiving its share of attention. Deservedly so. It is a comfortable country, with large resources; sufficiently developed to be well past the pioneer stage, yet with much development ahead.

That does not mean work for all comers; on the contrary, the supply of wage-earners at present exceeds the demand, and there is unemployment. But it does mean conditions that merit notice from those who are able to establish themselves without financial assistance or dependence on an employer.

The prospective farmer especially, if he has the necessary capital of not less than £2,000, will find much that is attractive in the Union of South Africa. Land is cheap, taxation is comparatively light in the rural areas, living conditions are pleasant. There is great variety of soil and of climatic conditions, conducive to varied production. Every sort of farming has been well established in some part or other of the country.

Not least worthy of attention is the wide choice of environment. The newcomer can hardly fail to find just the surroundings he seeks. There are the prairie-like plains and great mountain slopes of the Free State; the picturesque sub-tropical coast belt, and the more bracingly-climated highland farms of Natal; the green hills and park-like country of Eastern Cape Province the Karoo, famed for its unfailing sunshine and the tonic quality of its air; and the rich, mountain-girt valleys of Western Cape Province.

In the Transvaal there is a selection of all these environments or a choice of the remoter pastoral life, away from the highways in the ranching areas where game is still plentiful.

Particulars of the position and prospect in each branch of farming, and of facilities for obtaining training and guidance before investing, should in the first instance be obtained from the Office of the High Commissioner for the Union of South Africa, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2.—Advt.

in securing an adjournment in the payment of debts, thus causing relief to the tax payer.

Directly the Inter-Allied Commission of Reparations heard what was transpiring, they sent a Note to the Government, requesting them to publish a denial at once. It is understood that the Government refused to comply with their request, so the Commission replied by drawing up a "Denial" of the news, and sent this *démenti*, direct to the principal newspapers; but on the following day, *Zora*, an Opposition newspaper, alone published it. On investigation it was found that the Censor had refused to allow the Commission's denial to appear in the other papers. Naturally the Commission at once remonstrated with the Government, and, it is believed, did not hide their astonishment at the latter's attitude. The net result is that the papers have now been allowed to publish the denial, but too late to permit of the news being known in the villages before the elections. The ruse was undoubtedly a clever one, and up to a point it may prove to be successful. It is, however, very doubtful if such an act can in the long run do anything but harm to its authors. It seems that a telegram from the Bulgarian Legation in London to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Sofia, announcing that there was a possibility of a three years' adjournment, was the excuse for the ruse.

General News.

M. Alexander Malinoff, leader of the Democrat party, who for some time has been in poor health, has gone abroad for a three months' change of air. During his absence M. Liaptcheff, ex-Minister of War, will act as chief of the Democrat party.

Evidence of various Army officers was given in the "Radoslavoff trial" last week. One and all of the witnesses testified to the preference that was shown towards the German troops, at the expense of the Bulgarians, during the war.

GREECE.

Athens, February 12.

The Situation in Crete.

The Minister of the Interior, M. Stais, who journeyed to Crete last week in order to ascertain the real causes of the recent troubles there, has returned to Athens. Speaking to Press representatives the Minister declared that the situation in general in the island, particularly in the western provinces, was by no means satisfactory. The main cause of the disturbances was the concentration in Crete, after the elections, of irregular elements including 1,000 men who had formed part of Gyparis' regiment. (Captain Gyparis was in command of the Corps de Sureté during the Venizelist regime). Another cause of the troubles was the attitude adopted by certain Venizelists who were unceasingly assuring the population that their chief would soon return to Greece. The anti-Venizelists said M. Stais, threw all the blame on the Venizelists; the latter, however, most emphatically repudiated this charge. The Government had decided to enforce very severe measures in order to put a stop to these disturbances, and had already had the mayor of Canea—one of the most ardent supporters of Venizelism—arrested and deported.

A Demonstration in Adrianople.

A meeting to protest against any attempt to separate Thrace from the kingdom of Greece, was held at Adrianople last Monday. It is estimated that the demonstrators numbered 13 thousand, many of whom were Turks, Armenians, and Jews.

M. Courtidis, Member for Thrace, delivered a speech in which he emphasized the impartiality and the justice exercised by the Greek Administration, and expressed the hope that the Great Powers would not commit the crime of separating Thrace from Greece. M. Courtidis was succeeded by Hamid Ihsen Effendi who proclaimed the gratitude of the Mussulman population of Thrace towards Greece, and stated that the Turks had at last found peace under the Greek flag. The inhabitants of Thrace, added the speaker, "can no longer continue

being victims of the various policies adopted by the Powers, who should realise that we do not wish to be troubled in the peaceful existence which we are now leading. When the Bulgarians were dancing in the Mosque of Sultan Selim, and Greeks and Turks were being drowned by the dozens in the Arda and Maritza rivers, where were these Powers?"

The delegates of the Armenian and Jewish communities of Adrianople also spoke in the same strain, and a resolution was finally passed to the effect that the population of Thrace would oppose, by force of arms, if necessary, any rectification of the Greco-Turkish frontier. Copies of the resolution were handed in to the Allied representatives in Adrianople, also to the Thracian deputies. Similar meetings were held in all the large towns in Thrace.

Comedy Becomes Tragedy.

During the evening performance at the Kotopouli theatre last Monday a wounded soldier who was sitting in the front row of the stalls, suddenly jumped on the stage and producing a huge knife attacked three of the actors who were playing. At first the spectators thought that the sudden appearance of the soldier was a new scene which had been added to the play; when, however, they saw the stage covered with blood they realised the truth and something like a panic followed. This became still greater when one of the spectators started firing at the soldier with his revolver. The assailant who, it was afterwards ascertained, was partially insane as a result of shell-shock, was finally disarmed and conducted to a neighbouring police station. The three actors, one of whom was seriously wounded, were conveyed to hospital.

Football.

On Sunday (February 5) to celebrate the opening of the League Season here a Football Gala Day was held.

King Constantine was invited to attend, and arrived at the New Phaleron grounds at 3.30 accompanied by

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the Queen, the Crown Prince, Prince Paul, and Prince Carol of Roumania. It had been arranged for the eight clubs participating in the League to play four short exhibition games, and on the arrival of the King all the teams marched past the Royal Enclosure. The British team played against the Naval Cadets, this being the first of the four games. Prince Paul—himself a Cadet—kicked off for the British, the game resulting in a draw, each side scoring one goal.

The afternoon was a great success, a large attendance being present and a military band giving musical interludes. The weather was excellent.

Miscellaneous News.

A Member's Club Dance was held at the British Club on Saturday night, February 4, which was attended by nearly all the well known members of the British Colony in Athens. Owing to mourning for his father, the British Minister, Mr. F. Lindley, was not present. The evening was a great success and everybody had a most enjoyable time. It is now proposed to hold a Members' Carnival Dance on the 18th inst.

While on patrol duty off Mersina, the Greek auxiliary cruiser 'Naxos' captured the s.s. 'Berkshire' of the Anglo-Egyptian Steamship Company, which was transporting coal and petrol destined for the Kemalists Army. The 'Berkshire' was escorted to the Naval Arsenal at Salamis.

According to telegrams received from Constantinople, a very enthusiastic reception was given by the Greek element of that town to the new Patriarch, Meletios IV. On the very same day the Government *Gazette* here published the Royal Decree confirming the condemnatory verdict passed on the Patriarch by the Holy Synod of Athens.

M. Stergiadis has returned to Smyrna, the Government having come to the conclusion that his presence there was more necessary than in Constantinople. M. Triantafyllakos, Member for Arcadia, has been appointed Greek High Commissioner in Constantinople, and is leaving for his new post towards the end of this week.

TURKEY.

Constantinople, February 13.

The New Patriarch.

Throughout the long and chequered history of the Patriarchate of Constantinople, few Pontiffs have been enthroned in more discouraging circumstances than H. H. Meletios IV. Not only has the Sublime Porte refused to recognise him, but the Hellenic authorities themselves have rendered the Sublime Porte's action more effective by analogous measures. The Royal Decree ratifying the judgment formulated by the Synod of Greece against the new Patriarch was communicated to the Greek High Commissioner, M. Votsis, last week; and the Greek Consular authorities are refusing to recognise the legality of any certificates concerning births, deaths, marriages, etc., emanating from the Patriarchate. Thus the Ottoman Greeks of the capital find themselves between the hammer and the anvil.

As already reported in the London Press, the inaugural speech of the new Patriarch was by no means cheerful, and although this was in harmony with the facts of the situation, it is at least a good sign as it shows that H. H. Meletios IV. has the moral courage to look facts in the face, however unpleasant they may be. It was unfortunate at least that the Director of the Theological College of the Phanar should have chosen the occasion to call upon the Patriarch in passionate terms to protect the Greeks of "Pontus." Thousands of lives have already been uselessly sacrificed in the interests of that agitation, which never really stood any chance of success, and it would surely be very unwise to do anything that would inevitably aggravate the already deplorable situation of the Greek colonies along the Black Sea coast—whatever may be left of them.

Contrary to the example of the Constantinists, the new Patriarch has set a fine example by freely pardoning those prelates who did their best to carry out the orders of the Athens Government and prevent his election. Such a proceeding was in harmony with His Holiness's moving appeal for unity in the Church upon the occasion of his enthronement.

The "Anatolian Patriarchate."

In the meantime the Angora Government has been pursuing its policy of completely abolishing the privileges accorded to Ottoman Christians by various Sultans ever since the time of Muhammad II, "The Conqueror." A willing tool has been found in the person of an unfortunate prelate named Eftimos, who is apparently to be the first "Patriarch" of Anatolia. According to this reverend gentleman, the Christians of Anatolia are in reality Turkish by blood and descendants of Turks converted to Christianity! Even the iron hand of Mustapha Kemal, however, is not finding the fulfilment of this preposterous plan very easy, and none but those who are completely ignorant of the past and present history of Turkey will be for a moment deceived by the fatuous arguments that are being adduced to justify the formation of an Anatolian Patriarchate. The subject merits the attention of those who naively believe that the Angora Government comprises all that is liberal and regenerate in Turkey.

The Political Situation.

Ever since the fall of the Briand Cabinet and the postponement of the Inter-Allied Conference, the political situation both in Constantinople and in Angora has been practically stagnant. The only development of any real importance is the journey of Yusuf Kemal Bey, the Kemalists Foreign Minister, to Europe, *via* Constantinople, where he is expected to-morrow. The precise purpose of his journey is not known, but there can be little doubt that it is connected with the principal object of Kemalists policy, namely, the complete isolation of Greece. Just as the Kemalists themselves without outside support would not be able to maintain a large army in the field, so the Angora Government has always realised that if completely cut off from outside assistance, the Greeks would sooner or later be forced to abandon the greater part of the occupied territories, if not all. It is, therefore, very probable that Yusuf Kemal Bey will attempt to persuade the Allies to make peace separately without taking Greece into consideration at all. The basis of his proposals, however, will be without any doubt the National Pact, but unless the Angora Government has decided after all to modify its interpretation of that famous pronouncement, it is difficult to see why Yusuf Kemal Bey should take the trouble to travel to Europe. The world will have to wait until he reaches Europe for the elucidation of the mystery, for, so far as can be gathered at present, the Kemalists Foreign Minister will make no statements for publication whilst in Constantinople.

Jevad Pasha in Aleppo.

The Turkish press announces that Jevad Pasha, the former War Minister who was recently released from internment at Malta, has arrived in Aleppo, and was warmly received both by the local population and by the official French authorities. Jevad Pasha was recently in Constantinople upon some mysterious errand, and it is understood that he is to take command of an army in Southern Anatolia. This army is to be formed by combining the Kemalists forces formerly utilised against the French on the Cilician front, and the forces hitherto under the command of Nihad Pasha on the so-called Mesopotamian front. This circumstance in itself is significant, and points to a renewed and energetic attempt on the part of the Kemalists to stir up trouble in the near future in Mesopotamia. It is of course unwise to attach much importance to rumour, especially in the Near East, but the welcome given to Jevad Pasha in Angora does not weaken the belief commonly held in Turkish and foreign circles generally, not even excluding all French circles, that the French authorities are at least well aware of Kemalists plans for the Spring.

ALBANIA.

*Tirana, February 22.***The Commission of Enquiry.**

The Commission of Enquiry in Albania has reached Kastrat, north-west of Scutari, where the Serbian attacks were reported. The Commission intends, in order to make the necessary enquiries, to go to Dibra in Serbian territory.

The Prefecture of Drin.

The organisation of the prefecture of Drin, which includes the regions along the river evacuated by the Serbs, has just begun. But the misery which prevails there is indescribable, for the Serbs in their destruction of a hundred and fifty villages have changed the country into a desert. The inhabitants are hard put to it to find even shelter in their ruined houses. The winter, moreover, is unusually severe, causing high mortality among a population already decimated by fire and misery. The lot of the children above all has been terribly sad.

Official Relations with Serbia.

As proof of its good-will the Government of Tirana sent on January 16 a note to the Secretariat of the League of Nations begging it to intervene and lend its good offices in the resumption of diplomatic relations between Albania and Serbia. I understand that the Albanian Minister for Foreign Affairs has just telegraphed direct to M. Pashitch at Belgrade on this subject.

Foreign Ministers in Albania.

I spoke in my last letters of the arrival of Mr. H. C. A. Eyres, the British Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary, and of his official reception on January 24. So far Mr. Eyres is the sole Foreign Minister in Albania. M. Fortunato Castoldi, the Italian representative, has not yet presented his credentials, and France has not yet sent her representative, though he has been expected for two months.

In Parliament.

The Commission set up by Parliament has found that there is no ground for prosecution of Pandeli Evangheli and the members of his Cabinet, adjudging them as not guilty in the *coup d' état* of last December.

The budget is being discussed both carefully and heatedly. A provisional budget for three months has just been voted, showing the following allocations of 7,268,921 francs:—High Council, 20,360 francs; President of the Council, 9980 francs; Parliament, 140,360 francs; Ministry of Finance, 897,852 francs; Ministry of Public Instruction, 648,847 francs; Ministry of Justice 210,855 francs; Ministry of Public Works, 1,673,796 francs; Ministry of War, 2,248,875 francs; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 282,910 francs; Ministry of the Interior, 559,634 francs; Department of Health, 272,145 francs; Department of Posts and Telegraphs, 238,847 francs; and Religious Tribunal, 64,700 francs.

Parliament has just voted the issue of Albanian money equivalent to 3,000,000 francs. The new coin is called *leke* and is worth 20 centimes, so that the total of *leke* to be issued will be 15,000,000.

Foreign Organisers.

An official *communiqué* published lately in the Albanian Press announces that the Council of Ministers has just decided to engage foreign organisers for the various Departments, namely for the Posts and Telegraphs, Army, Gendarmerie, Police, Finance, Agriculture, Health, Administration of the Interior, Survey, Justice, Public Instruction, also professors for the Normal School, the School of Agriculture, the Normal School for Girls and the boarding schools.

Most of these organisers and professors will be Austrian specialists from Vienna, but the Financial Adviser and the Adviser to the Department of Public Instruction will be English, or if it is impossible to obtain English, American. The choice of Austrians in preference to specialists of other nationalities is made for two reasons: economy, and the avoidance of any difficulty due to the rivalry between Italy and the other Great Powers.

ASIA MINOR.

Smyrna, February 16.

Considerable perturbation in business circles arises from the belief that the Greek authorities have the intention to commandeer freely whatever supplies they need for the army. So far they have only taken horses, mules, wool and cloth, but in preparation for an early resumption of hostilities on a very large scale, all kinds of stocks will probably be seized. At any rate a local printer has a very large order for forms for commandeering goods.

The £15,000,000 loan from European banks is confidently expected to shortly be a *fait accompli*; but if the money is not forthcoming the Greeks profess to be able to resist any Kemalist offensive that may be attempted. Troops are being hurried to the front, and base hospitals are well equipped to handle large numbers of casualties.

For some time the prisoners (Turkish and Greek) have given considerable trouble to the Greek authorities. The chief complaint has been that the food supplied was insufficient. Supplies from outside the prisons had been suppressed because many of the Turkish prisoners were, by these means, receiving large doses of "hashish." To-day a desperate revolt took place, and the prisoners killed two Greek officers and wounded several warders before the outbreak was quelled. M. Sterghiades, the Greek High Commissioner, has taken every precaution to obviate a repetition of the occurrence.

The American Archeologists working under Prof. Howard Crosby Butler, who is expected here in May, have decided to resume the excavation of the ancient city of Sardis. Messrs. W. Ransted Berry and Stiever have already left Smyrna for Sardis to make a preliminary survey and organise the work.

Smyrna, February 18.

The Kemalists have tried an attack on the Greek lines at Chivriili, north of the Meander Valley and south of Ushak, but met with a stout resistance. Both sides are reported to have lost heavily.

Colonel Gribbon, from Constantinople, where he is General Harington's Chief of Staff, has arrived in Smyrna and it is expected that he will visit the front with Major M. A. B. Johnston, the British Military Officer stationed in Smyrna.

TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

The subjoined headings are those of the official report.

India: Officers (Syce Allowance); Officers' Marriage Allowance; Officers' Servants.—Levant Consular Service (War Bonus).—Egypt: Closing of School, Assiut; Newspapers (Suspension)—Irak: King Faisal (Treaty); British Troops (Withdrawal); Council of Ministers.—Palestine: Riots, Jerusalem; Arms (Confiscation); Jewish Settlement.—(Thursday, 16th February).

India: Free Passages (Officers' Families); Indigo (Research Work).—Irak (British Troops).—(Friday, 17th February).

Greece.—Tangier.—India: Education (British Children); (Officials Passages); Indian Soldiers (Litigation) Act.—Egypt: British Goods (Boycott); Disturbance (Girga).—Middle East (Turkish Property).—(Monday, 20th February).

India: Budget; Army Family Pension Fund Rules; Moplah Train Disaster; Moplah Rebellion; Civil Servants (Pensions); Civil Service (Retirement); Bolshevik Agents.—Greece (Trade Credits).—British Army: Troops, Middle East.—Irak.—Palestine: Franchise; Mr. Costaki Saba; Emigration; Smuggled Arms.—(Tuesday, 21st February).

Egypt: Mohammed Said Pasha (Interview); National Debt; Military Court, Alexandria; Officials (Newspaper Correspondents); Sir R. Wingate (Correspondence).—Turkey (British Claims).—India: Civil Service (Retirement); Lepers; Political Prisoners.—Indian Subjects, Tanganyika.—Portugal and Greece (Treasury Bills).—Egypt: Mails Censorship; Education (Cost); Disturbance, Girga.—South Persia Rifles.—Palestine (Status).—(Wednesday, 22nd February).

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

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

GREAT BRITAIN AND GREECE.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—THE NEAR EAST of January 19, containing a letter from Commander Kenworthy, M.P., entitled "Great Britain and Turkey," has only just reached me, and I would beg your indulgence for a few words in reply. It would perhaps, be too late in the day to answer your correspondent, were it not that he makes use of certain popular arguments which have been employed before by others, and will no doubt be used again if left to take root. Everyone acquainted with the Near East knows that these arguments are fallacious, but constant repetition without categorical denials has almost led them to be accepted as facts by the majority of English readers.

Commander Kenworthy begins with an appeal to our trade interests, pointing out the market which exists in Asia Minor for our textiles, and the disadvantages which our manufacturers and exporters sustain through the continuance of the war. Here, he is quite right, but with one difference; and that is that the vast bulk of the trade in the Near East is, and always has been, in Greek hands. The Turk is not a trader; he is a soldier, a peasant or an official of sorts. Your true Turk rather despises trade. On the other hand, the Greek is *par excellence* a man of commerce, and it is only by supporting Greek interests that our trade can revive in the Near East. The large Greek population in Manchester alone, most of whom are occupied in the textile industry, should be sufficient to make this clear in England. I do not say that the Turks do not like the British; I believe that the rank and file of them do at heart; but certainly the Greeks admire and respect Great Britain above all other nations. They look upon England, the country of Canning, Byron, Gladstone, and others whose memories they revere, as their one protector and friend. But when the question is raised as to whether Turks or Greeks could better further our trade interests in the Near East, one would think that a schoolboy would know enough to decide in favour of the Greeks without the slightest hesitation.

I must take exception to Commander Kenworthy's assertion that the Greeks are conducting a "campaign of annihilation of their hereditary enemies in Asia Minor." Nor is the war one that can be properly qualified as "racial and religious." The Greeks were given a mandate to pacify certain Asia Minor provinces, as all the world knows. The Treaty of Sèvres is not yet a dead letter, though there is a decided inclination in certain quarters to consider it as a "scrap of paper." It is no use labouring this question; presumably a text of the Treaty can be seen at the British Museum, or at some other official library, and anyone in doubt as to its provisions may inspect it for himself. Greece is in this war to liberate her fellow-Christians from Turkish atrocities, and yet this is called an "atrocious campaign." But there was nothing atrocious in the campaign that we undertook to liberate the "utlanders" from Oom Paul's despotism!

The annihilation and the atrocities have all been on the side of the Turks for ages past. When massacres palled, they had recourse to deportation. They have striven in every way to extirpate the Greek and Armenian races from the territories under their rule. A comparison of the census of the various provinces in Europe and Asia Minor for the last fifteen years is all that is needed to establish this fact. The independent observers who testify to Greek atrocities, mentioned by Commander Kenworthy, whoever they may be, are countered by well-known British and American war correspondents;

and, more terrible still is the unanimous testimony of the hundreds of thousands of Christian refugees flocking to Greece to escape the massacres which they knew full well were certain if they remained in their villages.

It is difficult to imagine on what hypothesis Commander Kenworthy bases his statements that the Greeks have "failed and failed dismally," and, further on, that "Now the Greeks have failed finally." The Greeks, in spite of the assistance given to Kemal in war material and stores by one of Greece's official allies, have afforded no excuse whatever for an accusation of failure. Their army is as good or better than it ever was; indeed, it is greater in numbers than it was at the beginning of the war, while the Greek positions are very strong. Greece will probably not attack in the Spring, for she has no desire to throw away more lives than she can help, but will await an assault, when she will give an excellent account of herself, as she has always done hitherto. But up to the present, occupying as she does a large slice of enemy territory, she must be considered as having won triumphantly, not failed dismally, and still less finally.

A very serious argument which has been adduced frequently of late is the effect of this war upon the Moslem population of India. It is not surprising that a man of Ghandhi's undoubted abilities should have pitched on this pretext to gain the support of the Mohammedan population of India. What is to be wondered at is how the Government of India has allowed his propaganda to pass unchallenged; and how it is that responsible British newspapers treat the matter seriously as though there were anything in the assertion save pure propaganda. If the Indian authorities allow Ghandhi to deceive the Moslems of India with specious falsehoods, they have only themselves to blame for the results. Of course, there is no question of a Greek war against the Khalifate, or Islam, or anything of the kind. Greece is fighting a certain Mustapha Kemal Pasha, a rebel against Turkey, who has a separate revolutionary government at Angora. That is the situation in a nutshell. So far as Constantinople and official Turkey are concerned, Greece is in the same position as the other Allied Powers. Greece has her Harmost, or High Commissioner there, just as have the other Powers. In short, Constantinople and Angora are different propositions altogether. And yet Ghandhi's false representations are allowed to proceed unchecked, and sections of the London daily papers which should know better, give them an air of authenticity which is astonishing to persons who know something of the situation.

Everyone, including the Greeks, wishes the campaign were over and done with; but Greece has obligations which she cannot repudiate: one of these is to protect the lives of her co-religionists in Asia Minor. If we were to take the trouble to put ourselves in Greece's place, we should see nothing extraordinary in her attitude. We have an example of our own close at hand. Blood is hotter in the Eastern Mediterranean than in the Irish Sea; Protestants and Roman Catholics are alike Christians; and yet, for all that, we have practically in our own midst what Commander Kenworthy calls a "racial and religious" war going on, and what could be called with a very little stretch of imagination a "campaign of annihilation." It is extraordinary how large the mote may appear in one's adversary's eye, and how small the beam in one's own. Let us therefore be charitable towards others.

I am, etc.,

C. S. BUTLER.

Athens.

14th February, 1922.

EGYPT: THE EUROPEAN VIEW.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—Your correspondent who wrote on this subject (THE NEAR EAST, Feb. 9) has no anxiety as to the future, and thinks it would be well if our continental friends and neighbours would "share our philosophic view."

Those who know Egypt will concur in most of what he says, but not, I think, in some of the suggestions with which he concludes. Our occupation during the last 40 years has, he says, been tolerated by the rest of the world (*i.e.* Europe) because it has been generally appreciated that if we evacuated the country "another European" nation would inevitably take our place. It has been advantageous for all countries having commercial interests in Egypt. But it is largely the presence of our troops which has caused this feeling. If Britain were to hand over the administration of the country entirely to Egyptian hands, our French and Italian friends would be quite pleased. But "the withdrawal of the British garrison is quite another matter." The problem is not only British but international. If the average business man in England were assured that a French occupation of Egypt would not entail discrimination in favour of French trade, he would probably not have the slightest objection to the arrangement. The one essential is that in no circumstances should Egypt be left without a European garrison. Your correspondent suggests that the Egyptians themselves might be allowed "to determine the nationality of the European garrison." Or Britain, France, and Italy might each contribute a contingent to a joint force. Surely neither of these proposals could be seriously regarded.

Perhaps it would be well to state "the Egyptian View" as indicated in the latest native papers which have reached England. The claims as given *e.g.* in the "*Akhbar*" (News) may be summarised as follows:—Rejection of Lord Curzon's and Lord Allenby's memoranda, abolition of the Protectorate, abolition of martial law, release of political prisoners (including of course Zaghloul and his friends), establishment of a parliament by popular suffrage, to which Ministers would be responsible, and establishment of a Foreign Office which will appoint its ministers and consuls. Those advisers who will be temporarily retained, will advise only (no finality as to their advice being involved). They will not be members of the Cabinet. There will only be advisers—and that temporarily—in the Financial and Judicial Departments. All Secretaries and Under Secretaries of State to be Egyptians. When all this is carried out negotiations regarding the Sudan, the Capitulations, the Foreign Office, etc. can proceed. The mass of the nationalists consider that they are quite fit to govern. Why should they not do so as well as Greece or Afghanistan? They wish to lead their own lives without interference. If they are averse to a British garrison they would be equally, or more, averse to a French or Italian force. Comparatively little has been said on the subject of a garrison in the Egyptian papers.

Egyptians regard the questions now pending as purely between Egypt and Britain. There are of course some who are more pro-French in their sympathies, and at present there is a somewhat strange under-current in this direction. But although a very bitter anti-English feeling prevails at present, it may, I believe, be safely asserted that Egyptians in general would at heart prefer British influence to that of any other nation.

The remarks respecting "Our Allies and Islam" invite considerable criticism, which would, however, be out of place here. But as regards the statement that, while there is a violent anti-European movement in Egypt, "perfect peace reigns in the North African territories under French and Italian rule," it may be observed that circumstances in the latter dependencies are widely different. The system of education prevailing in those territories has not been such as to lead yet to a claim for self-government; whereas in Egypt the movement is the logical and inevitable outcome of our rule.

I am, etc.,

Feb. 23. ROLAND L. N. MICHELL.

BRITAIN AND INDIA.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—Your correspondent F.H.S. argues that the

political crisis in India is the result of increasing poverty. May I point out that one of the greatest of Indian administrators took a precisely opposite view? When Alauddin the Khalji was faced with the risk of civil disobedience among his subjects, his first step was to seize all the property they possessed, and he pursued this course until, apart from officials and bankers, "no one possessed even a trifle in cash." The result was that "the people were all so absorbed in obtaining the means of living that the name of rebellion was never mentioned." The conclusion drawn at the time was that the possession of wealth fosters disaffection and rebellion among Hindus: it would be possible to argue from the experience of the past century that that conclusion is still true.

I am, etc.,

Outis.

THE PALESTINE ARAB DELEGATION.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—The conclusion at which Lord Northcliffe arrived as the result of his own inquiries into the condition of Palestine made on the spot, will recommend itself to every Britisher.

Lord Northcliffe's visit disclosed two facts: (1) the seriousness of the situation in Palestine and (2) the necessity for an immediate, complete and impartial investigation.

Certain hurried commitments were made in 1917 to the Zionist Organization, which have not conduced to peace and happiness in Palestine. The Arabs, who form 93 per cent. of the population, are decidedly disaffected. They complain of a gross injustice being done to them. An impartial inquiry will either convince them of the baselessness of their complaint, or will recommend the redressing of their wrongs. No impartial inquiry has ever harmed a just cause. The Palestine Arab Delegation, therefore, appeals to the British Government, Parliament and the British Nation to reserve their decision on the Mandate until an investigation has found out the truth.

A hurried settlement that is not based on the recognition of the facts must inevitably lead to disaster. The Ideal must be realized through the channels of the Real. The Arab population of Palestine is a fact, and should be the main concern of politicians who are re-arranging the world. To ignore this fact of the Arabs in Palestine and their unwillingness to be dominated by Political Zionism may succeed for a while with the help of British armoured cars and aeroplanes. But can England afford to be ever on her guard in Palestine and the Near East, to be continuously on the defensive with the Moslem and Christian population hostile to her? Certainly not. England neither can afford this, nor is it the wish of her people that she should be so situated. The Arabs of Palestine are friends and should be treated as such, and not cowed by force of arms.

The moment the Delegation arrived in this country it asked in its official statement, called 'The Holy Land,' that a Commission of Enquiry be sent out to Palestine to examine and report. It is now glad that Lord Northcliffe has recommended this as the best way of getting at the truth.

This controversy might be kept up for years—statements made on one side and refuted by the other—without a satisfactory solution being attained.

One condition the Delegation would put forward which must readily meet with universal approval, and that is, that the Commission selected be *strictly neutral and unbiassed*, either one way or the other. If this condition is not fulfilled the inquiry would become a mere farce.

I am, etc.

(For the Palestine Arab Delegation),

SHIBLY JAMAL,

Hon. Secretary.

Hotel Cecil,

London, February 21.

GREECE AND THE ALLIES.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—Sometime ago you did me the honour of publishing one of my letters in your valuable paper, and I now feel that I can trespass on your kindness once more, in putting forward the following facts.

The *Patris*, one of the leading Athenian papers, recently published an article stating that Mr. Lloyd George, in an interview with Mgr. Metaxakis (a full account of whose uncanonical and scandalous election as Greek Patriarch was published in the *Daily Telegraph* of January 12, 1922), said that Greece, who in the days of the Premiership of M. Venizelos had at her disposal all the wealth and support of England to-day has nothing to expect from her, *not even sixpence*, and that she must, moreover, give up Asia Minor.

It is inconceivable that a nation which was dragged into this war, in such odd circumstances, should, out of personal prejudice, be finally abandoned by those who forced it into this costly and endless enterprise.

I am, etc.,

FLIUS ELIOPOULOS.

February 11, 1922.

AN INSTITUTE OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—Will you allow me to inquire, through your columns, whether any of your readers would be interested to cooperate in some organised study of Western influence on Near and Middle Eastern peoples?

The history of this influence during the last two or three centuries is one of the keys to present oriental problems, and the intellectual and social sides are at least as important as the military, diplomatic and economic. There is an admirable field for such studies in the narratives of Western travellers, which, though often ransacked for curiosities of literature, seem never to have been surveyed systematically. But this field is so vast that no one inquiring into some particular subject can really cover it single-handed. Group work suggests itself, and I am trying to bring together at the Institute of Historical Research Malet St., Bloomsbury, a group of people interested in the studies that I have mentioned. For this purpose I am proposing to exclude India and Russia, to concentrate on the peoples and countries that have at one time been included in the Ottoman Empire, and not to go further back to start with than about the last quarter of the 17th century. On these lines I have already made a start with several collaborators.

At the Institute of Historical Research we have rooms, maps and works of reference and are conveniently near to the British Museum. If any of your readers wishes for further information, I should be glad if he or she would write to me at the Institute; I will only add that I am not asking for pupils but for collaborators, and that even those with little time to spare may give valuable help.

I am, etc.,

ARNOLD J. TOYNBEE.

(Professor of Byzantine and Modern Greek Language, Literature and History, University of London, King's College).

University of London, Institute of Historical Research, Malet Street, Bloomsbury, W.C.1.

February.

GREEK AND LATIN PAPYRI.

Exhibition at British Museum.

A special exhibition of Greek and Latin papyri, presented at various dates by the Egypt Exploration Society, was opened at the British Museum yesterday. The exhibition, which will be found in the MSS. Saloon, Case A, includes many interesting papyri of various kinds, selected to illustrate the wide range of papyrological discovery. There are examples of famous additions to Greek literature, like the *Paeans* of Pindar, the poems of *Cercidas*, and the *Oxyrhynchus* historian; theology is represented by the *Sayings of Jesus*; and the economic and social life of Egypt finds illustration in many non-literary documents, several of them rich in human interest.

FOOTBALL IN PALESTINE.

St. George's Boys' School was the first school in Palestine to give to games and physical exercise a definite place in its curriculum. Strange as it may seem to English people, who look upon games as a part of our national life, they had never been seriously attempted in any school, whether English or not, before October 1899, when St. George's School was started. Such games as there had been before amounted to no more than the spooning of a ball across a field in summer (cricket), or the aimless kicking of a bigger ball in winter (football). When Bishop Blyth introduced games as an integral part of what he had been so earnestly asked to provide—an English education—the innovation was very much criticised; not only by some of the older missionaries, who considered it frivolous to play games in the Holy Land, but by some of the pupils' fathers as well. "My son is fifteen," said a man, during a visit of protest. "I want him to walk slowly and soberly, holding a stick in his hand and looking thoughtful. I do not want him to play games as if he were an infant or a fool."

The boys, however, had their own ideas on the subject, and they carried the day triumphantly. Very soon they were playing an excellent game, and the Saturday matches became quite a feature of Jerusalem life. The Arabs turned out in numbers to watch the boys at play, and more than once a match was held up while a procession of Moslem ladies, securely veiled, strayed in leisurely fashion across the pitch, or in front of the goal, beautifully unconscious of the anguish they were causing. At first games were played on an empty field near St. George's, and the first matches (all three of which our own School won) took place in a corner of the Plain of Rephaim. A later playground was a portion of the camping ground of Godfrey de Bouillon at the Siege of Jerusalem (1099)—or, to be exact, of the English and Norman contingents of the First Crusade.

The question of a permanent playground soon became urgent. General feeling everywhere was now strongly in favour of games, and the growth of the School made a large playground a necessity. Bishop Blyth had long had in view the imperative need of securing a piece of ground immediately adjoining St. George's property on the south, and touching the wall of the school compound. This land belonged to several owners, in varying numbers of shares, a circumstance which added greatly to the difficulty of its purchase, (land questions being, in any case, very difficult under Turkish laws); yet a third of the shares had been acquired before the Bishop left Jerusalem in 1914. The Bishop of London, during his visit to Palestine, also realised the urgency of this question, both for the boys' sake and for the safeguarding of the property in general. Now, after the war which has so completely changed the surface of the world, there has come the chance to complete this affair, and thus to secure the College against the pressure of too-near or undesirable neighbours, while giving to the School the playground which is an integral part of its plan. It is not too much to say that the future of the school is vitally concerned, and so, indeed, is the whole of that group of buildings known as "St. George's," which the late Sir Charles Wilson enthusiastically described as "the finest and most harmonious modern buildings in Jerusalem."

Those who know anything of the work and its needs, its scope and its future, will readily grasp the importance to it of this great chance. But there are many more who have no personal knowledge of the Holy Land, who are yet most closely bound to it by sons and brothers whose lives were adventured—and in many cases given—for the freedom of Palestine and its people. Will not they, too, help in memory of the past school-days of those young soldiers, to secure to coming generations of the Boys of Palestine so great a boon! Donations should be sent to the Rev. E. M. Bickersteth, 12, Warwick Square, London, S.W.1.

In the Indian Legislative Assembly on February 22 Sir William Vincent read a telegram from Mr. Montagu, the Secretary for India, expressing his gratitude to the non-official members for their recent vote of confidence.

A message from Angora received in Paris states that one of the chief theatrical companies of Constantinople has been producing at Ismidt and elsewhere in Anatolia adaptations of Molière's "*Malade Imaginaire*," "*Mariage Forcé*," and "*Médecin Malgré Lui*."

THE BLACK PARTRIDGE.

(By L.J.)

The black partridge, or—to give it its more correct name—the common francolin, *Francolinus vulgaris*, is one of the most popular of game birds to the sportsman in the wide range of country it frequents. It is found all over northern India from the north-east to the north-west, both in the plains and in the valleys of the hills to an elevation of about 6,000 feet; and from India it extends, in suitable localities, right across Asia to the Mediterranean. It still has a habitat in Cyprus, and once was known throughout the littoral as far as Spain.

Mohammedans have a pretty conceit that all birds welcome the dawn with a prayer to the Almighty; and of the cries so interpreted none is, perhaps, more attractive than the "*O subhan tere kudrat*" (O God, of Thy power who shall speak) of the black partridge. The Hindu rendering is "*Lehsan, piaz, adrakh*," (garlic, onions, and ginger), but that, to the Mohammedan, is only the sordid and material version of the infidel, as no doubt also is the "Be quick, pay your debts" of the English. In whatsoever way, however, the cry may be onomatopoeically expressed, the clear, ringing call is a pleasant and familiar sound in camp life. It is heard all through the cold weather in the East, and in the warmer air of the lengthening days of spring it increases in intensity. By the end of March, around the sun-swept fields of corn or in the neighbourhood of jungle grasses and water, the birds begin to be noisy. They are noisier still in the hot splendour of an April day, and in May, as the nesting season approaches, they fling their cries to the skies and winds in very midsummer madness. It is, in fact, only at the first hint of autumn in the foliage that they are temporarily silent.

The gladsome greeting is always welcome, but there are other reasons why the black partridge should be popular. It is one of the handsomest of God's creatures; even the comparatively sober-plumaged hen with its warm tones of brown and buff is evidently a game bird, and the cock, black-breasted, spotted with white, with red necklet and white checks, brown wings and pencilled back, perched on a little eminence, possibly an ant-hill, and shouting its adorations for all the world to hear, is pre-eminently beautiful. It is moreover one of the best of our Eastern sporting birds, and no mean adjunct to the camp fare.

In the hills, where there is probably much else to shoot and the cover is very dense, the common francolin will not be the main feature of a day's sport; it is in the plains, in the sort of country the bird loves, that big bags have so often been made. It must have water, and, being so essentially a ground bird, it must have shelter for purposes of concealment. But where there is water, it is likely that there will be grasses, the tall *sarkanda* grasses nodding their silvery plumes in the breeze and sun-light, other grasses, tamarisk jungle perhaps; also where there is water, there may be cultivation, rain or irrigated, and although the bird may not be dependent on cultivation for food inasmuch as it will feed on white ants, larvae, insects of all kinds, grass seeds and shoots, the readiness with which it resorts to crops shows that crops in the neighbourhood are a great attraction. It is not a bird of open and desert plains, and in mustard, wheat, barley, cotton or sugar-cane fields it will often be met in considerable numbers. So it will be found in the tracts irrigated by the great canals of northern India, where there will always be water and cover and crops; and in the low-lying land flanking the rivers, where grasses and tamarisk and scrub jungle with patches of cultivation are a common feature of the landscape.

An ideal spot is a certain locality some few of us still hold in affectionate remembrance. It is a flat country, yet not so flat that an immense natural drainage does not meander through it. In times of heavy rain the drainage is liable to be a wide stream of water, during the rest of the year it is dry; but some water always lies in deep channels and hollows unless there is extreme drought, and on the land damp with inundation

crops are raised, and grasses grow in great abundance, the tallest of them, the *sarkanda*, swaying their shapely heads to and fro in the warm air. The scattered villages are few and far between, the spot is far removed from the haunts of sportsmen, and there undisturbed for many years the black partridges swarmed. In addition to a few quail, a few grey partridges may be, a chance duck or two, a snipe, and many hares, any good gun would bag forty brace in a day.

Places like that no doubt still occur in India and beyond the confines of India to the Near East, but they are fast disappearing. Though the gun is the worst of the black partridge's enemies, it has many others. A ground bird, dependent on concealment in its battle for existence, it chooses a site for its nest with such cunning that nests are very difficult to find. The nest is just a hollow in the ground sparsely lined, and there at the end of June or in July some ten or twelve pale blue eggs are laid. If the eggs escape marauders, the chickens in their forage for food assuredly pay their toll, nearly a dozen may be hatched, but it is rare to see more than three or four in a brood. There are kites and hawks in the upper air in the day time, and jackals, wild cats, and mongooses on the ground by day and by night seeking their meat from God. It says much for the watchful terror of the parent birds that any chickens survive. Still they do. The black partridge is not what would be called a prolific breeder, but in comfortable quarters, in out of the way places, where wild nature is the only hostile element, it seems able to take care of itself and prosper and multiply. But when on top of all that comes the merciless gun, it is very easily shot out. In many localities where they were once numerous, they are now unknown.

And that is the pity of it. It is so good a sporting bird, it does not run, and it rises from brake or crops so strong and full of flight, that the sportsman finds it difficult to cry "hold enough." The bag increases in the ambition for a big bag, but a long succession of big bags means extinction. All of us would be sorry to see the black partridge in its beauty disappear, we should miss the inspiring call which is so closely associated with the deluge of sunshine of the Eastern landscape; but unless some measures can be taken for the bird's protection and preservation, it is only too likely that it will become as extinct in the East as it is on the littoral west of Palestine.

THE PRINCE OF WALES AND ST. DUNSTAN'S.

The Prince of Wales sent the following message to Lady Sanderson, the President of St. Dunstan's Fund in India on the occasion of a dance recently held at the Grand Hotel, Calcutta:—"I am very interested to hear that a dance is being given in aid of St. Dunstan's and I wish it every success. I regret very much that I am unable to be present. The very sad death of Sir Arthur Pearson is a terrible blow, not only to all of us, but to the hundreds of men who have been blinded in the great war. It is up to us to leave no stone unturned to ensure that St. Dunstan's goes as far as it can in the same way as it did under the wonderful guidance of Sir Arthur Pearson."

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE DEBT TO ISLAM.

"ARAB THOUGHT AND ITS PLACE IN HISTORY." By De Lucy O'Leary, D.D., Lecturer in Aramaic and Syriac, Bristol University. (London: Kegan, Paul, Trench, Truener and Co., 10s. 6d. net.)

One of the many arresting events of those centuries which we are prone to stigmatize as the "Dark Ages," or as the "Middle" Period between the brilliant days of Greece and Rome and those of the Renaissance, was the strange and devious path whereby Greek philosophy and science travelled round by Baghdad, North Africa and Spain, permeated Latin Scholasticism, and prepared the ground for the day when it was possible to proceed direct to the stores of ancient learning without the help of the Oriental. The part that had been played by Syrian, Arab, and Jew was a singularly romantic one; and it is well that we should be reminded from time to time that, although we have kicked away the ladder by which our forefathers rose, we owe a great deal more to it than we are often prepared to recognize.

Dr. O'Leary aims at tracing the transmission of Hellenistic thought through the medium of Mohammedan philosophers and of Jewish thinkers living in Mohammedan surroundings; he shows how it became modified and considerably altered in the course of transmission, and how the finished product proved to be a disturbing factor which tended to disintegrate the traditional theology of the Church. While our western civilization can be traced back to the Roman Empire, and to the influence of Greece, the Mohammedan influence, as it came through Spain, seems at first entirely alien. But what the Mohammedan and Jewish thinkers had done was to take material which had been essentially part of the Hellenistic Roman stock, brood upon it, and remould it during the period of their seclusion from Christendom, and finally produce the old material in fresh form. Thus, while the Christian Church had taken the simple Christian elements, and, under the influence of Greece and Rome, had worked out her own theology, a new stage arose when a new wave of Oriental genius presented its contribution, which, like the preceding, needed reshaping and readjustment by Western minds who went direct to the Greek originals.

Dr. O'Leary's main argument is essentially in accord with what we know of the function of the ancient Semites. They were not strikingly original; they were "middle-men"—in several senses. They helped to diffuse material culture, but they distinguished themselves by stamping their personality upon what they sent forth or what passed through their hands. They took what they could of Hellenistic thought and left their impress upon it; or rather they re-created it into a new organism. Surrounded by Sumerians, Egyptians, and Indo-Europeans, the Semites lived in an area where three continents met. In all the intensity of their passion they gave new form and new life to what they assimilated, and it is no strange fact if it left a deeper impression on Jewish and on Christian thought, than on the Mohammedans themselves (p. 295). In other words, although Hellenistic culture left a very distinct and enduring impression on Mohammedan thought, among the Jews, who had reached a more advanced stage of development, the influence was greater. Finally among the Christians themselves there was a more penetrating criticism of its fruits, and a greater ability to estimate it and utilize what was best in it.

In the nature of the case the book is rather difficult in parts, but the author has made it interesting—we

note, for example, the account of the way in which the Latin translations were made (p. 277)—and it will repay careful reading. He makes us understand how philosophy—not to mention theology—could be a tremendous force dominating social, legal and political ideas. Thereby we are in some measure able to realize how our western thought, highly specialised, "differentiated," but ill-co-ordinated, severs us from the Oriental. So, because we, as an Empire, have grave responsibilities in the East, it behoves us, as best we can to understand the principles and presuppositions with which Oriental life and thought are permeated, and Dr. O'Leary's book may thus contribute to a better understanding of the East. It certainly helps towards an appreciation of the part the East has played in our own development, and to a clearer perception of the close interrelation of eastern and western movements in the absolute history of human thought. In a book that has to deal with many points of detail there are naturally some that provoke dissent. It suffers here and there from misprints, and much as we appreciate the chronological table which the writer has provided, we sadly miss an index.

S.A.C.

POETRY OF THE SIKH RELIGION.

"THE SISTERS OF THE SPINNING WHEEL." By Puran Singh. (London: J. M. Dent & Son, Ltd., 6s. net.)

This is a volume of religious poetry written in English by a Sikh, the larger part of it being translated from "Guru Granth," the sacred book of the Sikhs. There is a long and most interesting introduction by Ernest and Grace Rhys, giving an account of the beginning of the Sikh religion and a brief history of its founder Narak, who was born in 1469—and who, like the Prophet Amos, was neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet, but an herdman, and of the nine Gurus or teachers who followed him in succession until 1708. We are also shown how the difficulties of preserving their freedom made it necessary for the Sikhs to adopt a militant attitude like that of the Mohammedan religion, which was not at all the attitude of their gentle founder. There is also a brief autobiography of the author of the book. He writes wonderfully naturally in English and often expresses his meaning with real beauty, but every now and then we are pulled up by expressions that are commonplace and are obviously those of one writing in a foreign tongue. The atmosphere of the poems is that of deep spiritual devotion, and the subject of most of them is the state of bliss to be derived from Nam—true union with God. In many of them are expressed the ideas of God's presence in everything and of the inability of the human intellect to comprehend his greatness.

"All the march of things is divine, be it of star or wind or water or of tree."

"Hate no one, bear enmity to none, in each and everyone is He."

"There are skies above skies and earths below earth and man's mind is tired of this great search, It cannot reach the end of His Vastness."

The similarity between St. Matthew, Chapt. VI, and one translation from "Guru Granth" is striking.

"O man! why art thou so crest-fallen in the thought of thy bread, why this "What shall I eat?" and "Whence?"

Behold the flocks of cranes fly in mid-sky and they have their little ones safe-buried in sands behind, and they have no such fear; they ask not who shall provide for their little ones.

My friend, thy distress is not the want of bread; thy misery is thou hast not yet seen the Reality face to face."

In the fantasy of the language through which the spirit of devotion is expressed we are sometimes reminded

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of George Herbert, particularly in one poem called "An Offering" and in the lines beginning "Who shoots at me? Ah! these arrows steel-tipped with keen, keen edges."

One rather long poem, taken from a writing by the fourth Guru, Aijan, who was put to death by Jahanjir, and called "The Sweetest" is full of the ecstasy of loving worship. Apart from the beauty of some of these writings this book should be of interest to all students of the Sikh religion and also to those who will be introduced for the first time to the teaching of the saintly Nanak and his successors, much of which seems to be expressed in a Sloka which we find here translated:

"Is not life a serious thing?
Is not death there?
No other way of escape, but live."

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Oil Encyclopedia." By Marcel Mitzakis. (London: Chapman and Hall. 21s. net.)

"I have only Myself to Blame." By Elizabeth Bibesco. (London: William Heinemann. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Catalogues of Textiles from Burying-Grounds in Egypt. Vol. I Græco-Roman Period." By A. F. Kendrick. (London: H. M. Stationery Office. 5s. net.)

"Indian Drawings: Twelve Mogul Paintings of the School of Humayun (16th century), illustrating the Romance of Amir Hamzah." Text by C. Stanley Clarke. (London: H. M. Stationery Office. 5s. net.)

MUSICAL NOTES.

ON GRAMOPHONE RECORDS.

In the last batch of "His Master's Voice" records it is again the vocal ones that are the most notable. Perhaps the best of all is Destinn's singing of "Morro, ma prima in grazia," from Verdi's "Un Ballo in Maschera." Here that purity of tone and intense feeling for line which characterise the world's greatest dramatic soprano are very evident; it is a fine record indeed. Her phrasing is everywhere exquisite, but particularly in the use of *portamento* does she convey the pathos of the piece. There is, further, a marvellous change of tone in the last note but one which is wonderfully reproduced.

Chaliapine is represented, or, better, presented, in Schumann's "The Two Grenadiers." I say presented because this song shows him as a bad artist. First, it is here sung in Russian, which of itself upsets the actual notes; next, Chaliapine takes liberties with the notes as Schumann wrote them; and, lastly, he so twists and kinks the rhythm as to make the song lose its sustained splendour. He sings magnificently, of course; and one is moved by the splendid dramatic impulse which urges on to its climax in the "Marseillaise," but all the same one is convinced at the end that all this re-moulding is quite unjustified.

A double sided record by Peter Dawson contains Verdi's "Creed" from "Othello" and Mozart's "Non piu andrai" (from "Figaro"), both being sung in English. In the first the singing is impassioned, but not greatly dramatic, spacious without being intense; and the second, though pleasant enough, is scarcely sufficiently graceful or light-hearted for Mozart.

We will turn now to the instrumental records, which are, generally speaking, the most interesting.

There are two records of string-quartet playing: a double-sided one by the Catterall Quartet containing the *Allegro* movement from Haydn's Quartet in G major (Op. 76, No. 1) and the *Agitato* movement from Brahms' Quartet in B flat (Op. 67), and a single sided one by the Flonzaley Quartet containing the *Polka* from Smetana's Quartet in E minor. To me personally these quartet records are the most pleasing of all, and to everyone I think they are those of which one latest tires. The Catterall quartet, which comes from the North of England, has earned distinction in the matter of interpretation. Their Hadyn playing is spirited and unusually delicate,

but their sense of tonal values is here overestimated, and there is insufficient finesse. But for Brahms their direct, rather brusque style is much more suitable, and the whole is informed with good rhythmical vigour, with the viola doing especially excellent work. Both movements are finely recorded. Of the Flonzaleys I can think of nothing new to say: to me they are the greatest quartet in all imaginable worlds. The fullness and balance of their tone in this *polka* are even in reproduction marvellous, and their rhythm is perfection.

Of the orchestral records there remain the "Tristan and Isolde" Prelude in two parts, played by Sir Landon Ronald with the Royal Albert Hall Orchestra, and Humperdinck's "Hansel and Gretel" Overture in two parts played by the Adrian Boult with the British Symphony Orchestra. In the Wagner the richness of the orchestral texture is partly blurred, but some idea of its extraordinary colour can be obtained, and in the Humperdinck, which is always popular with the British public, there is notable playing, the contrasts being seized with admirable discipline.

The Royal Philharmonic Society.

It is not often that two conductors at the last minute disappoint organisers of a concert, but a belated illness overtook both Sir Landon Ronald, who was originally to have conducted the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Queen's Hall on February 23, and Mr. Eugene Goossens, who was taking his place. To say, therefore, that Mr. Frank Bridge, who eventually did conduct, failed in a few particulars, would be very ungraciously to point out the obvious. Mr. Bridge is a very fine musician indeed, but no musician can carry off a stiff orchestral programme with practically no rehearsal. In his unfortunate circumstances Mr. Bridge did boldly and well, for shortcomings were only seriously apparent in his accompaniment of M. Jacques Thibaud's playing of Lalo's "Symphonie Espagnole" and in his reading of the now famous Bach-Elgar Fugue in C minor. Strauss' "Don Juan" was the best performed thing of the evening, its architectural merits being very clearly clearly demonstrated, and with especial distinction in the balance of tone. Not that I care for the work; in fact it does not appeal to me at all strongly. But of still less value is the vacuous "Spanish Symphony" for violin and orchestra of Lalo, and its padded insipidities were made tolerable only by the superb solo-playing of M. Thibaud. There is no soloist living who plays with the chiselled beauty of this Frenchman: his sense of proportion is exquisite. Certainly he made the most of the Symphony, investing it with no wanton, sentimental originality, but with just that degree of individual subtlety that makes accompanying so difficult an art. Particularly his rhythm in the second movement (*Scherzando*), and his technical mastery in the fifth (*rondo*) were things to cherish and to marvel at. His playing, not the music, easily deserved the encore that he gave: Kreisler's arrangement of a song from "Coq d'or." One could not expect that Mr. Bridge would give us in Butterworth's "Shropshire Lad" the entire essence of the thing, that dripping film of slow beauty; its loveliness, as of drenched blossoming, was made a little dry and too long drawn out. Nor is it just to criticise the Bach-Elgar Fugue, which demands a very special technique. And it may be that Goossens has spoiled for us all other conductors' readings of it.

To finish the concert came Beethoven's Fifth Symphony (sportingly played without any breaks for applause). It may be shameful impertinence, but by most of this Symphony I was put in a state not far from boredom. And that this was mainly due to knowledge of the work I dare not doubt: for Mr. Bridge was managing the orchestra well, except in some *pizzicato* passages and there was beautiful playing in the wood-wind, particularly in the *andante* movement. I haven't the pluck or the impudence to say that I never want to hear the "Fifth" again, but it will have to be a very fine conductor indeed to make me re-possession the opinion of it that I once thought was irrefragable.

ANDANTE.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

March 2 (New Style).

February 17 (Old Style).

Ragab 3, 1340 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.

Adar 2, 5681 of the Jewish Calendar.

The Hon Lady Alexander has left Marseilles for India.

The Earl of Bessborough has returned to London from France.

General Bruce, leader of this year's Mount Everest expedition, left Delhi on February 23 for Naini Tal.

Gholam Housein Khan Ansari, Secretary at the Persian Legation, has returned to town from Persia.

M. Virgil Tilea, Secretary at the Roumanian Legation, has left for Bucharest.

Miss Francis E. Newton has left London on her return to Haifa, Palestine.

General Haddad Pasha is leaving Baghdad for London.

Cardinal Bourne left Malta on February 24 for Naples and Rome.

The Shah of Persia reached Marseilles on February 24 from the East.

A daughter has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Maclean, of the British Consulate, Zagreb.

The marriage arranged between Viscount Tamworth and Miss Hermione Morley, was due to take place at Sialkot, Punjab, India, last Tuesday.

Colonel Bramley, Director of Public Security in Palestine, is coming home in connexion with the formation of the new British Gendarmerie Force.

Air Vice-Marshal Sir E. L. Ellington left London by on February 23 by the P. and O. express train for Marseilles, there to join the s.s. *Kaisar-i-Hind* for Port Said.

Sirdar Abdul Hadi Khan, the first Afghan Minister to the Court of St. James's, is a passenger by the incoming mail steamer from India. He will land at Marseilles, and is expected to arrive in London immediately.

Lt.-Colonel Sir Wolesey Haig, who has recently returned from Persia, and Lady Haig are staying with Colonel and Mrs. W. W. Ward at Baston Lodge, St. Leonards-on-Sea.

According to a telegram received by Dr. Weizmann, president of the Zionist Organization, Sir Herbert Samuel, High Commissioner for Palestine, is decidedly better after his recent indisposition, and is improving daily.

The engagement is announced between Mr. T. Arthur Codner, of Kingskerswell, South Devon, and Dora Ogilvy Cameron, only child of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Aitken, Oak Hill, Torquay, and late of Ceylon.

The wedding of Brigadier-General Rudolph Hogg, C.M.G., C.I.E., Central India Horse, and Mrs Eldred Platt, youngest daughter of the late Sir Henry and Lady Green, took place last week at the Chapel Royal, Savoy.

The marriage was celebrated on February 22, at St. Margaret's, Westminster, between Major Norman Stead Turner (R.F.A., late Commanding the British base Depot, Mesopotamia) and Elizabeth Taylor (late Q.A.I.M.N.S.Res., Mesopotamia).

Major F. H. Humphrys, the British Minister to Afghanistan, had to delay the crossing of the frontier for a few days, and it is now expected that he will reach Kabul about the same time as the Afghan Minister arrives in London. His Councillor will be Mr. R. R. Maconachie and his medical adviser Major A. N. Dixon.

At Oxford University on February 21, the Craven Committee were authorised to make grants to Mr. S. Casson, Fellow of New College, towards the expenses of his proposed excavations in Macedonia, and to Mr. W. A. Heurtley, Oriel College, to enable him to prolong his studies at the British School at Athens, of which he is the Oxford student for 1921-22.

The Alexandria correspondent of the *Morning Post* writes (February 21):—The League of Nations Health Commission to the East has arrived in Egypt. The members of the Commission are Drs. Masden (Denmark), Buchanan (Britain), Blue (America), Violle (France), and Jitta (Holland). They inspected the quarantine area here, and will shortly proceed to Palestine.

The ceremony of the betrothal of King Alexander of Yugoslavia and Princess Marie of Roumania was celebrated on February 19, at the Controceni Palace at Bucharest, Archbishop Miron Krstea officiating in conformity with the Serbian rites. King Alexander presented his fiancée with an emerald ring. In the evening a private dinner was held at the Palace, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs gave a gala dinner to M. Pashitch, at which M. Bratiano, the Roumanian Premier, was present.

Three Rhodes Lectures on "The New Constitution of India" (Government of India Act, 1919) are being delivered at University College by Sir Courtenay Ilbert, G.C.B., K.C.S.I. The first introductory address was given on March 1 under the presidency of the Right Hon. The Viscount Chelmsford, and the other two lectures, which are on "Provincial Government" and "Central Government" respectively, will be given, both at 5.30 p.m., on March 8 and March 15, the Right Hon. Lord Carmichael and the Right Hon. Lord Meston, respectively to be in the chair.

Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby left Victoria by the 8.15 boat train on February 22, to return to Egypt via Brindisi. In conversation with a Press representative Lord Allenby said that an arrangement had been made with the Government to the effect that the results of his mission to this country should be published simultaneously in London and Cairo, and in these circumstances he had nothing to say as to those results. With regard to other matters, statements had already been made in the Press, to which he had nothing to add. Among those on the platform to bid farewell to Lord Allenby were Field-Marshal Sir Henry Wilson, the new member for North Down, General Sir Ian Hamilton, representatives of the Foreign Office, and a few personal friends. Lord Allenby was accompanied by Mr. Sheldon Amos, Legal Adviser to the Egyptian Ministry of Justice.

The Arab Horse Society's Show

of Arab Stallions, Mares and young stock, and also of Arab-bred horses will be held (in conjunction with the National Pony Society's Show).

AT THE

Royal Agricultural Hall

Islington, N.

on Friday and Saturday, MARCH 3rd and 4th, 1922.

APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS.

The *Gazette* announces the appointment of Colonel Bhola Nauth, C.I.E., I.M.S., as Honorary Physician to the King, Indian Military Forces, in place of Major-General P. Carr-White, C.B.E., M.B., F.R.C.S., I.M.S. (retired).

The following officers are appointed Honorary Surgeons to the King, Indian Military Forces: Colonel J. K. Close, M.D., I.M.S., and Colonel W. G. Pridmore, C.M.G., M.D., I.M.S.

M. Yevren Taditch, now at the Yugoslav Legation in Washington, has been appointed Counsellor at the Legation in London.

The Earl of Lytton, Governor-Designate of Bengal, has appointed the following members of his staff:

Private Secretary.—Mr. W. H. Wilkinson, I.C.S.

Military Secretary.—Major H. G. Vaux, C.I.E. (for six months).

Aides-de-Camp.—Capt. J. Selwyn, R.A., Capt. E.D. Eveleigh, M.C., R.A.

Mr. G. V. Colchester has been appointed to the post of geologist on the Geographical Survey of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan in succession to Mr. C. T. Madigan, who now holds a lectureship on Geology at Adelaide University.

OBITUARY.

The death has occurred, at Galata Estate, Ceylon, of Mr. Oliver Stafford Edwards. For 36 years he was a planter in Ceylon, where he earned fame as a champion quoit player, cricketer, and long and short distance runner. Perhaps he was best known for his service in the Ceylon Planter's Rifle Corps, having over 39 years to his credit; he served with the Ceylon contingent in the South African War.

Major F. W. M. Drew, South Lancashire Regiment, died on February 17 at Jerusalem, Palestine, at the age of forty-one. He took part in the South African War in 1902, for which he had the Queen's medal with two clasps. He was engaged in the Great War, 1914-1918, when he was twice mentioned in despatches. He also gained the D.S.O.

The death is announced of Lady Feodora Gleichen, an accomplished sculptor. Born in 1861, she was the eldest of the children of Prince and Princess Victor of Hohenlohe-Langenburg. Among her productions those of particular interest to readers of *The Near East* may be mentioned, including the memorial for the Countess of Cromer at the Foundling Hospital, Cairo, the portrait bust of the Emir (now King) Faisal, and the statuette in bronze, on a lapis lazuli base, called "Victory," which was presented to the King by the Maharaja Scindhia of Gwalior.

The death is announced of the first Lieut-Governor of Burma, Sir Frederick Williams Richards Fryer, K.C.S.I., at the age of 77. Entering the Indian Civil Service in 1863, he was sent to the Punjab, and in 1878 and 1879 served with the Quetta Field Force during the Afghan War. On the annexation of Upper Burma he was transferred thither and appointed Commissioner of the Central Division, taking a prominent part in the pacification of the country. His work in Burma was interrupted by two years' service in the Punjab as officiating Financial Commissioner and additional member of the Viceroy's Council, but in 1895 he returned to Burmah as Chief Commissioner. When the province was raised to the status of a Lieutenant-Governorship he was appointed the first holder of the office, which he held for six years.

The death has occurred, as the result of a boating accident at Rapallo of Lieutenant Norman Peplow, D.S.C., R.N. After assisting at the Battle of Jutland Lieutenant Peplow was appointed to command H.M.S. *Druid*, one of two destroyers detailed to cooperate with the Army in Palestine during Lord Allenby's final advance, for which services he was mentioned in despatches and awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. He was next selected as one of the Naval representatives with the Military Mission attached to General Denikin's staff in South Russia, and in the retreat of the Russian Volunteer Army from Taganrog in 1919 was awarded a bar to the Distinguished Service Cross and the Order of St. Stanislas, 2nd class, with crossed swords, for his services on board the ice-breaker *Donskoi Gerla* during the evacuation of the British Military Mission from Taganrog. At the time of his death he was Assistant Naval Attaché at Rome.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 1922.

A PLEA FOR THE D.O.T.

As for once developments abroad make no call for urgent comment, it is possible to turn from the realm of politics to a question of grave import for the welfare of British commercial enterprise that has arisen as a result of the report of the Geddes Committee with reference to the Department of Overseas Trade. It was to be anticipated that the recent additions to the body administrative would be given the most searching attention by Sir Eric Geddes and his colleagues in their exhaustive survey of the possible openings for economy, in particular those Departments established during the war period, among which is numbered the Department in question. But while great changes were clearly inevitable it seemed very improbable, especially in view of the present trade situation, that the Department, which was established in 1917 as a belated answer to the demand of the business community some sixteen years ago for a Ministry of Commerce, could be in any serious danger. This expectation as we know has not been fulfilled, and the Committee, not content with advocating the abolition of the Department and the transference of its functions to the Board of Trade, have gone so far as to recommend the policy of non-interference by the State in matters of trade. The effect of the adoption of these recommendations would be to put the clock back, not to 1914, when the business community could look for assistance to the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, but to the period not many years before that when no direct assistance was given to commercial endeavour. If it was clearly proved that the Department's work has been of comparatively small assistance to trade this policy would be intelligible, but in their report the Committee show that they recognise the value of some of the services rendered; their view is simply that it is a matter for the individual and not for the community. It is unfortunate that the Committee did not number among its members representatives of merchants and manufacturers; otherwise they could not have conceived the erroneous supposition that individual activities could compensate for the lack of State help. No firm could obtain for itself the information now freely at its disposal, and the fact that during the past year the Department received over two thousand inquiries for assistance from the principal Trade Associations shows plainly that its abolition would mean that there would be a very definite gap in our commercial intelligence. Another factor that possibly bore weight with the Committee may have been the belief that it is only small firms who seek the help of the Department. As a matter of fact a number of large firms have frequently consulted the Department, which has been able to give very practical and most appreciated help both here and overseas. Henceforward if the recommendations are carried into effect our firms will have to do without this support, at a time, too, when British trade will need all the assistance it can obtain; and there must be, unfortunately, a very real danger of this happening if the business community does not make its views heard on the subject with no uncertain voice.

The fact that hitherto only isolated protests have been forthcoming suggests that commerce has not yet appreciated the full import of the recommendations; otherwise it is unbelievable that objections would not have been forthcoming from all sides. It is not merely that the reversal of the Government's policy would mean the denial to traders of specific information, indeed of any

intelligence at all that would be of immediate practical value; the effects would go far deeper than that, and would be felt in a variety of ways, not all of which, we think, can have been realised by the Committee, which, it must be borne in mind, had no time at their disposal for a really intimate examination of the affairs of any one Department. One of the most obvious corollaries to the disappearance of the Department of Overseas Trade would be that a great deal of work now done by its representatives would devolve on the Diplomatic Service, which will be much too fully occupied for many years with matters arising from the War to be able, with the best will in the world, to do adequate justice to fresh obligations. Apart from the circumstances of the time diplomacy cannot be regarded as the ideal vehicle for commercial bargaining from the trade point of view. In the days of Finch it was possible to combine diplomacy with the commercial representation of a country, but the dual functions would rest uneasily on the shoulders of a modern diplomatist, accustomed to using commerce as a lever for obtaining political advantages instead of the other way about. Then there is the position with regard to the Mandated Territories. There are, of course, no consuls there at present, and it is only through the ministrations of the Department that British trade can be assisted. In these regions, particularly in Palestine, work of an invaluable character has been accomplished, and if as conditions become more settled there is a great trade expansion it will be due very largely to this excellent spade work. If the Department ceases to be, British traders will be left without any official commercial representatives in these territories. Then, the Department exercises a general supervision over the activities of the Consular Service, advising its members and giving them guidance and support. This is a very necessary and most valuable function, for there is nothing more likely to conduce to good work than the knowledge that an active organisation at home is following a representative's doings. Is this work to come to an end, or is another Department to be enlarged to do it?

Finally there is the question of the Near East and other regions which are still in the throes of post-war reconstruction. In due course these countries will have settled down—before long in all probability as regards most of the Near East States—and when that happens there will be enormous competition for trade and concessions, and success will fall to the country which has the best organisation at the moment that matters. If we destroy our commercial intelligence service, for that is what the application of the recommendations means in plain terms, we shall not be in a position to utilise the occasion to any advantage, and, as has happened before in the Near East, we shall have to give place to more circumspect rivals. That is scarcely a prospect to look forward to with equanimity, but there is nothing to be gained in clouding the issue, and that is the outlook. One thing, and one only, would seem to justify the Committee in their action, and that would be an enormous reduction of expenditure which could not possibly be effected in any other direction. But even that excuse will not avail, for the total sum that would be saved by the abolition of the Department would not be more than £80,000 at the outside after allowance had been made for pensions and gratuities to officials who would have to be retired. It seems almost superfluous to ask whether it is worth saving what is relatively a very trifling sum at the expense of such grave disadvantages as would be entailed. As a matter of fact, however, the saving would not even be £80,000, for there would be various items of no small importance to be placed upon the debit side, the effect of which might well be to turn the whole transaction into a financial failure. The lack of official information would place the onus on every firm of increasing its expenditure on intelligence, in the case of small firms through greater activity on the part of trade associations, and as regards large firms through individual action, and while neither category would be able to do more than cover a very small part of the ground the total expenditure would be great, and there would be so much the less liable to taxation.

SOME THOUGHTS ON BULGARIA IN 1922.

By "C. S. W."

On October 1, 1915, when Bulgaria entered the Great War on the side of the Central Powers, a Sofia review known as *Free Opinion* was suppressed, as well as a daily paper known as *The Balkan Entente*. Both were strong supporters of the old friendship with Russia, and both advocated a close entente between the Christian Powers of the Balkans. Clearly such views were not desired by Ferdinand at such a time, and so the periodicals disappeared "by order." The former has now been revived after a silence of over six years; but it is not the same Review. To begin with, its name is a mockery. The free expression of opinion is not permitted in Bulgaria at present. One can readily understand and even sympathise with M. Stambolisky's anxiety to prevent wild and foolish talk and writing tending to aggravate his real difficulties in adjusting the relations of Bulgaria with her neighbours. There is some real justification for a strict censorship on all writings dealing with such matters, though one hopes that it will be taken off at the earliest opportunity. But there can be no such justification for the prohibition of the freest discussion of internal affairs. The attitude of the present Government in severely censoring such discussion only does harm, not only to the Government itself, but to the nation. It does not seem possible that M. Stambolisky can fail to realise this before long. When he does, this Review may show the way to others by presenting some of the many sides from which various important internal problems can be discussed and may, as far as can be judged from the four numbers before me, be trusted to do so with a moderation that will be a novelty in Bulgaria. But this is not all. The Review is now known as *L'Opinion Libre*, and is published in French. Clearly a magazine having as its objects the cultivation of good relations with the Entente Powers and with the other Balkan States should address itself to the Bulgarian public. Most of the people whom the paper ought to be trying to influence read only Bulgarian. It is clear, therefore, that its conductors have other ideas in view; they wish to reach, not Bulgarians, but the people of Western Europe. In other words, their object is propaganda. This suspicion is confirmed by the contents of the numbers which have been sent to me. Besides some valuable historical papers on the Bulgaria and Yugoslavia of the past, these numbers are mainly devoted to reasoned arguments against various provisions of the Treaty of Neuilly. What is new is that these arguments are reasoned, and well reasoned, and that the tone adopted by the writers is eminently sane. In other words, behind all its camouflage, which I cannot but regret, *L'Opinion Libre* promises to be a Review well worth reading and considering.

The two main points discussed in the numbers before me are the effect which the Treaty has had in putting an end to the hope of uniting the whole Bulgarian nation under one State and the defenceless state of the Kingdom owing to the provisions for a voluntary army.

For centuries the Bulgarian nation was enslaved by the Turks, and all the time it dreamed of its greatness and longed for the day of liberation when the united nation could take something of its old place in the world's history. When freedom came, even though only in a modified form, the Treaty of San Stefano promised a reality not unlike their dream. When that

Treaty was disallowed and modified, the Bulgarians felt that they had been deprived of something infinitely important to them, and all their efforts since then have been directed to undoing what was then done. To omit intervening history, it was the hope of uniting the nation which induced Bulgaria, however hesitatingly, to enter the war against us. To be quite frank, it is this intense desire that will lead Bulgaria into another war unless something is done to modify the existing state of affairs left by the various treaties made after the Great War. Bulgaria has long ceased to long for Bessarabia or Northern Dobruja, though an important part of the population of these countries is Bulgarian. But the recent loss of the piece of the Dobruja which she has long held was bitterly felt, and one cannot but hope that when Roumania is once more blessed with a strong Government, she may see her way, by a *beau geste*, to return to Bulgaria what the latter regards as honestly hers, and what must always be a trouble and hindrance to Roumania herself. What is quite certain is that permanent quiet will be impossible while Roumania holds this small tract of country, and that the mere fact that she does hold it must make really friendly relations between the countries, which are so essentially necessary for both, an impossibility. One also greatly deplores the cession to Yugoslavia of the small district round Tsaribrod which constitutes a constant threat to the Bulgarian capital and incorporates a purely Bulgarian district in a foreign State. There is possibly a way round this which I shall mention presently.

There remain the very thorny questions of Macedonia and Thrace. Bulgaria claims that Macedonia and Western Thrace are Bulgarian, and clamours for their union with her. That the Macedonians themselves, or the inhabitants of Western Thrace, share these views is far from being apparent. It is, however, probable that they would rather form part of Bulgaria than of Greece or Yugoslavia, perhaps chiefly because the Bulgarians have never shown that cold welcome to the stranger in their midst which their Western and Southern neighbours have shown, and are showing at the present moment. But Macedonia has no longing to be Bulgarian. It wants to be Macedonian, and I believe that all thinking Bulgarians, outside a very small minority of extremists, as well as most Yugoslavs, would be perfectly satisfied if Macedonia were made autonomous. Not perhaps a very brilliant prospect for a settled State? Perhaps not, but nothing could be worse than the existing state of affairs, while Macedonia has more than once given men of leading to Bulgaria who might equally well be used in the administration of their own country. The NEAR EAST has advocated this course so long and so ably that I need not dwell on the arguments here, except to point out that they apply almost as strongly to that part of Thrace which is not returned to Turkey after the revision of the Treaty of Sèvres. Greece is at present holding Thrace, not by the will of the people but by the help of a large and expensive garrison which she cannot afford. The country is in no sense Greek; and to hold it will be a constant source of weakness to Greece. *Pace L'Opinion Libre* I believe that the same would be true if it were handed over to the Bulgarians.

The provisions in the Treaty of Neuilly relating to the Bulgarian Army were clearly copied from the Treaty of Versailles, though the circumstances of Germany and Bulgaria had no similarity whatever. No one doubts that it is wise to prevent the training of a big Army Reserve or that the substitution of a long-service voluntary army for one of conscripts is calculated to



ASK FOR

WHITE HORSE WHISKY



BY APPOINTMENT.

bring about this result. No one doubts either that Germany is perfectly capable of raising the army allowed to her by voluntary recruitment. But Bulgaria is in a very different case. To begin with, the numbers allowed her are so small that any Reserve resulting from conscription must necessarily be small also, while even a big Reserve is of no use to a country unable to produce arms and ammunition, as long as her supply of arms and ammunition is strictly limited. This, however, is by the way. The real argument is that Bulgaria must have some force to keep order in the country and on her frontiers, that she is a danger to herself and to Europe without such force, and that it is utterly impossible that she can raise this absolutely necessary force as long as she is obliged to recruit men for a period of twelve years. The kind of men who will be attracted to the colours under the present restrictions are precisely the kind who will be a danger to their country and to its neighbours. I remember asking a very distinguished member of the Opposition in Sofia whether M. Stambolisky would succeed in raising a voluntary army. His reply was "God forbid, for, if he does, the nation will have to be armed to protect itself from the army." This I hold to be a perfectly sane view.

I intentionally refrain from re-stating the reasons why the average Bulgarian peasant will not join the army under such conditions, as they have been stated over and over again, and are patent to any one who has spent even a short time in the country. But I would point out that the Balkans have for centuries been the home of bandits and *Komitajis*, that times are hard and consequently unusually productive of these undesirable gentlemen, that Bulgaria has at present no force to keep them under, that she has no prospects of ever having such a force, and that her neighbours are, perhaps naturally enough, looking out eagerly for causes of offence on their frontiers though they know well that, with the best of will, M. Stambolisky cannot stop them with no force behind him. The whole question is one of very urgent importance, and demands to be settled at once in a common-sense way. Is the peace of the Balkans and of Europe to be imperilled merely because some one is unwilling to admit that a mistake was made in supposing the circumstances of Bulgaria to be precisely on all fours with those of Germany?

Our Review so far shows no desire to press on with an entente between the Balkan nations, though it must be admitted that it avoids the attacks on others to which we have become too much accustomed in Balkan propaganda, Bulgarian as well as that of her neighbours. But surely its very able conductors must see the vast importance of bringing such an entente about. It will not be easy, nor will it be done in a day—too many memories of the past exist—but it can be done, and it must be done if the Balkan countries want peace and prosperity; and I can imagine no task more worthy. A beginning should clearly be made with the Yugoslavs, who are the nearest relatives of the Bulgarians, have been their most bitter enemies, and yet are their most necessary allies and friends. Fortunately, the Croats and Slovenes are free from the feelings which past history has, rightly or wrongly, instilled into the Serbs. It is for Bulgaria to take the first step. The first step, as the old proverb tells us, is not an easy one to take nor will it necessarily lead far in itself. But it has to be taken before further progress is possible

I can imagine no one more fitted to take it than the hard-headed, clear-minded Bulgarian, who loves his country dearly and is more capable than most of seeing how to serve her unblinded by false sentiment. Incidentally, the closer the entente between Yugoslavia and Bulgaria, the less are the old wounds of Nish and the recent ones of Tsaribrod, likely to be felt. Possibly the producers of our Review are pursuing these objects, but not in French. If so, I wish them all success in their courageous and patriotic task.

One other thought arises from reading this Review. It is in French. This is natural, but with one small exception, the only articles in it dealing with Western nations concern France. Is this because Bulgaria hates England or desires to avoid dealings with her? Quite the contrary is the case. Bulgaria has had a very special place for England in her heart ever since the days of Gladstone's campaign against Turkey, and Bulgarian business men well know the value of English friendship in business matters while her politicians do not undervalue the importance of her support. But Bulgaria is quite honestly puzzled. Our "man in the street" looks on the Bulgarian nation as one which deliberately, perhaps treacherously, went into the field against us and, by doing so, was responsible for the hideous tragedy of Gallipoli and for prolonging the war greatly. We see that she suffered little in the war, and we feel that she has deserved severe punishment and must put up with it. The Bulgarian feels nothing of this and does not realise that we do so. He feels that he was dragged into the war on the wrong side by an unprincipled King served by self-seeking Ministers, that he got nothing out of it except insults from his German allies, that his actively hostile acts against the English were few and unimportant and that, in the end, he has had to pay a big penalty for backing the wrong horse. He saw the Great War from afar. Not a dozen Bulgarians, I should think, have seen the devastated lands of France, and very few have realised to any degree what we suffered in the war. The two points of view are so opposed that it is useless to try to get them to meet at once.

To me the French appear to have taken the wiser way. True, they had not Gallipoli to think of. But they have realised that, now that the war is over, France's duty is to look out for what advantages she can get even from ex-enemies (when she does not fear them as she does Germany). She knows that the Bulgarians are a race of hard-working honest folk who have made marvellous strides in their forty years of freedom, whose appetite for learning and knowledge is insatiable, and whose ready attachment to those who are friendly to them is patent. She knows also that they hold the key to the Balkans. She thinks it worth her while to make known her sympathy with them, to release Bulgarian assets in France which she is entitled to hold under the Treaty, to encourage the investment of French capital in Bulgarian enterprises, and generally to do what she can without much sacrifice to show herself friendly. We are too fond of denouncing French policy. Why cannot we begin to do something of the same kind? We could do it so much better and with so much more effect. At very little cost to ourselves we may still build up relations between the Bulgarians and Britain which may stand us in good stead in the future. If we put off much longer, it will be too late. Bulgaria will suffer, but so shall we.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

In consequence of queries, the Editor thinks it advisable to state that the quotation from any article does not necessarily imply that the views expressed are shared by "The Near East." On the contrary, an attempt is made to include as far as is possible in the available space all sides of the various questions discussed.

Egypt.

The *Outlook* of February 18 contains an article called "Cross-Currents in Egypt" which, beginning with a comment on the "moderation" of Sarwat Pasha, proceeds to discuss his demand for the immediate calling together of the Egyptian Legislative Assembly:—

Now a general election in Egypt is always a comic opera affair; the *fellah* never goes to the polls unless he is practically forced to; and in the relaxation of authority, which will inevitably follow a British withdrawal, it will simply be a question of the most forceful party in the State collecting the largest number of votes. This is where the Zaghloulites excel. If they are left to stir up riots and create an atmosphere of intimidation it is certain that not single moderate will be returned; and though surprising changes can often be wrought in the views of an Egyptian provincial M.P. after he arrives in the capital to take his seat, still the fact that every elected member of the Assembly was pledged to oppose him would undoubtedly add to Sarwat Pasha's difficulties, and might make it impossible for him to carry out his bargain with us. While the Zaghloul party continues to be strong enough to create disturbances when and where it likes, even the most patriotic Egyptian Prime Minister may view with equanimity the retention of a few foreign garrisons.

The article concludes with an examination of the relations between British and French in Egypt:—

From the British point of view this question of the presence of our troops in Egypt has a wider significance. For forty years the Union Jack has flown over the Citadel in Cairo—not to mark the conquest of Egypt, for we have never treated the Egyptians as a conquered people; not merely to indicate the presence of our garrison; but simply to make it impossible that any other European flag should fly there. That, and not the Egyptian flag, has always been the alternative. We require now from Sarwat Pasha and from Egypt guarantees that would satisfy any reasonable man that there is no danger of such a substitution in the future. We have no objection in principle to allowing the Egyptians to govern themselves in their own way, but we cannot permit our influence in Egypt to be undermined by the subjects of any European Power because such a process could only mean, in the end, one thing—the formal intervention of that Power in the affairs of Egypt and the running up of some other European flag upon the staff from which we have removed the Union Jack. The European Power with most influence in Egypt, after ourselves, is, of course, France. Englishmen and Frenchmen have never been quite so friendly in Egypt as in other parts of the world; French newspapers in Egypt, with a wide circulation among Syrians and educated natives, have always been more or less Anglophobe; the leaders of the Egyptian Nationalists in the past have made Paris their spiritual home. We do not wish to attach undue importance to local jealousies, but there is something more than that—something which, in a critical time like this, we do not hesitate to refer to plainly. It is said that French agents have lately been active in Egypt, getting in touch with leading Nationalists and inducing them by the usual means to agree to the substitution of French influence for British, commercially and politically, when our evacuation takes place. It is not suggested that these are authorised agents of the French Government, nor even that they have

had official encouragement, but the story, if true, well illustrates the danger of making premature concessions and the kind of international complications that will arise if the government of independent Egypt is given too free a hand. Lord Curzon, it is stated, has in his possession a dossier containing a report of the activities of these people, and this was laid before Adly Pasha in London last autumn. We trust that it will be made clear to Adly's successor that this kind of thing cannot and will not be allowed.

The Moslem Problem.

Under the above heading Colonel the Hon. Aubrey Herbert, M.P., contributes an article to the *Westminster Gazette* of February 22, in which he examines the attitude of Mr. Lloyd George to the Turks. He refers to the time-honoured ignorance of the Turk in this country:—

Before the war, in England, there existed two schools of thought about the Turks. Neither of them was a school that could have passed a reasonably intelligent examination. The Liberals believed that massacre was the daily habit of the Turks, and that they ought to be driven from Europe; they held that Mr. Gladstone was the saviour of Christian minorities in the Near East, in spite of the fact that the massacres continued. The Conservatives thought that the Turks were the only gentlemen in the Balkans, that Great Britain had rescued them in the Crimean War, and that they would be our Allies when the Russians attacked India. The public is better, though not fully, informed to-day. The Turk has something to his credit as well as to his debit account; and so have all the other Eastern nationalities. The Turk's misfortune lies in his geographical situation. The Near East is a mosaic of rebellious colours. Each series of conquerors has wished vainly to paint it one homogeneous shade, but the colours stay, and will not blend.

We bred one efficient Cromwell, the author of a brief, brutal, and temporarily successful policy of repression in Ireland. Cromwell was the statesman who bequeathed to future generations agony and pain that still trouble us in February 1922.

The Turks have had no island incurrection to deal with. Continental Sinn Fein has been their inveterate enemy, and if their Cromwells have not been less efficient in their day than ours the legacy of bitter seed that they have left has been more deeply sown and more widely scattered. At this

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date, blame or palliation, praise or recrimination, with regard to Turkey are all irrelevant as far as Great Britain is concerned. Politicians and orators mobilise a vindictive army of ghosts, on both sides, to no purpose. We need a statesman's peace, that will restore our good name, give real security to minorities and allay the unrest in our Eastern Empire. We need something very different from the electioneering Conference abroad. In the interests of the country, it is the British workman and taxpayer, not the British voter, who should be considered.

He then details the manifestations of the British Premier's attitude towards Turkey, and concludes:—

The Prime Minister's experience in legislation seems to have had an unfortunate effect on his conduct of foreign policy. He has constantly passed colossal legislation, only to scrap it afterwards. This can be **done** in home legislation. It is possible to pass and then to destroy an Act for the taxation of land, or an Agricultural Act, though both the passing and the destruction cause annoyance and discomfort to the community, but it is not possible to treat foreign policies, where these policies concern and initiate wars, in the same way. Mr. Lloyd George cannot raise the dead, order a battle to stop, or two races who have been set at each other's throat to cease hating.

Mesopotamia.

The *Fortnightly Review* of February contains an account, written by Robert Machray, of the doings of the British in the Middle East, since the Armistice. It consists chiefly of a *résumé* of facts, but at the end of his article the writer sets down his own conclusions as follows:—

A Great Arabia—an Arab Empire, consisting of Syria, Palestine, Arabia, and Mesopotamia—was and no doubt is, in spite of the Mandates for Syria and Palestine, the dream of Feisal and the Pan-Arabs. It is idle to say it is a noble dream, for it is impracticable in Arab conditions. Yet to some extent the British, through Government action, appear to be supporting it. For not only have they placed Feisal on the throne of Mesopotamia, but they have taken measures with respect to Arabia that are tantamount to a protectorate over that country. The greatest Arab as well as Arabian prince in the world is Ibn Saud, the Emir of Nejd-Hassa; he has a deadly feud with King Hussein of the Hejaz and therefore with Feisal; the British have bought him off with an annuity of £60,000 a year, "paid monthly in arrears," provided he keeps quiet. But what if Hussein attacks him, as he has attacked him before? Saud has always beaten Hussein, and in 1919 Mecca lay at his mercy, but the British intervened and he retired. Are we, the British, backing the wrong horse once more? As regards Mesopotamia what is to be done? Are we to continue to uphold Feisal, or should we withdraw to Basra or from the whole country? Because of India the writer advocated British retention of Mesopotamia so long as there was a prospect of the terms of the Anglo-Persian Agreement being carried out. Mesopotamia plus Persia—this was our policy in 1919-20—amply protected the flank of India. But the Bolsheviks have been too much for us in Persia, the Anglo-Persian Agreement is a thing of the past, and our prestige there is in the dust. Why this is so is too long a business to explain at the close of an article, but Persia is not now in the picture. This being the case, and considering all the implications of the Pan-Arab movement, the writer doubts the wisdom of our staying on in Mesopotamia, except at the mouth of the Gulf.

On the ground that the present Bolshevik occupation of Georgia in no way affects the international status of the Democratic Georgian Republic, the Georgian Minister in Paris has applied to the Allies for an invitation to his Government to send representatives to the Genoa Conference.

DR. HALL ON BABYLONIAN EXCAVATION.

At a meeting of the Central Asian Society, held on February 9) at the Royal United Service Institution, Dr. H. R. Hall gave an account of his experiences while excavating in Mesopotamia on behalf of the British Museum in 1919. His work had, he stated, been chiefly carried out at Ur and Eridu—the latter the most ancient and most holy city of Babylonia. Dr. Hall said he had gone out during the war to assist the Mesopotamian Government in archaeological matters, and upon reaching the country had first gone to Babylon to report upon certain excavations which had been made by German archaeologists. These had remained at Babylon quite late—until in fact the British were in possession of Baghdad—but had then abandoned their work. There was a house in which they had lived, and in which they had stored the more interesting of their finds, and this house being deserted the Arabs had naturally taken the opportunity to plunder it. When Dr. Hall arrived, however, he found that little real damage had been done; among the articles that the Arabs had appropriated were a number of tall linen collars, but the antiquities they had not thought worth taking away.

Interesting lantern slides showed the results of the excavations. Among other things were some early graves. The earliest inhabitants of the country buried their dead in coffins consisting of two opposed pots with a vent for the escape of the gases of putrefaction. The grave was most commonly although not always underneath the house. At Ur and Eridu, as elsewhere in Babylonia, building was chiefly in brick; but at Eridu the remains had been discovered of some rough stone work in the protecting walls of the city. Limestone for this had been brought from some hills—though they hardly deserved such a name—lying between Eridu and the Persian Gulf. The ruins of the ancient city were now, said Dr. Hall, twenty miles from the Euphrates, and there was no water on the site.

THE NEAR EAST INDEX, VOLUME XX.

The Index to Volume XX (July 7 to December 29, 1921), is now ready, and copies will be sent to subscribers gratis on application to The Manager, *The Near East*, 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

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The B.I.F.

Once more that ever welcome annual event, the British Industries Fair, is with us, and as has been the case ever since the first fair in the now distant war period there is again a very great advance to be recorded. A general survey of the Fair will be found on another page in this issue, but owing to our having to go to Press earlier than usual it is impossible on this occasion to include our customary review of the exhibits. That will appear in our next issue. It is too early to speak of the prospects of business at the Fair, but it is known that a very great number of buyers have expressed their intention of being present.

The D.O.T.

It is not a little surprising that a storm of protest has not been roused by the recommendations of the Geddes Committee with regard to the Department of Overseas Trade. The suggestion is put forward in our leading article that the business community has failed to realise what would be involved in the disappearance of the Department, and the view is also advanced that it is doubtful whether the Committee themselves have realised all that it would entail. It is certain that if the Department goes commerce will very quickly be made aware of the fact by the lack of information on which it has come to rely, by the absence of support overseas, and in a variety of other ways. Possibly it will be argued that as the Government must be in possession of all the facts that Department can be in no danger. That is a quite erroneous view. If the Government knows there is a demand by the business community for the Department its maintenance will be assured but not otherwise.

Bulgarian Property in England.

The inadvisability of the policy adopted with regard to Bulgarian property in this country has been raised more than once in these columns. In the present issue our Sofia Correspondent reports an interview given to him on this question by an eminent Bulgarian who points out that Great Britain stands alone as regards the registration of Bulgarian property, and that this action affects those who are "the best friends England has in Bulgaria, and have always stood for English influence and interests." That is so obvious that it is difficult to understand why it has not been appreciated by the authorities. It is still not too late to retrace our steps, though it soon will be, and in the interests of British trade relations with Bulgaria it is to be hoped that a more far-sighted view will be taken.

The Ter Meulen Scheme.

The news that the Ter Meulen scheme for export credits will in all probability be abandoned does not surprise me in the least. Indeed I fear I must plead guilty to having damned it with faint praise in these columns on more than one occasion. It had such obvious drawbacks, the most important being that an inordinate interval would be required in the most favourable circumstances to bring the scheme into operation.

Why it has Failed?

The application of the scheme in respect of any given country depended upon the willingness of the authorities of the State in question to allocate specific revenues as security. With the exception of Austria, whose extremely precarious financial position assures her acquiescence in any scheme which appears to hold out prospects as regard reconstruction, the States whom the scheme was designed to help have held aloof presumably because they feared a further deterioration of their credit if they made the requisite allocations. Thus there has been no opportunity of demonstrating the efficiency or otherwise of the scheme.

The Greek Loan.

The question of the pending Greek Loan has been the occasion of considerable comment of late. The negotiations for a loan were begun several months ago, the amount desired being, it has been reported, £15,000,000, and on more than one occasion it has been thought that matters were on the verge of a satisfactory conclusion. However up to the time of writing nothing has been arranged, and the report has been current that the original parties to the negotiations on this side have withdrawn as a result of difficulties that have arisen. Whether that be so or not it appears that negotiations are still in progress, and opinion in Greek circles seem to be confident as to an early and satisfactory issue.

Turkey and Greece.

It is to be regretted that Greece's attempt to raise a loan here should have been misinterpreted by a section of Moslem opinion as meaning that Greece would be obtaining assistance here in the shape of munitions for carrying on the war with Turkey. Nothing of the kind, would be countenanced by the authorities, and the idea could not have arisen if those who hold it had been adequately informed as to the facts. There has not been any question of a Government Loan, and the terms of the Trade Facilities Act are an ample guarantee as to the utilisation of any loan that may be obtained through the medium of a private group. That it should be necessary to explain the position simply shows the sensitiveness of Moslem opinion at the moment.

Commentator.

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THE BRITISH INDUSTRIES FAIR.

A Great Exhibition.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

On the last occasion that the British Industries Fair was held the trade outlook was of the most unpromising description, and it was little short of marvellous that in the circumstances the volume of trade done was satisfactory. To-day very different conditions prevail. The trade depression is still with us, but signs are not wanting happily that the worst has been passed and that we are now within measurable distance of the first real trade "boom" since the war. The changed conditions seemed to permeate the atmosphere at the White City at the opening of the Fair this week. Everything seemed to speak of optimism and the expectation that this time very satisfactory business would be done with buyers anxious to anticipate trade requirements. One can only trust that the event will prove this to have been the case. Certainly general appearances at the White City on Monday justified a hopeful outlook. There were more buyers than is usual at the commencement of the Fair, and it was evident that a good deal of business was being transacted. The real rush of buyers at this section of the Fair will come later, for many of them prefer to put the Birmingham section first on their itinerary.

The Fair this year is a veritable index of British industrial prowess. Each succeeding exhibition has marked a further stage in the progress towards making this annual event a really comprehensive undertaking, representative of every phase of British industry. That ideal has still to be reached, for the Fair has not yet attained perfection, but the distance to be covered is not very great as the result of the strides that have been made since the Fair was initiated, and this progress has been particularly marked since last year. One could see noticeable gaps in the Fair of 1921; they have now been very largely filled in; indeed it is not going too far to say that the outstanding feature of the Fair is the astonishing number of new firms that are numbered among the exhibitors. If there were any people inclined to criticise the utility of this exhibition, that fact, one would imagine, would be a wholly adequate answer.

It is greatly to be hoped that, despite the adverse circumstances in the Near East, buyers from that region will not be lacking at the Fair, for there could be no better advertisement of the products of British industry than is provided by the exhibits. The range of them is, indeed, amazing, and the most casual visit to the White City cannot fail to prove a revelation both as regards the variety and the quality of the products on view. I should not dream of attempting to describe them in this brief general survey; it would make this article encyclopaedic in character, but will content

myself with saying that a buyer would have peculiar requirements if he left the Fair unsatisfied.

One may perhaps be pardoned if the first views are of a somewhat straggling nature. The extent of the Fair has a very cramping effect on the initial visit, and in the circumstances one is perforce confined to recording fragmentary impressions. One thing I noticed with special interest was the spectacle of a group of Indian buyers walking down the fairways—if I may use that expression—in animated conversation and obviously extremely intent on the various exhibits. This is the first time that I have seen an Indian at the Fair; and taking into consideration present conditions in that country it seems a very hopeful symptom.

I imagine that everyone concerned is glad that an exhibition of this description is not a monthly event. A tour of inspection round the White City is an arduous undertaking if it merely involves walking round the building; while a tour of both that centre and the Birmingham Fair would involve I do not know how many miles of exercise. Needless to say one day at the White City would not be nearly sufficient for an inspection of the exhibits; indeed it is doubtful if it could be done in much under a week, and it would seem doubtful wisdom in the circumstances to hold both sections of the Fair at the same time, though the practice admittedly has its advantages. Still it is presumably only a little time now before both sections are once more reunited in London when the Wembley buildings are ready.

I have already referred to the quality of the exhibits, and a word is also called for in regard to the great improvement there has been in the general arrangement of the stands. At previous fairs really attractive stands while not exceptional were at any rate sufficiently noticeable to attract very general attention. This time there has been a very general raising of the standard, and very many firms indeed are displaying their works in a most aesthetic manner. It is evident that the art of display has made great progress of late.

While the constant growth of the Fair gives ground for a hopeful view regarding the future of British trade one would like to feel more assured that the firms exhibiting are really taking, or are prepared to take, adequate measures to find outlets overseas. The Fair enormously useful as it is as an instrument of trade endeavour is not the be-all and end-all of trade enterprise. It needs to be supplemented in a variety of ways, not the least important of which is an advertising campaign which will really bring goods before potential buyers. Otherwise the use of the Fair can only have at best a limited utility. Do British firms realise this?

POTASH.

A new volume on the subject of Potash, in the series of Monographs on the Mineral Resources of the Empire, issued under the direction of the Mineral Resources Committee of the Imperial Institute, has just been published. The monograph has been prepared by Mr. Sydney J. Johnstone, B.Sc. (Lond.), A.I.C., of the Scientific Staff of the Imperial Institute, and is a revised and enlarged edition of a former publication. It contains 122 pages and is divided into 11 chapters. Almost the whole of the world's output of potash is used for fertilizing purposes in agriculture, and the demand for it is continually increasing, largely due to the amount of intensive farming that is now carried on. A small proportion of the potash produced is employed in the making of glass, soap, matches and gunpowder; for scouring of wool; in pharmacy, photography, electroplating, and various metallurgical industries.

The first five chapters of the Monograph describe the various sources of solute potassium salts in the world, including the immense deposits in Germany and France, as well as, amongst others, those in the United States, Abyssinia, India, Chile, Peru, Tunis, and South Africa. The remaining chapters deal with other sources of potash, including sea water, insoluble minerals, such as alunite and the felspars, flue dust from cement and blast furnace plants, and vegetable and animal substances. Analyses and statistics are given in important cases and at the end of the volume there is a list of recent publications.

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Commerce and Industry.

REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, February 15.

Government's Economic Policy.

On the occasion of the installation of the new members of the Bucharest Chamber of Commerce, which took place on February 11, M. Sassu, the Minister of Industry and Commerce, took the opportunity of expounding the economic policy of the present Government. M. Sassu commenced his speech by stating the regrettable fact that, despite the two and a half years of peace, the general situation of the country instead of improving has actually grown worse, and that the chief causes of this state of things applied to Roumania's trade as well as to all her other lines of activity. These causes he summed up as following:—(1) The falling off of the State's credit abroad, with the natural consequence that it entailed also the individual credit of the Roumanian merchants just at the time when large and numerous contracts were made abroad. (2) The State's financial difficulties and the absence of a reasoned programme for the financial consolidation of the country. This had largely contributed to the growing uncertainty and confusion in private commercial transactions. (3) The absence of a stable, co-ordinated and continuous economic and financial policy, in other words the ignoring of the real economic factors existing in the country.

The Minister went on to say that after the sad experience of the last two years a general patriotic effort was urgently needed to restore public and economic life to its normal condition. The present Cabinet, he said, had assumed that difficult task by adopting the following programme: The introduction of a régime of continuity by means of a wise and honest economic policy—so much needed by the commercial class; the rapid establishment of unrestricted trading within the country; the suppression of permits to individuals; the regulation of the import trade by a duty tariff corresponding with the general needs of the national economy; the synchronising of the needs of the country's commerce and national production with the requirements of home consumption; the export of home productions would be furthered in the most profitable way for this country which would tend, at the same time, to reduce the very high cost of living; an end would be put to the practice of State trading; and the State's credit would be re-established by a wise financial policy, which would greatly help the Roumanian merchants to settle their present liabilities in foreign inflated currencies. The Government has further determined to end the unfortunate transport crisis, which is considered to be closely connected with a better public administration and the entire State organisation. In

conclusion M. Sassu touched also on the new fiscal taxes, which the present Cabinet intends modifying in such a way that they will not press too heavily on the taxpayers at the present stage of reconstruction.

M. Sassu concluded by strongly appealing to merchants to assist in preventing profiteering for the purpose of reducing the cost of living, for only in that way could the moral as well as economic order of the country be restored.

Miscellaneous.

It is announced that the Paris-Bucharest Air Service will start running during the first days of May. The aeroplanes will leave Paris at 6 in the morning and will arrive in Budapest the same evening, leaving Budapest the next morning at 7 to arrive in Bucharest at about 3 in the afternoon. The Paris-Bucharest fare will cost 1,200 French francs.

It is reported that the new wireless station at Oradia Mare (Transylvania) will be ready for receiving messages within a few days.

Several commercial conventions between Roumania and other countries expire on April 1, and as the Government has not had sufficient time to prepare fresh conventions, she will temporarily grant these states the most favoured nations' clauses similar to the convention with Great Britain.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, February 19.

Sequestration of Bulgarian Property.

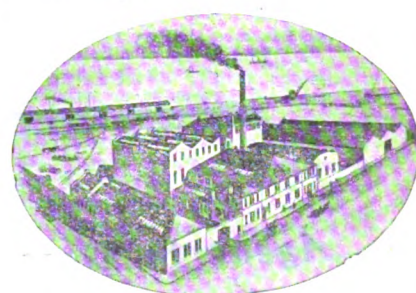
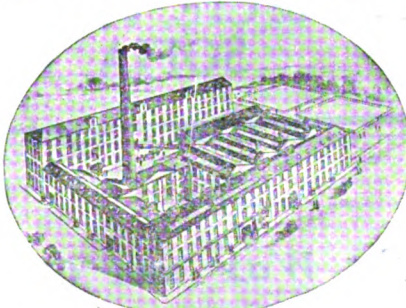
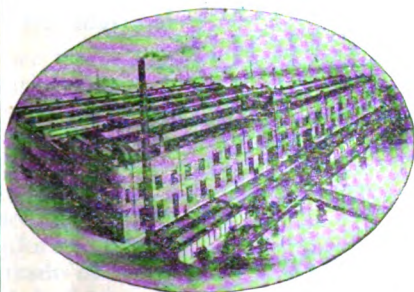
An eminent Bulgarian who has just returned from a business trip in France, Italy, and England, has been kind enough to give me his views on the sequestration of Bulgarian property and moneys by England. He said: "You alone amongst all the Great Powers who were at war with Bulgaria have not raised the sequestration. One of the first acts of M. Picot, the French Minister at Sofia, was to inform the Bulgarian Government that France did not intend to avail herself of the Clearing House for ex-enemy Debts, provided for in the Treaty of Neuilly. Italy followed France's example but England has not. Have you ever considered to whom the money and property that you have seized belong? It belongs to a few Bulgarians, many of them influential men, who for years past have had dealings with England, and who all had faith and confidence in England. They are the best friends England had in Bulgaria, and have always stood for English influence and interests. You are not hurting England's enemies; you are hurting England's friends. Bulgarians are not quick to realise changes, but they are now beginning to realise that amongst the Allies, England is the least

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friendly disposed towards Bulgaria. The result of this realisation is that England is going to become unpopular and trade relations will suffer. An instance of this is that the Bulgarians who are at present serving on the Council of the British-Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce at Sofia, are considering their resignations. I do beg you to consider whether England has not more to gain than to lose by raising the sequestration on Bulgarian property and moneys in England."

The views of this Bulgarian, though perhaps open to criticism on one or two points of detail, represent a point of view that is thoroughly deserving of consideration. We do not want and indeed cannot afford to alienate foreign commercial sympathy to-day. Our prevailing interest is to secure markets for our goods. This can never be done if we pursue our present policy towards Bulgaria.

The Internal Loan.

Subscriptions to the above loan closed on February 10, and although the first series of 100 million levas (£160,000) has been taken up, the loan cannot be said to have been at all a success. The Government are now engaged in amending the conditions under which the loan was issued, and it is anticipated that the loan will be re-opened under more favourable conditions.

ALBANIA.

Tirana, February 12.

Exploitation of Forests.

In a communiqué dated February 14 the Government announces its intention of exploiting the forests of the country, which contain oaks, beeches, pines, and fir trees, through the medium of native and foreign companies. Those who desire to acquire such concessions, and who have at their disposal funds for security, are invited to write for particulars within seventy-five days after the date of this notice to the Minister of Public Works and Agriculture at Tirana who will furnish detailed information. The Government has decided to exploit the forests which are between Durazzo and Alessio, to the east of Kroja, to the east and north-east of Scutari and at Mirdita.

Customs Duties.

Particulars of the Customs duties on goods imported into and exported from Albania should be of interest to British merchants. On exports there is a uniform tax of 2 per cent. *ad valorem*, with the exception of olives, wool, and skins, on which the tax is 5 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Imports are subject to various duties as follows:—Playing cards, matches, paper and cigarettes, 100 per cent.; rectified alcohol intended for the manufacture of spirits, 75 per cent.; beer, wines, liqueurs, 50 per cent.; tobacco, tombac, snuff, 50 per cent.; vegetables and fruit, 50 per cent.; precious stones, pearls, 20 per cent.; ready-made clothes, boots and shoes, underwear, 25 per cent.; watches, clocks, cord, jewellery, furniture, sports goods, toys, 25 per cent.; soap, 25 per cent.; sugar, petrol, flour, etc., 15 per cent.; metal work, 15 per cent.; agricultural machinery, 5 per cent. Other commodities are subject to a duty of 18 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Communications with Neighbouring Countries.

Since the opening of navigation between Riéka and Scutari between Yugoslavia and Albania another route has also been opened for travellers and trade between the two countries—the route between Ohrida and Pogradec, on the lake of Ohrida. Two small motor boats, run by an Albanian company, provide a regular service between the two towns.

Unfortunately the Greek frontier remains closed, and the trade of Kortsche by way of Florina and Salonika, which had been so active, has been reduced to nothing since last April, and has been diverted in the direction of the Adriatic by Saranda.

TENDERS INVITED.

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

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

Egypt.

Material for Army Clothing.—The Egyptian War Department invites tenders for the undermentioned stores:—

Reference.	Material.	Tenders due.
Muh 1922/1/22	..Felt	March 6
Muh 1922/1/11	..Grey calico cotton	March 7
Muh. 1922/1/4	..White cotton drill	March 8
Muh. 1922/1/18	..Khaki cloth for great coats	March 9
Muh. 1922/1/16	..Dark blue artillery cloth ..	March 13
Muh. 1922/1/13	..White cotton nainsook ..	March 14

Tenders to remain open for seven days. Further particulars may be obtained from and samples of the materials required can be inspected at the office of the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Government, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1.

Main Drainage Scheme.—The Department of Overseas Trade has received from His Majesty's Commercial Agent for Egypt, copies of the specifications and drawings connected with Contracts Nos. 7 and 8 for the Mansura Main Drainage Scheme, tenders for which are to be presented at the Chief Engineers' Office, Main Drainage Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo by noon on March 13, and April 26, respectively. (D.O.T.).

Pantaloons.—The Egyptian War Department invites tenders for the supply of 650 pairs pantaloons, Bedford cord. Further particulars may be obtained from, and a sample inspected at the office of the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1. March 13.

M.S. Angles, Tees, Bolts, etc.—The Egyptian War Department invites tenders for M.S. angles, tees, bolts, rivets, locks, etc. Further particulars may be obtained from the office of the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1., March 13.

Uniform Clothing.—The Administration of the Egyptian State Railways invites tenders for the supply and delivery of winter clothing for the season 1922-23. The clothing required includes uniforms of blue cloth, khaki serge and dark grey cloth; blue jean suits for fitters; overcoats of blue cloth and light and dark grey cloth. Tenders on the proper form will be received by the General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo, Egypt. The clothing is to be in strict accordance with the Administration's standard samples, which can be seen at the office of the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian State Railways, Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.1., if notice is given three days before inspection. Tenderers' samples should be submitted to the Superintendent of Stores, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo, Egypt, not later than March 30. Representation by an authorised agent resident in Egypt is essential. April 6 (D.O.T.).

India.

Sewage Scheme.—The Director of Development, Bombay invites tenders for constructing and running for six months sewage scheme for Ambarnath Industrial Area. (Spec., Rs.500. Superintending Engineer, No. 3 Project Division, Directorate-building, Old Customs House Yard, Fort, Bombay). March 15.

Steam Hammers, etc.—The Madras and Southern Mahratta Railways Company, Limited, invites tenders for the supply of 7 steam hammers (7½ cwt., 10 cwt., and 15 cwt.); 11 Bogie Carriage Underframes, Broad Gauge; 1 4-Wheeled Brake Van Underframe, Broad Gauge; 5 4-Wheeled Luggage van Underframes, Broad Gauge. 56 Pairs Wheels and Axles, Broad Gauge; in accordance with the Specifications, which may be seen at the offices of the company. Tenders must be sent in addressed to the Secretary, and marked "Tender for Steam Hammers" or as the case may be. March 7.

Yugoslavia.

Tinplates, solder, etc.—The Commercial Secretary to H.M. Legation at Belgrade reports that tenders are invited for the supply free at petroleum store warehouse at Belgrade, of tinplates, tinned wire, solder, etc., required by the Direction of State Monopolies, Belgrade. Tenders are to be addressed "Uprava Drzavnih Monopola," Belgrade, and marked "Ponuda za Isporuku Materijala za Radionicu Kanti." A deposit of 10 per cent. of the total amount of the tender is required.

The goods required include:—1.—30,000 (thirty thousand) kilogrammes of tinplates, 0.32 m.m. in thickness, in sheets of 250 x 250 mm. 2.—90,000 (ninety thousand) kilogrammes of tinplates, 0.32 mm. in thickness, in sheets of 500 x 370 mm. 3.—150,000 (one hundred and fifty thousand) kilogrammes tinned iron wire of 4 mm. diameter for handles. 4.—3,500 (three thousand five hundred) kilogrammes of pure solder for soldering tins. 5.—3,500 (three thousand five hundred) kilogrammes of pure lead for soldering tins. 6.—30 kilogrammes (thirty kgs.) "nisador" (sal-ammoniac?) in pieces. 7.—250 (two hundred and fifty) kilogrammes of spirits of salt. Each tenderer must submit samples of the material offered. The following are the quantities required as samples:—One sheet of tinplate, half metre of wire, 250 grammes each of lead, solder, sal-ammoniac and spirits of salts. March 11 (D.O.T.).

Engineering Topics.

By Our Engineering Representative.

The Napier "Cub."

A few days ago, by the courtesy of Messrs. D. Napier and Sons I was afforded an exceptional opportunity of examining and inspecting as closely as I wished the most powerful aeroplane engine yet built, the 1,000 h.p. Napier "Cub." At the public inspection, I was taken, like all the others round the huge works of the company and shown the big engine, not only in various stages of completion, but running on a bench test. It was later, after the guests had departed, that I was able to see this marvellous production brought in a few seconds from quietude to the full development of its rated horse power. For my benefit it was stopped and started, run slowly and at quarter, half, and full speeds, and generally put through its paces.

It was during these private little tests that I was able to satisfy myself as to the absolute steadiness of the engine; one could have balanced a penny on any part of the frame work when the dial was reading 950 horse power, and the engine was "revolving" at 1700. Needless to say, the sound of the exhaust was perfectly audible; without exaggeration one could have described it as a solid block of noise. But the valve movement was very sweet, and when one recollects that the engine has 32 inlet and 32 exhaust valves the considered and deliberate statement that the noise of the valve movement was no greater than that given off during the running of an 8 h.p. twin cylinder motor cycle speaks volumes as to the accurate machinery of every part.

Two Pounds Per Horse Power.

The compactness and the low weight of this engine are, next to its amazing power, the most remarkable features of this engine. A motor cycle engine weighs anything from 15 to 20 lb. per horse-power. A locomotive weighs about 145 lb. per horse-power. The Diesel engine is a compact and heavy piece of machinery, and compared with all these the new engine weighs only two lbs. for every horse-power given out at its rated speed. That is, after all, the really revolutionary part about the new design. Anyone could build a powerful engine; all that means is the assembling of large enough cylinders, with long enough stroke, supplied with sufficient petrol gas. But this engine is more than that; it is the lightest engine yet made for its power; it is absolutely the most efficient power unit that has yet been turned out of any workshop. Designed and constructed throughout in a London factory it is at once a milestone in engineering progress and a triumph for British engineering.

It has not yet been decided, or at any rate it has not yet been announced, what use will be made of this wonderful product. There is no doubt, however, that when the time comes for the 1,000 h.p. Napier engine to be fitted in machines built for commercial purposes, it will revolutionise aerial transport by reason of its great power and economical running which will enable it to carry more passengers, or heavier cargoes in a given time than any other engine.

It is only by the greatest care and microscopical accuracy in the manufacture of every detail that this wonderful reliability has been obtained.

From the time the metal in its rough state arrives at the Acton factory, and is tested chemically and physically to the time the engine is assembled it has to pass through hundreds of skilled hands and to undergo scores of operations, after each of which it is measured, viewed and tested to make certain of its absolute accuracy. It is not surprising to anyone like myself who has been over every inch of the works and watched closely every detail of machining and fitting that the Napier Company are able to turn out such remarkable products. My readers are aware that, in previous notes, I have described the 6-cylinder Napier car as being one of the finest productions of the automobile world. In exactly the same way, and for the same reasons I have no hesitation in saying that this new 1,000 horse-power production is by far and away the

greatest achievement yet recorded in the history of aviation.

Car Battery Service.

The Chloride Electrical Storage Co., of Manchester, have just opened a new exide battery station and showroom at Daimler House, Shaftesbury Avenue, thus bringing the number of its battery service stations in this country up to 200 and inaugurating a new policy whereby the owner of any make of car, equipped with any make of battery can use any one of these stations, each of which is specially illuminated at night by a standard sign.

One of the points to which particular attention may be drawn is that if the battery in use on the car is of the exide type, as used on the Wolseley, Rolls-Royce, Fiat, Cadillac, Buick, Ford or others, the owner can take away in exchange for his exhausted cells a battery ready recharged, thus avoiding any delay, and enabling him to drive away whilst the repair or recharging of his own set is being done. Further, he has the advantage of a uniform tariff for all services rendered, and of a standard price list for spares.

These exide batteries are no new departure, but are, on the contrary a well-tried production. In fact the special, light weight and heavy output batteries, which are of the non-spillable type, are used, in both the British and American Air Services, a battery weighing only about 60 lb. being sufficient to start up any ordinary aero-engine.

Emphasis must be placed on the fact that the new car battery service scheme is not confined to cars using exide cells. Any motorist using a battery on his car can drive up to any of these service depots and avail himself of all privileges without having to join any organisation or pay any special fees.

Concrete Requisites.

Mr. E. F. Etchells hit the right nail on the head in the course of his recent presidential address to the Concrete Institute when he said: "What we want is a new type of mechanic or skilled workman; the expert concreter and block setter. Up to now the education of the concreter has been left very largely to chance. Of course, technical institutions include concrete as part of their engineering courses, but this is only incidental. We want to see more than this. Moreover, their courses of instruction have appealed rather more particularly to what is sometimes called 'the directing class' rather than to the artisan class on which, in the end, we must depend for good workmanship; the directing class being mainly responsible for good design." Skilled labour, trained labour, expert labour, labour taking a pride in craftsmanship is what is wanted in every branch of industry and complete success can never be reached until we have this new and responsible type of labour.

A Big Contrast.

The well-known Lincoln engineering firm, Messrs. Ruston and Hornsby, Ltd., are to be congratulated on their success in obtaining the Government of South Africa's contract for 38 heavy oil engines, to be supplied to the South African Railways and Harbours Department. The engines will be used for driving grain elevators and for generating electric power for lighting and other purposes in different parts of the country. There was a good deal of competition to be faced in connection with this contract, which in the aggregate amounted to about 2,500 horse-power, and there is no doubt that the high reputation of the firm and the excellent results always obtained from their engines in practice had much to do with the actual securing of the order.

Concrete Roads.

The construction of concrete roads will have to be undertaken on a far wider scale than highway authorities seem to imagine if we are to keep pace with other countries. The returns for 1921 for one region

show that altogether 102 miles of concrete roads were constructed during the year at a cost of 26,000 dollars per mile inclusive of everything. This compares with 39,000 dollars per mile paid previously for roads of other types. This year's programme includes the construction of a further 600 miles of roadway, all of which will be in concrete.

The Still Engine.

The commercial development of the Still engine, which was fully described in these columns some eighteen months ago, has been slow but nevertheless sure, and the fact that a large power unit of this type is to be installed in the new Blue Funnel liner which is to be built at Greenock by Scott's Shipbuilding and Engineering Co., is sufficient answer to those critics who regarded the engine as of theoretical interest, but no practical value.

This type of engine, it will be remembered, combines the advantages of the steam with those of the internal combustion engine. In the latter we have a tremendous initial force but practically no expansion; in the former the expansion power of steam is utilised throughout the stroke. The upper portion of the cylinder above the piston is in the form used for Diesel engines, whilst the lower portion is that of a steam engine. I understand that before deciding to instal this type of engine in the Blue Funnel boat Messrs. Scott have had one under continuous test for rather over a year and have found that remarkable fuel economies can be effected. I hear that a paper will shortly be read on the subject of the Still engine before the Greenock Association of Shipbuilders and Engineers, and the subsequent discussion should bring out many points of interest.

Taxation Reform.

During the past few weeks I have met a number of the leading men in the British Automobile industry, manufacturers of cars, accessories, and components as well as wholesalers, and on each occasion I have introduced the subject of the present system of motor taxation, and we have discussed its effect on the country's trade. So far I have not heard one word in its defence; harsh, onerous, unfair, and iniquitous are some of the mildest words applied to it. Sir Alfred Mays-Smith rather put the matter in a nutshell the other day, before the Scottish Motor Trade Association, when he said that it was incumbent upon the leaders of the motor industry to do their best to secure a reversion to the petrol duties as the basis of motor taxation, or, failing that, a reduction in the scale of the existing taxes. There is all the difference in the world between a man being called upon to pay a large amount in motor taxation at the very time when his income tax and other calls become due, and in his being able to contribute the same revenue to the Exchequer by a method which extracts that revenue, as the vehicle is being used, throughout the year. In other words when petrol was taxed sixpence a gallon motorists may have grumbled but paid more or less as a matter of course. Sixpence or a shilling seemed a little matter. When it comes to paying out twenty-five or thirty pounds on the nail just after the income tax collector has made it clear that he regards your income as un-

earned, it is just the kind of thing that makes a motorist decide to sell his car.

At the inaugural lunch on the occasion of the opening of Humber House the other day Lieut.-Colonel J. A. Cole told me how the new taxation pressed on manufacturers in another and little known way. It practically makes the trade four-seasonal. Whilst previously a buyer took delivery at the earliest possible moment he now would only take the car ordered into his possession at the end of the quarter, and the question of finding floor space to house cars awaiting delivery is a very big one. It amounts to this, that makers have to buy or rent extensive premises and so add considerably to their production costs because the Government have made a cast iron taxation system and refuse to allow a car user to commence a quarter's use on any other than specified dates. As Mr. Cole said, whatever system is adopted for collecting the ten millions of tax inflicted upon motorists it is imperative that the four-a-year licence must be cut out.

The volume of protest against the system of taxation is not by any means a protest against taxation itself. The motorist does not object to paying for value received. What he does object to is paying in a manner which he considers unfair and inequitable. At the back of his mind what he chiefly objects to is paying out his hard earned money for the upkeep of what he regards as a horde of useless officials. There is, however, no need to labour that aspect of the situation.

A Big Two-Stroke.

It is understood that plans have been prepared for the construction of a two-stroke Diesel engine of 5,000 brake horse power for use on shipboard. The engine will run at 72 revs. per minute, and turbo-scavenging will be adopted which will do away with the necessity for a piston scavenging pump on the engine itself. Two separate three-stage air compressors will be used, and each cylinder will have a diameter and stroke of 900 and 1,550 millimetres respectively.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ..	Piastres to £....	97½	97½
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	96.50-97.50
†Belgrade ..	Dinars to £	25.22½	350
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	983-1025
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1,3½
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1,3½
Brussels.....	Francs to £	25.22½	50.70-51.00
*Bucharest ..	Lei to £	25.22½	540-560
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	640-670
New York....	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.41½-4.44
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	48.05-48.35
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	245-255
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	82.75-85.50
†Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	630
Teheran	Krans to £	50	51
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	20,500-22,500
Warsaw	Marks to £	20.43	16,500-17,500

*Nominal.

† Sellers.



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Stock and Share Markets.

ANOTHER GOOD WEEK.

Gilt Edged Quieter : Other Markets Firm.

(From Our Own Correspondent).

London, Tuesday Evening.

A buoyant tone has continued to prevail during the past week. This time, however, it has not been gilt-edged that have monopolized the attention. The notable advance that has taken place in this market has reduced the yield on the various stocks to less attractive figures, and the result has been that prices have eased off somewhat and that there has been a general broadening of business in which all markets have shared, with the exception, of course, of Rubber and certain mining groups. I indicated the probability of this happening last week it will be remembered, and while the present buoyant conditions of the markets continues it is to be anticipated that its effect will be mainly felt outside the Consols group

A Word of Warning.

I am very much inclined to doubt the stability of the present position. Conditions fully justified an advance in Gilt-edged, but it seems to me that the advance has been overdone, and I should not be in the least surprised to see a very marked setback in the course of the next few weeks. Bear factors are not wanting, it may be pointed out; they have as a matter of fact had a certain amount of effect during the past week in checking the advance in gilt-edged. There is the adverse Irish development for one thing, while the prospects of a General Election loom always more heavily on the horizon. Further afield too it cannot be said that the omens are altogether too promising, and he would be a courageous buyer in my view who would take some of the stocks at the prices to which they have been hoisted. Of course I may be wrong, and this auspicious beginning of the year may prove to be the herald of the El Dorado for which holders of falling stocks have been waiting. But I scarcely think so, and the time seems clearly one for great caution.

Shortage of Stock.

The rise in shares other than gilt-edged is easily explained by the fact that in most groups there is a pronounced shortage of stock. Holders of stocks who have been seriously affected over a long period are not going to part now that there seems more than a chance of the reversal of the wheel of fortune, so prices are simply put up without sufficient transactions to justify the change.

Outside the gilt-edged group one of the most interesting developments has been the sharp rise in bank shares. This is to be attributed, naturally, to the enhanced value of the hidden reserves resulting from the "boom" in the Consols Market. Apart from this chief interest has centred in the strength of the more prominent industrials and of the leading descriptions of the oil market. As those who have followed my comments in recent weeks will have realised, in my opinion there is more money to be made in oils at the present time than any other market provided that care is exercised in the choice of shares. Those who have followed my recommendations have had no reason to complain for every one of the shares I have advocated has moved upwards, though in several cases only after fluctuations. Still that is all in the game.

Gilt-Edged.

Turning to the markets Gilt-edged after commencing the week well suffered a slight set back, and prices are below the previous week's level. Consols at 55½ are 1½ lower, War Loan Fives have eased off half a point at 96, while the Conversion Loan at 71.3-8 is 1.7-8 lower. Indian stocks have shared in the decline. The India seven per cent. Loan at 106 is 1½ down, the three per cent. Loan is 2 down at 53, while the 3½ per cent. Loan has shed half a point at 62.

On the whole the tone in the foreign markets has been firm, and there has been a considerable amount of activity in various directions. French stocks have been a specially strong spot with War Loan Fives 2½ up at 46. German three per cents. have eased off another fraction at 2.5-8, but Italian Rentes are steady at 25½. Chinese securities have been hard. The 1896 Loan is up to 91½, a gain of 2½, while the 1913 issue has risen 4½ to 96½. Brazilians have come in for good support, Fundings being 6 up at 58, while the 1911 Loan shows a gain of 3 at 58. Russians have been neglected. In Greek securities Monopolies are 32½.

Industrials Firm.

A much better tone has ruled in the Industrial group, and while business is still far below what may be accounted the normal things are decidedly on the up grade, and price movements have generally been in favour of holders. Tobaccos have been strong with Bats 3s. 6d. up at 66s. 3d., while Imperial Tobaccos are about the same as before. Dunlops are unchanged at 6s. 9d.

The Textile group has been rather firm on the general improvement in the outlook, Coats being ½ up at 2½, while Courtaulds have gained 4½d. at 37s. 9d. In Iron, Coal and Steel securities, a steady tone has prevailed. Armstrongs are 1s. up at 14s., Vickers at 9s. 3d. show a gain of 1s. 6d., Guest Keens are 2s. up at 31s., while Lamberts are 1-8 up at 2.

In shipping securities P. and O. Deferred have been a firm spot, and are 20 up at 320. Cunards are 1s. 7½d. up at 19s. 7½d., while Furness Withys at 27s. 10½d. show a gain of 3s. 7½d.

Oils Buoyant.

There has again been a good deal of activity in the Oil Market, and prices in the majority of cases show an advance. Burmahs at 5.25-32 are 1-16 up, while Mexican Eagles are 3-16 up at 4.5-16. Trinidad issues have been steady with Centrals at 3.5-8, a gain of 1-16. Kern Rivers at 21s. 3d. show a gain of 9d.

Among Egyptians Anglo Egyptian B are 1.9-16, while Oilfields of Egypt are 5s. 9d., an increase of 9d. In the Roumanian group Roumanian Consolidated are 9d. up at 9s. 3d., while Phoenix at 15s. 3d. show a gain of 1s. 9d. Dacia Romanos at 11-16 are unchanged, while Steaua Romanos are 1s. 3d. up at 12s. 6d.

Banks Firm.

Banks have generally been firm, but the Indian group have been dull. Chartered of India at 15½ are ¼ down, while National of India have dropped a similar amount at 35½. P. and O. Banking Corporations are 12, while Imperial of Persias are ¾ up at 6½.

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ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN PALESTINE.**Scope for Motor Transport.**

The following extracts are taken from the report of Mr. R. Harari, late Director of Commerce and Industry, Government of Palestine, on the economic and commercial situation of Palestine at the beginning of 1921:—

Although economic conditions are still primitive, modern methods are making headway and hold out hopes of development and progress. The country is under-populated and under-cultivated, and lacks capital and foreign trade, but the wants of the rural districts, other than those they can satisfy by their own production, are few, and there is little poverty.

The commercial situation during the last year, has followed the commercial depression of the world markets, although the effects have been less severe in Palestine than in industrial countries. It is interesting to note that in 1920-1921 imports amounted to £5,216,633, and exports to £771,701, showing an adverse balance of £4,444,932, which is presumably accounted for by the following invisible items:—(a) re-export to, and transit traffic for Syria and the French Zone. (b) expenditure of Zionist Commission and religious and relief missions. (c) Army of Occupation. (d) remittances from abroad. (e) tourists. No accurate figures are available for trade between Palestine and the territory east of the Jordan, but a rough estimate of the dutiable imports passing through Palestine to Transjordan approximates to £E.300,000.

Business is conducted mainly through commission agents, or by small merchants, working with limited capital and bank credits. There are few important firms, and little business initiative. The reason is to be sought in the exhaustion brought on by the war, and in the recent world crisis rather than in the lack of business ability.

The banks have pursued a cautious policy, calling in loans and paying down credits, and have thus saved their clients from the heavy losses they would otherwise have incurred from the slump in the world markets.

Large scale industry has not obtained a footing in the country and practically all manufactured articles are imported except those that can be produced locally by relatively unskilled labour in small workshops and under primitive conditions. Recently attempts have been made by Jewish industrial groups to develop industries connected with building and allied trades and with textiles. Agricultural Industries, *viz.*, those dealing primarily with agricultural raw material such as the wine, soap, and milling industries have made better progress, but are somewhat backward in their methods; there are, however, signs of progress. The tourist season was unsatisfactory although sufficient accommodation had been made available and the railway provides every facility for quick access from Egypt.

In addition to the upkeep of roads, considerable work has been carried out in the repair and adaption of existing Government buildings and in the provision of local water supplies for which the Government grants advances to local bodies.

Transport.

The question of electrification of the railways is receiving serious consideration in connection with the Rutenberg projects for deriving power from the waters of the Jordan and the Yarmuk. The electrification of the Jaffa-Jerusalem section would require some four millions Kilowatt hours, and that of the Haifa-Semakh section a further six millions.

During the current year experiments have been conducted in the use of loco-tractors for the purpose of supplementing and feeding the main railway lines.

Considerable scope exists for the development of motor transport. It is estimated that roughly 1,000 cars (mainly Ford, touring type) are on the road; larger numbers could be employed with advantage, but the high price of benzine and the lack of mobile repair units have so far acted as a deterrent.

There are about 3,000 kilometres of metalled roads, and approximately 10,000 kilometres of track. A considerable amount of resurfacing and repair to roads has been in progress but the only completely new construction is the road between Tiberias and Semakh.

Condition of Ports.

The two harbours, Jaffa and Haifa, are little better than open roadsteads, affording scanty protection against inclement weather. Their shallow waters necessitate the use of lighters,

thus greatly increasing the expense of handling cargo. Small landing places are to be found at Gaza, Caesarea, Tanturah and Acre. Although it is doubtful whether the water-borne trade of the country will, within the next few years, warrant the outlay of large sums upon harbour improvement, a minimum expenditure must be incurred almost immediately to render existing ports tolerable, and schemes to this effect are under consideration for both Jaffa and Haifa.

Although shipping belonging to 23 companies calls at Jaffa and Haifa regular sailings are assured only by the Khedivial Mail, Prince Line, Messageries, and Lloyd Triestino.

The mineral wealth of Palestine is practically unexplored, but building stone is plentiful, and open air quarries are being worked throughout the country. Lime is burnt in kilns; common salt, potassium and bromine salts, and asphalt exist in large quantities in, and around, the Dead Sea, and phosphate deposits are reported near Bethlehem. The prospects of mineral oil in the neighbourhood of the Dead Sea Hebron, and Haifa, are such as to have attracted the Standard Oil Company, and the D'Arcy group, who claim to have received concessions in these areas from the Ottoman Government.

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Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Monday Night.

Sugar.—The home refined market has been comparatively quiet during the week, prices remaining steady. Tate's cubes are firm at 52s.; mineral water sugar at 47s.; London granulated at 46s. 6d.; and Lyle's granulated at 46s. 6d. Export descriptions have been a dull feature. West Indian crystallized is unchanged at 40s. 6d., while Czecho-Slovakian has advanced 3d. at 19s. 3d. Cane sugar (96 per cent.) quotations are:—February, 15s.; March, 13s. 9d.; May, 13s. 9d.; and August, 13s. 9d. White sugar quotations are:—February, 19s.; March 19s. 7½d.; May, 18s. 7½d.; and August, 18s. 9d.

Coffee.—Supplies have improved during the week, and prices have remained firm. Costa Rica and Indian are unaltered at 126s., and 106s. respectively. Nairobi is the same at 110s., as also Jamaica at 150s. Very little change has taken place in the futures market, and prices are now at 51s. 6d. for March; 52s. 9d., May; 52s. 6d., July; 53s. 9d., September; and 54s. 3d. for December.

Tea.—The market has been brisk for the Java and Sumatra varieties, while Indian has shown a poor demand with quality poor. Fine China tea is steady at 2s. 11½d. lb.; and good Pekoe Souchong has been a brighter feature at 11d. lb.; Common Java has been firm at 9½d. lb.

Rice.—Prices have again shown a tendency to rise especially for American Java rice which has during the last two weeks gained eightpence. There has been a small arrival of Spanish Japan rice during the week, but the market is still exceedingly short of this variety.

Dessicated Coconut.—The demand is good and prices have shown a rising tendency.

Almonds.—Buyers are looking forward to a decline in prices, but in many circles no serious drop is anticipated until the new crops are more assured.

Green Fruit.—The abnormal demand for oranges which has been in evidence during the past few weeks, is now waning. Shipments are temporarily suspended of Spanish oranges owing to storms off the Spanish coast. There is a small enquiry for Seville sours, but only for the selected medium fruit variety, supplies of bold graded fruit having been cleared. A falling off in the demand for lemons has been a notable feature of the week, there being only small supplies afloat, which has held buyers back. Bold fruit has been in some request. The poor condition of Valencia onions now arriving is even more marked than the previous week. Buying has only been sufficient to clear the markets, higher prices also being demanded. Quotations for apples have appreciated while the demand is good, especially for boxed fruit.

Oilseeds.—Prices are generally higher. Indian linseed has gained 10½d. at 20s. 10½d., while La Plata has been steady at 18s. 9d. Rapeseed is higher with Toria, 4½d. up at 16s. 7½d.; brown Cawnpore, 2d. up at 17s. 8d.; and bold Ferozepore, 3d.

up at 18s. Cottonseed has risen with Indian 3d. up at 9s. 9d.; and Sakellaridis a like amount up at 12s. 6d., while Egyptian black has gained 4d. at 12s. 6d.

Oils.—Rates are harder. Linseed oil is 1s. up at 39s. Rape oil is unchanged with the crude variety at 51s., and refined at 56s. Cotton oil is unchanged except for refined, which is 1s. up at 45s. Egyptian crude and deodorized are firm at 37s. and 49s. respectively. Turpentine has shed 2s. at 67s. 3d.

Oilcakes.—Linseed cake is firm at 310s. ton. Cottonseed cake is unchanged at 195s. ton, as also palm kernal cake at 135s. ton. Arachis cake has been steady at 225s. ton; and cotton meal cake is the same at 320s. ton.

SUDAN PRODUCE.

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

Gum.

Kordofan Province.—7,135 kantars of gum were sold at El Obeid market during December as against 3,503 kantars during the same month last year. The average price was 916 mms. per kantar. 6,047 kantars were sold at Nahud at an average price of 650 mms. per kantar of 100 rotls (45 kilos). 3,311 kantars were sold at Um Ruaba at 880 mms. per kantar as against 1,266 kantars last year. 2,883 kantars were sold at Rahad at 770 mms. per kantar as against 3,750 last year.

White Nile Province.—80 tons of gum were exported by rail from Tendelti.

Fung Province.—Market prices per kantar of 100 rotls (48 kilos).

Wheat, etc.

Dongola Province.—The abnormal spell of hot weather during December, has damaged the growth of the wheat crops, causing the young wheat to be far from robust in its early stage. At Burier Pumping Station about 350 feddans are under wheat which has made an excellent start. The area will not be quite so large as last year.

Darfur Province.—Wheat was sold in El Fasher market at L.E.2 per ardeb of 300 rotls (135 kilos).

Berber Province.—The price of wheat was L.E.3.500 per ardeb of 420 rotls (189 kilos), and of barley L.E.1.200 per ardeb of 315 rotls (142 kilos).

Berber Province.—The price of maize was 120 PT. per ardeb of 380 rotls (171 kilos).

Dates:

Halfa Province.—Early in the month the price of Barakawi dates in Mahas District fell from well over a pound to 60 Pt. per sack, but in Sukkot District there was no appreciable fall. There is still a fair quantity of dates unsold in the hands of natives

36 sailing boats with 7,000 sacks arrived at Abka the head of the second Cataract, during the middle of the month from the South. Two were wrecked on route. The state of the Halfa date market was satisfactory early in the month. The present Halfa stocks are 15,000 sacks approx.

Dongola Province.—The comparative failure of date traffic this year is due to the small demand for dates this season caused by the large stocks existing in merchants' hands in Egypt and Khartoum and to the heavy fall in local market price which is now Pt8 the keila for Barakawi compared with Pt.24 the keila last year.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated February 20:—**Condition of Crops.**—February 17. Unchanged. **Markets.**—**Cotton.**—February 16—Bombay cotton market easy. Fine M.G. Oomras Rs. 345 March, Rs. 358 May. Bombay cotton arrivals from September 1, 1921 to February 10, 1922 were 1,721,000 bales as compared with 964,000 bales during the same period of the last year. **Piece-goods.**—Bombay imported piece-goods market unchanged. **Jute.**—February 18—Calcutta jute market firm. Overseas buyers taking more interest. Hessians quiet but steady Heavies very firm with good demand. Business done in B Twills up to Rs. 37.8 and Liverpools for March-April Rs.42.

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Shellac.—February 11—Market firm and active. Good buying demand for all qualities. T.N. Spot from Rs. 162 to Rs. 167. March Rs. 164. Rice.—February 17—Special Straits quality rice Rs. 455. Bank Rate.—Imperial Bank of India rate 8 per cent. from February 16. Tonnage of Vessels entered and cleared in January 1922.—Entered: 648,000 tons as compared with 793,000 in December 1921; Cleared: 558,000 tons as compared with 542,000 in December 1921. Registration of New Companies.—Authorised capital of new companies registered in January 1922 Rs. 3,00 lakhs against Rs. 7,000 lakhs in January 1921.

ASIA MINOR FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended February 11:—

Sultanas.—The total estimated arrivals to-date amount to 168,250 bags as against 97,860 bags for the corresponding period of last year. The total estimated sales are 162,250 bags as compared with 90,860 bags, and the estimated stock unsold totals 6,000 bags as against 7,000 bags for 1921.

Shipments.—Sultanas are now being loaded on the s.s. Karnak for Liverpool.

Markets.—About 10 tons sultanas were sold during the week. Several shippers have endeavoured to effect purchases in response to enquiries from abroad, but the refusal of dealers to reduce prices to compensate for the lower rates of exchange prevents business resulting. Exchanges continue very uncertain. Rates have slightly improved, Sterling having advanced to 645 with prospects of going higher.

CURRENT PRICES.

General Produce.—Bacon: (Continental), 130s. cwt.; (Canadian), 131s. 6d. cwt.; (American), 116s. 6d. cwt.; butter: (Austrian), 112s. 6d. cwt.; (New Zealand), 149s. cwt.; cheese: (Canadian), 99s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 96s. cwt.; lard, 28s. cwt.; eggs (Danish), 37s. per 120; (Styrian), 28s. 6d. per 120; chillies 102s. 6d. cwt.; cloves (Zanzibar): 1s. 4½d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 102s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 125s. cwt.; (East Indian), 132s. 6d. cwt.; (Central American), 105s. cwt.; (Jamaica), 76s. 6d. cwt.; (Mocha, longberry), 112s. 6d. cwt.; (Santos, superior), 63s. 6d. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochin), 57s. 6d. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 11½d. lb.; pepper (Singapore Black), 3½d. lb.; (Muntok, white), 8d. lb.; pimento, 2½d. lb.; raisins (Valencias), 110s. cwt.; sultanas (Smyrna), 121s. 6d. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 76s. cwt.; currants (Amalias), 58s. 6d. cwt.; sugar: (Tate's cubes), 51s. 6d. cwt.; (Lyle's granulated), 46s. 4½d. cwt.; (Mauritius crystals), 43s. 9d. cwt.; (West Indian crystallized), 41s. 3d. cwt.; (centrifugal), 13s. 6d. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 1½d. lb.; rice (Rangoon, No. 2), 14s. 1½d. cwt.; (bran, Rangoon), £5 18s. 9d.; ton; cinnamon (firsts), 11½d. lb.; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 3½d. lb.; tea; (common to good common), 1s. 1½d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 7½d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 9d. lb.; Ceylon (common to good common), 1s. 2d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 6d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 9d. lb.; Java (common to good common), 9d. lb.; wheat (English white), 54s. 6d. qr.; (Australian), 57s. 6d. qr.; barley (malting), 56s. qr.; barley (feeding), 39s. 6d. qr.; oats (English), 33s. 6d. qr.; oats (La Plata ex-ship), 27s. 9d. qr.; maize (La Plata), 40s. 6d. qr.; flour, 47s. sack.

Metals.—Aluminium, £122 10s. ton; antimony (English Regulus), £35 ton; bismuth, 9s. lb.; copper (standard), £59 18s. 9d. ton; copper (electro), £66 15s. ton; gold bars, 95s. 9d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 90s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 95s. ton; galvanised sheets (24 G), £15 15s. ton; lead (soft foreign), £20 2s. 6d. ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 1½d. unit; molybdenite, 27s. 6d. unit; nickel, £175 ton; platinum, 260s. oz.; plumbago, £20 ton; quicksilver (G.O.B.), £11 7s. 6d. ton; tin (standard), £148 7s. 6d. ton; wolfram, 10s. 6d. unit; zinc sheets, £34 10s. ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 18s. 9d. box; silver bars, 34,1-8d. oz.

Chemicals.—Acids: Boric, 66s. cwt.; oxalic, 7½d. lb.; citric, 1s. 11½d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 3½d. lb.; ammonia (sulphate), £10 1s. 3d. ton; arsenic (white powdered), £40 5s. ton; benzole (standard), 2s. 5d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £14 5s. ton; borax crystals, 31s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 121s. 3d. cwt.; Potassium: Bichromate, 7½d. lb.; chlorate, 5s. lb.; caustic, £33 10s. ton; nitrate, £42 10s. ton; permanganate, 9½d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 1½d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £15 5s. ton; Sodium: Crystals, 130s. ton; bi-carbonate, £11 5s. ton; bi-chromate, 5½d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £8 18s. 9d. ton; chlorate, 3½d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £23 ton; hyposulphite £15 10s. ton; prussiate, 9½d. lb.; nitrate, £14 5s. ton; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £80 ton; glycerine (industrial, 1260 per cent.), £110 ton; lemon oil, 3s. 4½d. lb.; quinine, 2s. 11½d. oz.; red lead, £35 10s. ton; white lead, £39 10s. ton; white ground lead, £49 12s. 6d. ton; ton; sulphate of copper, £27 15s. ton; sulphate of iron, 75s. ton.

Hides and Skins.—Ox and Heifer (first), 90 lbs. and up, 7½d lb; 80 to 89 lbs., 7½d. lb; 70 to 79 lbs., 7½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 6½d. lb.; (second), 90 lbs. and up, 6,7-8d. lb.; 80 to 89

lbs., 7d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 6½d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 6d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 5d. lb. Cows (first), 60 lbs. and up 4½d. lb.; (second), 60 lbs. and up, 4½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and up, 4½d. lb.; Bulls (first), 5d. lb.; Kips (first), 6,3-8d. lb.; (second), 5½d. lb.; Calcutta Market. Prices in rupees per 20 lb. Arsenic hides (cowsl-Agras, 10.8 to 15.8 (10 to 15.8); Durbhangas, 8.8 to 10 (8 to 10.8); Patnas, 6 to 8 (6.8 to 7.8). Salted cows: 4.8 to 7 (4.8 to 7.8). Arsenic hides (buffalo): 4 to 9 (4 to 6.8). Skins: Calf, 8 to 10 per 20 lb.; goat, 250 to 280 per 100 pieces.

Miscellaneous.—Cotton: (American), 10,30d. lb.; (Egyptian Sakel), 10,75d. lb.; Oilseeds: Linseed (La Plata), £20 2s. 6d; ton; palm kernals, £18 7s. 6d. ton; castor seed (Bombay), £14 7s. 6d. ton; sesame seed (China), £23 6s. ton; soya beans, £12 10s. ton; Oils: Linseed, £38 10s. ton; olive (Levant), £74 10s. ton; rape (crude), £30 15s. ton; soya, £35 5s. ton; petroleum, 1s. 4½d. gallon; petrol, 2s. 1d. gallon; fuel oil (ex-tank) £3 15s. ton; coconut (Ceylon), £41 10s. ton; cotton (crude), £35 10s. ton; ground nut, £43 10s. ton; Rubber: Plantation (No. 1 crepe); 8½d. lb.; smoked sheet, 8½d. lb.; fine hard Para, 11½d. lb.

COMMERCIAL BREVITIES.

It has been decided to put the British Trade Ship scheme back a year owing to the trade depression.

Negotiations for the formation of the Czech Lloyd are said to be progressing satisfactorily.

Belgian steelworks have received an order for 5,000 tons of rails from Bulgaria.

A message from Belgrade states that an oil spring has been discovered in the Kotor region of Dalmatia.

It is reported that oil exports from Roumania in 1921 amounted to about 300,000 tons, compared with about 247,000 tons in the previous year.

Mr. T. Gavin Jones, Director of the British India Corporation, Ltd., Cawnpore, has been elected President of the Upper India Chamber of Commerce for the ensuing year.

The Czecho-Slovak negotiations with Russia for a commercial treaty are nearing their end, and a commission "is shortly expected at Prague with a view to their completion.

At the general meeting of the Prague Clearing House it was announced that in 1921 the bills, cheque, invoices, &c., received for mutual exchange amounted to 82,337,000,000 crowns as compared with 41½ milliards in 1920.

Definite certificates in respect of the issue of 8½ per cent. mortgage debenture stock of the British Burmah Petroleum Co., Ltd., are now being issued in exchange for fully-paid scrip certificates to bearer.

The Imperial Mineral Resources Bureau has been informed by the Geological Survey of India that the quantity of gold extracted from the mines in India during the month of November, 1921, amounted to 35,811,565 oz., valued at Rs. 24,57,880.

H.M. Representative at Sofia has reported that in virtue of a recent decision of the Bulgarian Veterinary Council cattle and raw cattle products will only be allowed to be imported into Bulgaria if accompanied by veterinary certificates issued by the official veterinary authorities of the country of origin.

The Czecho-Slovak Government has arranged an express passenger service by the Elbe and Danube routes, i.e., from Prague to Hamburg, and Bratislava to Galatz, while the recently-founded shipping companies have contracted with the State railways for transport at a fixed tariff.

The Banque Marmorosch Blank and Co., announce a dividend of 100 lei per 500 lei share, free of tax. The rate of the tax last year was 5 per cent., but this year the tax has been raised to 15 per cent., and is being paid by the bank. The bank's capital is 925,000,000 lei, and there are reserves of 164,000,000 lei.

Southern Punjab Railway.

The net revenue of the Southern Punjab Railway Company, Limited, for the year ended September 30, last was £331,738, of which £105,816 is payable to the Secretary of State for India as the share of surplus profits due to the Government. This leaves £225,922, to which must be added £148,876 brought from September 30, 1920, making a total of £374,797. The directors propose to pay a final dividend on the ordinary stock of £9 per cent. (making with the interim dividend of £5 paid in September last a total distribution of £14 per cent. for the year), from which English income-tax at 3s. 1d. will be deducted, leaving £142,797 to be carried forward, subject to excess profits duty and corporation profits tax if found due. As regards excess profits, the directors state that the Special Commissioners have decided against the company, but the question of an appeal is under the consideration of the Board.

FINANCE AND MARKET REPORT.

The following extracts are taken from the monthly circular of the Imperial Ottoman Bank :—

Ottoman Finance:

The revenues of the Ottoman Treasury in January, 1922, included the ordinary receipts, such as customs, vilayets, etc., and extraordinary receipts. The latter include :—1. Two advances made by the Ottoman Public Debt on December 31, 1921, and January 21, 1922, to the amounts respectively of £T250,000 and £T450,000, secured by the Government's participation in the profits of the Tobacco Regie for the eighth and following years. 2. The payment to the Government of its share in the receipts of the cable from Constantinople to Constantza as well as in the profits of the Société des Téléphones. The Government has made use of the balance of the December receipts of the Ottoman Public Debt advances of £T700,000, and of the January revenues, in order to pay on January 1 salaries for the second half of August, and on January 21 those for the first half of September; at the same time it has been able to effect payment of the so-called priority salaries, to settle the general expenses of the Ministries, and to meet the pensions of widows and orphans, etc. The Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt up to January 31 received the sums of £T57,000 from the State Disposals Board, in reduction of the advance of £T1,000,000 made to the Ottoman Government and guaranteed by its stocks and the gold reserve of the Internal Loan

Markets.

Constantinople.—The situation remains unchanged, still dominated by the uncertainty of political, economic, and financial factors. Transactions both in imports and exports have been insignificant.

Exports.

Tobacco.—This is the principal article of export. Arrivals from the interior :—786,000 kilogs of which 210,000 were exported. Stocks available, 3,500,000. Average prices ruling : from 45 to 250 piastres per kilog., according to quality. Strong demand, especially for good qualities; the extreme pooriness of the new crop accounts for the rise in prices of existing old crop.

Mohair.—The present remaining stocks can be estimated at 5,360 bales.

Gum.—Remaining stock, 1,075 bags.

Opium.—Remaining stock 622 cases.

Imports.

Manufactured Articles.—Business still limited, although available stocks on the market are not very important.

Calcutta Sacks.—Practically no demand; considerable stocks amounting to about 1,000 bales are slowly disposed of with great difficulty.

Sugar.—Marked rise in the quoted prices of crystallised sugar, concurrent with the upward movement shown by other markets. Average prices ruling : £20 to £22. Present stocks almost exhausted. On the other hand, "cubes" stocks are disposed of very slowly.

Coffee.—Prices quoted show an upward tendency, on the reported deficit of the Brazilian crop. Good demand. Arrivals have been sold afloat, and the existing stocks are insignificant.

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SHARP FALL IN COTTON INDEX.

71 Per Cent. Above Pre-War.

The general average of current cotton prices is given by Mr. Frederick W. Tattersall, in his cotton trade circular issued last week, as 171, which compares with 191 in the middle of January and with the exception of last March is lower than in any month during 1921. In each case the price ruling on July 31, 1914 is taken as a basis of 100. All the items dealt with register a fall on the month. Egyptian cotton, which now stands at 206, heads the list with a drop of 35 points, and this easier movement is reflected in Egyptian yarn which is 25 points lower at 150. Declines of 15 points in American yarn and 10 points in American cotton have occurred and the figures are now 172 and 156 respectively. Cloth values have lost 12 points at 163, bringing down the general average 20 points.

LANCASHIRE COTTON DIVIDENDS.

£122,500 Distributed in January.

The stocktaking results to the end of January of 78 Lancashire cotton firms engaged in the production of cotton yarn only, and having a total paid-up, ordinary share capital of nearly £11,000,000 and a total spindleage of more than eight millions, have been announced during the past few days.

Dividends ranging from 3 1-3 per cent. to 20 per cent. per annum absorbing £122,500 have been declared by 35 mills, but the directors of 43 concerns have been unable to recommend any payment at all.

Out of 56 companies whose reports relate to the three months trading to the end of January, 31 have been forced to pass the dividend. One mill paid 3 1-3 per cent., five per cent., two each 6 2-3 per cent. and 9 per cent., eight 10 per cent., one 13 1-3 per cent. and six 20 per cent. per annum, requiring a sum of £55,323. The average dividend per company for the quarter is 4.88 per cent. per annum, compared with 5.71 in October, 6.44 in July, 7.33 in April, and 22.11 in January, 1921, for the same 56 concerns, whose aggregate paid-up ordinary share capital amounts to £6,142,135, and which have 5,477,274 spindles consisting of 4,294,424 mule and 1,182,850 ring.

In the case of the remaining 22 mills, with a total paid up ordinary share capital of £4,645,241 and controlling 2,611,997 spindles, comprising 2,349,381 mule and 262,616 ring, the figures cover a period of six months. Twelve firms could not pay a dividend, two declared distributions of 4 per cent., two 5 per cent., one 6 2-3 per cent., four 10 per cent. and one 20 per cent. per annum, the sum necessitated by these payments being £67,117. The average dividend per company for the half-year is 3.86 per cent. per annum, against 4.68 last July, and 13.44 twelve months ago.

MANCHESTER MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Friday.

Taking everything into consideration the conditions which have prevailed throughout the market during the past week might be termed satisfactory, although at the same time the market is still far from healthy. A feature of interest has been the extensive inquiry for piece goods which has been about for the two great outlets India and China, and here and there some substantial lines have been placed. The general opinion is that there is less probability of lower values prevailing, and on account of this some speculative buying has taken place by some well known shippers. A feature has been the steadiness displayed in raw cotton circles, and if values will only advance by gradual stages, then it should not be very long before a period of greater activity is witnessed. With regard to cloth there has not been very much inquiry about for the outlets of the Near East. Recent advices received from Egypt have not read in a cheerful vein, and it is mentioned that remittances from that outlet are coming in very slowly. At the same time some transactions in a variety of fabrics have been arranged. Quotations

for Egyptian yarns have ruled firmer, and for home use a rather better turnover has been registered. There is no definite news with regard to future supplies of Egyptian cotton. Some fairly substantial cloth sales have taken place for India and China, and buyers for the remaining minor outlets have not been altogether idle. American yarn quotations have ruled firm, and the offtake tends to broaden.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended February 22:—

The past week has produced a very welcome broadening in the enquiry, and if the business resulting has not come up to expectations, it can at least be said that an increase on last week has been recorded. A steady improvement in the weekly sales of 400 to 500 bales, such as we have recently witnessed, would very soon result in a respectable total being reached, and the undercurrent of business seems strong enough to induce hopes that such will actually be the case. As usual, Sakellaridis F.G.F.—Good has been chiefly in request, and the same grades in Upper Egyptian have this week received a fair amount of attention also. Brown and Pilon have been comparatively neglected, and the enquiry for Sudan seems to have slackened off a little. Low staple cotton still retains its adherents, but one does not hear of much business passing. More than ever it would seem a question of price. Over and over again one sees a spinner, who has come down here to buy at a price, return to his mill without buying, because he cannot reconcile the price he is asked to pay for his actual cotton with the price he is offered for his yarn. At the present time, a holder of actual cotton here, who is in a position to take a reasonable profit, could make a good turnover if he liked to do so.

Manchester reports have been consistently cheerful during the week. China continues to buy, several speculative lines have put through for India, and the trade in yarns, both for Home and Export, shows an improvement. Prices are again the stumbling block, and undoubtedly a large business is pending for the East, if only buyer and seller could get closer to one another. On the whole, and taking a broad view, business looks as if it was improving slowly but steadily, and this is exactly what is required in order to put things on a sound basis once more. In conclusion a word of warning to those who really wish to sell. There is a class of shipper who, whenever he sees that 500 bales of spot cotton have been sold in Liverpool, at once jumps to the conclusion that a trade boom in cotton has started, off goes the cable and up goes his basis a penny per lb. This does not tend to encourage buyers—rather has it the reverse effect—and in nine cases out of ten it puts the holder of the cotton quite out of the market, and his competitor, who has been content with a modest rise of 1d. (or none at all), gets the business. It should also be remembered that Liverpool is at present a cheaper market than Alexandria, and what may seem an easy price over there may in reality be a good price in Liverpool. C.I.F. business has been very quiet. Sales, 2,300 bales (includes 100 Sudan). Quotations of Brown and Sakellaridis cotton are advanced 25 points. Upper remains unchanged on the week. F.G.F. Sakel, 18.00d.

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

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

Prices on February 10 were as follows:—Agricultural Bank of Egypt, £4.11-16; Alexandria Water Co., Ltd., £7. 3-32; Anglo-American Nile Steam, £2.19-32; Associated Cotton Ginners, £25-32; Banque d'Orient, Fr., 50; Behera Ord., £28.15-16; Brasseries d'Egypte, Fr., 76; Building Lands of Egypt, £27-32; Cassi di Sconto Priv. Fr., 125; Ciments d'Egypte Priv., Fr., 57; Ciments d'Egypte Div., Fr., 35; Comptoir Fin et Com. d'Egypte, £15-16; Consolidated Lands, Pt., 5; Credit Foncier Fondateur, Fr., 846; Credit Foncier Act., Fr., 630; Credit Foncier 1886 Oblig., Fr., 334; Crown Brewery Priv., Fr., 130; Crown Brewery Div., Fr., 130; Eaux du Cairo, Capital, Fr., 83; Eaux du Cairo Jouissance, Fr., 110; Egypt and Levant, S.S.Ord., 31s. 6d.; Egyptian Delta Light Railways, £3½; Filature National d'Egypte, £10½; Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. an des., £6; Khedivial Mail S.S.Ord., 100s.; Khedivial Mail S.S.Co., Pref., £2½; Kom Ombo Ste An de Wadi, £45-32; Kom Ombo Ste An Fondateur, £34½; Land Bank of Egypt, Parts de Fond., £38; Lots Turc., £T30½; Menzaleh Canal Navigation, £T210; Egyptian Markets, 17s. 9d.; Nungovich Hotels, £6.19-32; Ramleh Railways, £2.7-8; Salt and Soda, 29s. 7½d.; Sidi Salem, £1.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

SUEZ CANAL TRAFFIC IN 1921.

According to the report of the Suez Canal Company the number of vessels passing through the Canal during the past year was 3,975, of 18,119,000 net tonnage and carrying merchandise of 17,509,000 tons, as compared with 4,009 vessels of 17,575,000 net tonnage, carrying 17,040,000 tons in 1920. These figures are below those for the pre-war year 1913, when the net tonnage of vessels traversing the Canal was 20,034,000, the weight of merchandise carried then amounting to 25,776,000 tons.

SHIPPING AT THE PIRAEUS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, February 12.

There were 402 arrivals of various steamers in the port of Piraeus during January (N.S.) of the following nationalities (the figures in brackets representing the tonnage):—Greek, 308 (108,151); Italian, 39 (70,858); British, 22 (53,359); Dutch, seven (10,772); German, seven (6,965); French, seven (22,684); American, three (9,578); Belgian, two (3,415); Roumanian, two (2,704); Bulgarian, two (1,506); Spanish, one (2,418); Yugoslavia, one (200); Norwegian, one (934). The number of sailing vessels which entered the port during the same month was 208, of which 204 were Greek and four Italian.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

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

Anchor Line.—S.s. Circassia for Bombay (Liverpool, March 6); s.s. Olympia for Bombay (Liverpool, March 17).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Anchoria for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, March 7); s.s. Media for Calcutta (Birkenhead, March 9); s.s. Malakand for Calcutta (Birkenhead, March 11); s.s. Mahanada for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, March 21).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Leicestershire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, March 15).

Byron Steamship Line.—A steamer will sail on March 15 from Liverpool for Patras, Piraeus, Constantinople, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, Braila, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Bourgas, and Varna.

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Macbeth for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, March 9); s.s. Clan Macbrayne for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (Birkenhead, March 9).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Sea Victory for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, and Catania (Manchester, March 14; Liverpool, March 16; and Swansea, March 21); s.s. Pavia for Gibraltar, Ceuta, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza and Sulina (Swansea, March 14; Glasgow, March 16; and Liverpool, March 18).

Ellerman's "City" Line.—S.s. City of Exeter for Calcutta (Birkenhead, March 14); s.s. City of Shanghai for Bombay and Karachi (Birkenhead, March 22).

Ellerman's "Hall" Line.—S.s. City of London for Bombay, Karachi and the Punjab (Liverpool, March 13).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—Steamers sail fortnightly for Malta, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz and Braila.

Glen Line.—S.s. Gleniffer for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, March 9); s.s. Glengarry for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, March 23).

Harrison Line.—S.s. Governor for Calcutta (Liverpool, March 20); s.s. Electrician for Port Said, Port Sudan, Aden, Mombasa, etc. (Birkenhead, April 20).

Henderson Line.—S.s. Chindwin for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, March 8); s.s. Burma for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, March 22).

Holt Line.—S.s. Lycaon for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, March 9); s.s. Agamemnon for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, March 9); s.s. Euryades for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, March 9); s.s. Deucalion for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, March 22).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Dromore for Piraeus, Syra, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, March 25).

Moss Line.—S.s. Luque for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Malta, Piraeus, Smyrna, Salonika, and Constantinople (Liverpool, March 5).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. Andalusian for Algiers, Malta, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna and Constantinople (Liverpool, March 11).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Nellore for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, March 10); s.s. Egypt for Bombay (London, March 10); s.s. Nankin for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, March 24); s.s. Macedonia for Bombay (London, March 24).

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. Merkara for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, March 10); s.s. Australia for Bombay and Karachi (London, March 11); s.s. Mashobra for Bombay and Karachi (London, March 24); s.s. Margha for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, March 31); s.s. Manela for Bombay and Karachi (London, April 7); s.s. Nuddea for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, April 15).

Prince Line.—S.s. Sailor Prince for Tunis, Malta and Alexandria, (Manchester, March 12); s.s. Syrian Prince for Malta, Alexandria and Syria (London, March 18); s.s. Scottish Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria and Syria (Manchester, March 25).

The offices of the general freight department of the Prince Line have been removed to 56, Leadenhall Street, E.C.

ENQUIRY BUREAU.

ADVERTISERS requiring agents abroad and readers abroad desirous of getting into touch with British Manufacturers, Export Merchants, etc., may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau," "The Near East," 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2. It must be understood that "The Near East" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.

114. Importer in Karachi (India) travelling throughout India, wishes to get in touch with merchants and manufacturers in England and elsewhere. General merchandise.

115. An import and export firm in Spalato, Yugoslavia, wishes to enter into business relations with British manufacturers, importers and exporters. Specialities:—Exports: Medicinal herbs dried fruits, hides, timber. Imports: Oils, food products, tarpaulins, mackintoshes, sacks.

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PASSENGER SAILING DATES—

CIRCASSIA, MARCH 10.	MASSALIA, MAY 5.
OLYMPIA, MARCH 22.	ELYSIA, MAY 19.
SCANDIA, APRIL 6.	CIRCASSIA, JUNE 22.
CASTALIA, APRIL 21	OLYMPIA, JULY 5.

Anchor Line (Henderson Brothers), Ltd.
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THE NEAR EAST.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Genoa Conference and Asia.

In the House of Commons on March 2 Mr. Harmsworth, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, stated that it had been decided to limit representation at the Genoa Conference to European States. This decision is greatly to be regretted, for it means that the politicians of Europe are still ignoring realities, are still being guided by political rather than economic and geographical divisions. Certainly there must be a limit to the number of States invited to the Conference, but do the optimists of Genoa seriously think that true economic stability is possible in the Near East without the consent, say, of Turkey and of Trans-Caucasia? One cannot isolate these two countries from the general Eastern problem, for though it may be said that economically they are unimportant, in the more primitive communities the axiom that "economic power precedes political power" is false, as the conference at Genoa will demonstrate. The future of Georgia and of its neighbouring republics is uncertain, but there is no point in ignoring their existence; while Turkey has it in her power to upset the best theoretically-arranged plans for the economic restoration of South-Eastern Europe. However, at Genoa delay succeeds delay, and there is yet time for Western statesmen to discover that the circulation of money does not exactly coincide with the political boundaries of Europe.

Financial Questions at Belgrade.

A conference of Little Entente economic experts is being held at Belgrade, to discuss such questions as international credits and loans, communications, economic and financial reconstruction, and allied topics. There is certainly plenty to discuss, and if the Conference can effect any improvement in the matter of the exchanges, it will be rendering good service, not only to the Little Entente, but to Europe as a whole. Meanwhile Yugoslavia is making a great effort to grapple with the problem of the falling dinar. With the object of preventing—or endeavouring to prevent—a further fall, the Ministry of Finance has issued a decree severely restricting the importation of goods from abroad, and forbidding all banks, save the National Bank, to sell foreign currencies. The plan has been subjected to considerable criticism, and it remains to be seen how long it will be found workable.

Constantinism and Greece.

On another page of this issue will be found an account

of the supersession in Greece of Venizelism by Constantinism, by a writer who, we think, puts his case very ably. This is not to say that we are by any means in full agreement with all the views expressed, but we believe that hitherto no clearer exposition of the present temper of the Greek people has been made, and that the publication of the article will therefore serve a very useful purpose. A nation does not march without good cause in the teeth of Allied opposition, and the overwhelming determination to be masters of their own fate was apparently inevitable with the repressed Greeks. But it seems to us that the writer's unfriendly feeling towards M. Venizelos is both ante-dated and altogether too warm, and that half the ills which the Greek nation undoubtedly suffered under the Cretan statesman's regime were due, not to him, but to the uncontrolled follies of his supporters. And incidentally we may remark, touching the laudatory account of the liberty enjoyed under the present regime, that the freedom of the press and of speech to which the writer refers are hardly so complete as he appears to believe. One need go no farther than to the news agencies to discover how, for instance, telegrams are still censored.

The Reply to the Arab Delegation.

Two things have recently brought the question of Palestine to the fore: Mr. Churchill's reply to the comments of the Arab Delegation on the Draft Orders providing for the Constitution of Palestine, and the meeting at the Hyde Park Hotel in support of the Arabs' claims, a report of which will be found on another page. Of the second we will say nothing here except to lay stress on the significant weight and influence of English men and women present in support of those claims. But there are two points in Mr. Churchill's statement that it is desirable to note. First, he said he could not negotiate officially with any body "claiming to represent the whole or part of the people of Palestine, since no official machinery for representation had as yet been constituted." Frankly, we do not care for this; especially when we reflect upon the cheerful good-humour with which certain subsidies are awarded to certain other Arabs who also have no representative machinery. And we further think that many things are more probable than that we shall, when these democratic legal entanglements have been set up, meet with more courteous reasonableness than that which is the mark of the Arab Delegation now in London. But we liked to have the statement, made directly and

without any humbug, that His Majesty's Government could discuss the future of Palestine on no other basis than that of the Balfour Declaration. At least we know where we are with Mr. Churchill.

An Inquiry on Palestine.

In a recent leading article we pleaded for an impartial inquiry upon affairs in Palestine, and the desirability of such a step seems to grow stronger every day. We are the last to deny that both sides, Arab and Jew, have a case, and a very good one; and it is precisely, those who are most convinced of the justice of their respective causes who will welcome such an inquiry. The Arabs want this examination; and equally the real Jew, that is the idealistic and universally respected Jew, ardently desires it. But our Government, alone of the parties concerned, is silent. We do not deny that a majority of those Englishmen whose counsels in this matter are of account favour the cause of the Arabs, but there are eminent opinions on the other side. Why then, does the Government continue in the course of superior inaction, unsatisfactory to all parties? Is it afraid of another Milner report recommending steps incompatible with the temper of its members? The demand for an impartial inquiry is no mere newspaper "stunt": it is the hope of all independent thinkers on the subject of Palestine, thinkers who are as jealous of the conservation of England's honour as of the maintenance of her interests. A decision freely made and without fear or favour, the people of Palestine will abide by: but by none other.

The Future of Egypt—

The situation in Egypt is dealt with in our leading article; and the British Government's Declaration to Egypt, together with other extracts from the White Paper published last week, will be found on another page. A new Cabinet has been formed by Sarwat Pasha, and Egypt may be said to have taken the first step on the road leading to independence. But we are not yet out of the wood; difficulties which have proved impassable in the past still await negotiation; and very wary walking will be necessary for some time yet. The great thing is, however, that the way is once more open to a full exchange of views, and that, thanks to Lord Allenby's having won the confidence of the Egyptians, that exchange is likely to be conducted in a spirit of genuine friendliness.

—and the Sudan.

In the speech in the House of Commons in which he explained the British Government's declaration, Mr. Lloyd George made clear one or two points on which there might possibly have been some misunderstanding. With regard to the reserved points, for instance, until an agreement is reached satisfactory to both sides, the *status quo* remains intact; foreign Powers are to be given to understand that the relations between H. M. Government and the Government of Egypt are the concern of those two Governments only; and "any attempt at interference in the affairs of Egypt by another Power" would be regarded as an unfriendly act. The Prime Minister was equally emphatic regarding the Sudan: "His Majesty's Government will never allow the progress which has already been made and the greater promise of future years to be jeopardised"; nor can they "agree to any change in the status of that country which would in the slightest degree diminish the security for the many millions of British capital which are already invested in its development." On

the other hand, Egypt's rights in the matter of water supply are to be fully guaranteed. All this is as it should be, and if a certain type of Egyptian should resent Mr. Lloyd George's remarks about Egypt's past relations with the Sudan, others, wiser, will recognise that they *were just*, and uttered only in explanation of British policy.

Sir R. Wingate's Advice.

When Lord Allenby was summoned to London by the Government, certain papers in this country were very ready with the demand that he should resign, on the ground that he had shown 'Prussianizing tendencies,' that his 'militaristic spirit' was making a settlement impossible, and so forth and so on. It would be interesting to know how they view the matter now, and whether they still persist in the belief that a soldier is never capable of taking a statesmanlike view of any subject. Their complacent self-assurance must have been further shaken when, after learning the truth about Lord Allenby's views on Egypt, and the part he has played in the negotiations, they discovered, through the parliamentary reports, that another soldier, Sir Reginald Wingate, had advised His Majesty's Government along similar lines, and in a like broad-minded spirit. Sir Reginald appears in fact to have had a good deal less than justice done to him in this matter, and though there may be sound reasons for the Government's refusal to publish the whole of the correspondence in which his views are embodied, the relevant portions of it could surely be given to the world.

A Telegram from Tanta.

Tanta, the Delta town which has attained unenviable notoriety by its turbulence, has added another riot to its already long reckoning. On March 2, a crowd of demonstrators, composed largely of students, behaved in such a manner that the police were forced to fire, with the result that three people were killed and some 30 wounded. The firm action restored order promptly, and up to the time of writing no further outburst has been reported. The cause of the trouble is not stated, but in all likelihood the mob was showing at once its disapproval of the formation of a Ministry and its devotion to Zaghloul and all his works. The telegram which citizens of Tanta have addressed to us, and which will be found on another page, seems to point in this direction. It suggests also that the Zaghloulites are well provided with funds, since they can afford such embellishments as 'remote' Seychelles and other refinements. Seriously, such telegrams are depressing because they seem to indicate that even Egyptians capable of drafting a telegram in good English can yet remain incapable of understanding the spirit in which the latest British offer is made. On the other side of the account we may set the firm manner in which the new Cabinet handled the outbreak, and the success attending their policy.

Trouble in the Hejaz.

King Hussein of the Hejaz is reported to have incurred much unpopularity of late by the imposition of taxes which his subjects strongly resent, and by the forcible enlistment of pilgrims and others. One of the measures which gives particular offence is the imposition of a burial tax of twenty piastres, which was abolished in Turkish days—and curiously enough largely through the instrumentality of Hussein himself, then Grand Shereef. It is difficult to find out all the truth of the matter, but there appears to be no doubt that the Hejaz

is seriously angered ; and that not only has the Mecca-Yambo road been closed by the tribes, but that there has been fighting in the capital itself. King Hussein has for some time been talking of abdicating, and complaining that he has not been fairly treated by the Allies, especially the British, and if he should actually hand over the reins of Government to his son, the Emir Ali, it would cause very little surprise.

King Hussein's Position.

We regret sincerely that King Hussein should feel that he has a grievance against Great Britain, and even more do we regret that the muddle made in our Near Eastern policy in the days of the War should give him some cause of complaint. He rendered services to the Allies in difficult times, and if his influence and, more especially, his popularity were over-estimated that was not his fault. At the same time it seems to us that his Majesty has not come off so badly after all. If he has not yet drawn his subsidy of £5,000 a month, that is because the conditions on which it was payable have not yet been fulfilled, and it can hardly be disputed that he and his family have emerged from the War with a very great accession of influence and wealth, and with possibilities of increasing both still further if they follow a wise policy. But no good purpose would be served by denying that King Hussein himself is by no means universally liked and respected in the Moslem world, and that latterly he has done nothing to make himself more respected or popular.

The Prince of Wales' Tour.

Last week saw the completion of that section of the Prince's tour which had aroused most anxiety in the prospect, the section which embraced the old Mogul capitals of Agra, Delhi and Lahore. All these cities contain dangerous elements, none of them can be called happy just now, and Lahore, in particular, was described, we fear with substantial justice, by one of the special correspondents, as the centre of the most mutinous district in the whole country. Anxiety was therefore justified, and everyone concerned must be thankful that the extensive programme was carried through with conspicuous success. The Prince has now made acquaintance with practically all the capitals of British India, and it is unpleasant to have to record that among them Allahabad, which claims to be the seat of humane learning and culture, stands out as definitely the worst mannered. What its fate would have been in Mogul times is not doubtful, for the roofless walls would already be disintegrating under the influence of sun and wind ; but Lord Reading is not a Shahjahan, and we suppose the citizens will be left to work out their own punishment by enduring one another's bad manners for an indefinite period.

The Indian Revolutionaries.

The political situation in India has changed as a result of the decision taken by the Congress revolutionaries at Delhi. The terms of their resolution as cabled are somewhat obscure, but so much is clear that the more active wing has carried the day, and has carried Mr. Ghandi with it also. The "sort of truce" which had recently been declared may, therefore, be regarded as at an end : the men now in charge claim absolute freedom in their choice of methods ; and the rejoinder to illegal methods can only be the steadfast enforcement of the law, of which we have written so often. There are signs that this last change of attitude is making a marked impression on the important section of opinion which

has hitherto hoped for a synthesis of incompatibilities, and that it may secure for the Government a larger measure of active support from politicians who have hitherto avoided definite commitments. Such developments will be very welcome, for the most disappointing feature in the history of the past year has been the failure to bring forth a general sense of political responsibility, but in any case the real burden must be borne for some time to come by Lord Reading, and under him by the provincial Governors.

The Indian Budget.

The Indian Budget which was published last week is about the worst we can remember. A year ago the decision was taken that India should be one of the few countries in the world to pay their way, and heavy additional taxation was imposed to secure that object, but everything has been a disappointment, and now there is a realised deficit of well over twenty millions sterling. For the coming year, therefore, there is the prospect of still further taxation, some of it at least open to much criticism, and justifiable only by stern necessity ; but even if the proposals pass the legislature, a point on which there is room for doubt, the financial position of the country will be nearly desperate, unless the long hoped for revival of trade should set in with promptitude and vigour. On a later occasion we shall examine in greater detail the underlying causes which have brought about this position, and for the present we must content ourselves with expressing the hope that India, which has now much more to sell than was the case a year ago, may be successful in finding customers able and willing to pay for her surplus produce.

THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Monday Afternoon

The Royal Wedding.

The marriage of Princess Mary to Viscount Lascelles on February 28 was a great popular holiday. The whole procession was admirably done ; the crowd was the largest since the King's Coronation ; and the service was as perfect as the clergy and choir of the Abbey could render it. The rest of the day was spent as a holiday, with innumerable dinners and dances ; and everybody went home happy. So much I gather from the newspapers, which also published details of the bridal train and blushes ; for I was apparently the only person in London who resisted the temptation to stand in the crush. Even on Monday the streets were packed with sightseers—heaven knows what they came out to see, as the decorations were few—but I fancy the shops did fairly well from the visitors and suburbanites.

The young couple must have been glad when it was all over, but even when they alighted at the remote country station where the first part of the honeymoon is to be spent, a reporter and photographer were both waiting for them. These are the penalties of greatness and prosperity.

Political Squabbles.

While Cupid was busy on one side of the way at Westminster, contention was engaged on the other. The loss of three by-elections in the previous week certainly did not help the Government's nerves, but it was a tonic to the malcontents. The threats of rebellion came almost entirely from the Conservatives, and not merely from the noisy but really unimportant Die-hard group. There is no doubt that a large number of Conservatives dislike being led by a Liberal, which is natural, but they seem entirely unable to produce a leader for themselves—for the *Morning Post's* suggestion of the

Duke of Northumberland is farcical. They seem also quite unable to understand that the Conservative policy—if it can be given so substantial a title—would not win seats; their tactics, in fact, are wrecking tactics pure and simple.

Mr. Lloyd George's Position.

The upshot of all the trouble is that Mr. Lloyd George has threatened to resign; he will not lead an army that is always muttering mutiny. The Conservatives in the Cabinet have persuaded him to stay on for the present and have said as much in public; the fact is that nobody wants the thankless job of being Prime Minister just now. The Coalition patient is therefore officially convalescent, but the mischief is done; it seems mortally shaken by lack of confidence in itself, but it will probably take some time to die. The pessimists (or are they the optimists?) predict that it may go off in a fit any moment, but their hopes or fears are discounted by the fact that a good many doctors at the bedside have an interest in keeping the patient alive. Probably nothing definite will happen before the Budget is introduced, but the current betting is three to one on an election before August. It remains true, however, now as it was in January that the country does not want an election this year after all. There is plenty of party spirit at Westminster, and it can be nursed into activity in any constituency where a by-election takes place, but there is little party feeling generally about.

The Blunted Axe.

The Geddes Axe, as was anticipated in these notes last week, was quickly blunted; the recommended economies of £85 millions were cut down to £53 millions, not all of which will function this year. It is a fair reduction, taking things all in all, and education, as was expected, won hands down. The common-sense of the country rejected the Geddes idea that the quickest path to the restoration of prosperity was to cease educating posterity. Unborn tomorrow, like dead yesterday, will still creep unwillingly to school.

The L.C.C. Elections.

London County had its own election last week. There seemed a general sense of apathy on Thursday, the voting day; only about 30 per cent. of the voters turned up. The Municipal Reformers (Conservatives) won fourteen seats, the Progressives (Liberals) lost fourteen; Labour gains and losses cancelled out at six each. On the new Council the M.R.'s now total 82, the other two parties 26 and 16 respectively, so the Conservatives have a clear majority over both; the centre party evidently lost votes to both sides. The Progressives press is talking about the victory of trusts and monopolies, by which they mean that the Municipal Reformers believe in private and not municipal trading; Labour is denouncing the blindness of the people whom a week before it flattered as an enlightened democracy, which simply means that it woke up with a sore head the morning after; and the victors are hymning the sound political instincts of the masses. Of all of which oratory and spleen the average Londoner takes not the slightest notice.

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The New L.C.J.

Sir Gordon Hewart, Attorney-General, has at last achieved his ambition, and is appointed Lord Chief Justice. It is well known that he wanted the post a year ago, but the Government could not spare his great abilities—can it now?—and it was doubtful whether it could hold his seat at Leicester which his promotion automatically vacates. It has probably made up its mind that one more loss does not matter now.

The retirement of the present L.C.J., a great judge but of a great age, has given Sir Gordon his opportunity, which the Government could hardly refuse him at the second time of asking. There is some speculation as to his successor. The normal course is to promote the Solicitor-General, but there is a pretty general feeling at the Bar that Sir Ernest Pollock, although a charming man personally, does not carry enough weight for so responsible a post.

Mr. Bevan.

The anticipation that criminal proceedings would follow the investigation in the City Equitable case has proved correct. The Official Receiver has announced that the Company's balance sheet did not represent the true condition of affairs, and a warrant has been issued for the arrest of Mr. Bevan. He was last heard of in Naples, on his way to Constantinople, but he was refused a *visa* for his passport; since then no trace has been seen of him, but he is now rumoured to have crossed the Adriatic, and to be taking refuge in Albania, which is not a very easy country in which to find anybody.

The Woman Doctor.

There is a rare pothole in feminist circles about the decision of the London Hospital not to admit any more women students to the medical schools. The official reason is that mixed classes are an embarrassment to the profession, owing to the intimate psychological details on which they have to lecture, but some of the other hospitals do not seem to have so refined a taste as the establishment in Whitechapel, since they propose to continue the admittance of women. On the other hand the three greatest hospitals, St. Bartholomew's, the Middlesex, and Guy's do not admit women at all.

The women retort that the official reason is humbug, and that the real reason is that the men are jealous of the women, and are afraid of their competition, and that the hospital authorities were glad enough to enrol women students during the War but now that they can get enough men to do without the other sex, they have reverted to a reactionary policy. This sounds a little spiteful, and as a fact women doctors do not compete very much with men. It is notorious that the bulk of them get institutional appointments, and apart from a few specialists, the ranks of G.P.'s are practically all males.

OCELLUS.

FLYING TO BAGHDAD.

First Journalist Passenger.

In a letter received this week, Mr. H. T. Montague Bell, Managing Director of "*The Near East*," who has been travelling in Egypt and the Sudan, stated that he hoped to leave Egypt for Baghdad by air mail very soon. A telegram forwarded to *The Times* by its Cairo correspondent on March 6, announces that Mr. Bell left that city on Monday. The correspondent added that Mr. Bell is the first journalist to make the trip, and that he was travelling in a two-seater.

The flight from Cairo to Baghdad has been done in 12 hours (by Sir G. Salmond), but this is hardly the season for making, or breaking records. As *The Times* correspondent points out, "this is a period of worst weather along the route, and Mr. Bell's departure had to be postponed twice owing to a storm in the Amman sector. At the time of going to press we have no news of Mr. Bell's arrival."

THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

From Our Own Correspondents.

EGYPT.

Cairo, February 18.

Lord Allenby's Victory.

By the time they reach you my last two letters will I am afraid have become somewhat obsolete as a result of the development which the situation has since undergone. No one at this end ever expected that within a week of his arrival Lord Allenby would have been able to convince the Cabinet that what he advocated was the only course that could lead to an eventual settlement of the Egyptian problem and the obtaining of just those guarantees without which the Cabinet very properly declines to enter into any treaty with the Egyptians.

Judging by the statements made by the Prime Minister and Lord Curzon in their replies to the criticisms of the address and by the attitude taken up by a certain section of the Home Press it looked very much as if a stubborn fight awaited Lord Allenby, and in consequence it was expected that it would take some considerable time for a decision to be arrived at.

Lord Allenby had an exceedingly strong case, in virtue of the reasonable nature of his proposals and of the wide support which the policy he advocates had received, not merely because the soundness of the policy was patent to all out here who were qualified to judge but also because of the universal confidence felt in his capacity to carry that policy successfully into effect. The rapid victory which he has achieved is not merely a triumph for him and for his Advisers, but it also justifies all those who both at home and from this end supported him in the attitude he had taken up.

Here in Egypt the Reuter telegram announcing the news was received with a feeling of intense relief, and the European element and the British community join in the more instructed Egyptians' triumph. Comment is at present somewhat restrained, owing to the desire first to know the exact terms of the agreement and of the letter addressed to the Sultan, which must be presented before any Cabinet can be formed and the new constitutional régime introduced.

Lord Allenby is assured a very warm reception on his arrival and already preparations to this end are being made in Egyptian circles.

The Vexed Question of the Mails.

The question of the mails is giving rise to a great deal of dissatisfaction, particularly in view of the fact that no amount of complaint appears to bring about any remedy. The whole trouble reposes in the arrangements made at the London end and the failure to connect in France and Italy with the Lloyd Triestino at Brindisi. An official explanation published in the London Press states that the cause of the delays has been the breakdown of an attempt to accelerate by one day the postal service to Egypt *via* Brindisi, and declares that as soon as information was received that the mails despatched on January 18, 24, and 25 had missed the boat at Brindisi it was decided at once to revert to the old system. I have before me a statement showing how the mails have been arriving since the beginning of the year, and a noteworthy entry in that statement is in regard to the mails despatched from London between the 28th and 30th January and between the 31st January and the 2nd February, the former of which only arrived on the 15th instant and the latter of which only partly arrived on the 10th. This would certainly not appear to fit in with the official statement that the old system of despatch had been reverted to after the mail of the 25th had missed, and the feeling here is that the authorities in London are not grappling sufficiently energetically with the question of the mails to Egypt. Before the war we had five arrivals of mail every week from Europe and although it may perhaps be too much to ask that the same efficiency as in 1914 should be shown to-day by St. Martin's Le Grand nevertheless it does

seem disgraceful that with so many ships plying weekly between European ports and Egypt it should not be possible to organise a punctual bi-weekly mail service to Egypt.

The Season.

The season is proceeding apace, though not to the extent which was expected earlier in the year, a change which is undoubtedly due to inaccurate rumours of unrest in Egypt circulated in Europe and the strong propaganda carried out by the Riviera and North-West African and Swiss winter resorts. The arrival of the American cruising steamers with several hundred tourists has considerably enlivened matters, and we have latterly been proceeding from one social event to another with almost bewildering rapidity. Dancing is all the rage and Shepherds, the Continental-Savoy, and the Semiramis have been vying with one another with their fetes, diners-dansants, and soupers-dansants. The carnival season bids fair to be celebrated with great *entrain*, and Heliopolis has given us this year some most excellent racing, which both residents and visitors have fully appreciated. Entertaining at the Residency, which has been very active, has been suspended owing to the absence of Lord Allenby in London; and Lady Allenby has taken the opportunity to snatch at Luxor a well-earned rest from her very arduous social duties.

Cairo, February 25.

Murders of British Subjects.

Barely had I posted my letter last week than the whole community was shocked by the news of a dastardly attack made on a high official of the Ministry of Education. During the week there had been three similar attacks on British subjects, in the course of which an R.A.M.C. soldier and a Railway official had been wounded, and a civilian, a New-Zealander, had been shot dead. These attacks had considerably concerned the authorities, but it was generally considered that they were merely a repetition of what had been chronicled at intervals during the past three years, or that they were due to some personal grudge against the victims. But when on Saturday Mr. Aldred Brown, the Controller-General of the Central Administration of the Ministry of Education, was fatally shot in broad daylight close to his Ministry, and Mr. Peach, Assistant Chief Engineer to the State Railways, was wounded by one of three shots fired at him while he was walking with his wife at Mataria, all these attacks assumed a very different complexion.

The New-Zealander who was murdered had been in the country only a very short time; neither the Railway Engineer nor Mr. Peach was temperamentally a man against whom his subordinates could have had any grudge; while Mr. Aldred Brown was a man of such a retiring disposition, so gentle a nature, so respected and esteemed, and so looked up to by all Egyptians who had at any time come into contact with him, that there could no longer be any question of personal motive, and it became obvious that these attacks were directed at the victims merely because they were British.

The authorities have now taken very drastic action in the matter and a proclamation has been issued cancelling all firearm licences held by Egyptian subjects, ordering the latter to hand in whatever firearms and ammunition they might possess, authorising the Military and Police

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to search wherever they may think fit for arms and ammunition, and warning those resisting such searches that they will be liable to be shot at sight and those in whose hands arms and ammunition may be found that they will be brought before a Military Court and be liable to capital punishment. In addition instructions have been issued by the British Consulate to Englishmen not to pass through unfrequented places or walk about alone after dark, and advising them to carry revolvers; while a reward of L.E.500 has been offered for any information which may lead to the discovery of the murderers of Mr. Brown and Mr. Jordan, or the assailant of Mr. Peach. The measures introduced by the authorities are being strenuously enforced, and have had the effect, for the time being at any rate, of putting an end to the series of cowardly attacks on Englishmen which marked the preceding week. Whether the assailants will be run to earth is, however, another matter, for in none of the recent cases has any clue to their identity been left.

Europeans' Comment.

These attacks and murders in broad daylight not unnaturally cast a gloom over the British and European communities, and the foreign press has been exceedingly outspoken on the matter. The Egyptian press has in most cases expressed regret at their occurrence, and the Independent Egypt Party has issued a statement to the same effect; but all these expressions of regret have been accompanied by statements of opinion on the question of the maintenance of martial law and on the general political situation, which have somewhat marred the good effect that they otherwise might have had on the feelings of the foreign communities. It has, indeed, been noted with much surprise that contrary to what was done on the occasion of the Alexandria events in May last year no Egyptian of standing has ventured publicly to express the disapproval of these cowardly acts which has been voiced in private conversation, and in existing circumstances this is regarded as a serious political error of judgment.

With regard to these attempts and murders I find that there is a very strong feeling in European circles on the question of compensation. It is pointed out that the principle of making the Egyptian Government pay for damage done to the property of foreign residents by riots etc. during times of political stress has been established, and it is considered that this principle should be extended to damage done to human life. In the case of officials there is, it is held, no reason why these political acts should enable the Egyptian Government to escape the payment of the compensation and pension which it would have had to pay if such official had been alive when the new régime and the consequent reduction of the foreign personnel came into effect. Particularly does this apply to cases like that of Mr. Aldred Brown, who would have retired on very nearly full pension next year, and whose widow will now receive only one-third of that amount; and it is considered that in all such cases either the amount of compensation which the official in question would have received had he survived to the time for economising his services or a very much larger pension than that allowed by finance regulations should be paid to his widow.

The Anglo-American Hospital.

Dr. Morton Howell, the newly appointed American Diplomatic Agent and Consul-General, who presided over the recent general meeting of subscribers to the Anglo-American Hospital has lost no time in giving effect to the promise he then made of doing all he could to assist that institution. He has this week issued an eloquent appeal for funds to all American residents and visitors, and it is confidently expected that this will result in substantial assistance being forthcoming from his fellow-countrymen, who in the past have always generously supported philanthropic and social objects in this country.

The Ex-Khedive.

An official contradiction has been issued of the news telegraphed here from continental sources that the

ex-Khedive had embarked at Naples for Egypt. It transpires that he did go on board a steamer bound for Alexandria, but that he disembarked at Syracuse where he has gone for a holiday with friends. Although it was obvious to most people that the news as originally reported was incorrect, nevertheless it created a certain amount of excitement in certain circles; for latterly there has been a good deal of Khedivist propaganda, and there is still a somewhat strong Khedivist Party in the country.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Belgrade, February 28.

Active Politics.

As great activity in the political life of this Country as has been experienced since the Great War is now in evidence. Extended preparations have been made for the Conference of the Little Entente Premiers; this, in view of the fact that the Genoa Conference has been postponed, will now definitely take place in Belgrade on March 5. The skilful handling of Central European politics by Dr. Benesh, is giving rise to the belief that Poland will shortly join the Little Entente, thus forming a compact *bloc* of states with a population of about 72 millions. The Near East consolidated in such a way should now cease to be an eternal source of unrest, and, moreover, such a consolidation would certainly help England and France to maintain peace in ruined Europe.

There are already signs that neighbouring States are about to change their policies towards Yugoslavia. The change of the Italian Cabinet, which means the giving up of provocative tactics, and the tone of certain Italian newspapers pointing out misdeeds of the past Governments are sufficient to indicate the change for the better in Italian foreign politics. Speculations on and encouraging disorders in Slav countries have never given good results, however attractive and promising they may be. Austria and her leaders employed the methods of *Divide et impera* for over a century; these methods are as dangerous to themselves as to anybody

TOWNSMEN & SOUTH AFRICAN FARMING.

The great spaces of the Veld are being developed. Farming is increasing there. It is attracting a remarkable community, all men of substance, many of them from the Services, commerce and the other professions.

Far inland or near the sea, on the open plains and at the foot of mountain ranges, those townsmen are building homes and starting new careers to win a living from the land. It is a sign of the times.

Nowhere is that sign more heartening than in the valleys of the Union of South Africa. Almost untenanted a few years ago, some of those sunny-climated valleys are now being closely settled, and will become highly productive when the man-made lakes are completed for irrigating the rich soil. Given water, almost anything will grow luxuriantly on that soil.

Meanwhile, in preparation, all is activity. Bush is being cleared, land is being ploughed, levelled and got ready for crops; brick kilns are providing material for houses, and on every side the new comers are planning and building, not without difficulties and cares, yet hopefully for the future.

A number of the new homes have been completed in some of the valleys. Well-built brick houses, some gabled, some double-storied, many with tiled roofs, all comfortably appointed. Soon they will be embowered in gardens, and shaded by trees, for when the water comes growth will be rapid.

Whatever of difficulty the future may hold for those builders, they will at least have pleasant homes. And in the years to come, when fields and orchards stretch for miles below those homes, there will be all the pioneer's pride in work not only well but probably profitably done.

Then, in the cool of the African night, when from the foliaged residential heights they view their valley, with its twinkling lights from scores of similar homes, those builders from the towns, who had the courage and capital to restart on the land, will find contentment in their work and valley. It will be home in the highest sense—a valley essentially rural yet with plenty of social amenities within reach. For as a newcomer recently said of his valley: "From one end to the other, the society is as good as one could desire." Capital not less than £2,000 is necessary for a start.

Full particulars of the position and prospect, and of the facilities in South Africa for obtaining training and guidance, should in the first instance be obtained from the Office of the High Commissioner for the Union of South Africa, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2.—Advt.

else. Lately Austria has paid dearly for her sins, leaving us a striking example of what one may expect to harvest after having sown evil in the neighbour's field. Without hesitation I may add that the Italians are not hated as a nation, however much the Yugoslavs may hate their foreign politics and acts during the last three years. Future relations between the two countries depend entirely upon the broadmindedness and clairvoyance of the Peninsular statesmen.

The King's Return.

King Alexander arrived here last night from Bucharest, whither he went ten days ago to attend the religious ceremony of his engagement to the Roumanian Princess. This ceremony had to be delayed owing to the Yugoslav Court's being in mourning for the late King Peter. Bright festivals which have taken place in Bucharest have found a strong echo in Yugoslavia. Preparations have already begun for the celebration of the first royal marriage of the dynasty of Karageorgevitch, which is, according to the latest reports, to take place on June 4. Roumania is the only nation having common frontiers with Serbia and also an undisturbed friendship dating back as far as the arrival of the Slavs in the Balkans. A Royal Marriage would further strengthen the friendly relations between the nations whose interests have been identical for such a long time.

The Communists' Trial.

The biggest trial ever known in the history of Serbian law was brought to an end last Friday. All the accused belonged to the "Red Party," whose members were chiefly recruited among the lowest classes. It was only too obvious right through the trial that these poor men, with the exception of a few intellectuals, have been fooled into doing the things which have finally brought them into conflict with the law. Steyitch, the man who threw the bomb at the King last summer, presents a poor spectacle. His behaviour is strange, and he made himself ridiculous by saying that he did not want to kill the King with the bomb, but merely to protest against the terror which is oppressing the poor. He also denied all the statements made and duly signed by him some months ago when he was arrested. The Court, however, did not take into consideration his denials, and has passed the death sentence on him, while granting him the right to appeal. The rest of the conspirators have been given different sentences ranging from two to twenty years' penal servitude.

Such is the unfortunate epilogue of an insane agitation and propaganda, which has now been cut short of all its outward signs of life and activities. Even labour syndicates have been closed down, and permission to re-open is granted only if sufficient guarantee is provided that they function solely to protect the working classes from the economic point of view.

Anti-Separatists' Demonstrations.

Throughout Dalmatia, but particularly in Ragusa and Spalato wild meetings and processions are taking place to condemn the foul politics of the Croatian *Bloc* Leaders whose foolish attempt to divide Yugoslavia is heartily despised both by Serbs and Croats living in Croatia and Dalmatia. Dalmatia is most sensitive against any attacks on the Union, and the re-action is therefore felt there much more strongly than anywhere else.

Last Friday some men belonging to Raditch's party came to Dubrovnik (Ragusa), and attempted to hold a conference and organise their followers. Unionists prevented the conference taking place and threw out of the hall all the leaders, who took refuge in a house belonging to a friend of theirs. A crowd besieged the house from which a bomb was thrown, luckily without injuring anybody. Revolver shots quickly echoed the explosion of the bomb, and the angry mob started rushing the house. Separatists have to thank the mounted police for their lives, for if it had not been for their timely arrival the results would have certainly been much more unpleasant.

GREECE.

Athens, February 18.

A Franco-Greek Incident.

An incident which, in view of the deep anti-French

feeling prevailing here at present, is causing much irritation among public opinion, has occurred between the Greek Government and the French Chargé d'Affaires in Athens. On the 10th inst., the French cargo boat 'Espoir' carrying coal and petrol to Mersina was stopped by a Greek warship, and conducted to the naval arsenal at Salamis. Shortly afterwards the French representative, M. de Marcilly, called in person on the Minister for Foreign Affairs *ad interim*, and informed him that as the French Government had not so far recognised the right or the status of a belligerent to either of the adversaries, the international law regulations in force with regard to the seizure of goods considered contraband of war were not applicable in this case. Moreover, M. de Marcilly pointed out to M. Cartalis that the coal transported by the 'Espoir' was very urgently needed in Cilicia, where the French authorities were assisting the Turks to re-establish normal conditions of life and to ensure a more regular circulation of the trains. The French Chargé d'Affaires added that Greece had no right whatsoever to search steamers flying the French flag, especially in view of the refusal of the French Government to grant such permission to this country. The Minister for Foreign Affairs replied that as Greece was in a state of war with the Kemalists she had every right to seize goods which, in her opinion, would in any way be of use to the enemy in his struggle for supremacy. He added, however, that the matter would be dealt with that evening by the Council of Ministers, when a definite reply would be given to M. de Marcilly.

On the following day the French representative was notified that although the Greek Government still persisted in its original views to the effect that by seizing the French vessel it was merely safeguarding the nation's interests, Greece was willing to treat the matter leniently; and it had therefore been decided to allow the 'Espoir' to depart, after, however, she had discharged her cargo of coal and petrol, which would be considered contraband of war. But, as was only to be expected, this reply did not satisfy the French Chargé d'Affaires, who called again at the Foreign Office and handed to M. Cartalis a *note verbale* on behalf of the French Government, which had now taken the matter in hand, demanding the immediate release of the steamer and its cargo.

The Greek Government has not yet replied to the French note, but it is generally thought that the answer will again be in the negative, in which case it would be difficult to foresee how the case would develop.

Threatened Bakers' Strike.

The Athens and Piraeus bakers have notified the Minister of Supplies and the Chief of Police that as their demands for an increase in the price of bread have not been accepted by the Government, they would cease work and close their shops as from next Monday.

This threat, however, did not alarm the Government, which, having scored a big victory over the electrical and tramway employees two months ago, is confident of being able to crush the new strike from its very beginning. The bakeries are to be placed under military control and the bakers' hands will be paid by the State, while orders were issued to the effect that all bakeries in the two towns should be immediately supplied with abundant quantities of flour. In addition to these measures it has been decided that bread for the civilian population shall also be produced by the army bakeries.

It would surprise nobody if, in view of the firm attitude adopted by the authorities in the matter, the bakers suddenly announced the postponement of the strike.

Results of the Census.

The returns of the census which was taken on January 1, 1921 are now published by the Ministry of National Economy. According to these the population of the whole of Greece, including Western and Eastern Thrace, is 5,535,850 made up of 2,750,639 males and 2,785,211 females. The men serving in Asia Minor are not included in the above figure.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, February 26.

The Communal Elections.

The eagerly awaited Communal elections were held on Sunday the 19th, and although the result of the voting in two minor districts has not yet been announced it is possible to form a very fair idea of the situation. The Government have obtained approximately 43 per cent. of the total votes that were cast. This figure is considerably lower than anticipated in Government circles, and in view of the fact that the elections represent the opinion of practically all the peasants in Bulgaria it cannot be said to be very satisfactory from the Agrarian point of view.

The Turkish element in Bulgaria almost invariably votes with the Government, partly because the Turks in power usually exercise a certain amount of "peaceful persuasion" on the Mussulman population. If the votes of the Turks, who mostly come from the region round Shumen, are subtracted from the Government percentage, it will be found that the Agrarians have not more than 37 per cent. of the rural population behind them. In addition to this, the towns which did not take part in the recent elections contain a very small percentage of Agrarians, and if their vote were also included, the Agrarians would not have more than 33 per cent., or in other words a third of the country. It is thus a self-evident fact that the Government have to a very great extent lost the confidence that they previously enjoyed.

Communists Lose Ground.

The Communists' vote is also slightly reduced, it being estimated that their representation does not exceed 16 per cent. This is perhaps the most satisfactory feature about the elections, manifesting as it does the commonsense and anti-Leninism of the Bulgarian peasant. Lastly come the Bourgeois parties, whose united vote was almost as great as that of the Government. In most of the villages, the Bourgeois sank their party differences and formed a *bloc* against the Agrarians. The results achieved were notable, the Bourgeois vote showing an increase from 25 per cent. in the last elections to 40—41 per cent. in the present. The position of the Bourgeois parties remains, however, anomalous. At Sofia, where each party has its headquarters, there is still the old personal animosity, and there are no outward and visible signs of a Coalition. In the provinces, the peasants have been more far-seeing than their leaders, and without waiting for orders, have made a *bloc*. It now remains to be seen whether Sofia will take a lesson from the provinces, or will persist in its present narrow-minded and selfish attitude. If party leaders

do not agree to coalesce, it is quite within the bounds of possibility, that their adherents, taking matters into their own hands, will insist on the *bloc* and force its formation themselves. In any case the failure of the Bourgeois to unite, continues to constitute the strength of the Government. The latter have lost their influence amongst the peasants to a quite extraordinary degree, and it will be very interesting to watch political developments during the next few months.

The Military Commission.

The Inter-Allied Commission of Control has received orders to close down, and the English contingent, under command of Captain Marson, left yesterday. Colonel Plunkett, the chief of the English section, and his other officials are leaving next week, whilst the French and Italian are also due to go in a few days. General de Fourtoun, the President of the Commission, has fixed on March 1 as the date of his departure. In the place of the Commission, a so-called "Organ of Liquidation" is being set up. The French Colonel d'Amarzet, who is now at Budapest, will preside over this "Organ," and he will be assisted by one Japanese, one British, one Italian, and two French officers. To the uninitiated, the need of such an "Organ" is hard to understand; for the declarations that General de Fourtoun made last week led one to understand that Bulgaria was disarmed and demobilised.

The work of the new body will apparently be to clear up several outstanding matters. It would have been thought that this work could have been perfectly well carried out by the Military Attachés of England, France and Italy. Bulgaria has heavy Treaty obligations without yet another one being added. The duration of time that the "Organ" will function for, has not been announced, but it is sincerely to be hoped that it will speedily accomplish its work, and set the country free from the expense of its maintenance.

A Contradiction.

A few weeks ago a statement appeared in an English daily that the expenses of the Inter-allied Commission of preparations at Sofia exceeded the annual grant for the Bulgarian Ministries of Agriculture, Interior and Justice. Several local newspapers reproduced this statement, but in the *Echo de Bulgarie* last week a well worded and categorical denial appeared. This stated that the money spent by the Commission did not exceed the grant allowed for any one of the three Ministries in question, let alone all three. Of late there has been a tendency in the foreign press to attack the Commission of Reparations. The attacks have sometimes taken a personal form, and as the Commission has never thought it worth while to reply to the ridiculous charges brought against it, it is doubly gratifying that the Government has thought fit its own accord to deny at least one false statement.

Yugoslavia.

M. Rakitch, who has been Yugoslavian Chargé d'Affaires at Sofia for close on a year, presented his Letters of Credence to King Boris on February 25. Although the new Minister's address did not contain anything very striking, it was very cordial and made special reference to the desire of Yugoslavia to live on good terms with her Eastern neighbour. M. Kosta Theodoroff, Bulgarian Chargé d'Affaires at Belgrade, will present his Letters of Credence to King Alexander next week, and diplomatic relations between the two countries will then be completely re-established.

It is also of interest to note that Yugoslavia has followed the example of Greece and Roumania in renouncing her right to try Bulgarian war criminals. The latter will be tried locally, although Yugoslavia reserves the right to intervene if she considers that the trials are not being carried out in a proper manner.

Luncheon at the Palace.

King Boris entertained the members of the Inter-Allied Military Commission of Control to luncheon last Friday. Their Royal Highnesses Princess Eudoxie and Nadejda, M. Stambolisky, M. Thomoff, the Minister of War, and Colonel Topaljihoff, the Chief of Staff, were also present.

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SOUTH WALES PORTS TO GIBRALTAR
GENOA LEGHORN NAPLES PALERMO
MESSINA CATANIA BRINDISI BARI
ANCONA VENICE TRIESTE AND FIUME

FREIGHT SAILINGS FROM
LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER LONDON SWANSEA
ANTWERP AND ROTTERDAM TO GREEK LEVANT
AND BLACK SEA PORTS

ALSO FREIGHT SAILINGS FROM
LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER :-
GLASGOW AND SOUTH WALES
PORTS TO HAVRE ST MALO AND
:- DIEPPE :-

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TURKEY.*Constantinople, February 23.***Yusuf Kemal Bey's Mission.**

Yusuf Kemal Bey, the Commissioner for Foreign Affairs of the Angora Government, is expected to leave Constantinople at the end of this week for Marseilles. It was originally intended that he would first visit Rome, but it was found that all steamers sailing between Constantinople and Italian ports call at the Piræus, and Yusuf Kemal Bey was unwilling to risk the unpleasantness suffered by Bekir Sani Bey last year. At least, this is the excuse which the public is expected to accept, but it is more probable that the true reasons for the change in the itinerary are concerned with the political crisis in Italy.

During his stay in the capital, Yusuf Kemal Bey has visited and has been visited by each of the Allied High Commissioners, and he has also had interviews with numerous statesmen and ministers, as well as with the Heir Apparent. He was welcomed with the greatest enthusiasm at Haidar Pasha station upon his arrival, but he is not altogether optimistic regarding the outcome of his mission in Europe. In the first place he has not succeeded in persuading the Central Government to invest him with official authority as the envoy of the Imperial Government as well as of the Angora Government. It is reported that he will therefore be accompanied by Hamid Bey, Turkish member of the Ottoman Bank Directorate and President of the Refugees Commission of the Ottoman Red Crescent Association, who has acted for some time past as the semi-official representative of the Angora Government in Constantinople. Hamid Bey will be furnished with certain documents by Turkish association and corporations in the capital, and will therefore claim to represent the Turkish population of Rumelia.

With regard to the object of his mission Yusuf Kemal Bey has made long communications to the local press, which have been commented upon at length; but these announcements and comments contained nothing new, and merely consisted of somewhat wearisome permutations of the clauses of the National Pact. At the same time, it is worthy of note that both Yusuf Kemal Bey himself, and the editors of the local press, have scrupulously avoided all mention of the Straits Question, whether in regard to the attitude of the Angora Government in the matter, or as concerns the undoubted attitude of the Allies. It will be remembered that the Angora Government has pledged itself to a solution of the problem without reference to any other countries except those whose coasts are washed by the Black Sea; and in view of the silence of Yusuf Kemal Bey himself in this connection, it is probable that he had been instructed to attempt to persuade the Allies to discuss peace terms without reference to this very important question. It is also probable that a similar course will be proposed with regard to the question of the Capitulations and economic matters. In other words, the Allies will be invited to make peace purely on the basis of territorial considerations, to recognise the abolition of the Capitulations, and to discuss such matters as the status of foreign subjects and financial and economic questions after the conclusion of such a peace. The Allies will also be asked to recognise the "treaties" concluded by the Angora Government, including those by which the Allies are excluded from a settlement of the Straits Question. If Yusuf Kemal Bey is not altogether optimistic in the circumstances, it can only be because his vision stretches somewhat farther than the four walls of the Great National Assembly.

Bolshevist Intrigues.

The Conference of London last year was preceded by strenuous efforts on the part of the Bolsheviks to prevent the efforts of the Allies to restore peace from being successful, and the same tactics are again being pursued. On the one hand, all possible pressure is being exerted

to prevent the granting of concessions to any foreigners, and on the other hand, the Bolshevik envoy, Araloff, is doing his best to prevent the Angora Government from making any of those political concessions which will be necessary if peace is to be concluded at all. His latest effort, according to a telegram from Angora dated February 21, has been to address a letter to the National Assembly, in which the proposed Conference of Genoa is depicted as an effort on the part of the Allies to sow discord between two noble and devoted friends, Russia and Turkey. Araloff assured the Assembly that the Machiavellian plot would never succeed, and bade the Assembly to be of good cheer, for: "You are not alone, the entire Russian nation is at your side, because our aims are identical . . . by union our victory is certain."

The telegram stated that the letter was read to the deputies amidst frenzied applause.

The Patriarchate and the Porte.

Rumours have recently been current to the effect that the new Patriarch, H. H. Meletios, IV., is about to make overtures to the Sublime Porte with a view to effecting a reconciliation. It has been officially denied that any such overtures have yet taken place, but in the course of an interview granted yesterday to a local journalist, His Holiness made the following statement:—"I shall act for the best as soon as the time is propitious, and when the right moment arrives. The establishment of relations with the Porte must be carried out in such a manner that justice and liberty will be guaranteed." From this statement two deductions may be made: the Patriarch is not opposed, in principle, to a reconciliation, and, secondly, His Holiness is a diplomatist.

In the course of the same interview, His Holiness stated that his programme included the convocation of an oecumenical synod in the near future.

An International Incident.

The arrest of the French steamer 'Espoir,' by the Greek cruiser 'Naxos,' and the seizure of its cargo of coal, has given rise to an incident which may produce important results. It would appear that the 'Espoir,' was stopped by the Greek cruiser off the coast of Asia Minor near Mersina, and that the cargo was confiscated as contraband of war. The Greek authorities, it is understood, have agreed to release the steamer, but are refusing to return the cargo, and the French have sent the cruiser 'Strasbourg' to Smyrna, although it is not known for what precise purpose.

CYPRUS.*Nicosia, February 14.***The Greek "National Council."**

This body is now complete; but there have been several surprises as regards its composition. Several prominent persons who were considered certain to be elected have failed to obtain seats, notably Dr. Zanneto of Larnaca, who has been a member of all the delegations to London. This may be due to the fact that at the general meeting he expressed disapproval of the policy of abstention from sitting on the Legislative Council. The new body was to start its work of organisation in mid-February, but the meeting has been postponed, and now awaits the call of the Archbishop. Members are exhorted by the Press to work whole-heartedly for the cause; but it is recognised that a not inconsiderable party are opposed to "Nationalist" tactics, and consider that the leaders have not taken the wisest road towards the goal at which they aim.

Proposed Sanatorium.

Few examples of progress are more noteworthy in Cyprus than that relating to matters of health, both in town and village communities. Qualified medical attendance has been steadily replacing this indifference fatalism, and the many superstitions of the people. In addition to the work of Government Medical Officers and the District Hospitals, Greek doctors are now residing in many large villages, and are doing very good service. One of them has submitted to the High Com-

missioner a proposal for the establishment of a sanatorium for consumptives, in what is unquestionably a very suitable climate. A project for the private establishment of such an institution in the hills by an eminent English doctor very nearly came to realisation some years ago. But it fell through on reconsideration, largely owing to the anomolous conditions of the island tenure, which have been the cause of the failure of so many good projects in the island.

General News.

Major Bayly, Commissioner of Nicosia, is about to retire. During his service in Cyprus, first as Commandant of Police, and later as Commissioner, he has gained the esteem both of officials who have served under him, and also of the Cypriot people. He will be succeeded by Mr. Hart Davies, Assistant to the Chief Secretary, whose place will be taken by Mr. Ellis.

Dr. Thompson, Chief Medical Officer, has left for England, and it is said will relinquish Government service; though he may return and practise privately in Cyprus. Dr. E. Corsellis, D.M.O., Limassol, has often acted previously in taking his place, and it is presumed that he will succeed to the post of Chief of the Department, to which his long and meritorious service certainly entitles him.

Preparations are being made for various Easter gaieties. In Nicosia races will be held on April 17 and 18.

AN EGYPTIAN PROTEST.

We have received from Tanta the following telegram dated March 2, and signed by doctors, Chamber of Commerce, lawyers, notables, teaching staff, engineers, religious lawyers, and labourers:—

While Egyptian people evinced an earnest desire to come to an agreement in which National claims are recognised, and those interests of English and foreign communities which do not clash with these sacred rights, are safeguarded English persisted in adopting an attitude which necessarily widens gap between Egypt and Britain, and dictates a policy characterised by playing on words and giving undue importance to them without touching the substance or seriously tackling the real issue between the two countries. Such schemes as Milner's, Curzon's, Allenby's note, and latest letter of English Government to Sultan, have merely convinced Egyptians of bad faith and unchanging character of English policy in Nile Valley. Keeping in exile of Nation's mandatory, Zaghloul Pasha and colleagues absence of freedom of press, exceptional measures, prohibition of publishing of views of Egyptian Wafd continued violation of personal freedom in short rigorous application of martial law are unfailing indications for disclosing nature of policy with which Lord Allenby is charged to carry out in Egypt. Citizens of Tanta therefore vehemently protest against policy indicated in last letter to Sultan against the recent deliberate insult of transporting Zaghloul Pasha on board warship, to remote Seychelles at present moment and declare that any Ministry formed before return of deported leaders and before fulfilment of all conditions of Egyptian Wafd, shall not enjoy slightest confidence of Egyptian people.

THE EGYPTIAN CABINET.

The new Egyptian Cabinet has been formed as follows:—Premier, Minister of the Interior and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Abdel Khalek Sarwat Pasha; Communications, Wassif Simeika Bey; Justice, Mustapha Fathy Pasha; Public Works, Hussein Wassif Pasha; Wakfs (Pious Foundations), Gaafar Wali Pasha; Education, Mustapha Maher Pasha; Finance, Ismail Sidky Pasha; Agriculture, Mohammed Shoukry Pasha; War, Ibrahim Fathy Pasha.

BRITISH SUBJECTS IN EGYPT.

The text of the Order in Council of December 13, amending in certain particulars previous Orders affecting Egypt, was published in the *London Gazette* of February 21. Henceforth every British subject resident in Egypt must be registered at the

Consulate of the Consular district in which he resides. Any British subject arriving in Egypt must apply for registration within a month of reaching the country; any British subject who neglects to obtain registration "shall not be entitled to be recognized or protected as a British subject in Egypt." The Supreme Court for Egypt is also granted, "as far as circumstances admit," the same jurisdiction in matrimonial causes in respect to British subjects as is exercisable by the High Court in England.

INDIAN WOMEN STUDENTS.

To meet Lord Lytton, Governor Designate of Bengal and Lady Lytton, Mrs. Patrick Villiers-Stuart gave an At Home on February 24 (postponed from the previous day) at 18, Pelham Street, S.W., in support of the work of the Indian Women's Education Association. The guests included Princess Sophia Duleep Singh, Lady Erleigh, Lady Mond, Sir Dhunibhoy and Lady Bomanjee, Lady MacDonnell, Lady Monro, Dr. Kate Platt, Mrs. Bahadarji, Mr. and Mrs. Kotval, and General Villiers-Stuart.

Sir Mancherjee Bhownagree, chairman of the committee, in conveying the congratulations and good wishes of the company to Lord and Lady Lytton, said that he had the privilege in youth of seeing Lord Lytton's father proclaim Queen Victoria Empress of India at Delhi on January 1, 1877. Sir M. Bhownagree added that an influential committee had been formed in Calcutta to collect funds for the association. He appealed to Lord Lytton to encourage such provision of funds for India's educational needs in India itself.

Lord Lytton said that his work as chairman of the Indian Students' Committee had made him cognisant of the service Association was doing in training Indian women for the teaching profession. The war had led to shortness of money for good objects in all parts of the world, and he knew that in Bengal itself there was great need for funds for educational expansion. But he would gladly bring to the notice of the committee formed in Calcutta, and of others, the necessity for this valuable work in London to be supported by money from India.

GORDON MEMORIAL COLLEGE, KHARTOUM.

The annual reports of the Gordon Memorial College, Khartoum, are always good reading; for year by year they tell a story of fine work well done—much of it by men working in a climate which they must surely find very trying. We have now received the report for the year 1920, and we find it as full of the right spirit, and telling the same tale of satisfactory progress all along the line, as all its predecessors that we have read. As Sir Reginald Wingate, Chairman of the executive Committee, writes in his introductory note, "Steady progress in all directions is the dominant note," and he is fully justified in reflecting that "those of the original subscribers who read the Annual Reports must feel genuine satisfaction that their benefactions have borne good fruit."

The plan of calling an extra meeting of the Committee in the summer, to which we referred last year, has given satisfactory results, and is likely to lead to much closer touch being maintained with the local authorities. Another point on which Sir Reginald Wingate touches is the effort being made by the College to grapple with the difficulties of teaching the Arabic language and literature, and of teaching other subjects in Arabic. He refers, too, with satisfaction to "the fact that two Sudanese teachers have been found proficient enough to replace two Egyptian members of the staff, one as a senior Teacher of Arabic and the other as a teacher of Religious Law." The research works, sports, and all sides of the College's activities are all in a healthy state of activity, we are glad to note. It is curious to find the chairman writing: "The depredations of hyenas amongst flocks and herds are being successfully dealt with by a preparation of strychnine, which resulted in 300 of these voracious animals being killed within four months in one district alone." That is a branch of service which no 'Home' school is likely to be called upon to perform, but it is an example of 'applied science' which is certainly very beneficial to the Sudan.

Pressure on our space forbids an extended notice of the Report in this issue, but we hope to be able to return to the subject very shortly.

A new quarter is to be built in Tiberias, Palestine, and 100 workmen are already engaged on the construction of streets.

A meeting held at Yannina by refugees from North Epirus has sent telegrams of protest to the Allied Powers against alleged excesses committed by the Albanian authorities.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

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

BRITAIN AND INDIA.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—Your correspondent "Outis" can scarcely expect to be treated seriously in holding up Alauddin Khalji's method of dealing with Indian unrest as a model for statesmen of the present day. Our knowledge of the 13th century is derived from records kept by men who were more anxious to curry favour with the sovereign than to state the unbiassed truth. Such evidence is not to be relied on. But on the large assumption that this Asiatic despot acted as "Outis" asserts, I would suggest that he made rebellion an excuse for fleecing the few who had something to lose; just as our King John fomented pogroms in order to extract money from his luckless Jewish subjects. Moreover, Alauddin Khalji's India differed *toto cælo* from the huge overpeopled but undermanned empire of to-day: the economic and political problems with which its rulers are confronted lay in the womb of a distant future. Can "Outis" point to any modern revolution which has been engineered by the moneyed class? Capital is timid and conservative; the "haves" knowing that they are hated and envied by the "have-nots," invariably side with the Powers that be in times of civil stress. "Outis" may possibly instance the "English Revolution" of 1688, in which many rich folk were undoubtedly concerned. But my dictionary defines "Revolution" as "A fundamental change in the Government of a country," and quotes a dictum of Macaulay—"The violence of revolutions is generally proportioned to the maladministration which has produced them." The movement of 1688-9 was very far from satisfying that definition; it brought about a change of dynasty, but left the British Constitution inviolate. Of a different type were the cataclysms which desolated France at the close of the 18th century and have brought utter ruin on Russia in one day. They were the work of a penniless "Intelligentsia" who stirred the starving masses to madness by dint of stump oratory and then held them in subjection by inaugurating a reign of terror. Both revolutions effected fundamental changes in the body-politic at the cost of fearful bloodshed, and in each case the wealthy classes were slaughtered or driven into exile. History seems, alas, to be repeating itself in India.

I am, etc., F. H. S.

March 5.

YUGOSLAVIA AND ALBANIA.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—With reference to the *démenti* published by the Serbian Press Bureau regarding the alleged statements of M. Pashitch in the Skupshtina, if the facts are as stated, I can only regret that I was misled by reports current here. It is nevertheless a remarkable fact that similar reports found their way to Paris and many other European centres, e.g. *Le Temps* of January 28 published a report from a Belgrade correspondent in which M. Pashitch is reported to have said:—

"Avec l'Albanie, la situation est toujours incertaine. Depuis le meurtre d'Essad pacha, le chaos règne en Albanie, et la Yougoslavie, qui est continuellement attaquée par les Albanais, doit recourir aux armes pour défendre ses frontières. . . ."

And again:—

"Lors du règlement du problème albanais, à la con-

férence de la paix, j'ai demandé l'application de la ligne du Drin, considérant qu'il est impossible d'avoir une autre frontière. La localité de Lime a été attribuée à l'Albanie; mais j'espère que nous l'obtiendrons un jour."

If the reports were inaccurate, I must say that it was not unnatural that they should find ready credence in Albania; for M. Pashitch always speaks unfortunately of this country, and is at pains to represent the internal situation here in the most unfavourable colours. He claims that the Albanians attack the Serbs, when impartial witnesses, such as those of the League of Nations Commission of Inquiry have testified to the contrary; he speaks with regret of Essad Pasha! He declares also that he demanded the Drin frontier when the Peace Conference was fixing the frontiers; and thus he shows us once more that he wished to see Albania further diminished and dismembered.

A methodical campaign against Albania is conducted in Yugoslavia, where public opinion is daily excited by fantastic reports. Thus the semi-official *Agramer Tagblatt*, of Zagreb, in a recent issue published a long article, doubtless inspired from Belgrade, discussing an alleged alliance between Albania, Bulgaria, and Hungary, directed against Serbia! Such false reports find room in the columns of the Serbian journals almost daily.

Another time the Belgrade Government complained to the League of Nations about some alleged misdeeds of the Albanians in the neutral zone. Their Commission of Inquiry was charged to investigate the affair, and in its report to the League, dated January 31, it declared that after minute investigation: "in no case was the Commission able to ascertain the truth of the same" (*i.e.* the alleged misdeeds).

It would be easy to multiply instances of this kind, but probably I have written enough to explain how it came about that the report of M. Pashitch's speech which I forwarded to you in my letter of January 19, should have obtained such ready evidence here.

I am, etc.,

YOUR ALBANIAN CORRESPONDENT.

Tirana, January 28, 1922.

THE NEW CONSTITUTION OF INDIA.

The first of a series of three Rhodes lectures on the new constitution of India was given at University College, London, on February 28. It was written by Sir Courtenay Ilbert, G.C.B., but in his absence, due to an attack of influenza, it was read by his daughter, Mrs. Herbert Fisher. Lord Chelmsford presided. In the course of some opening remarks, he said that the announcement of the British Government's policy made on August 20, 1917, was the basis of the present Government of India Act; and Mr. Montagu and he had treated the announcement as their terms of reference when drawing up or considering proposals for constitutional reform in India. It was charged against them that they had brought dyarchy into the new constitution. They had both striven to keep away from dyarchy, but had found that unless they used the dyarchic method they could not find a scheme that would fit into the four corners of the announcement.

The lecture was then read by Mrs. Fisher. Among other things it stated that a responsible government was the most significant phrase used in the declaration of August, 1917. While in the self-governing dominions responsible government was at home in India it was an exotic. In South Africa it had been made possible by imposing on the majority of the population, racial disabilities which would not be within the region of political possibility in India. One fundamental difficulty was as to whether the existence of any Indian Government could be made dependent on the vote of the legislature? The expedient had been adopted of dividing into two fields the domain of government in each important province, one of these reserved for the Governor in Council, the other to be administered by the Governor acting with ministers who might be removed from office by a hostile vote. The constitution was elastic; the list of subjects under the control of ministers responsible for the electorate could be increased or reduced according as circumstances made advisable. There was no constitution, however ingeniously framed, which could not be made unworkable by an impracticable and sufficiently obstinate minority; there was hardly any which could not be made to work with a sufficient amount of good will. The new arrangements in India were temporary; provisional experimental growth was aimed at, not a static condition. The new constitution was not a building but a tent.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

In consequence of queries, the Editor thinks it advisable to state that the quotation from any article does not necessarily imply that the views expressed are shared by "The Near East." On the contrary, an attempt is made to include as far as is possible in the available space all sides of the various questions discussed.

Egypt.

Upon the general situation of Egypt the *Daily Telegraph* of March 2 says:—

The Egyptian Charter of Independence is not a treaty or convention. There was no Egyptian Government with which we could make a satisfactory and adequate agreement; though it is highly satisfactory to note that the new scheme has been so well received in Egypt that a Cabinet was formed, under Sarwat Pasha as Premier, immediately upon Lord Allenby's return. In the circumstances, it was determined to proceed by way of a unilateral declaration—a voluntary act of renunciation. Mr. Lloyd George has invited Parliament to declare that the Protectorate is terminated, that Egypt is free to work out such national institutions as may be best suited to the aspirations of her people, and that martial law will be abolished as soon as an Egyptian Government feels that it can be dispensed with and an Act of Indemnity passed. Thus are the rights and claims of the Nile people amply and explicitly recognised. At the same time, there are essential rights and claims of the British Empire which are maintained with equal emphasis. The first and chief of these is that Egypt shall be genuinely free as against the outside world. If we relinquish our paramount control, we intend to take good care that no other European Power shall step into our place. On that point we shall take no chances and leave no scope for misunderstanding. The Prime Minister puts the matter very plainly in his message to the Dominion statesmen. He insists that, however independent and sovereign the Nile State may be, it has, from the nature of things, special relations with the British Empire which must be preserved and secured. Those relations, says Mr. Lloyd George, with seasonable bluntness, we shall not allow to be questioned or discussed. "We will regard as an unfriendly act any attempt at interference in the affairs of Egypt by another Power, and we will consider any aggression against the territory as an act to be repelled by all the means at our command." This is a direct warning, and it should be duly noted by those whom it may concern. We drop the formal Protectorate, but, all the same, we shall hold ourselves ready to protect Egypt if Egypt is threatened by external menace. There is to be no fishing in troubled waters in the Nile Valley, even if our withdrawal should lead to temporary confusions and dislocations which may offer tempting opportunities to ambitious diplomacy. Should Egypt find herself in difficulties—though we hope she will not do so—she will always be able to rely upon the aid of Great Britain and the other nations of the British Empire, with which a permanent alliance and entente is prescribed by their interest as well as her own. More than this, we still reserve our rights to secure the inter-Empire communications through the isthmus, and the protection of foreign communities and minorities. The new independence of Egypt must be developed with due regard to our Imperial necessities and obligations, which will be carefully defined in the Declarations. In accordance with this principle, we do not propose to let go our hold upon the Soudan. It is to Britain more than to Egypt that this great tract of tropical and sub-tropical Africa owes its redemption towards civilisation and prosperity. Unaided, Egypt could not govern or even keep the Soudan. We shall not abandon it to

Cairo officialdom, or expect the conscripted peasants of the Delta to overawe the fierce tribesmen who would have swarmed far down the Nile if they had not been broken by British arms and British leadership. We shall still take charge of the Soudan; but we shall give Egypt effective guarantees for a sufficient supply of the life-giving water which flows to her from the South. In a word, we shall do everything we can to provide Egypt with all she needs for her economic security and her political stability. Subject to the safeguards and limitations with which we cannot dispense, her fate will be in her own hands, and she will have the chance of showing how far her people have the capacity to understand and utilise those democratic and constitutional agencies which will now be at her disposal. It is a great experiment, and it will be no fault of the British Government or the British nation if it is not crowned with success.

Egypt and Lord Allenby.

The *Westminster Gazette*, of March 1 contains an article entitled "The Swing of the Pendulum," beginning with a statement of the fact that the documents recently published (communicated to the Sultan of Egypt by Lord Allenby) "represent a new swing of the pendulum."

For the moment, at any rate, Lord Allenby's authority has neutralised the influence of the reactionary elements in the Cabinet; but it is no secret that the latter still cherish a hope that, as a result of further disturbances in Egypt, the protests of the foreign communities and the possible inability of the moderate Egyptian leaders to "deliver the goods," their turn may yet come again. It is very necessary, therefore, that public opinion in this country should remain on the alert. The Egyptian problem, like the Irish problem, is not settled yet, and the terms of the new Declaration are too vague to bind the Government to any definite policy. The claim for a permanent military occupation has not been withdrawn; it has merely been modified by a statement of the British Government to be appointed after fresh elections have been held. In December the door was banged upon further negotiations; now it has been reopened. That, as far as the documents themselves are concerned, is all that can be said. There is, of course, however, an unwritten understanding that the British Government is in fact willing to reconsider its position completely on the military issue; indeed, if there were not, there would be no sense in the new steps which have just been taken. The new situation turns upon the policy and personality of Lord Allenby. He is trusted by the Egyptian leaders, and he returns from his consultations in London with what are practically plenipotentiary powers both of negotiation and of executive action. We may congratulate both the Egyptians and ourselves that our common interests should be in such competent hands. On this occasion, at least, there can be no doubt that the only wise course, indeed, the only possible course now open to us, is to trust and support the man on the spot and to see that he is not hampered by any further vacillations that may occur in Downing-street.

Turks and Greeks.

In the *Westminster Gazette* of February 24, Colonel the Hon. Aubrey Herbert, M.P., pleads for a consistent British policy for the Near East. He begins:—

Something has to be done, and that swiftly, to find a settled policy with the Turks, if we are to prevent more trouble within our own Empire with the Moslem races. Let me make a brief summary of the position. The French have made friends with the Turks. The relations of the Italians and the Turks have varied, but only from the plus or minus of friendship. The Greeks are exhausted after many years of warfare, and are approaching every day closer to bankruptcy. The Turks are inadequately equipped, but capable and ready to

go on fighting indefinitely. Angora and Constantinople say caustic things about each other in public because circumstances compel them, but there is no permanent quarrel between the two. Indeed an alliance between them is as obviously natural as the alliance between Turks and Bolsheviks in unnatural. Mustafa Kemal and his men had the choice of surrendering their country to the Greeks or of receiving arms and ammunition at the price of friendship with men whose lawlessness is a challenge to the fundamental principles of Islam.

But if the Turks are poorly furnished with modern weapons, the fixed topography of their mountains and their rivers is a well-nigh impregnable fortress to them. Behind him Mustafa Kemal has recruiting grounds that stretch to Central Asia, with men of his own blood and creed. If that blood is diluted, and if that creed is heretical, still common misfortunes have great power to make brothers of the sufferers.

He then gives the Turkish view of Turkey, India, Arabia and Egypt, and concludes by examining the bases of peace:—

What would the Greek terms be? Greece, unwounded but sick in her kingdom, is desperately wounded in her Empire, and her finance is chaotic. Greece sorely needs rest and the recovery of her trade. She wants to take her place again among the nations, and desires Ministers to be regularly accredited to the head of her State. Great Britain can help her. The first necessary step is the recognition of King Constantine. In years to come history will comment on the fact that Mr. Lloyd George, whose enthusiasm for democracy has been widely advertised, gave Thrace and its people, with his left hand, and Asia Minor and its inhabitants, with his right, as a personal gift to M. Venizelos, while he refused to recognise the hereditary King of Greece, whom his people had called back from exile. These will probably be cited as minor inconsistencies in the life of a great man. These inconsistencies have done much to damage us, and consistency is as essential in the making of peace as a modicum of justice. It would be possible for Lord Grey to restore order, for he invariably follows a consistent and prudent line. He, however, is almost the last man likely to receive such an invitation from Mr. Lloyd George.

One other point remains. What is the British Army doing in Constantinople? The German fleet is at the bottom of the sea, the Bolshevik navy consists of a few torpedo-boats. Victory and circumstances have achieved the neutralisation of the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles. Why, then, should the British taxpayer be called upon to support an army whose very presence creates the real dangers to which it may be exposed?

Here then, are the three possible bases for peace discussions:

1. The evacuation of Asia Minor by the Greeks. The Turks are prepared to give, not paper, but real guarantees for the security of minorities.

2. Thrace should be a living and a neutral province, no longer the armed menace to Constantinople which disturbs two continents and a locked door to the commerce of Bulgaria.

3. The Prime Minister's excommunication of Greece is out of date, and when peace is signed Great Britain should do all she can to help the State that is a war victim and that has been unusually badly treated.

ARTICLES TO NOTE.

"The Yugoslav-Albanian Frontier," by Henry Baerlein, and "The Coming Changes in India," by Major-General L. C. Dunsterville, C.B., C.S.E., in the *Fortnightly Review* (March).

"Real Difficulties of the Indian Problem," in the *Nineteenth Century* (March).

COMMERCIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN SPAIN, IRELAND AND THE AEGEAN, 2,000 to 700 B.C.

The commercial relations between Spain, Ireland, and the Aegean formed the subject of an address given by Mr. W. T. Edmiston-Scott on February 17, at 8, Tavistock Street, London, N.W. The lecturer based his argument mainly on philological evidence obtained from the study of the Basque and other languages. Among other things he stated that the mines of Spain must have been known and worked long before the rise of Phoenicia; for before the dawn of history Spanish lead was imported direct into Greece along with its Iberian name, and the most ancient piece of Egyptian bronze ever discovered was dated about 3,000 B.C. From that time onwards it appeared that in the making of bronze tin was mixed with the copper to an ever greater extent, except during the Trojan age; and the very low percentage of tin in the Trojan bronze had been assumed to be due to the cutting off of the Spanish supplies. From the time of the rise of Assyria onwards the Phoenicians had exploited the mines of Galicia for gold, silver, tin, lead, copper and iron; and this exploitation probably reached its zenith about the time of Solomon when silver had become so abundant in Phoenicia and Canaan as to be of little account. It was part of Solomon's policy to make an alliance with Phoenicia in order that he might share in the results of this exploitation of the Spanish mines. In the other direction the metals were carried to Ireland and thence to northern Europe.

By the middle of the first millennium B.C. the working of the Spanish mines became more difficult—partly because of piracy in the eastern Mediterranean and partly because of wars in Spain against Carthaginians and Romans—and the countries of western Asia were cut off from the source of supply of the metals which they used for their chariots of iron and otherwise in the equipping of their armies. Western Asia was of but small account as a mineral producing area, and thus the rise and fall of eastern nations was intimately linked up with the culture and civilisation of pre-historic Spain. When they were cut off from the riches of Spain such countries fell. The development of the Phoenician navy coincided with the period of that country's commercial supremacy, which was built on Spanish ore and Spanish slave labour in the mines. It was impossible to understand the ancient rivalry between Greeks, Romans, Etruscans and Phoenicians without understanding the importance of Spain to them. Sidon had founded Carthage to secure a strategic advantage over Greece and Etruria in the control and distribution of Spain's mineral wealth. It was to be noted that the wealth was still of great military and naval importance. The ocean bottom from Bilbao to the English channel was strewn with the remains of ships sunk by the German submarines when carrying iron ore to Great Britain during the recent war.

GREEK SCULPTURE.

On February 18, at the Royal Institution, Dr. Ernest A. Gardner delivered a lecture on "Masterpieces of Greek Sculpture." He said that the great contrast between Greek and modern sculpture was that we were always asking for some new thing, while the Greek artists were content to reproduce the same types and subjects, which were to a great extent prescribed for them by religion, or by the requirements of the State, and consecrated by a long period of tradition. The Greek sculptor had the great advantage in dealing with the athletic type of the male nude figure, in which he remained unsurpassed because he had constantly before him in the palaestra the finest men and youths of Greece, to be seen in every attitude, so that he was practically free from the trammels of the posed model, which constituted a great drawback to modern art. Hence he avoided the stilted pose. Moreover, he had the advantage of a system of drapery which did not conceal the body, while not disfiguring the drapery itself. The lecturer illustrated his discourse by means of lantern slides, showing photographic reproductions of such famed statues as those of the brothers Cleobis and Biton, the sons of the priestess of Argos, the Apollo of Terrea, the Apollo of Munich, the Raving Maenad in the Capitoline, the Venus Genetrix and the Mourning Woman, once the property of the Duke of Portland, and acquired by the British Museum. A copy of this statue had been made as a monument of Sir H. Beerbohm Tree.

Dr. Gardner discoursed on the progress made by Greek sculptors from the days of the crude and almost bovine statues of the two brothers. Gradually, they imparted a feeling of life into their works, which revealed an attempt to give an expression; they infused life and character into their statues, although in a crude shape at first. Later on, the muscles ceased to be exaggerated as in earlier efforts, and finally they individualised the head.

We understand that the King has conferred the title of Royal on the 101st Kohat Pack Battery, Frontier Force, in recognition of the services rendered by the Indian Artillery in the war.

Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby, just before returning to Egypt, wrote to the Rev. G. Napier Whittingham, author of "The Home of Fadeless Splendour, or Palestine of To-day," saying: "I congratulate you on having produced a work which is in the first rank of literature concerning the Holy Land."

An Athens message states the total number of Greek prisoners in Turkish hands is only 312, but it appears that they are neither fed nor receiving pay, whereas Turkish prisoners in Greece are both rationed and well paid for their work. A representative of the International Red Cross Committee is visiting Angora to inquire into this grievance.

MUSICAL NOTES.

SHAKESPEARE AND JOHN COATES.

If there ever come a composer who will make songs as Shakespeare made verse, he may, if he come soon, find his ideal interpreter in John Coates. The very spirit of Shakespeare has descended on our English tenor: there is no mood, grave or gay, but he is a master of it. In the two recitals which Mr. Coates has been devoting to settings of Shakespeare he has shown us, with superb craftsmanship, the wisdom, the geniality, and the humour of the dramatist; in short the essential Englishry of the two is beautifully matched. You may sometimes think that Mr. Coates' art is greatest in passages of sustained eloquence, for he is a magnificent orator, but at other times you will think there is nothing like his humanity or his wit, for he is the warmest and profoundest of buffoons. All this command he enjoys, but combined with it, a rare, enthusiastic knowledge of the obscure mines of English song; and though the difficulties of his search were often apparent, he has succeeded in his two recitals at Chelsea Town Hall in giving us representative settings of Shakespeare by English composers of practically all periods.

At his last recital, on February 28, Mr. Coates began with Byrd's "O Mistress mine," and, being a little late, I shrived my soul to know that I had missed hearing him in it. Byrd's songs aren't sung every day, though they deserve to be. The other great song on the programme was Arne's "Come away, Death," and the surpassing way in which this, with its pathetic, majestic phrasing, was given made me regret all the more that I had missed the work of the only other big composer represented. When Mr. Coates sang "Who is Sylvia?" he did a rather risky thing. Having sung Leveridge's setting, which, though it could not dislodge the memory of Schubert's, I liked very much, he sang an unpublished setting by A. K. Duff, and claimed it, moreover as "the real stuff." (This, incidentally, was after his audience had encored it). Curiously enough, I found myself well on the side of the publishers who refused it, and wondering hard what Mr. Coates could see in this simple, unpretentious melody. Certainly there were few *clichés* in it, but of spontaneity, inevitability, or simultaneous thought in vocal and accompanying part there was no trace. In particular, the pianoforte imitated, flowered after, the thought of the melody, having no character of its own. The song may, however, achieve a passing popularity. How different, in its possession of individuality, was that which followed, Martin Shaw's "I am that merry wanderer of the Night!" Here the whimsical quips were exploited in most engaging fashion: but Shaw and Coates always were a happy combination. Much as I admire Gerrard Williams' setting of "It was a Lord's daughter," I think Shield's version sits very well by its side; and a similar balance of judgment could be maintained on the settings of the no less whimsical "When that I was and a little tiny boy" by J. Vernon and Robert Ralph respectively. The first is an excellent song, though its excellence would not be so apparent in any other singing than Mr. Coates': he subtly put all sorts of variety into it. And Robert Ralph is very successful with his inconsequent but spontaneous wandering in and out of keys.

Mr. Coates gives another recital at Chelsea on March 14, when he will draw upon English love songs.

ANDANTE.

ROUMANIA AND THE DAVIS CUP.

It is announced that M. Nicolas Misu (Secretary to the Roumania Legation in London) has sent to the President of the United States Lawn Tennis Association a challenge on behalf of Roumania for the Davis Cup. This will be the first time Roumania has taken part in the competition for the international championship—further evidence of the advance that lawn tennis is making in all parts of the world.

MODERN INDIA.

Under the auspices of the Royal Asiatic Society Dr. F. W. Thomas recently read a paper entitled "Some Notes on a Recent Tour in India." Sir Henry Howarth presided.

The tour was undertaken at the end of 1920, and Dr. Thomas spoke of his meetings with Indian scholars of repute. It was the age, he said, of University education, and in this respect India was not holding back. New Universities were springing up all over the country, as well in the native States as in the British Provinces. Further, the idea of original investigation and research was beginning to flourish. He had been much impressed by the enthusiasm of native scholars, whose earnest desire was to work in harmony with their European confrères. Much also was being done in the way of research by non-official bodies. The total native output of books in India was now at least as great as the British. Dr. Thomas proceeded to deal with archaeological research in India, which he characterised as one of the wonders of the age. He had been struck by the immensity of the explorations and excavations being carried out. Museums were full to overflowing with priceless objects of archaeological interest, such as sculptures, inscriptions, and bronze. In Bombay the grand new Prince of Wales Museum was starting with a fine collection of sculpture, while the temples of Southern India were models in themselves. In India one passed in a short period through many centuries. Modernisation had gone further than he expected. Everywhere one found sewing machines, bicycles, motor-cars, tennis clubs and bridge clubs, and reading-rooms, a passion for railway travelling and sending telegrams. The state of India was diarchal in more senses than one. There were two times, two spaces, two kinds of telegram, and two kinds of learning, the old and the new.

THE ARAB HORSE SOCIETY.

There was a very fine display of Arab horse-flesh at the National Pony Show held at the Royal Agricultural Hall last week, and the meeting was in every way a great success. The Show was visited by Queen Alexandra, the Princess Royal and Princess Maud. We are unable to allot as much space as we should like to a report, and must content ourselves with indicating the awards, which were as follows:—

Stallions, three years and over (8)—1 and 2, Lady Wentworth (Shovronek by Ibrahim and Rasim by Feysul); 3, Lieutenant-Colonel P. D. Stewart, Kineton (Crosbie); 4, H. V. Musgrave Clark, Lewes (Chandi); res., R. B. Colton Fox, Malton (Radium).

Colts and fillies, not exceeding three years (10)—1, Lady Wentworth (Nisreen by Nureddin 11.); 2 and 3, S. H. Hough Theydon Bois (Hama by Joseph and Avaby Dwarka); 4, S. G. Hough (Nuri Pasha by Nureddin 11.); res., Lieut.-Colonel P. D. Stewart (Sohrab by Crosbie).

Eastern stallions four years and over (1)—1, Mrs. M. A. Bromwich, Canterbury (Guer Gour by Agha).

Arab-bred stallions, three years and over (1)—1, T. J. Timmis, Eccleshall (Gray Cross by Crosbie).

Arab-bred colts, fillies, and geldings, not exceeding three years (6)—1, Miss M. S. Calmady-Hamlyn, Bristow (Arabian Nights by Chandi); 2, His Majesty the King (Kalends by Rasim);

3, T. C. Armitage, Taunton (Just Across by Crosbie); 4, Lieut.-Colonel P. D. Stewart (Wood Nymph by Crosbie).

Arab-bred colts, fillies and geldings (2)—1 and 2, H. R. H. the Prince of Wales and Duke of Cornwall (Warbrook and Souwester by Dwarka).

Among the Special Prizes awarded were:—

Best Arab stallion or colt—Lady Wentworth's Skovronek; res., Lady Wentworth's Rasim.

Best Arab colt—S. G. Hough's Nuri Pasha.

Best Arab filly—Lady Wentworth's Nisreen.

Best yearling Arab colt or filly—S. G. Hough's Hama.

Best Arab colt or filly (in Class 23)—Miss M. S. Calmady-Hamlyn's Arabian Nights.

Best yearling Arab colt or filly (in Class 23)—His Majesty the King's Kalends.

At the annual meeting of the National Pony Society the Rev. D. B. Montefiore was elected to the Council.

Later, on March 4, at the annual meeting of the Arab Horse Society, Mr. S. G. Hough, who presided, said that there had been an increase in the membership during the year, the total now being 195. When the Society was formed four years ago they had about 20 horses, and now there were 200 in the stud-book. The great value of Arab blood and the capacity of the Arab horse to carry great weights a long time at a good pace was shown by the winning of Crabbet against all other breeds in the American tests, and by the success of the Arab in the Lewes trials. The report was adopted, and the following members were elected to the Council:—Mr. Robert Alexander, Major E. G. Atkinson, Captain T. A. Clarke, Mr. L. Edmunds, Mr. R. B. Colton-Fox, Mr. E. Hartley, Lieut.-Colonel E. F. Lance, Major R. Lomer, Lord M. Idleton, and the Comte de Zogheb.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

EGYPT'S GREAT PROSPECTS.

"Nile Control." Vol. I. By Sir Murdoch Macdonald. Second Edition. (Cairo: Government Press P.T. 20).

Since the first edition of "Nile Control" appeared in 1920, the engineering profession has, we understand, given its author the strongest proofs of its appreciation of his work, while Mr. Hurst, the head of the Egyptian Physical Department, to whom the author states he was indebted for much assistance, has in the interval become Dr. Hurst, a transformation which indirectly represents the interest and confidence of Oxford in the Nile projects. During the same interval the projects have been examined and approved by an international Commission. Their report was published towards the end of 1920 and the principal parts of it have been reprinted and conveniently incorporated in the new edition of "The Nile Control" so that you have in the same cover the proposals laid before the Commission and their opinion on them.

On the other hand, the proposal to build a dam on the White Nile has been temporarily shelved and the operations which had begun have been stopped. This was the first and one of the most important works proposed. It was to form a reservoir considerably larger than that at Assuan and the project presented, apparently, no great engineering difficulty. The scheme is understood to be in abeyance partly because the estimated cost of it at present prices is more than Egypt is able to afford and partly, no doubt, owing to the unsettled political condition in the Nile Valley.

It is much to be hoped that whatever difficulties there may be in the way of such a project will disappear before much more water has flowed (to waste) under the Kasr el Nil Bridge. The mass of information and data in "Nile Control" make it very clear what great prospects still reside for Egypt in further irrigation works. Egypt, irrigated by the Nile, at present takes from the river 34,000 million cubic metres or tons of water annually, including a comparatively small quantity used for the Sudan. According to the estimate adopted by the Commission that examined the projects, it appears that this figure would have to be increased to 58,000 millions to satisfy the requirements of the cultivated area of Egypt that "Nile Control" envisages. To this is added an allowance for the Sudan, and the total appears to be 64,000 millions. The difference between this quantity and that at present consumed is very large, but its importance is lessened by the fact, revealed in a table of annual statistics beginning on page 297, that almost every year the volume of water discharged by the Nile much exceeds 64,000 million tons. In only three years out of the last fifty has it been less. In the other years it exceeded this figure by varying amounts. For example, the Nile discharged 65,000 million tons in 1915; in 1916, and again in 1917 the volume discharged was 110,000 millions; it was 68,000 millions in 1918, and 75,000 millions in 1919. That is to say the difference between the amount of water now consumed by Egypt and that she will require in the future is already available and at present flows away to the sea every year. The only reason why controlling works are wanted is because this supply is irregular, varying in total from year to year and also because it is distributed very unevenly over the twelve months. Had it not been for this, it is no exaggeration to say that, throughout her history, the population and productivity of Egypt and probably her political importance might have been at least half as great again.

Even for such great builders as the ancient Egyptians the work of controlling the Nile in the way now proposed was, however, a task beyond their skill, and, moreover, the sites of the projected works, in what is now the Sudan, then lay outside the boundaries of the known world. But the position has changed in modern times,

and there are no longer any technical or geographical reasons why the importance of Egypt should not grow to be very much greater than it is. And this prospect of increased importance does not rest upon the uncertainties of developing unworked minerals resources or competing in trade, but upon the cultivation of the soil in a perfect climate with a perpetual supply of water.

It is proposed that the total area of land cropped every year in Egypt should be increased from 7,640,000 to 11,430,000 acres, an increase of about fifty per cent., while that part of the area which produces cotton will be increased from 1,677,000 acres to 2,730,000 acres, an increase of about sixty-two per cent. In the midst of so much talking and writing about other aspects of Egypt and her future, the Second Edition of "Nile Control" is an interesting reminder that, for her size she has brighter and more definite prospects than any other country.

EUROPE AND ISLAM.

"EUROPE IN ASIA MINOR: THE REAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NEAR EAST QUESTION." By Felix Valyl. Second Edition (London Thomas Murby & Co. 1s. 6d. net.).

This able and stimulating pamphlet was reviewed in *The Near East* when the first edition was published in March 1921; and of this second edition we need but note two remarks made by the author in his new preface. He pleads strongly and passionately for the East, for the re-instating of the East in European and American Counsels; and he attributes the denial by the British Empire to Asia of participation in international affairs to two things:—(1) "It forms part of the programme of the Anglican Church to become united sooner or later with Greek Orthodoxy;" and (2) "The selfishness of a powerful body of English merchants and commercial men who imagine that Asia was invented purely for their advantage, and that her sole function is to serve as a milch cow, providing dividends for the great English companies, whilst the Asiatic is nothing more than a beast of burden to be exploited."

THE PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

An interesting account of the excavations conducted at Jerusalem in 1913-14 by M. Raymond Weill is given in the current "Quarterly Statement" of the Palestine Exploration Fund. It is contributed by Mr. Gerald M. Fitzgerald, and is based upon M. Weill's own accounts. Dr. D. G. Hogarth writes on "Greek Inscriptions from Askalon"; Miss Estelle Blyth contributes "The Battle of Hattin, July 1, 1187," and Mr. E. J. Pilcher, "A Mother in Israel." In the "Notes and News" section the Committee appeal again for financial help in the Askalon excavations, and express the hope that "the public may realise how great is the present opportunity, and come forward generously to their assistance." These are bad days for appeals; but for the credit of British archaeology it is hoped that this one will not fall on deaf ears.

We have received the first number of *Azad Gibrabay*, an Armenian weekly paper, published at Nicosia, Cyprus.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.**To-Day.**

March 9 (New Style).
 February 24 (Old Style).
 Ragab 10, 1340 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
 Adar I, 9, 5681 of the Jewish Calendar.

Sir Fazulbhoy Currimbhoy has left on his return to India.

Viscount and Viscountess Milner have left London for Palestine.

The Earl and Countess of Ronaldshay will return to London from Bengal about the middle of April.

M. Titulesco, the newly-appointed Roumanian Minister to the Court of St. James, has arrived in London.

M. Radu T. Djuvara, First Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, returned to London last week from Bucharest.

Prince Saïd Halim, who is on his way from Egypt to London, arrived at Marseilles on February 28.

Lord Manners, who is visiting Brigadier-General and the Hon. Mrs. Cyril Asquith in the Sudan, will return to London in April.

Mr. C. T. Christodoulo is leaving London on an extensive business tour of the Near East. He is proceeding *via* Athens.

Lady Frances Ryder, who sailed last week for Port Said, will be the guest in Cairo of the Commander-in-Chief and Lady Congreve.

Count de Salis, the British Minister to the Vatican, on March 4 gave a reception in honour of Cardinal Bourne, who had just had a farewell audience of the Pope.

M. Frederic Nano, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, left London on March 5, with Mme. Nano for Bucharest.

M. Gounaris, the Greek Prime Minister, is expected to return to Athens this week, and the National Assembly will reassemble on March 24.

It is announced that the eldest son of the Maharaja of Bikanir is to marry a Princess of the House of Rewa on April 18 next.

Mr. Balfour is to address a public meeting to be held at the Queen's Hall, Langham Place, on the evening of the 13th inst., under the auspices of the English Zionist Federation.

M. Constantinesco, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, left London last week for Bucharest, where he will act as private secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

M. Diamandy, Minister Plenipotentiary and Special Commissioner of the Roumanian Government for the Liquidation of War Debts, arrived in London last week from Paris.

The engagement is announced between Gerald Moriarty, son of the late Arthur Moriarty, I.C.S., and Mrs. Moriarty, and Mollie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Welch, 5, Albert Road, Clifton, Bristol.

At a Council meeting of the Persia Society held on February 28, Mr. E. H. Keeling was appointed Honorary Secretary of the Society in succession to Captain C. K.

Greenway. The office of the Society is at 74, Grosvenor Street, W.I.

General Sir Ian Hamilton has presented to the Imperial War Museum Library the signed instructions handed to him by the late Lord Kitchener on his taking over command of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

Mrs. Wills, of Bristol, is paying the cost of a new church which is being built at Manoharpur, Chota Nagpur, India.

The marriage arranged between Joseph Seeböhm, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. B. Seeböhm Rowntree, of The Homestead, York, and Marianne Caroline (Carol), daughter of Sir James Thomson, K.C.S.I., and Lady Thomson, Torrington House, St. Albans, will take place at the Cathedral, St. Albans, on April 19.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Henry Guy, third son of the late Rev. H. S. Cooper, M.A. late of Upchurch, Kent, and Mrs. Cooper, and Charlotte Gardner, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Meek, of Aden, Arabia, and Airdrie, Scotland.

A marriage has been arranged and will take place on March 18, between Ernest Alfred Glanville, son of the late Stephen Glanville and Mrs. Glanville, of Greenvale Manchester, Jamaica, and Joan Irene, only daughter of Major and Mrs. Scoble Nicholson, of Trichinopoly, South India.

Sirdar Abdul Hadi Khan, the first Afghan Minister to the Court of St. James's, arrived in London last week from Paris, accompanied by his staff. He was met at the station by Mr. Lindsay and Mr. G. P. Churchill, of the Foreign Office. His Excellency is now staying at the Ritz Hotel, where he and his suite are the guests of the British Government.

The Right Hon. Srinivasa Sastri gave a dinner party last week at the Carlton Hotel, to meet the Earl of Lytton before his departure for India. Those present included:—Viscount Chelmsford, Lord Southborough, Lord Islington, Lord Pentland, Sir Valentine Chirol, Sir M. M. Bhowmagree, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Maurice Hankey, Sir J. D. Rees, Sir William Stevenson Meyer, Sir William Acworth, Mr. H. A. L. Fisher, Mr. J. C. Walton, Mr. H. E. A. Cotton, Mr. J. N. Bore, Mr. M. D. M. Salal, Mr. Eardley Norton, Captain Burges, and Mr. Bajpai.

Colonel and Mrs. Woods, who were assisted in receiving their guests by Mr. H. Charles Woods, gave a large tea party at their flat in Victoria Street on March 2. Among others present were the Bulgarian Minister and Mrs. and Miss Stancioff, Madame Réchid Pasha, the Hungarian Chargé d'Affaires and Mrs. de Hedry, H. Chefik Bey Muftyzadé and Madame Chefik Bey, Lord Hemphill, the Rt. Hon. Ameer Ali and Mrs. Ameer Ali, the Hon. Lady Norman, the Hon. Mrs. Durant, Lady Bradford, General J. S. Nicholson, M.P., Lady (John) Henry, Mr. A. B. Geary, Mr. Athelstan Johnson, Sir Albert Seymour, Mr. Herbert Sidebotham and Miss Sidebotham, Miss M. E. Durham, Mr. G. P. Gooch, Major and Mrs. Davidson-Houston, Mr. Edwin Abbey, Mr. H. M. Wallis, Mr. Charles Macrae, Mr. Leland Buxton, Madam Selfridge Lady and Miss Conway, and Mr. L. A. Fanous.

OBITUARY.

Mr. Francis Frederick Gordon, proprietor of the *Advocate of India*, Bombay, died in London last week. Mr. Gordon, who was born in 1866, went to India at the age of 24 on the literary staff of the Bombay Gazette, and four years later he bought the *Advocate of India*. Among the reforms which he urged in his paper was the introduction of the anna nickel coin into the Indian currency. He also took an active part in measures for the suppression of plague, and claimed to have induced the Government to abolish the quarantine imposed at Bombay on Moham-

edan pilgrims to Mecca. He was a J.P. and hon. magistrate for the Presidency of Bombay.

W. H. T. B. Morton: An Appreciation.

From a Correspondent.

Your readers in Constantinople and some in Smyrna also will learn with deep regret and in many cases with feelings of personal loss of the death of "Harry Morton" who for nearly forty years was a prominent figure in the life of the English community in Constantinople.

Born in 1843, the eldest son of Dr. Morton of Aylsham, Norfolk, he very early acquired, on his native broads, that love of yachting and all aquatic sports which was so marked a feature of his after life, and which some years in the merchant service strengthened and confirmed. The writer first met him in Galata in March, 1873, and their friendship has been close and life-long. Tall, well proportioned, with sun tanned face, blue eyes and an auburn beard, he looked a typical Englishman. He was then associated with his uncle, a ship-owner and broker in Constantinople, but shortly afterwards he was offered an appointment in the Imperial Ottoman Bank in Pera under the late Sir Frederick Smythe, which he accepted and held for about thirty-three years, until his retirement in 1906. He then returned to England and lived partly in Norfolk and partly near Horncastle, at which latter place he died on the morning of Sunday, February 19 last.

He was a fine oarsman and a splendid yachtsman, and when Sir Edgar Vincent was chief of the Constantinople branch of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, he showed his confidence in his ability in the latter capacity by giving him charge of his yacht. Living at Moda he was one (and perhaps the most influential) of those who founded the Kadiköy Rowing Club, of which he became the Captain, and at the same time he owned a small cutter yacht. In both sports his successes were innumerable, both at the annual regattas at Prinkipo and Moda, which he did so much to promote, and in the club matches, and the writer has many a recollection of hard rowed races in which he rowed No. 2 to the captain's stroke, and of delightful yachting trips on the Marmora and up the gulf of Ismid.

In social life he was retiring—almost shy, but those who knew him best loved him most. His goodness of heart and simplicity of character were recognised by all who knew him. The fact that all the English children called him "Uncle Harry" bears eloquent testimony to his kindness and geniality, and now that he has "passed over" we may hope that "all the trumpets sounded for him on the other side."

W. W. S.

We regret to announce the sudden death in London of M. Alexander Ludskanoff, former Secretary of State, Member of the Sobranje, and Bulgarian Arbitrator of the Anglo-Bulgarian Mixed Arbitral Tribunal. He died on March 4 at his residence, 132, Cromwell Road, at the age of 66. He began his political career in Bulgaria during the Russo-Turkish war, when he was the Russian General Skobelev's principal interpreter. Born in Tyrnovo, the ancient capital of Bulgaria, he first studied in Bulgaria, then at the American College at Constantinople, and finally in France. He was known afterwards in Bulgaria as one of the most successful and able lawyers. He belonged to the great Russophil political group, whose first leader was Dragan Tzankoff, and which is now led by M. Daneff. M. Ludskanoff was several times a member of the Bulgarian Cabinet as Home Secretary, and as such was responsible in Bulgaria for the success of the Law of Proportional Distribution ("Repartition Proportionelle"). He was a remarkable linguist and recently was elected President of the English-Speaking League, which he had entirely organised; and he came to England last summer as Bulgarian Arbitrator of the Mixed Arbitral Tribunal. He married the only daughter of Dragan Tzankoff, and leaves two children, a son, M. Constantin Ludskanoff, First Secretary at the Bulgarian Legation in Belgrade, and a daughter.

A religious service was held at the London residence of M. Alexander Ludskanoff in the presence of his wife and daughter, the Bulgarian Minister and Madame Stancioff, Miss Stancioff, the staff of the Bulgarian Legation in London, the members of the Bulgarian colony living in London, and many English and Russian friends of M. Ludskanoff.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENT.

DEATH.

MORTON.—On the 19th February at "Moda," Thimbleby, near Horncastle in his 79th year, William Henry Thomas Browne Morton, late of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, Constantinople.

OSTRICH EGGS FROM BAGHDAD.

Sir Percy Cox, High Commissioner of Mesopotamia, and Captain Cheesman are making the experiment of sending two ostrich eggs from Baghdad to London by aeroplane to be hatched in incubators in the Zoological Gardens. A few weeks ago they forwarded a Persian beetle by air as far as Egypt, whence it came to Regent's Park by sea. Possibly the eggs will follow the same route, but there is every likelihood of their being picked up by another plane in Egypt and transported all the way by air. There will be a difficulty, unfortunately, in hatching them, since the ordinary incubators in use in this country for fowls' eggs are quite unsuitable for the eggs of an ostrich.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 1922.

THE NEW MOVE IN EGYPT.

Thanks to Lord Allenby, the Egyptian deadlock that followed the rupture of the Anglo-Egyptian negotiations last November is at an end. The old Duke of Wellington used to complain in his later political days that it was easier to win victories on the stricken field than in the Council Room. Not so Lord Allenby. It is just about three years since the conqueror of Syria was summoned over to the Paris Peace Conference to "advise" about Cilicia. When he arrived his advice was much more urgently needed about Egypt, where very serious disturbances had suddenly broken out to the surprise and consternation of British Ministers, who asked him to go back at once to Cairo as Special High Commissioner. During the three years that have elapsed since then British Ministers have gone on groping about for an Egyptian policy. They appointed a "strong" Commission under Lord Milner to carry on an enquiry on the spot and recommend them a policy. The Commission did its work admirably and made its recommendations. Ministers were not of course bound to adopt them, but they published them and certainly took various steps which created the impression that they intended to adopt them. It was on that assumption that Adly Pasha formed his Cabinet last spring and came over in the summer to carry on negotiations with a view to the substitution for the British Protectorate of a permanent Treaty of Alliance between an independent Egypt and Great Britain. But at the end of it all His Majesty's Government had apparently changed their minds, and they sought to impose upon the Egyptian Delegation a Draft Treaty which departed very widely from the Milner recommendations. Adly Pasha rejected it and immediately on his return to Egypt resigned with the whole of his Cabinet. What happened subsequently is fresh in our readers' minds. There was bitter disappointment in Egypt and serious disturbance. These were vigorously and promptly repressed, but Lord Allenby found himself confronted with an even more difficult situation than after the resignation of the Rushdi Cabinet in 1919. No responsible Egyptian would undertake to form a new Ministry except on conditions which the British Government refused to sanction. There was this difference, however, between 1919 and 1922, that Lord Allenby had had three years' experience of Egypt and had come to the conclusion that without the co-operation of a friendly Egyptian Government he could no longer carry on. As the last White Book shows, he gave his reasons why very frankly and fully. But British Ministers were still loth to believe him, and only when they realised the gravity of the situation which would have been created in Egypt, and perhaps also in Parliament, by his resignation, did they summon him over once more to 'advise.' He gave his advice and backed it up with such cogent arguments that he carried the position in Downing Street by storm, just as he had carried the Turkish positions in Palestine.

In his statement in the House of Commons Mr. Lloyd George of course insisted that there was no change, but only a "development" of policy. This is common form with Ministers, but his declaration has been recognised—especially in Egypt—as constituting in substance a complete reversal of the policy set forth in the explanatory Note to the Sultan which on December 3 followed the rupture of the London negotiations.

The terms of that declaration will be found in another column. In some respects it goes further to meet Egyptian national aspirations than the Milner recommendations which contemplated the abolition of the Protectorate and the recognition of Egyptian independence in return for the acceptance by the Egyptian Government in the same instrument of the safeguards required by Great Britain for the protection of her Imperial interests and of those of the foreign communities resident in Egypt. His Majesty's Government have now determined to proceed by a unilateral declaration which terminates the Protectorate and leaves Egypt free as an independent and Sovereign State to work out her own national institutions, but reserves for subsequent settlement "by free discussion and friendly accommodation" the matters on which the Anglo-Egyptian negotiators failed last year to arrive at an agreement. It may be urged that such an agreement is scarcely more likely to be reached when, under the new Constitution which will have in the meantime to be drafted and set in operation, the Egyptian Government will be responsible to a newly elected, and possibly, immature Parliament. But the Treaty which the Milner Commission contemplated would in any case have had to be submitted to an Egyptian representative Assembly, which might not have considered itself in any way bound to ratify an instrument signed before it came into existence. Now, on the contrary, whenever the final treaty comes up for sanction before the Egyptian Parliament, it will be an instrument drawn up by a Government formally responsible to that Parliament and drawn up, presumably, in full knowledge of what that Parliament desires and is prepared to accept.

The new declaration of British policy has at least so far satisfied Egyptian opinion that Sarwat Pasha, whilst definitely stating that he could not have assumed office so long as the December "explanatory" Note appeared to represent the principles guiding the British Government's policy towards Egypt, has now formed a strong Cabinet, which will doubtless have the full support of Adly Pasha, though his name does not—rather regretably we think—appear amongst its members. Sarwat Pasha is known to have been in close consultation with his old chief and colleague throughout the recent crisis, and he has indeed, as was to be expected from a member of the late Cabinet, taken the first opportunity to express his approval of the attitude of the Egyptian Delegation over which Adly Pasha presided during the London negotiations. Sarwat Pasha has thus honourably fulfilled the undertaking into which he entered with Lord Allenby before the latter's recent visit to London. The firmness which he has already displayed in dealing with some disturbances at Tanta, always notorious for ebullitions of popular temper, is an earnest of the sense of full responsibility for the administration of the country under which avowedly he has assumed office. But it is not going to be all plain sailing either for him or for Lord Allenby. The deportation of Zaghloul Pasha has doubtless deprived the Extremists of their most popular leader, or, perhaps we ought rather to say, figure-head. But even if Extremism has been scotched, it has not yet been killed, for Egyptian unrest is after all largely a local manifestation of that wide-spread unrest which has swept since the war all over the world, and not least over the Eastern world. The war itself did not create it, but gave it a tremendous impetus for which new phrases coined by the statesmen of the Allied and Associated Powers at moments of unreflecting exaltation must bear no small share of responsibility. In Egypt such elastic words as 'self-determination' were even more quickly seized upon than elsewhere as lending new emphasis to all the many promises and half-promises of self-government and freedom which we had given to the Egyptians ever since the beginning of the British occupation in 1882. It has been the misfortune, not to say the crying sin, of our Ministers that they have entangled us all through the East in a mass of conflicting undertakings which have inevitably sown widespread and not unreasonable distrust. The process of disentanglement is bound to be difficult and slow, but Lord Allenby has

at last persuaded the British Government to make a long stride towards dispelling the black cloud of Egyptian distrust. The immensely enhanced authority with which he returns to Cairo is perhaps our greatest asset at the present moment, not only in Egypt but throughout the East.

IN DEFENCE OF GREECE.

By C. S. Buller.

The recognition of King Constantine of Greece by the Allied Powers is a matter which cannot now be much longer delayed; and the recital of some of the facts that led up to the situation which caused his disavowal by his official allies may serve to place his actions in a light not hitherto visualized by his detractors.

During the European war, the public outside Greece recognized in that country two outstanding personalities: M. Venizelos, the friend of the Allies, and King Constantine, the alleged friend of Germany. Observers from within, who had followed political events on the spot since the Cretan troubles in 1896, saw M. Venizelos, ready to plunge the country into a catastrophic war for his imperialistic ends on the one side; and on the other, King Constantine, working for what he sincerely considered to be the good of his people, seeking neutrality and peace after the two victorious but costly Balkan wars of 1912 and 1913. These are the broad lines of the case, the sequence of events leading up to which are practically unknown in Western Europe and America.

The feud between M. Venizelos and the Greek royal family is not of such recent date as is generally supposed. It began with the appointment of Prince George of Greece as High Commissioner in Crete in 1893. The appointment did not fall in with M. Venizelos' views as to the reward due to his own services. During the earlier troubles in the island M. Venizelos was the leader of a band of irregulars. On the formation of the Cretan parliament M. Venizelos became, first, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and afterwards Prime Minister of Crete. Even in those days of his early thirties, he could not brook a superior, and set on foot the intrigue which eventually led to the departure of Prince George from Crete; a departure for which M. Venizelos was personally responsible.

Any one who has the slightest acquaintance with the Greek royal family knows with what strong ties of affection its members are bound to one another. M. Venizelos had surreptitiously declared war against them at that early date, but King George I was too wise and diplomatic a monarch for the challenge to take effect during his lifetime. King Constantine had greater difficulty in concealing his sentiments; hence, the beginning of the divergence between King and Prime Minister.

During the space of time which elapsed between Prince George's departure from Crete and M. Venizelos' assumption of power in Athens, the latter was steadily increasing his influence amongst political circles in Greece. Early in 1909 disaffection began to be spread amongst the officers of the Greek Army owing to statements being circulated to the effect that the royal princes were obtaining promotion for their favourites at the expense of more deserving officers. An intrigue was on foot, by whom started no one quite knew.

Whispers were current, discontent waxed greater, until the culminating point was reached on August 15, 1909, when Colonel Zorbas placed himself at the head of a military revolution. The Crown Prince Constantine was obliged to resign his position of Commander-in-Chief, and he and his brothers were relieved of their ranks in the army. Then, after a short interval, the revolutionary government invited M. Venizelos to come to Athens from Crete, in order to straighten out the tangle into which they had got themselves. M. Venizelos came, and after much coyness and show of hesitation, consented to be elected as a member of the Athens

Chamber of Deputies, and promptly became Prime Minister of the country. The princes were reinstated in the army and, during the lifetime of King George, as previously stated, all went well. There followed the Balkan wars, which earned for M. Venizelos, as political chief, the gratitude of the Greek nation; and for the Crown Prince Constantine, as Commander-in-Chief of the army, the adoration of the people.

But these two wars had proved exceedingly costly to Greece, a small nation of not three million inhabitants. Many lives had been lost, and Greece urgently required a breathing spell to reorganize her new territories and to make up for the time lost by the men of the army on their farms and vineyards. After victory, peace, hardly earned, was the cry of the nation. Thus, when the European war burst upon the world it found Greece disinclined to fight other people's battles. She had had quite enough of her own to last her for some time; she was practically exhausted, but still she would have carried out her agreement with Serbia, her ally, had that country been in a position to fulfil her part of the treaty obligations by placing a force of 150,000 men on the Greco-Bulgarian frontier. This, as is well known, Serbia could not do, and so the treaty fell to the ground. This is the truth concerning Greece's alleged "treachery" towards Serbia.

However much King Constantine desired peace for the sake of his country and his people, M. Venizelos did not share his opinion on the subject; and he used his position as Prime Minister to defy the King almost openly. He threw off nearly all semblance of allegiance to his Sovereign, and assumed the dictatorial tone that he had kept in abeyance since his departure from Crete. He took every opportunity of annoying the King, and on one occasion addressed an open letter in the public Press to Constantine, couched in terms of advice which were so insolent and arrogant as to defeat their own expressed purpose, which it was evidently their intention to do. To the experienced observer his intent was plain: namely, to bring about the fall of the King and establish himself as dictator of Greece until such time as his life's ambition could be fulfilled—that of becoming President of the United Balkan States, or Balkan Confederation. A great deal has been heard of "Tino's treachery," but if all these stories were traced to their source, by far the greater part of them would be found to be attributable to M. Venizelos' admirably organized system of intrigue and propaganda. The King's character must be blackened at any cost in order to set off the whiteness of M. Venizelos' aspirations.

M. Venizelos' flight to Salonika, his raising of the Defence Corps to assist the Allies, the King's removal from Athens, and dictator's triumphal return, all have the thread of intrigue running through them. It had become necessary to M. Venizelos that King Constantine should be forced by outside Powers to leave Greece, seeing that he more than ever retained the affection of his people. The story circulated as to the danger of a Greek attack on the Allies' rear was a myth that the foreign Ministers in Athens should have known to be without the slightest foundation. But propaganda had done its work; and to satisfy the panic of the Entente journals Greece was summoned to hand over certain of her guns to the Allies. This was a cunningly devised trap. If the King openly consented, he would lose the respect of his people. If he refused, the Allies would come and fetch them. Now, no one knew better than M. Venizelos that the Greek people would never consent to the incursion on their soil of an armed foreign force with the intent to take their guns from them. It was courting disaster which neither the King nor anyone else could forestall. The Powers were wrongly advised as to the temperament of the people; but M. Venizelos could easily have placed matters in the proper light to the Allied authorities, and thus have avoided a most distressing incident, the immediate effect of which was the proclamation of the blockade of Greece, which lasted for six months and caused immense suffering to persons innocent of the whole business. The end of the blockade coincided with the withdrawal of the King and

royal family from Greece at the end of May (o.s.) 1917, and the return of M. Venizelos as dictator; for King Alexander was a mere shadow with no official functions whatever.

In June 1917 began the reign of tyranny and persecution that ended with the general elections on November 1 (o.s.) 1920 with the overthrow of the dictator by an overwhelming majority of the Greek people. Foreign journals have bitterly blamed the Greeks for what they called their treacherous conduct and base ingratitude in ousting their "saviour" from power. Abuse has been heaped upon them, "full measure and running over"; but the public outside Greece knows nothing of the sigh of relief that went up from the whole country when the result of the elections was made known. The figures were never published in full: it was not necessary; the *débâcle* was complete.

But it is insufficient to allege tyranny without explaining in what such tyranny consisted. The world can then judge whether the internal situation in Greece during M. Venizelos' rule merited the application of so severe a term. To begin with, M. Venizelos had thrown in his lot with the Allies, and required a larger army than the small Defence Corps which was already at Salonika. He issued an order for the mobilisation of the Army. Here he met with his first check: he could not raise anything like the number of men that he wanted, for they refused to join the colours on his command, though they subsequently rolled up to a man when King Constantine called for them on his return in November 1920. Still, the men had to be found somehow. M. Venizelos' first step was to make the mayors of the villages of Greece responsible in their persons for the finding of the required quota of men from their districts. This, it was very soon found, would mean the wholesale arrest of most of the mayors in Greece. So, on second thoughts, M. Venizelos decided to make the families of the defaulters responsible for the production of their recalcitrant members. The result was the wholesale deportation of the families of defaulters from their homes all over Greece to concentration camps in the islands of Santorin, Naxos, Andros, and elsewhere. Old men, women and children were ruthlessly driven from their olive groves and vineyards for no crime of their own, and herded in concentration camps, the miseries of which are better imagined than described.

It may be of interest to note here the constitution of the two parties in Greece. The Venizelists were for the most part those of the middle or commercial classes, while the royalists consisted of the aristocracy and the masses of the people—a rare combination indeed in modern times. The gendarmerie and the police force were recruited from the people, and they were Greeks, who might be expected to sympathize with their fellows. M. Venizelos' next move, therefore, was gradually to replace the members of those forces by Cretans on whom he could depend. Very soon the whole of the Athens police and gendarmerie was composed of Cretans. Then a special bodyguard of one thousand men under a former leader of irregulars, Paul Gyparis, the chief of M. Venizelos' braves, was formed and stationed on the outskirts of Athens. They were called the "Public Security Corps," but were really a personal bodyguard for M. Venizelos. Of course, none but Cretans were admitted to their ranks. Their pay was equal to four shillings a day, with barrack accommodation and rations, which consisted of the best that the Athens market could afford.

Meanwhile, steps had been taken to crush out all memory of the exiled royal family. A new law was passed in the Chamber of Deputies defining a fresh catalogue of crimes against the "kathestos," a term invented for the occasion and which, roughly translated, means "the existing order of things." Amongst other crimes were the singing, playing or whistling the air of any royalist song; references in private conversation of a sympathetic nature to the absent King or of any member of the royal family; the possession of any picture or likeness in any form of King Constantine or

his family; and, of course, the speaking of anything against M. Venizelos or his Government. Spies were present at all the cafés, beershops, taverns and other places of common resort, on the lookout for stray scraps of conversation of a royalist tendency, or the drinking to the king "over the water." Arrests were matters of the commonest occurrence. Prosecutions under the new law were conducted wholesale, and led to many abuses. For instance, if a neighbour had a grudge against another, he had only to go to the nearest police station and state that his enemy had a portrait of the King in his house. Immediately a domiciliary visit would be paid to the suspect by the Cretan police; the man's house would be turned upside down, his drawers would be forced open and ransacked and his furniture thrown about pell-mell in the search for the incriminating evidence. If nothing were found, there would be a grudging apology from the sergeant of the police; but if anything incriminating were discovered, the guilty party would be marched off to the local police station where, as an earnest of what was to come, he would receive a severe thrashing from willing Cretan arms; and he was lucky if he got off with six months' imprisonment. Under the new law all the prisons were full to overflowing. Then the Press had to be muzzled. The daily papers used to appear with almost as many blank spaces as there were items of news, where articles and news had been censored out. A stringent censorship was also exercised on private letters and telegrams, especially on those coming from or addressed to Switzerland and Italy. Foreign Press telegrams were mutilated before despatch to any country to suit the requirements of the censorship.

It was against this state of affairs that the country revolted at the general elections in November 1920. It was the first chance the Greek people had had to free themselves, and even then there were many doubts as to their success. The polling stations were in the hands of the party in power, and experience had shown that the Cretan police would prevent the voting of persons suspected of royalist sympathies. The royalists, however, conceived a happy plan for the peaceful carrying out of their programme. They turned up at the polls early, all wearing the Venizelist badge in their buttonholes. There was no trouble whatever; on the contrary, every facility was afforded to the electors wearing Venizelist badges to record their votes. Up to the last moment the Venizelist party was cock-a'-hoop over their anticipated triumph—that is, until the votes came to be counted. The rest is known.

On the formation of the new government a *plébiscite* was taken on the question of the recall of the King, the result of which was practical unanimity in favour of his return. The war in Asia Minor was prosecuted with renewed vigour, partly in the hope that a continuance of M. Venizelos' foreign policy would placate the Powers. Instead of which, alas, Greece was abandoned by her allies and left to suffer enormous sacrifices in men and money without even the moral support of those in whose interests she was fighting as much as in her own. Notwithstanding, internal peace now reigns; there is no longer any Press or private censorship; there is no need for spies or *agents provocateurs*; anyone may speak as sympathetically of M. Venizelos as he pleases without fear of consequences. In fact, Greece is once more, free, and is looking forward to the day when her King, for whose sake she has joyfully suffered so much, will be fully recognized by the Western Powers, and when M. Venizelos will be no more than an illustrious shadow of the past.

Twenty stars of the Fox Film Company have arrived in Jerusalem for the production of a spectacular film depicting scenes from the Bible. The "big" scene, it is stated, will be the fight between David and Goliath, and will take place near the main Jerusalem-Ramallah road, but historical accuracy is not being strictly adhered to, since the scenario provides for a love-scene after the battle.

EGYPT: NOVEMBER—FEBRUARY.

Last week a White Paper "Correspondence respecting Affairs in Egypt" (Cmd. 1592) was published at the price of sixpence; and will be read with much interest by all who have followed developments in the Egyptian situation during the period covered (Nov. 17 - Feb. 27). The most important of the papers published are the "Declaration to Egypt" and the letter addressed to the Sultan by the High Commissioner in explanation of the Declaration (Enclosures 1 and 2 in No. 35). These we reproduce *in extenso* below. The correspondence which precedes it will repay careful perusal, but we can here call attention to only one or two points.

It is of the greatest significance that in the earliest papers reproduced, Lord Allenby reports that the principal advisers are unanimously of opinion that "a decision which does not admit the principle of Egyptian independence and which maintains protectorate must entail serious risk of revolution throughout the country, and in any case result in complete administrative chaos, rendering government impossible." The telegram goes on to say:—Unless His Majesty's Government are prepared to give substantial satisfaction to expectations which Egyptians have legitimately formed on the basis of apparent policy of His Majesty's Government during the past two years, it will be impossible to form any Ministry. Strong military force acting with severity could doubtless preserve certain measure of security to life and property in larger cities, but the task would be a much more difficult one in the provinces. No military administration, however, could hope to replace the complicated machinery of civil government or prevent serious injury to financial and economic interests. The advisers have been carrying on over the years in the belief that policy of liberal concession would be adopted, and have undoubtedly given this impression to various Ministers and others with whom they have been in contact. They feel bound, therefore, to point out that if a contrary policy is adopted they cannot expect to retain the confidence of Egyptian Ministers or to be able to render useful service in the future."

There are several references to the Draft Treaty, which was handed to Adly Pasha last November by Lord Curzon; and it would have been convenient if the text had been reproduced in the present White Paper. Readers of *The Near East* who wish to refer to it will find it in our issue of December 8 (p. 740).

On December 6, Lord Allenby telegraphed to Lord Curzon: "During the past twelve months I have more than once given it as my opinion that no signed agreement was practicable unless His Majesty's Government were prepared to accord to Egypt a higher degree of independence than they are clearly disposed to grant, and that it would therefore eventually be incumbent upon them to define their own policy and give effect to it. The situation which I foresaw has come into existence and it behoves us to deal with it. . . . I consider that the Draft Treaty definitely represents a policy which fulfils all our requirements so far as Egypt is concerned. This policy confers upon the people of Egypt a substantially greater participation in the conduct of their internal affairs, but at the same time ensures that our own vital interests are adequately safeguarded." He was advising H. M. Government that "the present moment is a favourable one. . . . to adopt a strong line calculated to supply a constructive programme to those Egyptian who are not unwilling to co-operate with us"; and he recalled the fact that Adly Pasha at his last interview with Lord Curzon had asked why H. M. Government "did not on its own initiative bring into operation the plan indicated in the rejected draft treaty". Later in the same dispatch we read: "I quite appreciate that the action I advocate would oblige His Majesty's Government to terminate the protectorate by a unilateral declaration on their part. You will recall that a step such as this was at one time suggested, and I cannot see why it should not be taken."

In No. 8, dated December 12, the High Commissioner reports the terms on which Sarwat Pasha was ready to take office. A week later he reports that Sarwat "has not yet been able to collect a Ministry." Then, after a series of messages describing the arrest of Zaghloul and his lieutenants, and other events in Egypt, there is a message (No. 22) giving the Sarwat's proposals for the composition of a Ministry. It is interesting to note that all the names therein mentioned actually appear in the list of members of the Cabinet just formed.

At the end of January, after first suggesting that Sir G. Clayton and Mr. Sheldon Amos should be sent to England to advise H. M. Government of the situation, the Government summoned Lord Allenby himself to London. As a result of his visit he was instructed to communicate to the Sultan the Declaration referred to above, together with a covering letter. These are as follows:—

Letter handed to Sultan Fuad by Lord Allenby:

Your Highness,
I have the honour to bring to your Highness' notice that certain passages of the explanatory note which I addressed to you on December 3, 1921, were interpreted, to my great disappointment in a manner not in accordance with the intention and policy of his Majesty's Government.

2. Judging by many comments which have been published on the subject of this note, it would appear that many Egyptians were under the impression that Great Britain was about to aban-

don her liberal and favourable attitude towards Egyptian aspirations and to make use of her special position in Egyptian order to maintain a political and administrative régime incompatible with the freedom she had offered.

3. Such an interpretation of the intentions of his Majesty's Government was quite mistaken. On the contrary, the explanatory note emphasised the dominating principle that the guarantees claimed by Great Britain are not designed to involve the continuance of an actual or virtual protectorate. Great Britain as it is stated therein, sincerely desires to see "an Egypt enjoying the national prerogatives and the international position of a sovereign State."

4. If Egyptians have regarded these guarantees as being out of keeping with the position of a free country they have, on the other hand, lost sight of the fact that Great Britain has been obliged to claim them out of consideration for her own security in face of a situation which demands great prudence on her part, particularly in the matter of the disposition of her troops. Present world conditions, however, and the state of effervescence which has prevailed in Egypt since the Armistice are not permanent factors, and it is to be hoped that while, on the one hand, the former will eventually improve, on the other hand, the time will come when, in the language of the note, Egypt's record will give confidence in her own guarantees.

5. As to any design to interfere in the internal administration of Egypt, his Majesty's Government have sufficiently stated, and repeat, that their most ardent desire is to place in Egyptian hands the conduct of their own affairs. The draft agreement proposed by Great Britain did not depart from this idea, and in making provision for the presence of two British officials in the Ministries of Finance and Justice, it was not her intention to use these two officials for the purpose of intervening in Egyptian affairs, but solely in order to preserve the contact necessary for protecting foreign interests.

6. Such is the sole bearing of the guarantees that were demanded by Great Britain. They were claimed without any desire to impede Egyptians' enjoying the full rights of a national Government.

7. Animated as she is by these intentions, it will be understood that it is repugnant to Great Britain on the one hand, to see Egyptians delay by their own acts the realization of an ideal aimed at by both parties, and, on the other, to be compelled herself to intervene to re-establish order when it is threatened in such a way as to arouse the fears of foreigners and to involve the interests of foreign Powers. It would be much to be regretted if Egyptians should see in the exceptional measures which have recently been taken any prejudice to the ideal to which they aspire or an intention on the part of his Majesty's Government to alter the policy I have indicated. In taking these measures, the sole desire of his Majesty's Government has been to put an end to a harmful agitation which, by arousing popular passions, might have such consequences as to jeopardise the whole result of the efforts of the Egyptian nation. These measures were taken primarily in the interest of the Egyptian cause, which has everything to gain by being studied in an atmosphere of calm and friendly discussion.

8. Now that tranquillity seems to be re-establishing itself, thanks to the wise spirit which is the root of the Egyptian character and asserts itself in times of crisis, I am happy to be able to announce to your Highness that his Majesty's Government are prepared to recommend the accompanying declaration for the approval of Parliament. This will, I am confident, establish a régime of mutual confidence and lay the foundation for a satisfactory and final solution of the Egyptian problem.

9. There is no obstacle to the re-establishment forthwith of an Egyptian Ministry for Foreign Affairs which will prepare the way for the creation of the diplomatic and consular representation of Egypt.

10. The creation of a Parliament with a right to control the policy and administration of a constitutionally responsible Government is a matter for your Highness and the Egyptian people to determine. Should circumstances arise to delay the coming into force of the Act of Indemnity with application to all inhabitants of Egypt mentioned in the declaration accompanying this note, I desire to inform your Highness that I shall be prepared, pending the repeal of the proclamation of November 2, 1914, to suspend the application of martial law in respect of all matters affecting the free exercise of the political rights of Egyptians.

11. It is now for Egypt to respond, and it is to be hoped she will justly appreciate the good intentions of Great Britain, and that reflection and not passion will guide her attitude.

Declaration to Egypt.

Whereas his Majesty's Government in accordance with their declared intentions, desire forthwith to recognise Egypt as an independent sovereign State; and

Whereas the relations between his Majesty's Government and Egypt are of vital interest to the British Empire;

The following principles are hereby declared:—

1. The British Protectorate over Egypt is terminated, and Egypt is declared to be an independent sovereign State.

2. So soon as the Government of his Highness shall pass an Act of Indemnity with application to all inhabitants of Egypt martial law as proclaimed on the 2nd November, 1914, shall be withdrawn.

3. The following matters are absolutely reserved to the discretion of his Majesty's Government until such time as it may be possible by free discussion and friendly accommodation on both sides to conclude agreements in regard thereto between his

Majesty's Government and the Government of Egypt:—

(a) The security of the communications of the British Empire in Egypt;

(b) The defence of Egypt against all foreign aggression or interference, direct or indirect;

(c) The protection of foreign interests in Egypt and the protection of minorities;

(d) The Sudan.

Pending the conclusion of such agreements the *status quo* in all these matters shall remain intact.

PALESTINE ARAB DELEGATION: MEETING AT HYDE PARK HOTEL.

On March 1 a crowded meeting assembled at the Hyde Park Hotel, to be addressed by members of the Palestine Arab Delegation and their supporters. Among those who were, or had promised to be present were: The Earl of Pembroke and Montgomery, Lord Apsley, the Lords Amthill, Sheffield, Islington, Sydenham, Askwith, Lamington, Lord George Hamilton, Sir William Joynson Hicks, M.P., Sir Stuart Coats, M.P., Sir William Bull, M.P., Lt.-Col. Hon. Aubrey Herbert, M.P., Mr. Rupert Gwynne, M.P., Colonel Hilder, M.P., Sir Philip Dawson, M.P., Captain T. C. Foxcroft, M.P., Sir Thomas Roydon, M.P., Hon. Gideon Murray, M.P., Mr. George Balfour, M.P., Sir Harry Brittain, M.P., Sir Douglas Hall, M.P., Lt.-Col. Dalrymple White, M.P., Col. Assheton Pownall, M.P., Captain Ainsworth, M.P., Major Boyd-Carpenter, M.P., Lt.-Col. Baldwin Raper, M.P., Hon. Alexander Shaw, M.P., Brig.-Gen. H. T. Surtees, M.P., Capt. Viscount Curzon, M.P., Professor Sir William Ridgway (Cambridge), Professor Granville Browne, (Cambridge), Professor Margoliouth, (Oxford), Professor Sir Edward Denison Ross, (London), Professor Albert E. Pollard, (London), Lt.-Gen. Sir Arthur Sloggett, Capt. Sir John Shelley Rolls, Bt., Sir John P. Hewett, The Countess Yarborough, the Lady Byron, the Hon. Everard Fielding, Miss M. A. Broadhurst, Mr. W. L. Hichens, Sir John Latta, Sir Earnest Moir, Sir Harry Foster, Admiral W. H. Henderson, General Blenkinsop, Major Gladstone, Lady Cooper, Sir Gilbert Parker, Mrs. Rosita Forbes, Mrs. Archibald Little, Mr. G. K. Chesterton, and Major Frank Fox.

Lord Lamington presided. He said there were Jews already in Palestine, and no member of the present delegation wished to turn them out, or to prevent other Jews settling in the country. But it was a different matter to have a large, powerful, outside organisation like the Zionists, who wished to plant Jews in Palestine with the idea of making a Jewish nation, to the loss and detriment of the people already there. He would read a number of messages of sympathy that had been received.

The chairman read these messages. One was from Lord Northcliffe: "I regard position in Palestine serious. Believe all immigration and importation of arms should be stopped immediately and undesirable characters expelled." Other messages were from Lord Sheffield, Lord Islington, Lord Amthill, Lord Sydenham, Professor Browne, Professor Sir William Ridgway, (Cambridge), Professor Albert E. Pollard, Sir William Joynson Hicks, Sir William Bull, M.P., Mr. Eden Phillpotts and Sir Gilbert Parker.

Shibly Effendi Jamal (Secretary of the Delegation) said that 93 per cent. of the people of Palestine were Arabs, including in these the Christians, of whom he was one. About half the remainder of the population were Jews who had lived long in the country and were only differentiated from the Arabs by their religion. The people of Palestine were not savages or nomads. They lived in cities, and had schools, colleges, hospitals, doctors, lawyers, and all the paraphernalia of civilisation. They had about a hundred newspapers to every million of people.

Explaining how the delegation had come into being, he said that as soon as the Balfour Declaration had been made a Moslem-Christian League was formed, and from the various districts, representatives were sent to a congress. Four such congresses had been held; at the last of them, held in June, there were ninety-six members. Then, the congresses getting tired of sending cablegrams to the British Government, the present delegation had been sent. Its members had been in this country seven months; they might be here another six; for they would remain until they got what they wanted. The Arabs had shed tears of joy when they saw the British troops coming along the hills; but that had not lasted long, for very soon afterwards the Declaration had been made.

That Declaration had been variously interpreted by different people; the Delegation had been four months trying to get the meaning of the phrase "Jewish national home." They had found in the dictionary the meaning of the three separate words, but when the words were combined the only dictionary was the Colonial Office, and from that authority the Delegation got an interpretation that did not satisfy them. "We recognise" said the Colonial Office, "the historical connection of the Jews with Palestine." But there were people in Palestine before Abraham, who came from Mesopotamia. Very early Abraham's descendants went down into Egypt, and remained there for four hundred years. Afterwards they came back, crossed the Jordan, conquered some of the tribes and settled in the country. But it was only a small part of the country, that around Jerusalem, which the Hebrews really held, and that they didn't get until the time of David. Really they had had possession of a small part of Palestine for about 250 years, and since the time of Titus they had ceased to hold it.

The speaker dealt also with the claim made by the Zionists to Palestine on religious grounds. He said there was no objection to Jews coming to the country to build a temple and university, to study the language and develop their literature; the objection was to their coming in to dominate. Christians had a claim to Palestine; the Crusaders had been there 200 years, and the recent conquest had been mainly by Christian troops. The Mohammedans had a religious claim to Palestine; their third most celebrated mosque was there, and they had shrines all over the country.

Of the pledges given in the Balfour Declaration the speaker said the British Government had given an earlier pledge to restore "Arab influence and authority in the conquered provinces,"—of which conquered provinces Palestine was one. He believed the Balfour Declaration had been made hurriedly, without its consequences being carefully thought out, and if it was counted righteousness for an individual who had made a mistake to acknowledge the fact, so also a Government which had made a mistake ought to acknowledge and correct it (applause). If the Balfour Declaration was found to be a mistake, it would not be dishonour but an honour for the British Government to acknowledge that it was causing injustice to the people of Palestine, and to repeal or modify the Declaration. Before anything was settled let the British Government send out a commission to Palestine to study matters on the spot, and find out where the wishes of the people were (applause).

Captain Charles Foxcroft said that the Government was steadily whittling away the pledge it had given to the Arabs, and preparing the national home for the Jews.

Mrs. Rosita Forbes said the future of Palestine was with husbandmen and shepherds. In the Zionist colonies the work was done by Arabs. Palestine had nothing to offer to the Jew.

Major Frank Fox moved a resolution:—That this meeting of British citizens, having heard the Arab case, affirms that our pledges to the Arab population should be respected, and that Zionist immigration should be stopped until a judicial inquiry has reported as to the position in Palestine."

Major Gladstone, His Excellency Moussa Kazin (President of the Delegation), and others speakers supported this resolution, some of the later ones speaking amid a certain amount of interruption from a number of Zionists who were present. About a dozen hands were held up against the resolution when it was put to the meeting; but it was carried by a very large majority.

A vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the proceedings.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

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E.C. 2.

The D.O.T.

It is satisfactory to know that the Department of Overseas Trade is no longer in danger of disappearing. The Department owes its salvation to the fact that at the eleventh hour the business community realised the necessity of taking action, and protests against the recommendations of the Geddes Committee poured in from all sides. It would have been a fatal mistake to have carried out the proposals, which would not have been made I imagine if the work of the Department had been really realised by the Committee. As it is the expenditure on the Department is to be severely curtailed, and it is to be hoped that the greatest care will be taken to see that in the pruning process its efficiency is not greatly impaired.

The Fair.

The hopes entertained regarding the results of the British Industries Fair seem likely to be fulfilled from all I hear. Every day there has been a very noticeable increase in the number of visitors, and on Saturday I am informed that it was quite a difficult matter to move about the building. The exhibitors, our representative tells me, are looking quite optimistic, as well they might in the circumstances, and I shall look forward to hearing that a goodly amount of business has resulted. Elsewhere in this issue will be found our first review of the exhibits; the remaining portion including a survey of the Birmingham section of the fair will appear next week. Our correspondent in his opening remarks makes a spirited plea for enterprise on the part of our traders, which I heartily endorse. Representation at the fair must be followed up if lasting results are to be obtained. It is no good our merchants arguing that their activities must be restricted on account of the present conditions. A bold policy can obtain trade even in the most difficult circumstances, and I look to our traders for a display of initiative worthy of the country's commercial traditions.

Indian Budget Statement.

For some time it has been only too obvious that there would be a very substantial deficit on last year's Indian Budget, and the figures given by the Finance Member in his statement have, therefore, occasioned little surprise. It had been anticipated that there would be a surplus of 71 lakhs of rupees, but there is actually a deficit of 34 crores, which, translated into sterling means a shortage of about £22,600,000, and that on a Budget totalling about £130,000,000, is no slight matter. World conditions are given by the Finance Member as the explanation of this unfortunate position, but that only partly explains the development, and for the other causes we should not be very far wrong, I think, in looking at the situation in India itself. Of course India was bound ultimately to feel the effects of the war like every other country but they have undoubtedly been greatly intensified in her case by the prevailing unrest.

New Taxation.

The position has been met as was to be expected by a general increase of taxation. The general *ad valorem* duty on imports is increased from 11 to 15 per cent., while the cotton excise duty is raised from 3½ to 7 per cent. Imported yarn is to be subject to a duty of 5 per cent., while the duties are increased on machinery, iron, steel and railway material, alcoholic liquors excepting wines, matches, luxury articles, and imported petroleum (an excise duty of one anna per gallon being placed on Indian produced kerosene). Then the salt duty is to be increased from Rs. 1¼ to Rs. 2½ per maund while increases are made in the rates of income tax and super tax. It is estimated that the effect of the proposals, including receipts from increased railway and postal charges, will be to provide an additional revenue of 29 crores, which will leave an uncovered deficit of about 2¼ crores.

The Proposals.

Of course the proposals will come in for considerable criticism, for no Budget imposing new taxation was ever yet introduced without opposition, but it is difficult to see any other course that could have been taken by the Administration, if the expenditure is to be maintained at the present figure. After all no country can exist on credit. One of the most frequent criticisms is that the expenditure on the army is much too high, but there are obvious difficulties in the way of its reduction, and even if economies are affected in this direction, India is not likely to feel any benefit for programmes of "social progress" are unfortunately somewhat costly, as Great Britain is realising to its pain at the present time, and the prospect before India is that there is likely to be a constant increase of taxation in the future, rather than any reduction. It must be remembered that India has been greatly undertaxed in the past, but that fact is not likely to induce the nation to accept the increased burden with any greater pleasure, and the net result will be that the Administration will tend to become more unpopular.

Commentator.

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THE BUSINESS MAN'S BOOKSHELF.

An Oil Encyclopaedia.

"OIL ENCYCLOPAEDIA." By Marcel Mitzakis (Chapman and Hall, 2s. 10s.)

In view of the vast development of the oil industry in recent years it is surprising that a publication of this type has not been forthcoming long ago. Oil has a language peculiarly its own, and many of its terms would defy the most ingenious surmises as to the meaning. The public interested in oil companies represents a very large body of individuals indeed, to whom the publication of this encyclopaedia will mean the filling of a long-felt gap, since it will be of immense assistance in the accurate interpretation of the annual reports and information issued from time to time by the oil companies.

The volume had its inception in a series of articles contributed before the war to an oil journal. All the information has been revised, it is pointed out in the preface, and in most cases completely re-written. The result is one on which the author is entitled to the greatest praise. The ground has been covered thoroughly and well, and a wonderfully comprehensive manual of information relating to the industry has been produced. The task of collecting the material has naturally been very arduous. M. Mitzakis points out that among the difficulties encountered were the lack of Government publications dealing with the industry during the war, the disorganisation of official bureaux in foreign countries and "how to keep up with the tremendous development, not only of most of the oil fields, but of the numerous mechanical inventions dealing with petroleum and its products." Despite these difficulties it will be found that the particulars given in the encyclopaedia are wonderfully up-to-date. That fact alone makes the work invaluable, but its rare fund of information on the most obscure points make it an essential reference book which everyone who is connected in any way with the oil industry will find it imperative to have at his disposal.

A Useful Review.

"FINANCIAL REVIEW of 1921." By J. S. M. Ward, B.A., F.S.S., F.R. Econ. S., and A. L. Please, B.A., F.S.S. (The Intelligence Department, Federation of British Industries. Price to Non-Members, 1s. 6d.)

This is the third annual appearance of this valuable review of the movements in the rates of exchange and prices of staple commodities issued by the Federation of British Industries. The general position in the various countries is the subject of interesting comment. Emphasis is laid on the point that so long after the Armistice the world and especially Europe is still groping for peace and stability. "It is generally recognised" the authors state, "that the position in Europe to-day (at the end of 1921) is more critical than it was even six months ago, and international trade is practically at a standstill." Since then conditions have shown some improvement, but we are still waiting for the Genoa Conference which is to solve the exchange difficulty and

generally will smoothe the path of trade endeavour! It remains to add that the utility of the brochure is greatly enhanced by a number of excellent tables.

THE VALUE OF THE D.O.T.

To the Editor of 'The Near East.'

Sir,—I was glad to see your strong defence of the Department of Overseas Trade in your issue of March 2. It would, indeed, be a short-sighted policy to weaken our capacity for a trade offensive when the commercial revival comes by abolishing the department. How our rivals, in particular the Germans, would laugh in their sleeves at an economy of this character! Happily there is now little danger of this happening, for the Government appear to have taken a broader view of the utility of the Department than Sir Eric Geddes and his colleagues, but it would be well all the same for the business community to remain on the alert, for strange as that may seem, politicians have been known before now to change their minds as the result of sustained pressure by a body of influential opinion.

It must seem extraordinary to many people that the Department should ever have been in danger. The explanation is to be found in the fact that the very real services it has rendered to commerce have not been widely known. Merchants and manufacturers know very well that they could not do without it, but one can understand that to some sections of the business community the need for Government assistance to trade would not be quite so clear. Banks, for instance, have their own intelligence service, and shipping companies are also well able to fend for themselves. But when it comes to a question of buying or selling commodities or of concessions, then the case is altogether different, and it scarcely needs emphasis that the state can give great assistance to its nationals in these matters.

Yours etc.,
"Trader."

London, March 3.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting	Parity of Exchange	Latest. Quotations.
Alexandria ..	Piastres to £....	97½	97½
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	96.50-97
†Belgrade ..	Dinars to £....	25.22½	350
Berlin	Marks to £....	20.43	1131-1134
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1,3.9-32
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1,3.9-32
Brussels.....	Francs to £....	25.22½	51.57-51.62
*Bucharest ..	Lei to £.....	25.22½	540-560
Constantinople	Piastres to £....	110	640-670
New York....	Dollars to £....	4.86 2-3	4.39,5-8-4.39,7-8
Paris	Francs to £....	25.22½	48.52-48.55
Prague	Kronen to £....	24.02	265-270
Rome	Lire to £.....	25.22½	83½-85
†Sofia	Leva to £.....	25.22½	630
Teheran	Krans to £....	50	51
Vienna	Kronen to £....	24.02	25,000-26,000
Warsaw	Marks to £.....	20.43	20,000-21,000

*Nominal. † Sellers.



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Commerce and Industry.

REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

GREECE.

Athens, February 18.

Exchange Fluctuations.

There has been a sharp rise in bank and company shares during the last few days. Sterling, which is still fixed at 96 drachmae by the Syndicate of Banks, has jumped up to 107 drachmae on the free market. This new depreciation of the drachma is attributed to the uncertainty prevailing as to the successful issue of the "pourparlers" with regard to the loan which M. Gounaris is endeavouring to conclude in London, and also to the fear that though the money may be finally found the amount will be very small and the conditions of the loan very onerous.

Export of Currants to America.

The total quantity of currants exported to the United States during the first ten months of 1921 amounted to 44,386, 958 lb. of the value of 6,573,002 dollars. During November and December a further quantity of 2,000,000 lb. was inspected and passed for shipment by the United States Consular authorities at Patras, while an additional 4,000,000 lb. are awaiting inspection.

Dearer Macedonian Tobacco.

The tobacco trade is once again flourishing at Serres. The prices now offered are higher than they have ever been before. The tobacco produced in the regions of Rodolivi, Kioup-Kioup, Kiriplan and Tsiriplines is sold at 58 drachmae per oke. This year's production amounted to about two and a half million okes, on nearly 30 per cent. below the previous year's figures. Two-thirds of it has already been sold.

Agricultural Production in Thrace.

According to information supplied by the Ministry of Agriculture, the production in Thrace during 1921 was as follows:—Wheat, 42,565,478 okes; barley, 30,995,224 okes; maize, 23,891,734 okes; oats, 4,195,594 okes; tobacco, 403,885 okes.

Miscellaneous.

The receipts of the Candia (Crete) Customs from April 1, to December 31, amounted to 5,152,354 drachmae.

The receipts of the Piraeus Customs during January amounted to 9,947,165.35 drachmae. Compared with the receipts during the corresponding period last year there is an increase of 3,853,669.95 drachmae.

The Minister of Supplies has authorised the export of olive oil from Corfu.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, February 26.

Budget Deficit.

Although the details are not yet available it appears that the Budget for 1922 will not balance. In the course of a long speech which he made in the Sobranje last week, M. Tourlakoff, the Minister of Finance, referred to the unparalleled difficulties that confronted the present Government. The Minister said that he was prepared to make the most drastic economies, and he hoped that the deficit would not amount to a large sum.

In connection with economies the recent Government Bank-note order is causing some comment. It appears that the order has been awarded to an American firm whose price was considerably higher than the majority of the other offers. It is said that the matter may be raised in the Sobranje, as the Commission of Reparations are understood to have written to the Government warning them that in the event of their incurring unnecessary expense, they (the Commission) would be forced to increase the amount of reparations due to be paid during 1922. The Government's attitude is that the American bank notes are made of stronger and more durable paper, and that the difference in price will be made up for by the better quality. The matter is capable of interesting developments.

English Contract Success.

The adjudication for the contract for sulphate of copper for which tenders were recently invited has resulted in the English firm Messrs. McKechnie Brothers receiving an order for 1,000 tons of the commodity in question. Their price was considered too high at first, but when it became known that the other competitors could not guarantee delivery and could not in addition provide the proper quality, this firm's offer was at once accepted.

AN IMPORTANT CONTRACT FOR BRITISH MANUFACTURERS.

Tenders were recently invited by the Public Works Ministry, Cairo, for the supply and installation of pumping machinery at Atf in Lower Egypt. This contract was open to manufacturers all over the world, and has now been adjudicated to the Associated British Manufacturers (Egypt) Ltd., at a sum slightly over £270,000. It is satisfactory to note that British manufacturers are now evidently in a position to compete with all Continental makers, as this important contract was keenly competed for by Swiss, German, French, Dutch and other manufacturers.

The installation forms part of one of the largest pumping stations in Egypt, and the machinery and material to be supplied is all British. It consists of four Willans and Robinson (The English Electric Co., Ltd.) Diesel Engines, each direct coupled to a Gwynne Pump. Each unit is capable of pumping 6.4 cubic metres of water per second. The electric power required is supplied by two Vickers-Petter Semi-Diesel Engines direct-coupled to the English Electric Co's Generators. The filtering plant is that of the Paterson Engineering Co., and the large sluice valves are supplied by Glenfield and Kennedy.

The Associated British Manufacturers (Egypt) Limited are to be congratulated in obtaining this contract. Their business in the Middle East has recently developed considerably from their head office in Cairo, and branches in Alexandria, Khartoum, Cyprus, Palestine and Syria. In this Association, in addition, to the above-mentioned firms are such well-known manufacturers as Messrs. Thos. Firth and Sons., Ltd., John Brown and Co., Ltd., The B.S.A. Co., Ltd., Dorman Long and Co., Ltd., Callender's Cable and Construction Co., Ltd., J. and E. Hall, Limited, Hawthorn, Leslie and Co., Ltd., the Weldless Steel Tube Co., Ltd., Hulse and Co., Ltd., and Jas. Howden and Co., Limited.

The above manufacturers' machines and materials are well-known in Egypt. The Willans engines are doing duty in many places, Gwynne's Pumps have been at work in many places throughout the Nile Valley ever since pumps were first installed there, and Petter's engines have become a household word throughout Egypt where they are doing duty in considerable numbers and for various purposes, giving the utmost satisfaction.

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Oils Sagging : Rubber Brighter.

(From Our Own Correspondent).

London, Tuesday morning.

All things considered it has not been a bad week. The uncertainties of the political situation were reflected in the gilt-edged market at the commencement of the week, and a dull tone developed, but the effect was not prolonged, and soon the upward movement was resumed, and once again the markets are closing with quite a buoyant note. As the outlook at the moment both at home and abroad is hardly encouraging this says much for the confidence of investors. Presumably the possibility of a reduction in the income tax has had a considerable effect, also the prospect of a further reduction in the bank rate.

A Czecho-Slovak Loan.

Once again we are seeing quite a flood of new issues, good, moderate and indifferent, with the chaff in my opinion, predominating. But as usual in these times most of the issues will I suppose be over-subscribed. Of the issues promised in the near future the most interesting is the Czecho-Slovakian Loan which should make its appearance in the first week in April. I understand that the amount will be £10,000,000. The occasion will be noteworthy as the first opportunity of the kind afforded to this country of helping in the reconstruction of Central Europe. Czecho-Slovakia has set a praiseworthy example to other countries in regard to finance, and this should inspire sufficient confidence to ensure the success of the issue. The Greek loan still hangs fire, but the opinion is held that an arrangement will ultimately be arrived at, though one probably not so favourable to the Greeks as they would like. There have been no developments with regard to loans for other Balkan countries, and nothing is likely to be done until after the Genoa Conference. If as the result of that gathering a policy is evolved for dealing with the adverse exchanges then things are likely to move.

Brokers and Banks.

The competition of banks with the brokers in regard to transactions in securities has always occasioned considerable feeling on the Stock Exchange. The question has been dealt with at some length by a contemporary during the past week apropos of a proposal put forward by a member of that august body for the elimination of outside competition. While one can fully appreciate the point of view of the brokers it is the general public after all who buy and sell the shares who have to be considered. It is not easy for everyone to get an introduction to a broker, and apart from that transactions through a bank are very often much simpler than through a broker. There is no prospect of any delay, and the business entails little more difficulty than cashing a cheque. Personally I should vote for a bank every time.

Gilt-Edged.

As I have already pointed out gilt-edged have closed well, and stocks are slightly up on the week. Consols are 1-8 better at 55.5-8, War Loan Fives have gained a point at 97, while the Conversion Loan at 72.1-8 shows a gain of 7-8. Indian stocks are all ex-dividend which more than accounts for the change in prices. The India seven per cent. Loan has eased off a point at 105, the three per cent. Loan is $\frac{1}{2}$ down at 52 $\frac{1}{2}$, while the 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Loan has shed a similar amount at 61 $\frac{1}{2}$.

A much better tone has prevailed in the foreign market during the week, and in a number of cases advances have taken place. French securities have displayed exceptional strength, War Loan Fives being 47 $\frac{3}{4}$, a rise of 1 $\frac{3}{4}$. German three per cents. are again fractionally down at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$, while Italian Rentes are un-

changed at 25 $\frac{1}{2}$. Brazilians have been a firm spot. Fundings being 83 $\frac{1}{2}$, while the 1911 Loan is 58 ex-div. Chinese securities have been rather dull. The 1896 Loan is 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ down at 90. In Greek securities Monopolies are a point down at 31 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Industrials Quiet.

On the whole there has not been much doing in the Industrial group, and quiet conditions have prevailed. The undertone has, however, been firm, and it would not take a great revival of business to make a stir in the market. In tobaccos Bats are 3d. up at 66s. 6d., while Imperial Tobaccos are 53s. 6d. Dunlops are a shade lower at 6s. 6d. An active but somewhat irregular market has prevailed in Nitrate descriptions.

The Textile group has been featureless. Coats are a shade better at 2,25-32, while Courtaulds are unchanged at 37s. 9d. Iron, Coal, and Steel securities have been depressed in consequence of the industrial position. Armstrongs at 13s. 3d. are 9d. down, Vickers are 6d. lower at 8s. 9d., Guest Keens have shed 6d. at 30s. 6d., while Lamberts are 1,16 down at 1,15-16.

Shipping securities have been dull, with P. and O. Deferred 13 down at 307. Cunards are almost 1s. lower at 18s. 9d., while Furness Withy are 1s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. down at 26s. 3d.

Oils Dull.

The buoyant period for oils is over for the time being, and as a result of the development of liquidation prices are lower in a number of directions. Burmahs at 5,17-22 are $\frac{1}{4}$ down, while Mexican Eagles are 7-8 lower at 3,7-8. Trinidad issues have been irregular. Centrals at 3,5-16 are 5-16 lower, while Leaseholds are 1 $\frac{1}{4}$.

Among Egyptians Anglo-Egyptian B are 1-16 down at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$, while Oilfields of Egypt are 6d. lower at 5s. 3d. In the Roumanian group Roumanian Consolidateds are 8s. 3d., a drop of 1s., while Phoenix are 1s. 3d. down at 14s. Dacia Romanos are unchanged at 11-16, while Steaua Romanas are 9d. down at 11s. 9d.

Banks Steady.

Banks have generally displayed firmness. National of Egypt are 20,1-8. Chartered of India at 15,5-16 are 1-16 up, while National of India at 35,1-4 are unchanged. P. and O. Banking Corporations are 11,15-16, a decline of 1-16, while Imperial of Persias are the same as before at 6 $\frac{1}{4}$.

In land securities Aboukirs are 24s., Béhéras are 8,7-8, Delta Lands are 7s. 6d., Gharbieh Lands are 1,38. Sidi Salems are 1, and Union Foncières are 2,3-8. Sudan Plantations are 3,5-16.

Rubbers Better.

After weeks of dullness the Rubber market has shown distinct signs of revival during the past few days, due to the improvement in the general outlook for the industry which has been reflected by a rise in the quotation for the raw commodity. In a number of directions shares have moved up.

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

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

Prices on February 17 were as follows:—Agricultural Bank of Egypt, £4 25-32; Alexandria Water Co., Ltd., £7, 1-8; Anglo-American Nile Steam, £2, 1-2; Associated Cotton Ginners, £13-16; Banque d'Orient, Fr. 50; Behera Ord., £E 8, 3-8; Brasseries d'Egypte, Fr. 70; Building Lands of Egypt, £27-32; Cassi di Sconto Priv., Fr. 30; Comptoir Fin et Com. d'Egypte; £31-32; Consolidated Lands, Pt. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$; Credit Foncier Fondateur Fr. 801; Credit Foncier Act. Fr. 630 $\frac{1}{2}$; Credit Foncier 1886 Obilg, Fr., 130; Eaux du Caire, Capital, Fr. 82; Eaux du Caire Jouissance, Fr. 111; Egypt and Levant, S.S. Ord. 31s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; Egyptian Delta Light Railways, £3 $\frac{1}{2}$; Filature National d'Egypte; £10 $\frac{1}{4}$; Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. an des., £6; Khedivial Mail S.S. Ord., 100s.; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co., Pref., £2 $\frac{1}{2}$; Kom Ombo Ste an de Wadi, £4 1-16; Kom Ombo Ste An Fondateur, £34 $\frac{1}{2}$; Land Bank of Egypt, Parts de Fond., £38; Lots Turc. £T20 $\frac{1}{2}$; Menzaleh Canal Navigation PT 222; Nungovich Hotels, £7; Ramleh Railways £2 7-8; Urbaines et Rurales £3; Union Fonciere Fond £13-16.

Engineering Topics.

By Our Engineering Representative.

Compressed Air in Grinding.

A visit paid recently to a large engineering works in the South of England showed that although an air compressor plant was part of the equipment a supply pipe was not run to the grinding shop and there were no pneumatic appliances of any kind used therein. Compressed air as an industrial power has been in use for over twenty-five years but it seems that it is only recently that it has been used in grinding shops and that the practice is by no means as universal to-day as would be imagined.

With an available supply of air at a pressure of from 50 to 75 lb., a large amount of cleaning work can be done more quickly and more safely than in any other way. A blast of air will clean out the centres of a work piece far more speedily, previously to placing it in a grinding machine, than they can be cleaned with rag or waste. The momentary directing of the air blast on the ends will blow every trace of swarf or grease away and leave them as clean as when first cut. In fact, any piece of machinery, no matter how complicated in form, can be cleaned, intelligently, by compressed air more quickly than in any other way. Intelligently, in this connection, means taking care not to blow dirt from one part of the machine to another.

Any fully automatic grinding machines that chuck, grind, gauge, and discharge pieces continuously should be fitted with an air blast to remove dust and particles of abrasive, and here it may be said that where machines of this type are so fitted there is often room for a rearrangement of the air blast so as to clean foreign matter out of every moving part. Semi-automatic grinding machines should be so arranged with air blasts that every part is kept scrupulously clean, especially the limit stops and automatic feed knock-out tackle which prevents work being ground undersize.

There is much to commend the use of pneumatically operated grinders, as one of these comparatively small machines can be fixed on the bench or on a machine-bed as a tool post or centre grinder and so do work more economically than some larger machine. Again, the small pneumatics can be started and stopped so easily and used in such positions that they are often more economical to use than the heavier electrically driven grinders, advantageous though these are in general machine shop practice. With both the electric and the pneumatic grinder the design is so simple that the working parts are reduced to a minimum, and so much is this so with small pneumatics that no attention whatever is required, with the majority of designs, beyond giving a few drops of oil every week or so.

Clean Melting.

Two of the most fertile causes of trouble in working small cupolas are the use of insufficient limestone and attempting to melt too heavy a charge of iron. Another, but less common, is the use of insufficient coke between the charges.

In modern practice a 24-inch cupola should be able to melt about two tons, or as a maximum 4,500 lb. of iron per hour and as 30,000 cubic feet of air are required for every short ton, or 2,000 lb. of iron, it follows that about 68,000 cubic feet of air per hour, or 1,140 cubic feet per minute are needed. As this does not take into account loss by leakage or friction, a blower used with such a cupola should be able to supply about 1,500 cubic feet per minute. The fan should therefore, be connected with the wind box round the shell of the cupola by a pipe 10 inches in diameter and the wind box should be connected with a continuous tuyere through the lining at least 4 inches high, or else it will be impossible for the air to enter the body of fuel freely and in sufficient volume.

The weight of the iron charge depends in a great measure on the quality of the coke, and a charge that may be quite right where high-grade coke is used may be far too large when the coke is not of such good quality. Taking a 24-inch cupola as an example, the iron charge,

where low-grade coke is used, should not exceed 300 lb., a weight which may be increased to 500 lb., as a maximum when the coke is known to be of a suitable nature. Where there is some reason for doubting the quality of the latter, a charge of 40 lb. of coke and 300 of iron should be tried out for results and the amount of iron increased and of coke decreased with succeeding charges until a maximum of 500 lb. of iron and 30 of coke is reached. As regard the bad coke the thickness of this, before charging, should be such that it will extend about 30 inches above the tuyeres. In regard to the quantity of limestone used, at least 30 lbs. of broken stone should be spread over each charge, including the first, and only under very exceptional circumstances should a less amount be used.

The best practice is to provide a slag hole, which should not be more than about two inches in diameter, either at one side or to the back of the cupolas, and at a distance of about 15 inches above the sand bottom. Where short heats are the practice it will not be necessary to open this orifice, but if the heats are of anything from 2 to 10 hours' duration, the hole may be left open with advantage the whole of the time.

Cement Moulds for Castings.

A certain amount of interest has been aroused in connection with antique Chinese and Burmese hollow ware which had found its way into collectors' hands at various times, but which, until recently, has rarely been inspected by any save those who looked on them from an artistic point of view alone. Metal experts who have seen them have expressed their astonishment at the large superficial area and the thinness of the castings.

This art of casting metals thinly seems not to have been confined to Chinese and Burmese craftsmen. A good deal of Siamese brasswork is extremely thin and a pair of Persian lamps of about 32 square inches superficial area are only one-sixteenth of an inch thick, and from the surface marks it has been assumed that very fine sand was used for the moulds.

The secret of manufacture has now been made public the discovery arising from an inspection of some Chinese cast iron bowls, which were over four feet in diameter, 12 inches in height and in no place more than one-sixteenth of an inch in thickness. The foundry where these pots were made was visited, and it was seen that they were cast in permanent moulds made of cement composed of a mixture of finely broken tile, clay and burned lime, which will set with a perfectly smooth surface in a few hours and will withstand any reasonable heat.

Soldering Aluminium.

Many years ago, in connection with an electrical undertaking in the North of England I was greatly interested in the problem of soldering aluminium. At that time we met with no success; the difficulty with which the metal oxidised being a fatal bar. Since that time many more or less successful methods have been devised and one of the most promising has just been described in the *American Machinist*. It is said to have proved highly satisfactory in use and to be lasting which after all is one of the main considerations.

A pure aluminium soldering "iron" is used, made from a piece of aluminium rod of ample size for holding the heat. The parts to be soldered are tuned with a solder consisting of 81 per cent. tin, 16 per cent. aluminium and 3 per cent. copper, a composition which, if my memory serves, has been used before without any undue measure of success. But this time a different flux is used and further, the solder is prepared differently the copper being first melted and the aluminium added a little at a time, the mass being stirred and kept constantly in motion by a heated iron rod. The tin is then added with a small portion of tallow and the secret appears to be in the keeping all these metals at a heat only just sufficient to enable them to flow freely, guarding all the time against overheating.

British Industries Fair.

ROUND THE WHITE CITY.

Some Impressions.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Anyone who has visited the White City several times during the past week can be under no illusion as to whether or not the British Industries Fair is justifying its existence. On the occasion of my first fleeting visit on the opening day it was possible to move about with some semblance of comfort, but on subsequent days the fair has been more and more crowded, and it is no exaggeration in the case of some stands to say that it was impossible to get near them for the people. As only trade buyers are admitted, the obvious inference is that the results should be up to expectations, and this is so far borne out by what I have heard. Here and there complaints have been made of a lack of business, but in general exhibitors seem very satisfied, while the attitude of the buyers is summed up in the remark of one of them "Well they certainly have the goods here." That is but bare justice to one of the best exhibitions that has ever been held in this country.

The fact that this time there are about 1,400 exhibitors at both sections of the fair, something like 900 of them being at the White City, affords a clear illustration of the growth of this excellent undertaking of the Department of Overseas Trade. In 1923, if all goes well, the number should be in the region of 2,000. I assume that there can now be no question of holding the fair at Wembley until 1924, or 1925 at the earliest but that is immaterial as regards accommodation, for there is ample scope for expansion at the White City, where so far no use has been made of many buildings, dreary glimpses of which could be obtained through the flapping hangings in the extemporised corridors connecting certain of the sections. But while that is so I do not think that anyone will leave the White City with real regret. The straggling buildings are not really suited for a fair of this character, and there are certain structural drawbacks, not the least of which was in evidence one afternoon during a severe storm when I had seriously to consider whether it might not be necessary to utilise an umbrella.

It would be difficult to say which is the best and most representative section at the White City this year, for in general while there are one or two indifferent sections, a very high level of excellence has been attained. In every section the wealth of exhibits was a perfect revelation of England's industrial powers. It was far from easy while surveying the wide range of our contributions to the world's requirements and noting the very obvious activity that prevailed on all sides to realise that we are still passing through the trade depression. If one had only the fair to go by, one could not fail to draw the conclusion that the wheels of commerce are revolving more rapidly than ever.

One thing the fair has made clear beyond dispute, and that is that Great Britain is indisputably better situated to meet the wants of its customers than ever before. When the trade revival comes British industry has no need to fear the rivalry of its competitors on the score of quality. On every side the exhibits hold out definite proof that the technique of the British craftsman, always very high, has been immensely improved. Evidently there has been no staying the march of progress because trade is temporarily under a cloud.

Even were the business done to be small (as I have pointed out above there is every reason for thinking that the contrary will be the case) there would still be every justification for holding the fair at this juncture. Commerce is now at the parting of the ways; behind lies the worst of the depression, ahead lies the coming "boom." If buyers withhold orders now we have at any rate the satisfaction of knowing that having seen

what Britain can do we shall get the orders in due course. And apart from the personal relations he may have established every buyer who has visited the fair will be in a sense an advertisement agent for the exhibitors, since whenever trade matters are discussed the tendency will naturally be for him to extol the merits of British products. Thus a very fruitful soil will be prepared for our traders to take advantage of by a timely publicity campaign through agents on the spot, and through advertisements in journals which really cover the fields in which they are interested.

Are our merchants and manufacturers ready to this? I must confess to very grave doubt on the point from what I know of their methods in the past, particularly in the pre-war period when promising markets such as those of the Near and Middle East were entered in a most haphazard manner. It was briefly a "take it or leave it" attitude, borne of the fact that there were so many markets on which our traders could implicitly depend. If that policy is pursued now it will spell failure, and with the utmost emphasis at my command I would urge on the British commercial community the need for an intensive campaign now. To wait until the trade revival is in actual operation would be futile. It would be like waiting for the first flare before thinking seriously of an insurance policy. No it must be now if the full fruits of the markets are to be gathered.

One further point must be touched on before I turn to the exhibits, and that is the policy of traders towards the Near and Middle East. The effect that the state of the exchanges has on the mind of the average British trader is easily understandable. It seems to him hardly worth while attempting trade until the exchanges improve, and as a result of unfortunate experiences during the "slump" he is inclined to ignore the whole of the regions in question. Then, where the exchanges present no difficulty political uncertainties have had very much the same effect. Very probably a considerable interval will be required before some of the Near Eastern exchanges reach the normal, but there are others, notably the Roumanian exchange, which ought to reach parity within a comparatively short space of time, and any efforts devoted to cultivating these markets now will certainly not be wasted. Indeed, I would go further and state emphatically that in the end British traders will regret it if they fail to take steps to bring their products before these markets. Outside the Balkans there is enormous scope for trade development in markets unaffected by the exchanges. The position in Egypt has not been satisfactory, but things are settling down there; the market is admittedly very short of stocks and simply invites a little enterprise on the part of our merchants. Then in Palestine and Mesopotamia to mention only two other regions there is great scope for British trade endeavour. But as I have indicated before, success will not be achieved by Fabian tactics. Energy and resolution are required, and the determination to obtain the trade if it is possible to do so. With a policy of this character the trade will come our way. It is "up to" our merchants and manufacturers to decide.

THE EXHIBITS.

Leather Goods.

This is one of the most comprehensive sections at the White City, though it is only a case of *primus inter pares*. The display is thoroughly representative of the industry, and suggests very forcibly the prospects for the development of the export trade when conditions permit. In a brief review it would be impossible to mention more than a few of the exhibits in any of the sections and the selection is not easy where such a level standard of excellence prevails. The task is particularly difficult in regard to the leather exhibits as on stand after stand are displayed goods of outstanding quality.

One of the first stands to attract my attention was that of Messrs. James Dewsnap, Ltd., showing a very

tasteful selection of small dressing and toilet cases and fancy leather goods. Another attractive stand is that of Messrs. Charles Ruhl, displaying a charming variety of ladies' handbags in silk, velvet, and brocade. The Holywell Trunk Works have on view trunks, suit and attaché cases in all varieties, one of their specialities being their leather-welted trunks. Travelling requisites are also exhibited by Messrs. M. and A. Hess, whose exhibits include cabin and imperial trunks. Other stands of interest are those of Messrs. A. Garstin and Co., Ltd., who show trunks, dressing cases, and fancy leather goods, and Messrs. P. S. Lankester, the latter one of the most admirably arranged stands in the exhibition, showing fancy leather goods.

Boots and shoes, which are a new item in the exhibition, form a very important part of the section, the list of exhibitors including most of the well-known firms. Among the stands of special interest are those of Messrs. Frederick Cook, Ltd., Messrs. John Marlow and Sons, Ltd., Messrs. Henry Sexton and Sons, Ltd., and Messrs. A. Lovell and Co. For these very necessary commodities as for the travellers' requisites specified in the previous paragraph there is an excellent and increasing market in the Near and Middle East.

Paper, Printing, and Office Appliances.

I commented last year on the universality of this section; it has continued to grow and now covers a very large space in the fair. All the best known firms are exhibiting, and the displays of exquisite art work at many of the stands go far to making this section the most pleasing to the eye in the exhibition. One of the interesting exhibits is that of Messrs. John Dickinson and Co., Ltd., showing stationery and office requisites. Messrs. The Shannon Ltd. have as usual a most attractive display of their well-known office furniture. Messrs. Thomas De La Rue and Co., Ltd., have one of the largest and most excellently arranged stands in the section, containing examples of their well known productions, notably playing cards, fountain pens, fancy leather goods, and, in a panelled setting, examples of their stamp designs. A number of other firms are exhibiting fountain pens, among them Messrs. the Jewel Pen Co., Ltd., and Messrs. the Wyvern Fountain Pen Co. An attractive stand is that of Messrs. James Spicer and Sons, Ltd., showing general stationery, etc.

Fine art work is greatly in evidence. Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, Ltd., have on view at their well-arranged stand a number of their famous art reproductions of famous pictures as well as art calendars, etc. Messrs. Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., show cards, calendars, and other productions for which they are noted. Messrs. George Pulman and Sons, Ltd., display examples of prints in colour and monochrome; Messrs. Alfred Bell and Co., Ltd., have an exceedingly effective selection of etchings in colour and black and white, and mezzotints in colour; while Messrs. the Medici Society Ltd., have on view an exquisite collection of their famous prints.

A stand of special interest from the point of view of the markets of the Near and Middle East is that of Messrs. the Imperial Typewriter Co., Ltd., showing a variety of the well-known machines of that name. This typewriter is made for use in a variety of foreign languages and there should be an important export trade for this machine in the future. The publishing trade is not so strongly represented as before, and comparatively few stands are devoted to it. Notable among them are the exhibits of the Cambridge University Press, the Oxford University Press, and Messrs. Ward, Lock and Co., Ltd.

Fancy Goods.

The display of goods coming under this title is very comprehensive, and it is impossible to deal with the section as an entity as it dovetails into quite a number of other sections. Some of the exhibits have already been dealt with in my comments in the section devoted to leather goods for instance, while others must, perforce, be dealt with elsewhere. The largest stand devoted to fancy goods is that of Indian Arts and Crafts

containing a very interesting collection of Indian manufactures, including ivory inlaid articles, lacquer ware, carved wood-ware, fancy brassware, and toys. It represents an attempt to develop a market for the art of the Indian craftsman, and, if pursued, should I think have satisfactory results. Many of the exhibits seemed to me likely to prove popular in the Balkan markets. Messrs. Bowers and Simonett Ltd., show mirrors and ivory ware of a type eminently suitable for the Eastern bazaars, and the same remark applies to the exhibits of Messrs. the Tunstall Optical Co., Ltd., who have on view a most attractive range of tortoiseshell goods, etc. A word must be said also for the stand of Messrs. the Ideal Sewing Machine Co., Ltd., showing the machine of that title. Here again is a commodity for which there is a great opportunity in the markets of the Near and Middle East. Other exhibits of special interest in this section are those of Messrs. Thermos, Ltd., showing their famous flasks, also carrying cases, jars for food and butter, carafes etc., and Messrs. the Packers Supply Co., who have on view anti-pilferage devices.

Musical Instruments.

In some respects the display of musical instruments is not up to that of last year; in others a considerable advance has to be recorded. There are not nearly so many pianos on view, that being due, I assume, to the extreme depression that the trade has experienced. The gramophone stands and those devoted to similar instruments are far more comprehensive than before, and reach a very high standard. Interesting stands are those of Messrs. the Bell Piano and Organ Co., Ltd., Messrs. the Harper Piano Co., Ltd., and Messrs. White Broadwood and Co., showing pianofortes and player pianos, and Messrs. Alfred Taylor and Son, Ltd., showing pianofortes. Fourteen stands are devoted to gramophones, the exhibitors including Messrs. the Bath Cabinet Makers' Co., Ltd., Messrs. Craies and Stavridi, Messrs. the Johnson Talking Machine Co., Ltd., and Messrs. the Sterno Manufacturing Co. A stand of special interest is that of Messrs. Barnett Samuel and Sons, Ltd., who also show gramophones and in addition brass instruments, band requisites, etc. The gramophones on view represent the last work of the art, and there should be a large demand for the productions of the firms I have mentioned throughout the Near and Middle East, and, of course in India; but that can only be so if the merits of these instruments are brought before the potential buyers of these regions. It is rather strange that only one firm providing gramophone records should be exhibiting, that being Messrs. the Sterno Manufacturing Co., and bespeaks a lack of enterprise on the part of the firms concerned in this branch of industry.

(To be concluded)

ADVERTISING IN "THE NEAR EAST" PAYS.

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TOURIST TRAFFIC IN PALESTINE.**Formation of Society.**

With a view to the development of the tourist traffic to Palestine an association has been formed there similar to that established in Egypt. It will be known as the Society for the Promotion of Travel in the Holy Land.

The inaugural meeting of the society was held at the Governorate, Jerusalem, on February 6. Sir Wyndham Deedes, in the course of a statement, said that the objects of the society were already known to them, and there was no need to enumerate them. He would like, however, to deal with one objection that has been raised to the formation of this society, viz: that it was not required, and that it was unnecessary and superfluous. It was said that Palestine was so well known throughout the world that it was not in need of advertisement, but to say that was to mistake the object of the society. They did not pretend that anything they could say or write would cause Palestine to be better known throughout the world, but what they did desire to do was to cause to be made known the facilities which existed for visiting and travel in the country, which was a very different thing.

He desired to call their attention to three points which appealed to him. He thought that an obligation and a responsibility rested upon the dwellers in Palestine to form a society with those objects. They had, as heirs to a great heritage, a duty to the rest of the world. Palestine might be considered in certain respects the property of the whole world, and not of the people of Palestine only. It might with truth be said that the spiritual inhabitants of Palestine numbered many millions, and it was their duty to provide facilities to enable them conveniently to come and travel in this country. Palestine was the centre of interest to the three great world religions, and it was incumbent on them so to organise things here that when visitors came to the country they found themselves in conditions which would facilitate their pilgrimage.

The second point to which he called their attention was that in offering facilities of visiting that country, they should be careful to do nothing which would mar the actual beauty and the grandeur and peculiar character of Palestine. They would make a great mistake if, in their attempt to provide what were called the amenities of civilisation, they adopted those soul destroying evidences of civilisation which appeared in other countries. Nothing should be done to mar the atmosphere of Palestine; they owed this to Palestine itself and to its people. The third advantage which would accrue from the formation of that society was the benefit which large numbers of visitors would confer on the inhabitants of the country, by the encouragement of local industries.

THE NEAR EAST INDEX, VOLUME XX.

The Index to Volume XX July 7 to December 29, 1921, is now ready, and copies will be sent to subscribers gratis on application to the Manager, *The Near East*, 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2.

THE SUCCESSION STATES AND THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN BANK.

The Czech paper *Narodni Lisiy* states that, in accordance with the stipulations of the Peace Treaty, the Succession States have taken over 44.9 milliards of bank-notes originally issued by the Austro-Hungarian Bank. This quota was arrived at by a process of stamping, and was distributed among the respective countries as follows: Austria 7.4 milliards; Hungary 8.5. milliards; Poland 2.7 milliards; Italy 2.5. milliards; Roumania 8.5. milliards; Yugoslavia 5.7 milliards; Czecho-Slovakia 8.3 milliards; other countries 1.3 milliards.

COPPER MINES IN TRANSYLVANIA.

An enquirer in Transylvania desires to interest British capital in a copper mine situated three kilometres from, and having road connection with, a railway station in that country. Work was stopped in 1908 from want of capital arising from uneconomical management. The output was 10,000 kgr. copper ore per day. The acid extraction of the ore yields a 71 per cent. residue, and a solution showing an ore content of 10 per cent. iron, 7.5 per cent. copper, .0002 per cent silver, .00005 per cent. gold, and a trace of arsenic. The enquirer is prepared to give a three months option on the property. A sample of the ore may be inspected and further particulars obtained on application at the Enquiry Room, Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, London, S.W.1.

CZECHO-SLOVAK SUGAR TRADE.

In consequence of considerable transactions in the past fortnight (15,000 tons being disposed of in France, besides Yugoslavia, Austria, and Trieste), the sales concluded by the Czecho-Slovak company for sugar exports have attained a total of 245,000 tons for the season 1921-1922, so that with an estimated production of 570,000 tons and a consumption of 250,000 tons of refined sugar, 75,000 tons still remain available for the market. The requirements of Austria alone will amount to about 60,000 tons, and if only 50,000 tons are reserved for supplying this requirement, no more than 25,000 tons will be left for the remaining countries.

The Czecho-Slovak sugar refining factories have not yet entirely completed their work for the season, a few refineries having only recently resumed operations. From the figures hitherto supplied by the various factories it is estimated that the results will be roughly as follows: Bohemia 3,177,444 metric quintals, Moravia 1,890,731 metric quintals, Silesia 139,450 metric quintals, Slovakia 470,420 metric quintals, making a total of 5,678,045 metric quintals of refined sugar.

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Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Sugar.—The home refined market has been in normal request at unchanged rates. Tate's cubes are a firm feature at 52s.; mineral water sugar has been steady at 47s., and London granulated is the same at 46s. 6d. Lyle's granulated has lost 3d. at 46s. 6d. Unsteadiness has been noticeable in export varieties. West Indian crystallized has advanced 6d. to 41s., while Czecho-Slovakian has shed 3d. at 19s. Cane sugar quotations are:—March, 14s. 6d.; April, 14s. 6d.; May, 14s. 6d.; August, 14s. 6d.; and September, 14s. 6d. White sugar quotations are:—March, 19s.; April, 18s. 10½d.; May, 18s. 9d.; August, 18s. 10½d.; and September, 18s. 10½d.

Coffee.—Business has been brisk. Costa Rica at 126s., and Indian at 106s. are unaltered. Nairobi is firm at 110s., and Jamaica is the same at 150s. A slight increase in prices has been in evidence in the futures market with quotations now at:—March, 52s.; May, 52s. 9d.; July, 53s. 3d.; September, 54s.; and December, 54s. 1½d.

Tea.—There has been a greater demand for Indian tea, with higher rates. Ceylon supplies have improved, but prices have risen slightly. Fine China tea has shown no improvement at 2s. 11½d. lb.; good Pekoe Souchong is unchanged at 11d. lb.; and Common Java has been firm at 9½d. lb.

Rice.—New crop American Java rices have been favoured during the week and prices are comparatively low. Spanish Japan rice has been in good demand, but supplies are extremely low both in the market and afloat.

Disposal of Coconut.—There has been a steady demand with little change in prices.

Almonds.—Disposals have been steady, but prices are still rather high.

Green Fruit.—Supplies of oranges have been heavy during the week, many small shipments having arrived. The request for medium and low grade fruit is poor. Seville sours have shown a good market; arrivals for the season have now come to a termination. The demand for lemons is still weak, while fine fruit is very scarce. Prices are rising. The condition of Valencia onions has shown signs of improvement, although high prices are still demanded. An excellent demand for apples both in boxes and barrels, has been in evidence. The first arrivals of Australian and Tasmanian apples are expected this month.

Oilseeds.—All prices have risen. Indian linseed has gained 1½d. at 21s., and La Plata is to 1s. 6d. up at 20s. 3d. Rapeseed has risen with Toria, 3d., up at 16s. 10½d., and bold Ferozepore 6d. up at 18s. 6d. Cottonseed is firmer with Indian 3d. higher at 9s. 10½d., and Sakellarides has gained 1½d. at 12s. 7½d., while Egyptian black at 12s. 9d. shows an increase of 3d.

Oils.—A variable tendency has been maintained. Linseed oil has dropped 3d. at 38s. 9d. Rape oil is nominal. Cotton oil has remained firm. Refined is the same at 45s. Egyptian crude is 1s. up at 38s., but deodorized has remained unaltered at 49s. Turpentine has shed 3s. 3d. at 63s. 3d.

CHEAP FARM LANDS IN CANADA.

The Canadian Pacific Railway possesses some five and a half million acres of the finest land in the great farming area of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. This land is now being offered for sale by the company at prices varying from £3 per acre freehold, and the purchase price can be agreed over a period of years at terms which are never likely to be surpassed. The Canadian Pacific is, of course, not a land selling organisation in the ordinary sense of the word. The handling of railway traffic is its business, and for the satisfactory development of that traffic the company desires industrious, successful settlers along its lines. For this reason it is able to offer such favourable terms to settlers. Booklets containing all necessary information can be obtained on application to the Canadian Pacific Railway, Land Development, 62 Charing Cross, London, S.W.1.

CONDITIONS IN IRAK.

The following extracts are taken from the Agricultural Bulletin of Irak for the month ended January 15:—

The rainfall in Baghdad during November and December was 5.29 inches with an average of 2.2 inches for 32 years. This season's rains have up to the present been particularly well distributed for cultural operations with the winter crops of wheat and barley. The season has so far been exceedingly mild, and one result of the mildness has been to induce fruit trees to flower prematurely. It is feared that the results to the fruit crop will be disastrous should frosts follow before the spring sets in.

The Director of Irrigation reports that repairs to the head regulators of the canals on the left bank of the Diala have been completed. Channel clearance on the Yusufiyah is progressing slowly owing to the shortage of labour. The high level of the Tigris has interfered with the construction of the Butera Regulator in the Amara District. All regulators on the Tigris were kept fully open during the month to divert the rain flood water from the main river channel which, below Amara is insufficiently large to admit the passage of flood water. Work is proceeding very satisfactorily on the extension to the Saklawiyah Canal.

The seasonal rains of December were sufficient to dispense with almost all irrigation required both for the standing crops of vegetables and for the preparation of land preparatory for sowing the winter cereals. The level of the Tigris was sufficient in certain localities to permit of inundation water being used for irrigation purposes for a few days. A breach was reported in the Khorassan Canal when in flood which has resulted in the heavy silting of the Canal bed. It is feared that this silting will adversely effect the summer crop on this canal.

The condition of the wheat and barley crops is exceptionally good both in irrigated and unirrigated lands. The area under cereals is considerably in excess of normal. This applies more particularly to the 'daim' or unirrigated crops. It is only in very occasional years that cereals in Lower Irak can be matured on the rainfall only. If the sowing rains are timely the cultivator gambles on receiving subsequent rains sufficient to mature his crop. If a few inches of rain fall in the early spring months of the current year, then it is highly probable that the total yield of cereals, irrigated and unirrigated, will be far in excess of the local demand. The natural result will be a further fall in the price of cereals and in export trade.

Winter vegetables are in excellent condition. The area under irrigation near Baghdad has increased to such an extent of late that some winter vegetables cannot be marketed at a profit in Baghdad. This applies more particularly to turnips which are frequently fed off by sheep.

Condition of Animals.

The timely rainfall has resulted in a good supply of grazing all over the country. Draft animals are quickly improving in condition in spite of continued pressure of work. The lambing season has started and sheep generally are in good condition.

The Director of the Civil Veterinary Department reports that during the period under review, outbreaks of rinderpest in cattle were reported from various districts. Altogether, 2,572 animals were inoculated. Of these, 33 had already contracted the disease and were cured. Twenty of the diseased animals were so badly affected that they died after inoculation. The total number of deaths recorded before veterinary assistance could be afforded is 1,035. It is of interest to note that during a period of 2 months 4,217 head of cattle are known to have died from rinderpest. On the assumption that one half of these were, animals capable of ploughing, the reduction in the area which might have been sown under unirrigated conditions in the current season is estimated roughly at 15,000 acres.

The picking of the cotton crops is completed and cotton stalks have been removed. An experimental plot of flax grown at the Kut farm in the autumn is making good progress. Large scale cultivation of the flax crops will not be undertaken until facilities permit for the proper handling of the matured crop which involves a considerable amount of technique. The programme of work for cotton experiments has been prepared for all farms. About 200 acres of wheat have been sown at the Central Farm. Rustam, with a view to forming the nucleus of a supply for general distribution next year, Work in the Forestry Section is progressing. The analysis of soils connected with the Amara survey is nearing completion.

Samples of imported silk worm eggs which have been under inspection appear to have retained their vitality.

District Work.

The district work of the Agricultural Department at this season is largely confined to inspecting lands suited for cotton cultivation and giving cultivators the necessary advice. It has been decided to confine the bulk distribution of cotton seed in the coming season to the three areas commanded by the Yusufiyah, Saklawiyah and DIALA Canals. The representatives of the British Cotton Growing Association have proffered much valuable assistance in the distribution of seed.

Arrangements are being made to undertake demonstration work in silk culture through the kindness of the representative of His Highness the Naqib from whose estates the necessary mulberry leaves will be procured. Arrangements are in train to combat the annual outbreak of locusts in the tract immediately North of Shergat.

DRIED FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co., report as follows under date March 1 :—

Currents.—Although the month of February has witnessed little material change in the situation, buyers are relaxing their caution of previous months. Duty paid clearances were on a larger scale than in any February of recent years. The arrival of s.s. Addington with 1,500 tons certainly infused more life into the market, buyers taking greater interest in the fresh parcels available by her; particularly was this noticeable in lower grades and qualities up to 60s., and a satisfactory business was transacted in Pyrgos 53s. to 54s.; Zante and Patras, ordinary 55s. to 58s., and up to 60s. for a few better parcels. With the exception of a little fine Vostizza, 75s., other grades extremely quiet.

Prices are practically unchanged, and where quotable at a lower figure, indicate a concession in values to effect quay sales. s.s. Grodno has arrived with only 200 tons, mostly Zante growth. Quotations :—Pyrgos, 53s. to 54s.; Amalias and Patras, 55s. to 60s.; Zante, 56s. to 58s.; Gulf, 60s. to 65s.; Panariti, 65s. to 70s.; Vostizza, 68s. to 75s.

Valencia Raisins.—A few retail sales at 110s. to 115s; demand slow.

Sultanas.—There has been some enquiry for lower and medium. Common sold 107s. to 112s.; medium grade, 118s. to 120s., and good up to 130s., fine realising 145s. Holders show confidence in the position, realising that eventually the country will require all the available stock. Undoubtedly the underlying conditions appear sound, and with no further shipments expected, on any revival of demand prices should advance. Greek in fair demand 118s. to 130s. Afghans. Small consignments are cleared as they arrive, Reds, 95s., Yellows 115s.

Figs.—Move slowly. Skeleton cases, Layers, and Locoums, 95s. to 107s. 6d. and Genuine Naturals, 60s. to 64s.

INDIAN CROP FORECASTS.

The following forecasts of Indian crops have been issued :—Wheat (supplementary forecast), 28,012,000 acres, sugar cane (final forecast), 2,381,000 acres yielding, 2,592,000 tons, groundnut (final forecast), 1,946,000 acres yielding 920,000 tons, rice (final forecast), 81,234,000 acres yielding 32,994,000 tons of clean rice, cotton (final forecast), 18,485,000 acres yielding 4,480,000 bales.

ASIA MINOR FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud, of Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended February 18 :—

Sultanas.—The total estimated arrivals to date amount to 108,250 bags, the estimated sales are 162,550 bags, and the stock unsold is estimated at 5,700 bags.

Markets.—No material change in the position of the sultana market. About 50 tons sales are reported for shipment to the U. K. and Continent. There are evidences of increasing enquiries, and, should dealers consent to some concessions in prices, business would be stimulated. Stocks, however, are diminishing, and supplies from the country have temporarily ceased. The exchange is weak at 640-5.

CURRENT PRICES.

General Produce.—Bacon : (Continental), 136s. cwt.; (Canadian), 130s. cwt.; (American), 122s. 6d. cwt.; (Australian) 90s. cwt.; butter (Australian), 118s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 139s. 6d. cwt.; cheese (Canadian), 104s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 94s. cwt.; lard, 79s. cwt.; eggs (Danish), 30s. 9d. per 120; Styrian, 25s. per 120; chillies 162s. 6d. cwt.; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 4½d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon good to fine), 102s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 127s. 6d. cwt.; (East Indian), 132s. 6d. cwt.; (Central American), 105s. cwt.; (Jamaica), 67s. 6d. cwt.; (Mocha longberry), 111s. cwt.; (Santos, superior), 63s. 6d. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochin) 56s. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 11½d. lb.; pepper (Singapore Black), 4d. lb.; (Muntok white), 8d. lb.; pimento, 2½d. lb.; raisins (Valencias), 110s. cwt.; sultanas (Smyrna), 121s. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 72s. 6d. cwt.; currants (Amalias), 57s. 6d. cwt.; sugar (Tate's cubes), 51s. 6d. cwt.; (Lyle's granulated) 46s. 6d. cwt.; (Mauritius crystals), 43s. 10½d. cwt.; (West Indian crystallised), 41s. 6d. cwt.; (centrifugal), 13s. 9d. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 1½d. lb.; rice (Rangoon No. 2), 14s. 1½d. cwt.; (bran Rangoon), £6 2s. 6d. ton; cinnamon (firsts), 11½d. lb.; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 3½d. lb.; tea (common to good common), 1s. 1½d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 7d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 7½d. lb.; Ceylon (common to good common), 1s. 2d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 6d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 7½d. lb.; Java (common to good common), 9½d. lb.; wheat (English white), 50s. 3d. qr.; (Australian), 57s. 6d. qr.; barley (malting), 57s. 6d. qr.; barley (feeding), 45s. qr.; oats (English), 33s. 9d. qr.; (Australian), 57s. 6d. qr.; barley (feeding), 45s. qr.; oats (English), 33s. 9d. qr.; oats (La Plata), ex-ship), 27s. 9d. qr.; maize (La Plata), 42s. 9d. qr.; flour 48s. 6d. sack.

Metals.—Aluminium, £122 10s. ton; antimony (English Regulus), £35 ton; bismuth, 9s. lb.; copper (standard), £58 1s. 3d. ton; copper (electro), £64 10s. ton; gold bars, 93s. 10d. oz.; iron (No 3 Cleveland), 90s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 95s. ton; galvanised sheets (24 G), £15 15s. ton; lead (soft foreign), £20 10s. ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 1½d. unit; molybdenite, 27s. 6d. unit; nickel, £175 ton; platinum 360s. oz.; plumbago, £20 ton; quicksilver (G.O.B.) £11 5s. ton; tin (standard), £144 2s. 6d. ton; wolfram, 10s. 6d. unit; zinc sheets, £34 10s. ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 18s. 10½d. box; silver bars, 32 5-8d. oz.

Chemicals.—Acids : Boric, 66s. cwt.; oxalic, 7½d. lb.; citric, 1s. 11½d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 3½d. lb.; ammonia (sulphate) £16 1s. 3d. ton; arsenic (white powdered), £40 5s. ton; benzole (standard), 2s. 5d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £14 5s. ton; cream of tartar, 121s. 3d. cwt.; Potassium : Bichromate, 7½d. lb. chlorate 5d. lb.; caustic, £33 10s. ton, nitrate, £42 10s. ton; permanganate, 9d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 2d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £15 5s. ton; Sodium : Crystals, 130s. ton; bicarbonate, £11 5s. ton; bi-chromate, 5½d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.) ton; chlorate, 3½d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.) £23 ton; hyposulphite, £15 10s. ton; prussiate, 10d. lb.; nitrate, £14 5s. ton; glycerine (crude, 80 per cent.), £80 ton; glycerine (industrial) 1200 per cent.) £110 ton; lemon oil 3s. 7d. lb.; quinine, 2s. 11½d. oz.; red lead, £35 10s. ton; white lead, £38 ton; white ground lead, £48 7s. 6d. ton; sulphate of copper, £28 5s. ton; sulphate of iron, 75s. ton.

Miscellaneous.—Cotton : (American), 10.62d. lb.; (Egyptian Sakel), 10.65d. lb.; Oilseeds : Linseed (La Plata) £20 7s. 6d. ton; palm kernals, £18 8s. 9d. ton; castor seed (Bombay), £13 ton; Oils : Linseed, £38 15s. ton; olive (Levant), £74 10s. ton; rape (crude), £50 10s. ton; soya, £37 10s. ton; petroleum, 1s. 4½d. gallon; petrol, 2s. 1d. gallon; fuel oil (ex-tank) £3 15s. ton; coconut (Ceylon), £41 5s. ton; cotton (crude), £37 ton; ground nut, £44 ton; Rubber : Plantation (No. 1 crepe), 8d. lb.; smoked sheet, 8d. lb.; fine hard para, 11½d. lb.

Hides and skins.—Ox and Heifer (first), 90 lbs. and up, 7½d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 7½d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 7½d. lb.; 50 lbs. and under, 6d. lb.; (second) 90 lbs. and up, 6 5-8d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs. 6½d. lb.; 70 to 79lb. 6½d. lb. Cows (first), 60 lbs. and up, 4½d. lb.; (second), 60 lbs and up 4½d. lb.; 50 lbs. and under 4½d. lb.; Bulls (first) 5d. lb.; Kips (first), 6 1-8d. lb.; (second), 5d. lb.; Calcutta Market. Prices in rupees per 20 lb. Arsenic hides (cows) Agras, 11 to 15; Durbhangas, 7 to 10; Patnas, 6 to 7; Salted cows : 5 to 8. Arsenic hides (buffalo) : 4 to 9. Skins : Calf, 8 to 10 per 20 lb.; goat, 230 to 265 per 100 pieces.

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

IMPROVEMENT OF BRATISLAVA AND KOMARNO HARBOURS.

During the war the harbours at Bratislava and Komarno on the Danube were impeded by the considerable quantities of sand deposits which accumulated there. In 1920 the Czechoslovak Government proceeded to remedy this drawback at Bratislava, and in the early part of 1921 similar measures were adopted in the case of Komarno as well, so that as a result of dredging operations the harbours are now available for shipping even at the lowest water level. This winter the harbour at Komarno accommodated 22 steamers and 119 cargo boats belonging to the various companies, besides 38 other vessels and 40 rafts. The harbour at Bratislava now contains 18 vessels in the southern basin, the minimum depth of which is 2.5 metres. Operations are now being carried out in the northern basin with a view to strengthening the landing stages and making the depth equal to that of the southern basin. At Komarno the amount of available harbour area will be considerably extended this year by dredging the back portion of the harbour belonging to the Elizabeth Island which has not been in use hitherto.

NEW GLEN LINE MOTOR SHIP.

Another motor ship has been added to the fleet of the Glen Line Ltd., this being the *Glengarry*, built by Harland and Wolff, Ltd., of Glasgow, and intended for the company's Eastern trade. The vessel, which has a gross tonnage of 9,460, is 502 ft. in length, 62 feet in breadth (moulded), and 38.6 ft. in depth (moulded). She will be propelled by two 8-cylinder 4-cycle Diesel engines which can develop a normal horse power of 6,000 i.h.p. The vessel, which has three complete decks, carries two cargo derricks for dealing with weights up to 40 tons, and 36 derricks for weights up to seven tons. She has six cargo holds.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

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

Anchor Line.—S.s. *Olympia* for Bombay (Liverpool, March 17).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. *Malakand* for Calcutta (Birkenhead, March 11); s.s. *Mahanada* for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London March 21); s.s. *Mahsud* for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, April 8); s.s. *Imani* for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, April 25).

Bibby Line.—S.s. *Leicestershire* for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, March 15); s.s. *Herefordshire* for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, March 29).

Byron Steamship Line.—S.s. *Maid of Chios* for Patras, Piraeus, Constantinople, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, Braila, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, March 11).

Clan Line.—S.s. *Clan Ross* for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (Glasgow, March 16).

Cunard Line.—S.s. *Sea Victory* for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, and Catania (Manchester, March 14; Liverpool, March 16; and Swansea, March 21); s.s. *Pavia* for Gibraltar, Ceuta, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza and Sulina, (Glasgow, March 4; Swansea, March 16; and Liverpool, March 18).

Ellerman's "City" Line.—S.s. *City of Exeter* for Calcutta (Birkenhead, March 16); s.s. *City of Christiania* for Calcutta (Birkenhead, March 27).

Ellerman's "Hall" Line.—S.s. *City of London* for Bombay, Karachi and the Punjab (Liverpool, March 13).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—Steamers sail fortnightly for Malta, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz and Braila.

Glen Line.—S.s. *Gleniffer* for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, March 23).

Harrison Line.—S.s. *Governor* for Calcutta (Liverpool, March 20), s.s. *Electrician* for Port Said, Port Sudan, Aden, Mombasa, etc. (Birkenhead, April 20).

Henderson Line.—S.s. *Burma* for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, March 22).

Holt Line.—S.s. *Lycaon* for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, March 16); s.s. *Eurylochus* for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, March 23).

Johnston Line.—S.s. *Dromore* for Piraeus, Syra, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, March 25).

Moss Line.—S.s. *Amarna* for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta and Alexandria, accepting cargo through for Moroccan, Algerian, Cyprus, and Syrian coast ports (Liverpool, March 11).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. *Grodno* for Algiers, Malta, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, March 11); s.s. *Andalusian* for Tangiers, Malta, and Alexandria (Liverpool, March 18).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. *Nellore* for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, March 10); s.s. *Egypt* for Bombay (London, March 10); s.s. *Nankin* for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta, (London, March 24); s.s. *Macedonia* for Bombay (London, March 24).

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. *Merkara* for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, March 10); s.s. *Australia* for Bombay and Karachi (London, March 11); s.s. *Mashobra* for Bombay and Karachi (London, March 24); s.s. *Margha* for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, March 31); s.s. *Manela* for Bombay and Karachi (London, April 7); s.s. *Nudea* for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, April 15).

Prince Line.—S.s. *Sailor Prince* for Tunis, Malta and Alexandria, (Manchester, March 12); s.s. *Syrian Prince* for Malta, Alexandria and Syria (London, March 18); s.s. *Scottish Prince* for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria and Syria (Manchester, March 25).

PRINCE LINE'S NEW OFFICES.

In the announcement last week that the general freight department of the Prince Line had removed to 56, Leadenhall Street; it should have been stated that the offices of the Prince Line had been removed to that address.

The directors of the Cunard Steamship Company, Limited, announce that Sir Thomas Royden, Bt., deputy-chairman, has been unanimously elected chairman of the board in place of Sir Alfred Booth, Bt., who has resigned owing to continued ill-health. Sir Percy E. Bates has been elected deputy-chairman.

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PASSENGER SAILING DATES—	
CIRCASSIA, MARCH 10.	MASSALIA, MAY 8.
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SCINDIA, APRIL 6.	CIRCASSIA, JUNE 22.
CASTALIA, APRIL 21	OLYMPIA, JULY 5.

Anchor Line (Henderson Brothers), Ltd

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FINANCE AND MARKET REPORTS

The following further extracts are taken from the monthly circular of the Imperial Ottoman Bank:—

Turkey

Ada-Bazar, Ismid.—Agriculture and cattle breeding have been considerably impeded by mobilisation, taxes and regulations of all sorts, as well as by the incursions of irregular troops; consequently, the potato and maize crops have been insignificant; most of the cattle have been removed, and the silk-worm industry has been almost abandoned. The port of Ismid shows momentary activity, which will probably disappear on the re-opening of the railway line towards Eski-Cheir, Konia and Angora, by means of which commodities arriving from the three Black Sea ports—Zongouldagk, Ineboli and Sam-soun—are transported.

Cyprus

The island appears to have suffered less than the other Near Eastern countries from post-war economic uneasiness. This fact may be partly attributed to the restrictive measures taken by banks in May and June, 1920, with regard to credit. On the other hand, the fall in prices has affected the sundry products from Cyprus on Egyptian markets, hence the poor result of the sale of locust beans, which takes the first place among Cyprian products. The plentiful recent rains warrant favourable expectations for the next crop.

Agriculture.—Serious efforts are still necessary in this connection, although the country is essentially agricultural. The Co-operative Societies for agricultural credit which have taken the place of the Agricultural Bank of Cyprus seem to enjoy more favour with the rural population. Thanks to the development of this form of credit, agriculturists will be able to find the necessary accommodation, without having recourse to usurers; but this is a matter of education and requires time.

Mines.—A considerable development of the mining riches of the Island may be expected in the near future, especially Asbestos and Iron Pyrites.

Palestine

Cereals—Owing to the abundance of rain during last month, cultivators, having already completed their sowing, are offering on the market the remainder of stocks, which have become superfluous; a new fall in the prices of cereals has resulted.

Sesame.—About 25,000 oke have been exported to Syria, with the result that the remaining stocks are insufficient for local needs. Prices remain stationary at about Pst. 3.25-40 per oke.

Oranges.—Exports during the month reached 80 to 100,000 cases. The Liverpool and Hull markets are very favourable to exporters, the average price offered of 16 to 18 shillings per case leaving a net profit of about 4s. per case. The spot prices have in consequence risen from 5s. to 6s. per case on cash deposits at the time of ordering. Should conditions remain the same at the close of the season, the financial situation of the owners of orange groves will be improved.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

FOUNDED 1863.

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

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SALONICA.**SMYRNA.****TUNIS.****SYRIA.**

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NEXT AMERICAN COTTON CROP.

Washington and Boll Weevil Menace.

(From Our Manchester Correspondent.)

The report of the Washington Bureau of Agriculture that the boll weevil are about five times more numerous in the cotton plantations than in any year since 1915 has been received by Lancashire with a certain amount of surprise. It might be mentioned that it is exactly thirty years since the Mexican cotton boll weevil crossed from Mexico into the Southern corner of Texas, and during the intervening period has spread over practically the whole of the cotton belt of America; in all roughly 600,000 square miles of territory are now covered, and the damage done to the crop has been stated to be at least 300,000,000 dollars annually. The report, however, that the boll weevil has increased five fold has been received with scepticism. According to Mr. B. R. Coad who is in charge of the Cotton Insect Investigations, Bureau of Entomology, U.S. Department of Agriculture, the damage done to the 1921 cotton crop by the boll weevil was in excess of 3,000,000 bales of cotton. Mr. Geo. L. Fessick, the Secretary of the Cotton Acreage Committee, Memphis, another authority, also states that with last year's acreage of 32,300,000 the crop should have been 12,000,000 bales, but owing to the ravages of the boll weevil the yield was only 8,000,000 bales. If the number of boll weevil is now increased five times, from the above figures it is safe to assume that the pest will eat between fifteen to twenty million bales of the next cotton crop. When the present growth is finished with perhaps the boll weevil will be encouraged to devote its onslaught at the famous "carry over." The thought of testing another 9,000,000 bales would no doubt whet its appetite. Of course all this is absurd in the extreme, and the Bureau figures have caused no small amount of ridicule to be thrown at the Washington Department. It can be safely said that all reports this season with regard to the crop will be received by Lancashire with the utmost scepticism, for only last year the Department of Agriculture had to apologise for one of the biggest mistakes ever made in the history of cotton growing.

MANCHESTER REPORT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Friday.

The tone of the market during the past week has continued quieter. The majority of the leading buyers have displayed an utter lack of initiative. The chief topic of conversation has been on the increased Indian import duties on Lancashire cloth and yarn, and although an increase was expected it means that the native will have either to pay more for his goods or take less, and the general opinion is that our customers in India will adopt the latter policy. With regard to the piece goods enquiry for the outlets of the Near East, the best buyer has been Constantinople, but sales of any weight have not been mentioned. Mail advices being received from Egypt read rather more cheerfully, but leading merchants do not anticipate a freer buying movement for some time. Egyptian yarns are slightly easier in quotation on the week, and users have only taken up small lots. There has been some enquiry about in export numbers, but the bids have been a long way out. The piece goods enquiry for India has only been on a small scale, and transactions have been scattered. Buyers for China have been harassed by the fluctuations in the exchange value of the tael. Not very much business has been done for South America. Fancies have been in request for certain European countries. Quotations for American counts have been irregular, and only a small offtake has been registered. Rather more demand has been about in export numbers for India, but few offers have materialised.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows under date March 1:—

Business has been rather spasmodic during the past week and the general impression it leaves is that of unsteadiness, although, until to-day, the fluctuations have been within narrow limits. To-day opened, however, with a dull enquiry, in which little

actual business was discernible and no one was surprised to see the sales estimated at only 200 bales. Some hammering of the March position in the futures market caused a decline of over 1½ per lb. in the early part of the day, and in sympathy with this our spot prices were reduced a penny. Futures steadied after mid-day and began to improve, whereupon a certain amount of actual business began to filter through on the spot, so that the day closes with a somewhat better feeling apparent than had at one time appeared likely.

The enquiry during the week has shown little change from those of the several preceding ones, unless possibly one can say that the bias leans slightly more towards the lower grades and that less interest has been taken in cotton which grades Good and above. The bulk of the enquiry has once again been for Sakellaridis; other growths, with the exception of Sudan, which continues to furnish its usual quota, have been comparatively neglected. A slight increase has been noticeable in the enquiry for Arizona Egyptian, but little business has actually been reported in this long staple cotton.

We have received information from a reliable source to the effect that the New Tariff Bill now before the United States Senate, which was to have imposed a heavy import duty on all Egyptian cotton imported into America, is likely to be postponed for several months at least. As an offset against this, we have the Government of India about to increase its import duties, and this is causing considerable uneasiness in Lancashire at the moment.

Manchester reports were full of promise at the commencement of the week, but during the last two days business has fallen away and the tone is not so good. Crop news from Egypt refers to a possible water scarcity, the continued restriction of acreage, and the scarcity of really good seeds for planting. It is too early yet, however, to attach much importance to these factors, though no doubt they will, in a short time, begin to loom much larger in the imagination of the trade. C.i.f. business remains quiescent. Summing up, we fear that business in actual cotton has not really got into its stride yet, and that we must continue to expect for some time a series of spurts of variable duration, interspersed with the inevitable reactions. At the moment, it would appear that we are about to experience one of the latter. Sales 2,100 (includes 250 Sudan). Quotations are reduced 100 points with Extra Fine Sakellaridis exceptionally 75 points lower.

LARGE EGYPTIAN STOCKS.

The Commercial Co., of Egypt in their report for the week ended February 24 state:—

This week's relative steadiness of our market is due again to the firmness of the New York market, where quotations for near positions have now touched 18c.50. The demand from abroad has been of moderate size and has come almost exclusively from England; Continental business has been rather dull and America again has bought practically nothing; owing to the latter keeping out of the market, Upper Egypt cotton has been neglected. The local statistical position is improving as the weekly exports are now in excess of the co-temporaneous receipts from the Interior; however, the Alexandria stock still stands at the huge figure of 2,350,000 Kantars and over half a million Kantars are expected to come down before the ginning factories shut in May. Unsold stocks of cotton held in England and America are also rather heavy and must amount to about 1 1-4 million Kantars. These are the present figures of supplies; how much will be absorbed by the commercial demand before the new crop will be ready for the market, is a most difficult question to answer. Upon the expansion of the demand the future course of prices will almost exclusively depend.

The Danube Navigation Company proposes to construct a large store for merchandise destined for the Orient at Rushuk.

The approximate gross production of the Steaua Romana Company for the month of February was 15,600 tons.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended February 25 amounted to £6,447.

A company has been formed at Prague for trading with Roumania.

TENDERS INVITED.

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

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

Bulgaria.

Pole-line hardware.—The Bulgarian Direction of Posts and Telegraphs invites tenders for the supply of the following telephonic pole-line hardware:—35,000 straight supports for insulators (German type); 35,000 bent supports for insulators (German type); 5,500 fixing clamps; 6,500 yokes. Sealed tenders will be received up to 4 p.m. on April 3 at the "Bureau departemental des Finances," Rue Rakovski 102, Sofia. Tenders should be presented for the whole of the material specified, and a deposit of five per cent. of the total tender price must be made. Delivery is required of the material within five months. (D.O.T.)

Telephone Instruments.—The date for the presentation of tenders for 2,000 telephonic instruments for table use, with local battery and magneto, and spare parts for these instruments, has been extended to April 21. Tenders to be presented to the District Office of Finance, Sofia.

Egypt.

Material for Army Clothing.—The Egyptian War Department invites tenders for the undermentioned stores:—

Reference.	Material.	Tenders due.
Muh. 1922/1/16.	Dark blue artillery cloth	March 13
Muh. 1922/1/13.	White cotton nainsook	March 14

Tenders to remain open for seven days. Further particulars may be obtained from and samples of the materials required can be inspected at the office of the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Government, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1.

Main Drainage Scheme.—The Department of Overseas Trade has received from His Majesty's Commercial Agent for Egypt, copies of the specifications and drawings connected with Contracts Nos. 7 and 8 for the Mansura Main Drainage Scheme, tenders for which are to be presented at the Chief Engineers' Office, Main Drainage Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo by noon on March 13, and April 26, respectively. (D.O.T.)

Pantaloon.—The Egyptian War Department invites tenders for the supply of 650 pairs pantaloons, Bedford cord. Further particulars may be obtained from, and a sample inspected at the office of the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1. March 13.

M.S. Angles, Tees, Bolts, etc.—The Egyptian War Department invites tenders for M.S. angles, tees, bolts, rivets, locks, etc. Further particulars may be obtained from the office of the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1., March 13.

Uniform Clothing.—The Administration of the Egyptian State Railways invites tenders for the supply and delivery of winter clothing for the season 1922-23. The clothing required includes uniforms of blue cloth, khaki serge and dark grey cloth; blue jean suits for fitters; overcoats of blue cloth and light and dark grey cloth. Tenders on the proper form will be received by the General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo, Egypt. The clothing is to be in strict accordance with the Administration's standard samples, which can be seen at the office of the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian State Railways, Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.1., if notice is given three days before inspection. Tenders' samples should be submitted to the Superintendent of Stores, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo, Egypt, not later than March 30. Representation by an authorized agent resident in Egypt is essential. April 6 (D.O.T.)

Cardboard Portfolios.—The Central Stationery Stores Department, Ministry of Finance, Egypt, invites tenders for the supply of cardboard portfolios as follows:—Portfolios, cardboard 28 x 37 x 7 cms, 200; Portfolios, cardboard 70 x 70 x 7 cms, 700; Portfolios, cardboard 85 x 75 x 7 cms, 300. Tenders will be received up to noon on the 25th March. Sealed samples in duplicate must be submitted with tenders. Delivery of the goods is to take place within 90 days from the date of notification of the acceptance of the offer. (D.O.T.)

India.

Locomotives.—The Bengal and North-Western Railway Company invites tenders for the supply of four superheated 4-6-0 passenger locomotives. (Specification £1. Company's Offices, 237 Gresham House). March 27.

Yugoslavia.

Tinplates, solder, etc.—The Commercial Secretary to H.M. Legation at Belgrade reports that tenders are invited for the supply free at petroleum store warehouse at Belgrade, of tinplates, tinned wire, solder, etc., required by the Direction of State Monopolies, Belgrade. Tenders are to be addressed "Uprava Drzavnih Monopola," Beigrade, and marked "Ponuda za Isporuku Materijala za Radiomcu Kanti." A deposit of 10 per cent. of the total amount of the tender is required.

The goods required include:—1.—30,000 (thirty thousand) kilogrammes of tinplates, 0.32 m.m. in thickness, in sheets of 250 x 250 mm. 2.—90,000 (ninety thousand) kilogrammes of tinplates, 0.32 mm. in thickness, in sheets of 500 x 370 mm. 3.—150,000 (one hundred and fifty thousand) kilogrammes tinned

iron wire of 4 mm. diameter for handles. 4.—3,500 (three thousand five hundred) kilogrammes of pure solder for soldering tins. 5.—3,500 (three thousand five hundred) kilogrammes of pure lead for soldering tins. 6.—30 kilogrammes (thirty kgs.) "nisador" (sal-ammoniac?) in pieces. 7.—250 (two hundred and fifty) kilogrammes of spirits of salt. Each tenderer must submit samples of the material offered. The following are the quantities required as samples:—One sheet of tinplate, half metre of wire, 250 grammes each of lead, solder, sal-ammoniac and spirits of salts. March 11 (D.O.T.).

COMMERCIAL BREVITIES.

There has been a great development of commercial activity in French Morocco since 1920.

Roumania's exports of petroleum during December totalled 59,969 tons, as compared with 17,521 tons in December, 1920.

The French authorities in Syria have under contemplation expensive improvements to the Damascus-Dera and the Damascus-Aleppo roads.

According to a recent estimate the walnut crop of Asiatic Turkey for the current season will amount to about 33,000,000 lb.

The value of Bulgaria's imports from January 1 to October 1 was 1,900,000,000 leva, the exports for the same period totalling 1,000,000,000 leva.

It is estimated that the number of sheep in Morocco is between 5 to 7 millions, and the annual production of wool is put at 10,000 tons.

It is reported that the economic situation in Georgia is becoming critical, as a result of the exhaustion of food supplies due to the widespread decrease of cultivation.

The traffic returns of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended February 10 amounted to £E10,062, making the total for the year £E341,086.

On December 31, the deposits with Czecho-Slovak banks and credit institutions amounted to 24,759 million Czecho-Slovak crowns, as compared with 17,864 millions at the end of 1920, thus showing an increase of 6,894 million crowns, i.e. 38.6 per cent.

A Reuter message from Sofia states that a German-Bulgarian company has been formed with a capital of eight million leva, for the establishment of two lime-kilns in Northern and Southern Bulgaria capable of a daily output of twenty waggon-loads of lime of the best quality.

The net profit of the Bohemian Bank for 1921 amounted to 6,652,077 crowns as against 4,652,077 crowns for 1920. The dividend proposed is 7 per cent. as compared with 7 per cent. for the previous year.

The returns for last year show that Czecho-Slovakia supplied 42.3 per cent. of Austria's imports, which amounted to about 6,300,000 tons. Of Austria's exports, totalling 998,000 tons Czecho-Slovakia took 17.6 per cent and Yugoslavia 8.5 per cent.

ENQUIRY BUREAU.

ADVERTISERS requiring agents abroad and readers abroad desirous of getting into touch with British Manufacturers, Export Merchants, etc., may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau," "The Near East," 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2." It must be understood that "The Near East" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.

114. Importer in Karachi (India) travelling throughout India wishes to get in touch with merchants and manufacturers in England and elsewhere. General merchandise.

115. An import and export firm in Spalato, Yugoslavia, wishes to enter into business relations with British manufacturers, importers and exporters. Specialities:—Exports: Medicinal herbs dried fruits, hides, timber. Imports: Oils, food products, tarpaulins, mackintoshes, sacks.

116. Import Merchants in Adana, Cilicia, Asia Minor, wish to represent British firms for any kind of British-made goods. Own account and commission basis. Good references provided. Send catalogues and samples with prices and terms.

117. Importer in Roumania, interested in Jute trade, wishes to get in touch with firms dealing in sacks, new and old Dundee, and Calcutta makes.

121. Exporter of Greek Ores in Athens, especially of purest quality Magnesite and Chromite wishes to be connected with interested British Firms.

122. Merchant in Galatz, Roumania, wishes to enter into business relations with British firms willing to ship goods on consignment terms. Guarantees by Leading Banks given. Full details on application. Correspondence in French.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 566—Vol XXI.

THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 1922.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Resignation of the Greek Cabinet.

Owing to the rejection, by 161 votes to 156, of a vote of confidence, the Cabinet of M. Gounaris last week resigned. It needed no great power of discernment to predict the fate of M. Gounaris: his demission was obvious to us many weeks ago. At the time of writing the policy of his successor, M. Stratos, has not been stated; but it would appear that it was rather the individuality than the general foreign policy of the late Government that was disliked, though it is true that its internal policy was widely disapproved of. In any case, we do not envy M. Stratos his task, which will be an extremely difficult and possibly an humiliating one, for both abroad and at home Greece is likely to be confronted ere long by difficulties of an exceptional character. The future path of the Greeks is indeed full of stones. It is easy, but wholly untrue, to say that they have been tried and found wanting, for they have been at once leaned upon and tripped by up the Allies.

The Egyptian Situation.

Events in Egypt are falling out quite as smoothly as could be expected. The opposition to Sarwat Pasha's Ministry certainly continues, and it has given such signs of activity as meetings of protest at Al Azhar and a procession of white-veiled Mohammedan ladies in taxis; but public opinion apparently refuses to be deeply stirred by such manifestations, and the Cabinet goes about its business unperturbed by them. Egyptians have been appointed as Under Secretaries in several of the Ministries, and Sarwat Pasha is preparing a decree for the Sultan recommending the appointment of a commission, formed of prominent Egyptians, to elaborate a Constitution for the country. It is unfortunate that the new Government seems almost certain to be called upon to face the trying situation that must be brought about by a serious shortage of the Nile waters. For it is expected that the supply will be as bad as that of 1914; and if that expectation be realised, it will mean that irrigation will have to be most carefully regulated, and that the Agriculturist is sure to grumble badly. In the circumstances the Government is likely to come in for a good deal of abuse for conditions which it certainly cannot control; and the agitators, who have shown that they know their particular job after a fashion, are sure to make the most of the opportunity.

Mr. Churchill on the Middle East.

On Thursday of last week, in explaining to the House of Commons a supplementary estimate for Middle Eastern Services, Mr. Winston Churchill claimed that he had on the whole a satisfactory tale to tell; and the claim was, we think, justified by the statement to which it formed the preface. The debate which followed was extremely interesting, and will repay study in the official report; and it was pleasing to find so many of the speakers drawing on their personal acquaintance with Irak, Arabia, or Palestine in order to point their arguments or to put forward practical points for consideration. Unfortunately the number and length of the speeches preclude any attempt to summarise the debate in *THE NEAR EAST*; though the gist of the Colonial Secretary's remarks and one or two criticisms to which it gave rise will be found on another page. We may, however, refer here to some of the more important points.

The R.A.F.'s Good Work.

Mr. Churchill was able to point out to his hearers that he had done even better than he had promised in last June, and that consequently expenditure had been diminished. This has been achieved by making the Air Force very largely responsible for the safety of the country, and it is the purpose of H.M. Government that the military control and security of Mesopotamia shall be placed in the coming year under the charge of an officer of the R.A.F. For the control of the country the arrangement as a whole would seem to be satisfactory, but as to the security we can only hope that no risks will be taken in the endeavour to effect economies quickly. Even a single aeroplane can work wonders with Arab or Kurdish tribesmen who have no means of replying to an aerial attack; but in the event of an attack from across the frontier by an army supplied with its own aeroplanes and with the approved weapons for opposing attack by enemy aeroplanes, there would be a very different tale to tell. And we cannot lose sight of the fact that the Irak Army has not yet come up to expectation. Mr. Churchill himself admitted as much, and our own information on the point is far from encouraging. It is therefore somewhat reassuring to be told that "in view of the unsettled condition of our relations with Turkey, we are keeping a certain force at Mosul"; though we share the hope that the establishment of better relations will soon allow of the reduction of that force.

A Hopeful Outlook.

Mr. Churchill made a good point, and one which his audience appreciated, when he declared that "we are not so much holding the country as allowing the country to hold itself." His remarks regarding the elections and the methods of conducting them were not so well received, and one of the speakers who followed him—Lieut.-Colonel Freemantle, who spoke with a personal knowledge of Irak—went so far as to express the hope that "he will drop this silly pretence of Democracy." But most speakers recognised that King Faisal was doing even better than was expected, and that he, the Nakeeb (of Baghdad), and other leading Arabs who have worked loyally with us are entitled to every help and support we can afford them during the difficult days while Irak is finding its own feet. It was also pleasing to observe that not only did Mr. Churchill pay a well-merited tribute to the "skilful and sagacious officers on the spot" who are carrying out the British policy, and to the "experienced advisers" of the Middle East Department, but that other speakers recognized the splendid work being done by those other workers, official and unofficial, who are labouring to educate the Arab, to keep him healthy, and "to prove . . . what British association with any people who are coming out of darkness into light can do."

The Situation in Palestine.

On the subject of Palestine Mr. Churchill spoke but briefly, and admitted frankly that the situation is a difficult one. In Irak, he said, he had been "free to follow the best guidance on policy that this country can produce, a policy we believe in—getting the goodwill of the inhabitants"; in Palestine "we are pledged . . . to a policy . . . which . . . must necessarily encounter a great deal of suspicion and resentment on the part of the majority of the population of Palestine." But that policy is "absolutely right in itself," and though the Government recognizes that the difficulties are there, it is—if we understand the speech—going to face them and overcome them. Faced by the question posed by the Arab Delegation, "If you are able to give a free Constitution to Irak, why cannot we have a similar free Constitution?", Mr. Churchill decided to go as far as he could in giving them representative institutions so long as that course did not lead to any clash with the "pledges to which we are committed by the Zionist policy." The speaker, it will be seen, faced his difficulty with courage. But it is a curious situation, fraught with danger. One or two speakers in the debate expressed dissatisfaction with the interpretation put upon the Balfour Declaration, and declared that this country was not bound by it. The fact that those views can be put forward in Parliament to-day surely justifies the demand for a formal declaration on the matter from the Government.

South-Western Arabia.

Mr. Ormsby-Gore, in the course of a speech which showed once more what a grip he has upon Middle Eastern questions, called attention to the position in south-western Arabia, and asked for a statement regarding our relations with, and policy towards, the Idrissi, and our future attitude in that part of the world. He referred to its importance by reason of its nearness to Eritrea and of exploration work done by the Italian colony, and referred to Aden's being taken over by the Colonial Office as an additional reason for some statement of policy being given. Incidentally, General

Seely, later mentioned that at the present moment the garrison at Aden is about as large as that which it is proposed to keep stationed in Irak when the policy outlined by Mr. Churchill is completed. Upon the whole south-western Arabia appears to be receiving more attention than at any time since 1839, with the exception, of course, of the period of the War. But British prestige has a good deal of ground to make up in that region, and we cannot be too careful.

The Indian Government's Despatch.

We wish we could say that the resignation of Mr. Montagu was the inevitable result of a selfish attempt to order affairs outside his province, and leave it at that; but the matter cannot be left there. For nothing could have been more embarrassing and more maleficent than the publication of the Viceroy of India's telegram, with its demands, among other things, for the evacuation of Constantinople, the suzerainty of the Sultan over the Holy Places, and for the restoration of Ottoman Thrace, including Adrianople and Smyrna. In our view there was no necessity whatever for the publication of this document. The views of India, and of Indian Moslems in particular, were perfectly well known to the Cabinet, and would without any conceivable doubt be worthily considered at the Near East Conference on March 22—it is necessary but to recall the careful hearing which the Prime Minister gave to the Indian Khalifate Delegation in March 1920, and the Imperial Conference in July last year, when the Indian point of view upon the Near Eastern question was given due weight. There may be nothing new in the Viceroy's proposals, but this attempt to butt them in as a wedge in the Near East Conference is proof of a surprisingly bad sense of proportion and of the fitness of things.

Its Effects—

Upon British conduct at the Conference this telegram will have, as it should have, no positive influence, but we cannot imagine that the Turks are not elated by it. The bloated and then blasted hopes which it will have aroused among Indian Moslems we discuss in our leader, and we are sure that it will fill yet more overflowing the heads of Mustapha Kemal and his partners with chuckling arrogance. Without any doubt it will stiffen the Kemalists' attitude, as any compromise or climbing down will stiffen any Nationalists' attitude; and a refusal to swallow all these proposals will make Angora only more intransigent. If India supposes that she can, even through Turkey, control Near and Middle Eastern affairs, she is mistaken; just as Turkish politicians are mistaken if they think they can control Indian affairs by playing upon religious sentiments with which they themselves have no real sympathy. For though this telegram may excite the hopes of part of the Moslem World, it will only strengthen the determination of Great Britain to act impartially and with prudent justice. It is, as we think most Secretaries for India would know, impossible to stampede this country into a decision: hasty counsels of panic merely float away into our healthy air.

—and its Impossibilities.

The chief reason given by Mr. Montagu for the publication of this despatch was his despair at the pro-Greek policy of Mr. Lloyd George, but, apart from the Greco-Turkish struggle, it would be quite impossible, without a complete, and, as we conceive it, a disastrous, change

of policy, to carry out the suggested proposals. For instance, take the restoration of the suzerainty of the Sultan over the Holy Places. This may be desired as much by Indian Moslems as by Turkey, but could we possibly have pursued our Arab policy if Mesopotamia or the Hejaz had wished for the maintenance of that suzerainty? And is it seriously supposed that the Mohammedans of Palestine—other things being equal—would care two jots about the temporal position of the Sultan? Certainly we should never dream of meddling with the spiritual pretensions of the Sultan, but we have had too much experience in Papal times to confuse the borders of spiritual and temporal power. Our Government has always shown, and particularly in recent years, infinite tact and kindness towards the Mohammedan religion, and to suppose that Great Britain, for the sake of the temporary peace of one of its possessions, will cringe to the demands of some agitators is absurd. In those parts of Islam over which this country rules the truly religious Mohammedan enjoys the completest liberty: it is another story when the spurious agitator asks to indulge in license. There is, moreover, in this Indian despatch a further ignoring of the British Government's intentions, and that is in connection with the determination to preserve the freedom of the Straits. Once international control, in which Turkey might surely share, has been agreed to, Constantinople might be evacuated, but not before. In short, from the extra-Indian point of view the publication of the telegram was lamentable, and one can best undo the mischief it has created by ignoring its existence. Occidentalism stands low enough in the eyes of the East already: it will not add to its stature by kow-towing to remote and erratic opinion.

The Angora and Constantinople Missions.

There are at the present moment, in France and in England respectively, two Turkish missions, one presided over by Youssuf Kemal Bey, the other by Izzet Pasha: they represent Angora and Constantinople. How far their claims are identical we do not know; all that we are aware of is that the first has an imperative mandate to accept nothing less than the terms of the National Pact. We may say at once, therefore, that the first mission is indulging in superfluous labours, for its claims, which include such an impossible thing as the restoration of Turkish sovereignty over the Dardanelles, are inadmissible. Of the second, all that has been made public is the news of the courteous welcome given to it by Lord Curzon. We hope that this time, before any schemes are drawn up, exact care will be exercised to discover the limits of Izzet Pasha's influence, the extent to which he is able to force on the Turks the acceptance of any proposals to which he may agree; for we do not want a repetition of last year's farce, when Bekir Sami Bey went back to Anatolia with peace in his pocket only to find himself (and consequently ourselves) repudiated by Angora. If it be true, as is so frequently stated, that the "reasonable" Turk no longer exists, drowned as he has been in the Nationalist and Islamic current, and that there is hence no essential difference between Angora and Constantinople, then the prospects of these two missions are hopeless from the beginning. They are cleft from us on the first rock of discussion: the security, both by land and sea, of our friends and of ourselves—a condition which the missions are either unwilling or unable to fulfil.

THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Monday Evening.

Exit Mr. Montagu.

The dismissal of Mr. Montagu, although unexpected at the moment, was popular. After the stupendous indiscretion of publishing a document involving questions of high policy without Cabinet approval, there was of course no option but for the Indian Secretary to stand not upon the order of his going but to go at once; nor would there, I think, be grave laments if Lord Reading were to discover that the climate of India did not suit him, and decide to follow his colleague into private life. The fact is that they have made a mess of things between them, and it would probably be better to make a clean start afresh.

There is astonishingly little sympathy for Mr. Montagu in his personal capacity. Politicians are puzzled that a man who has breathed the atmosphere of statecraft for fifteen years should make a mess of his career by so egregious a blunder, and a few suspicious souls are looking for an ulterior motive. But the Wee Frees hate Mr. Montagu as the man who deserted Asquith; the Forces hate him as the man who broke Dyer; the Coalition Liberals hate him as the man who broke their last hope of anything approaching equality in the Cabinet. Rarely has there been such unanimous cheering in the Commons as when Mr. Chamberlain announced that Mr. Montagu was no longer a member of the Government. The retiring Secretary did not make the usual explanatory statement to Parliament, but to his constituents—a mistake in tactics—and it was a bitter, acrid, and undignified speech.

One other aspect of this case must be touched on. There was notoriously no anti-Semitism in England until the war, and Jews obtained high places in the State without any ill-feeling. Since the war things have changed. I record as a fact, without being fully assured as to the reason, that a certain amount of anti-Semitism now exists, but there is also, what is not anti-Semitism at all, a very general conviction that it is not a good thing to have too many Jews in the Great Offices of State. It is undeniable that they have been attracted by the opportunity of power; they are not less ambitious than Christians, and Mr. Montagu always seemed to me to have a good deal of the vanity which is the chief constituent in the composition of Lord Haldane, who is, I believe, as good a Christian as a very good Scot and a rather bad philosopher can hope to be.

Criccieth or Canossa?

Mr. Lloyd George has gone off to the Welsh hills to think. There is little doubt that at the moment he is

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both physically and mentally dejected. His Conservative colleagues in the Cabinet have given him assurance of their personal loyalty—which nobody ever doubted—but they have not been able to assure him of the loyalty of the Conservative party in the country. Nor can they in fact do so. The Die-Hards have their tails up at the moment, and the promotion of Sir Gordon Hewart to be L.C.J. and the dismissal of Mr. Montagu mean two more Liberals out of the Cabinet; they are therefore nearer the all-Conservative Government of their dreams. But the country as a whole has little use for the Die-Hards, who have no policy and little general following. They are strong on the party executives, but not outside those local organisations; yet they are certainly strong enough to make Mr. Lloyd George's position very difficult. They would like him to stop on for the present, but as the tool of the Conservatives and that is precisely what he cannot consent to do. On the other hand, the country does not desire an election yet—not for many months, and an election would not give a decisive majority to any party, for people have not yet made up their minds which way to vote. In these circumstances the average man wants the Cabinet to pull itself together, to patch up its differences, and to carry on for another year. He does not quite understand the commotion in high places, and sees no reason why Liberal and Tory should not continue to lie down together while we all think out our political allegiance afresh.

In any event, there are half-a-dozen by-elections pending, and the results of these will show us fairly accurately where we stand. They will probably show that the constituencies are as divided as the Government.

Engineers Idle.

The engineers were locked out on Saturday by the masters, all negotiations having failed. The dispute is not on a question of wages but of control of the "shops"—a matter of internal management; and the impression I got from reading the correspondence published by both sides is that the masters decided to force the issue when trade unions are weak and work is slack. It is unfortunate that it should occur at a time when we are beginning to turn the corner of industrial depression, and unhappily strikes in these days are protracted.

A Decline of Crime.

We may be bellicose, but at least we are not criminal in modern England. I have been reading an article by Sir Basil Thomson, the late Chief of Scotland Yard, in which he gives statistics showing that we are undeniably more virtuous, or less enterprising, than we were. There is almost a tone of regret in his article, a kind of hint that the hand of the policeman may eventually lose its cunning if this demoralising uprightness of the public continues. Yet I seem to have read of several murders lately, and there were four or five cases of large frauds tried last week. As these are still *sub judice*, however, I cannot comment on them.

The Week's Books.

Mr. Horace G. Hutchinson is a popular writer, but his latest book, "The Fortnightly Club," does not quite come up to expectations. It is a series of philosophical discussions between members of a club, who disagree rather violently with each other, and seem to take a good many opportunities of being needlessly rude. Their philosophy, like their tempers, appears to be rather hasty.

"Garden Wisdom," by Stephen Gwynn (Talbot Press), is a delightful book of essays—one of which is a noble tribute to Stephen Phillips, a poet who is at present unjustly disparaged, but who will some day come into his own. Mr. Gwynn's paper will help to revive interest in that tragical figure.

"The Big Four and Others of the Peace Conference" (Hutchinson), by Robert Lansing, is an indispensable war-book. Mr. Lansing is not a hero-worshipper: of his own chief he says that President Wilson's "positiveness of assertion not infrequently reminded one of a lecturer imparting knowledge to a class, and gave the impression that he felt that what he said left nothing

else to be said. He exhibited the traits of a philosopher rather than those of an advocate; he preferred to deal in generalities rather than with facts." The author regards the formidable Clemenceau as a very materialist kind of statesman, whose "tact and shrewdness," however, were too much for the philosopher-President from Washington. Mr. Lloyd George was "socially an attractive person," who exhibited alertness rather than depth, and was occasionally "shifty." He liked Orlando and the Italians, distrusted Venizelos, whom, rather surprisingly, he thought crafty and insincere; and of Paderewski he makes the astonishing statement that he "was a greater statesman than musician." (One would like to know Mr. Lansing's own qualifications as a critic of music.) He liked the Emir Faisal, and rates both Botha and Smuts high. Of the Treaty itself he says: "It would have been difficult to have obtained a better one, considering the numerous conflicting interests and the intemperate spirit of vengeance which then prevailed. The treaty has defects, many defects, but the wonder is that, in the circumstances, they are not more general and more glaring."

"Some Modern French Writers" (Horace Muirhead), by G. Turquet-Milnes, is a very interesting study in recent and contemporary French literature. One of the chief, and to me rather unexpected points of the book, is the marked influence which the author shows Bergson to have exerted on French writers and artists. The point is perhaps rather excessively emphasised.

Another book I have been reading is: "Eugenics and Other Evils" (Messrs. Cassell) by G. K. Chesterton. Evil, incidentally, is what Mr. Chesterton does not like; good is what he does like—the definition is as good as any out of the philosophical schools. Mr. Chesterton lays it down that sexual selection is "What Christians call falling in Love"; and he proceeds, "To be consistent, the Eugenists ought to put up statues to the men who deserted their loves because of bodily misfortunes, with inscriptions celebrating the good Eugénist who, on his fiancée falling off a bicycle, nobly refused to marry her; or to the young hero, who, on hearing of an uncle with erysipéis, magnanimously broke his word." I learn with astonishment that one of the evils from which England suffers, in Mr. Chesterton's view, is the fact that we have no popular press; "most readers would be mildly surprised if a newspaper leading article were written in the language of a navvy." Perhaps my colleague who writes the leaders in "The Near East" will oblige; I should like to hear the problem of Mesopotamian irrigation, for instance, described in the (adjectival) vernacular.

Old Etonians will be glad to read "Edmond Warre" (Murray) by C. R. L. Fletcher. The book is full of good stories—one which I shall cherish is the account of how, when Warre started the University Rifles Volunteers in 1859, one of the earliest of the truculent militarists who joined was "Private John Morley." One would never have suspected him of so near an approach to jingoism, and I regret to say that Lord Morley has omitted any reference to these episodes of his blood-thirsty youth in his autobiography. "Private John Morley" sounds almost as incongruous as "General John Bright," or the "Right Rev. F. E. Smith."

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

From Our Own Correspondents.

EGYPT.

Cairo, March 4.

A Red Letter Day.

Tuesday, February 28, 1922, will not fail to be a red letter day in the annals of Egyptian history, for it marks both the attainment of the national aspiration to be recognized as an independent nation and an important step forward along the path of self-government. The High Commissioner arrived in Alexandria early that morning, and after a magnificent reception all the way up to Cairo and in the capital itself, the same afternoon he handed to the Sultan the document containing the latest decision of the British Government on the Egyptian question, the text of which was simultaneously published in London.

The New Cabinet.

The next day the Sultan summoned H. E. Abdel Khalek Sarwat Pasha and invited him to form a Cabinet. Sarwat Pasha accepted the invitation in a letter in which he communicated his nominees for the various portfolios together with the political programme which the new Cabinet intended to carry out. A few hours later the Sultan signed the decree approving its constitution and the next morning the Cabinet took office.

The new Cabinet is composed as follows:—Abdel Khalek Sarwat Pasha, Premier and Minister of the Interior and of Foreign Affairs, Ismail Sedky Pasha, Minister of Finance, Ibrahim Fathy Pasha, Minister of War and Marine; Gaafar Wali Pasha, Minister of Wakfs; Mustapha Maher Pasha, Minister of Education; Mohammed Shukri Pasha, Minister of Agriculture; Mustapha Fathy Pasha, Minister of Justice; Hussein Wassef Pasha, Minister of Public Works; and Wassef Semeika Bey, Minister of Communications.

Sarwat Pasha was Minister of the Interior and Acting Prime Minister in the Adly Cabinet during Adly Pasha's absence in England. Sedky Pasha, Ibrahim Fathy Pasha and Gaafar Wali Pasha were also in the same Cabinet, Sedky Pasha being one of the members of the Egyptian Official Delegation. The first two retain their portfolios, but Gaafar Wali Pasha goes from the Ministry of Education to the Ministry of Wakfs. The five other Ministers attain Cabinet rank for the first time. Mustapha Maher Pasha was Director-General of the Wakfs Administration before it became a Ministry; Mohammed Shukri Pasha was formerly Under Secretary of State for Justice; Mustapha Fathy Pasha is Procureur General to the Native Court of Appeal; Hussein Wassef Pasha is an engineer and incidentally a brother of the late Nationalist leader, Mustapha Pasha Kemal; and Wassef Semeika Bey is Counsellor to the Native Court of Appeal. Pending the extension of the activities of the newly revived Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which was suppressed on the declaration of the Protectorate in December 1914, Sarwat Pasha will himself retain this portfolio.

The Cabinet's Programme.

The new Cabinet's political programme puts on record its approval of the attitude of the Official Delegation in its negotiations in London last year. It points out that it would have been impossible for the new Ministers to have accepted office so long as the principles guiding the British Government's Egyptian policy appeared to be those of the Memorandum of November last and the Explanatory Note which followed it, but that the High Commissioner's letter to the Sultan and the British Government's declaration to Parliament having completely changed the situation, the Ministers considered that satisfaction had been given to the national sentiment by the immediate declaration of independence of the country and by the fact that future negotiations will take place without restriction and without conditions.

The Cabinet intends immediately to draft a new Constitution based on the principle of ministerial respon-

sibility and designed to permit Parliament to control the policy and administration of the Government, while the revival of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will prepare the way for diplomatic and consular representation abroad. The Cabinet concludes by accepting full responsibility for the administration of the country and by calling on the nation to assist it in this matter and towards the settlement of the reserved questions by remaining united and maintaining the public peace.

Its Reception.

Generally speaking, the new Cabinet has been well received. In all Egyptian circles where opinion counts for anything it is recognized that a very important step forward has been registered by the letter of the High Commissioner and that the hour has sounded for the Egyptians to show what they are made of. The very sympathetic and conciliatory tone of the letter has gone far to remove the irritation caused by what took place last November and December. It is recognized that Great Britain has made a generous gesture and that for the time being, in the peculiar circumstances in which both she and Egypt find themselves, the British Government cannot be expected to go any further; and it is realised that if they do not accept the new situation and unite to take the fullest advantage of the opportunity offered, they will forfeit all the foreign sympathy and moral support that they have rallied round the new Cabinet, which now has everything in its favour.

Trouble at Tanta.

There has been some trouble in Tanta and in Cairo caused by the Zaghloulist element, and the students everywhere are somewhat restless. The general atmosphere and the factors underlying the situation are, however, far different to-day from what they were nine months ago, and the decided and firm manner in which these incidents have been handled seems to have had the desired effect of showing the relatively small opposition that there is nothing to be gained by trying to create trouble.

Both the British and foreign communities appear to be well satisfied with the decision of the British Cabinet. It is clear to them that for the time being no change is being made in the position of the safeguards they have enjoyed, and they feel that the course now taken is an eminently sound one. There is, therefore, no opposition to the new arrangement from the side of the foreign communities. On the contrary they have during the past week given many proofs of the sympathy with which they regard the effort that is being made by the Egyptians to show themselves worthy of their new status and so to strengthen the administration of the country as to make it possible eventually to offer such guarantees as shall be acceptable to Great Britain.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, February 26.

King Alexander's Visit.

The elections are drawing near, and all the different parties are feverishly engaged in their electoral campaigns which, especially in the provinces, are not without the usual incidents of election times. Judging from the frequent absence from the capital of the majority of the Cabinet, it seems as if for the moment the sole object of the Government is to devote its entire energy to the electoral campaign. The Liberals are fighting hard to secure such a majority that they will not have to seek the collaboration of any one group of the Opposition. A failure at this election would mean a great blow to the Liberal party; and the leaders are determined to leave no stone unturned to come out on top.

King Alexander's Visit.

The visit of King Alexander of Yugoslavia to Bucharest, being an official one, was the occasion for elaborate preparations, and his reception and sojourn here were

the occasions of great pomp and ceremony. The hearty welcome and spontaneous cheers of the Roumanian people afforded ample proof that King Alexander has become very popular in this country. His personal deeds during the war and the fact that he is engaged to one of the Princesses of their very popular Royal family aroused in the hearts of the Roumanians a feeling of respect and affection for the Royal guest. Furthermore, his being this time accompanied by M. Pashitch has given this visit a double importance, and it is bound to have as a result a closer relationship between these two countries.

On his arrival (on February 20) at Bucharest station, King Alexander alighted amidst the cheers of the people and the playing of the Serbian National Anthem by a military band; and was warmly received by the entire Roumanian Royal family. Besides MM. Pashitch and Nintchich, his suite consisted of General Damianovitch, General Hagitch, Colonel Yifcovitch, MM. Yancovitch, Cristitch and Nastasievitch, and many others. There were also three Serbian pressmen. After the presentations of the members of the Cabinet and other high State dignitaries, the Mayor of Bucharest welcomed him heartily on behalf of the citizens and offered him the traditional bread and salt on a silver tray. The Royal party then left the station in two open carriages and, escorted by the Royal Horse Guards, proceeded, through beflagged and decorated streets, thronged with huge cheering crowds, to the Cathedral to attend a Te-Deum.

In the afternoon of the same day the religious betrothal took place in the chapel of the Cotroceni Palace in the presence of a very few guests. The service, which included the ceremony of the exchange of rings, was conducted by the Primate of the Roumanian Orthodox Church both in the Roumanian and Serbian languages. In honour of King Alexander several church usages were introduced which are habitual in Serbia on such occasions. Among these was the custom of tying the joined hands of the couple with a white silk handkerchief. The service ended with the customary blessing of the round loaf of bread, which was subsequently broken into pieces by the Primate and given first to the engaged pair and then to all the persons present. The flour for this bread had been sent by King Alexander from Serbia and was made into bread at the home of his fiancée, with a supplementary ornament of two pigeons facing each other, also made of bread.

On the same evening while a family dinner took place at the Palace, M. Pashitch and the other members of the suite were entertained by M. Bratianu to a gala dinner at the Foreign Office, on which occasion the two Premiers exchanged fitting toasts, emphasizing that the present union of the two dynasties seals the friendship which has existed for centuries between the two countries.

On the morning of the following day a reception took place in the Throne Room of the Royal Palace, particularly for the Diplomatic Corps, who presented their congratulations to the newly engaged couple as well as to the King and Queen of Roumania. The Royal party together with their guests then proceeded to a specially built stand on the Calea Victoriei facing the Royal Palace to attend a military review, arranged in honour of King Alexander. To pay his respects to the visitor, King Ferdinand paraded at the head of the troops, followed by General Margineanu, Commander of the 2nd Army Corps; but when the turn of the 9th "Mountaineers" Regiment came, King Alexander returned the compliment by placing himself at the head of this regiment, of which he had been appointed Honorary Commander on the previous day. His act called forth great cheering from the public.

The parade was followed by a luncheon "en famille" at the palace, a reception in the afternoon for the people's delegations from various parts of the country, and in the evening by a gala dinner, to which over 300 guests were invited. The day's festivities were completed with a musical recital at the Royal Palace.

MM. Pashitch and Nintchich left Bucharest by the Simplon on Thursday, while King Alexander spent the rest of the week until Saturday, when he left for Belgrade

with the Roumanian Royal family. In their company he attended an operatic performance, visited the Military Museum, his 9th "Mountaineers" Regiment, and also made calls on M. Bratianu, M. Take Jonescu, and on the Primate. On the latter he conferred the "Collier" of the Order of Karageorgevitch with Star. It is now reported that the wedding will take place at Belgrade on June 4.

Little Entente Conferences.

The presence of MM. Pashitch and Nintchich in Bucharest was the occasion for several conferences between those statesmen and MM. Bratianu and Duca. Besides discussing questions of a general order concerning these two countries in particular, they further examined the question of the participation of the Little Entente at the Genoa Conference. The Polish and Czecho-Slovak Ministers at Bucharest were also present at some of these meetings.

M. Pashitch, in an interview to a local press-agency, stated that these conversations have resulted in a complete understanding with reference to the questions which will be debated at the coming Genoa Conference. He further stated that the interests of the Little Entente States induce them to support one another, and that they will oppose a united front to the pretensions of Soviet Russia.

From semi-official circles it is reported that these interviews at Bucharest were chiefly *pourparlers* for a preliminary conference of the Little Entente States, which will shortly take place at Belgrade, because, as the Polish and Czecho-Slovak representatives at Bucharest had no special mandates from their respective Governments, no definite decisions could be taken. However, it is more or less an understood thing that the Little Entente States will take the stand that the Genoa Conference must have as a basis the existing peace treaties and that no question could be discussed in violation of the same. It has been specially noticed that the Roumanian and Yugoslav statesmen are in complete harmony on all questions that were discussed.

General News.

Prince Carol returned to Bucharest from Athens on Sunday, February 19, having broken his journey at Belgrade for a few hours to call on King Alexander. Princess Helen and her baby, however, will remain in Athens with the Greek Royal family for another month.

A slight earthquake was felt yesterday at Satu-Mare (Transylvania), but without causing any damage whatever.

As a result of the frontier rectification between Czecho-Slovakia and Roumania last year, seven Roumanian villages including Turnu-Mare were ceded to Roumania. Many of the young men of these villages who were serving with the Czecho-Slovak army, are now expected to return home to be incorporated in the Roumanian Army.

The local press reports that Count Karoly, the former President of the Hungarian Republic, has decided to sell his estates in Transylvania.

Six torpedo-boats arrived last week at Constantza apportioned to the Roumanian Navy by the Allies from the former Austro-Hungarian fleet. The Roumanian Navy further expects seven mine-dredgers from Italy. The training-ship 'Venus' presented by the British Government to Roumania, has also arrived, and is already used by the Roumanian Naval School.

The Roumanian Geographical Society has recently sent courteous requests to geographical societies abroad to use their influence so that Roumanian geographical names should be spelt in the Roumanian way. For instance, instead of "Bucuresti" or "Romania" foreigners invariably spell these two names as follows: Bucarest, Bukarest, Bucharest, etc., and Rumanien, Roumanie, Roumania, Rumania, etc. It is further asked that Roumania should no longer be falsely designated as a Balkan State, for by her soil, configuration, race, and State organisation, it has been proved long ago that she cannot belong to the Balkan Peninsula. Moreover, since possessing the new provinces Transyl-

vania, Bukovina, etc., she considers that she ranks among the Central European States.

GREECE.

Athens, March 1.

Kemal's Terms.

Mustapha Kemal's peace conditions have caused little surprise here. But the Satrap of Anatolia, who is still so successfully carrying on his wonderful game of bluff, is really moderate in his demands. Smyrna, Thrace, Constantinople, the Straits, an army, a navy, and a war indemnity are all he wants. "And why not Piræus and . . . Liverpool as well?" asks the *Nea Imera*. Europe ought to be thankful that Turkey did not win her war, as, had such a calamity happened the whole of the Balkan Peninsula would not have been enough to satisfy her enormous appetite. In setting forth his terms, however, Kemal shows that he is a firm believer in the maxim "ask for the maximum so that you may avoid the minimum." Meanwhile Spring is fast approaching and much activity is reported from the front. Kemal has proudly announced that it was now his turn to take the offensive and that this time he would definitely eject the impudent intruder from the land of his forefathers. The Greeks, however, who during the quiet winter months have had ample time to consolidate their positions, are of a totally different opinion. They fully realise that owing to the financial *impasse* and to the complete diplomatic isolation of the country an offensive would be at present out of the question; but they are determined that not an inch of the ground now in their hands will be given up to the Turk.

The 'Espoir.'

The Greco-French incident over the 'Espoir' of which I wrote in my letter last week, is not yet closed. Not only has the Greek Government refused to comply with the French demand immediately to release the vessel but, on the contrary, it has ordered the unloading

of the cargo, at the same time informing the French Chargé d'Affaires that Greece would be prepared to pay for the coal she intended to keep, but would in no circumstances allow it to reach Mustapha Kemal. This new decision was apparently arrived at by the Government following instructions received from the Prime Minister from London. M. de Marcilly has not yet replied.

A Protest of the Liberals.

During a conference which was held last Friday at the Liberal Club in Athens, the Liberal deputies decided to hand a memorandum to the President of the National Assembly protesting against the suspension of the meetings of the Assembly for nearly five months. It will be pointed out that the Prime Minister had not fulfilled his promises, and that he had also failed to act in conformity with the parliamentary customs of the country by prolonging for five months the inactivity of the National Assembly. After setting forth the conceptions and the opinions of the Liberal Party, the memorandum goes on to say that it is the Government's duty to enlighten without any reserve and at the earliest possible moment both the Assembly and the people as to the actual position of the nation's affairs, stating at the same time what steps it proposes to take to meet the present precarious situation. The protest is to be signed by all the Liberal deputies at present in Athens.

Prominent Liberals Arrested.

As a result of the publication in two Liberal journals of a manifesto by which a number of well known Venizelists, among whom were two deputies, expressed their personal views on the situation in general, the authors of the manifesto have been arrested and imprisoned. Their names are as follows:—M. Constantine Melas, and M. G. Villaras, both members for Epirus; M. Papanastasiou, ex-Minister of Communications; M. Papis, ex-vice-president of the Chamber; M. P. Carapanos and M. S. Theodoropoulos, ex-deputies; M. Theodore Petimezas, ex-professor of Athens University, and M. T. Stathopoulos, editor of the Liberal paper *Patris*. They have been charged with high treason and are also accused of having used disrespectful language towards the King and the Royal Family.

A Cafe Incident.

Last Friday, as a man was sitting at the Café Zacharatos in Constitution Square, reading the *Eleftheron Vema*, he was suddenly accosted by a person quite unknown to him who asked him why he was reading a Venizelist paper! Greatly surprised at the impertinent interference, he replied that he was free to read any paper he chose. Whereupon the unknown individual produced a revolver, but was promptly disarmed by the other people in the café who witnessed the scene, and was put out of the establishment after receiving a sound thrashing.

No Money from America.

The *Estia* is informed from a reliable source that M. Spyro Papafrango's mission has sadly failed, as the United States have definitely refused to allow Greece to draw the American share of the unused credits granted to M. Venizelos' Government in February, 1918. The *Ethnos* adds that M. Papafrango is now trying to obtain the permission of the United States Government for the establishment of a branch of the National Bank of Greece in New York.

General News.

The new Greek High Commissioner at Constantinople, M. Triantafyllakos has postponed his departure from Athens until the return of the Prime Minister.

The trial of the persons charged with the murder of Jean Dragoumis will commence in Athens on the 7th March (O.S.).

BULGARIA.

Sofia, March 3.

Abolition of Press Censorship.

The Press Censorship has been abolished with effect from Saturday the 4th inst. The action of the Government in restoring liberty to the newspapers will, it is hoped, be followed by a similar concession in regard to

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the holding of public meetings. The semi-state of siege that has been in force since the War has outrun its utility, and the whole country desires a return to normal conditions. The Press Censorship has always been severe, and latterly particularly so. The result has been that many events, unimportant in themselves, but with a bearing on other matters, have been allowed to assume gigantic proportions on account of the Censor's refusing to permit their publication. The private letter and verbal methods of spreading news have resulted in a totally false impression being given of Bulgaria's actual situation. Now it is to be expected that for a short time there will be a veritable outburst of criticism on the part of certain papers, but this will soon die a natural death, and ordinary conditions will be resumed. The newspapers will become much more interesting, as instead of being able to cull all the news from one paper, it will be possible to get the different points of view on all questions of importance.

It is not quite clear what decided the Government to restore freedom of the Press, but in any case it is a measure that cannot but do them good.

Bulgarian Students Abroad.

Owing to the low value of the Lev in comparison with English, French, Italian and Swiss currencies, the great majority of Bulgarian students who finish their education abroad are being sent to Germany or Austria. The parents of these students cannot afford to pay the high cost of living that prevails in Paris or London, and are forced, many of them against their will, to send their sons and daughters to Berlin. The French and Italian Governments have both made small grants to enable a limited number of Bulgarians to study at Paris and Rome, but even these grants, owing to the constant fall in the value of the Lev, are becoming insufficient. It does not require much foresight to see that in a few years' time the youth of Bulgaria will be German-speaking, and to a certain extent permeated with German ideas. Even now the effect of cleverly disseminated German propaganda is beginning to show itself, the gospel that Germany was not responsible for the War being especially widely spread amongst foreign students. The only apparent remedy for this deplorable state of affairs, which, it should be remembered, applies to all countries where the exchange has collapsed, is a rise in the value of the Lev.

In Bulgaria the French are making valiant attempts to encourage the teaching and knowledge of their language, and up to the present they have met with a fair amount of success. During the past winter, French professors have been giving a regular course of lectures at the University. These lectures have been well attended, and have undoubtedly served a useful purpose. The British have, officially at any rate, made no effort to encourage the speaking of English; nor have they taken the slightest interest in Sofia University. Our attitude can, in fact, be summed up in the words of an Englishman who recently visited Sofia: "We have so many interests elsewhere, and anyway of what importance is Bulgaria?" Certainly we have other and more important interests than Bulgaria, and it is true that Bulgaria is to-day a second Montenegro, ranking very low in importance in European politics. Still, she may not always rank so low, and her geographical position alone entitles her to some consideration.

Germany's Growing Influence.

German influence is not very apparent to the average foreigner in Sofia. Germans are not too welcome at the social clubs or in the leading private houses. They keep in the background, and while in public often talk French. It is nevertheless true that 60 per cent. or more of the foreigners now visiting Sofia are Germans. They are mostly commercial men bent on regaining the markets that the eighteen months following the Armistice closed to them. Whether they will be successful depends solely on the Allies themselves; but at present Germany is making ground, slowly but steadily. Italy, Austria, and Czecho-Slovakia are her chief rivals, with France following close behind, and Great Britain a bad last. The Deutsche Bank has opened fine premises in the centre of the town, and almost all the German firms

that formerly dealt with Bulgaria have reopened their offices. Of literature and newspapers there is no lack, and here again, owing to the state of the exchanges, German papers enjoy a much greater sale than those of any other nationality.

In wireless press messages the Bulgarian Foreign Office keeps a careful check on the Germans, but from time to time the hand of the professional Berlin propagandist is clearly evident. Above all, the Germans try to make Bulgaria believe that England and France are on the very worst of terms and that it is only a question of time before the English will renounce the *Entente Cordiale*. Facts are so distorted as to make the reader believe that every Englishman desires a revision of the Treaty of Versailles, and a revision needless to say greatly in favour of Germany. This clever propaganda cannot fail to have an effect in the long run, and it behoves our authorities to devise a means of combating a particularly insidious form of "Hunnishness."

Sofia University Again.

The University and the Government are once more involved in a dispute. This time it is not the question of the alphabet that is at stake, but the reforms proposed by M. Omartchevsky, Minister of Education. On the ground of economy, M. Omartchevsky has suppressed the chairs of twenty professors. Among these professors are numbered the foremost intellects in Bulgaria, and the University has not been slow to take umbrage at the Minister's proposals. The students have held meetings of protest, which the police dispersed, while the Senate of the University decided to send a Note to each member of the Sobranie, drawing attention to the fact that the Minister of Education was interfering with the rights which the University has always enjoyed, and further that the economies, if carried out, will result in a material lowering of the standard of the University. In the event of the Sobranie's approving of M. Omartchevsky's reforms, it is probable that the University will go on strike, or in other words, close down. It is interesting to note that M. Miletitch, the Rector of the University, who played a leading part in the dispute over the alphabet, is himself among those who are due to be dismissed.

Departure of Military Commission.

With the departure yesterday morning of General de Fourtoun, the Military Commission has come to an end. The General, who was accompanied by several members of his Staff, had a numerous gathering to bid him goodbye, and great regret is expressed at his departure. Charged with a singularly disagreeable mission, General de Fourtoun carried out his task in an extremely tactful manner. His successor, Colonel D'Amarzet, has already arrived, and the Organ of Liquidation held its first meeting last week. The need of such an Organ was commented on in my last week's letter, and now it appears that the number of officers may be augmented instead of being decreased. In such circumstances, the whole matter becomes a farce; one Commission goes and another arrives.

ASIA MINOR.

Smyrna, February 24.

The band of *chetas* (Turkish *komitajis*) numbering 17, and operating between Baloukesser, Sindirdji and Aksar, have been adroitly captured by Greek gendarmes. Some months ago several were caught by the Greek gendarme Captain from Yenakeuy, and it was from the prisoners that the names of the entire band were discovered. Several are wealthy Turks from Yenakeuy, who had always been on good terms with the Greek authorities, having shown great zeal in protecting Christians from *cheta* raids. It appears, that they were, nevertheless, in touch with the Kemalists, and guided the operations of the *chetas*. The Smyrna Greek Military Courts passed sentence of death upon Hussein Oglou Emin aged 25, and Kirkagachil Zade Ali Bey, aged 27, both merchants; seven others, including the Kaimakam of Giordes, were sentenced to imprisonment for life; one to fifteen and one to seven years' imprisonment; while Bahaeeddin Suleiman, a policeman, was acquitted.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

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

INDIAN ARMY PENSIONS.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—Owing to the distance which separates us, I have only just been "Huzoor's" letter, suggesting that I am "squealing before I am hurt" in asking that officers of the Indian Army should be allowed to retire on Proportionate Pensions.

It is all very well to write of the "great traditions of the Indian Army" from his club smoking room: anyone out here could tell "Huzoor" just exactly how the Indian Government is treating those "great traditions." Has he heard of regiments raised by the heroes of the Mutiny abolished by a stroke of the pen? Does he know how many Indian doctors are in medical charge of white men and women? Has he heard that there are Indian Commissioned officers living in most Messes? . . . I am not presuming to criticise the Government, composed as it is of worthy gentlemen of various complexions, one and all striving for the betterment of this great country, but to say that our conditions of service have not changed, is, Sir, ridiculous. What does "Huzoor" advise us to do, from his arm-chair? Wait till we are hurt, I presume, and then collect such crumbs of consolation as may fall from Mahatma Gandhi's table.

I am, etc.,
QUAT HAI.

BRITAIN'S EASTERN POLICY.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—Indian Moslems have no ground of complaint at the well-merited chastisement dealt so far to the Turkish Government, nor have they any right to impose an Ottoman Khilafat on Islam as a whole.

The occupation of Constantinople and Thrace has saved their inhabitants much misery and want already, and the Young Turks having long ago repudiated the Quran even it seems strange that Indian should claim the Khilafat for the Turkish Sultan.

Nevertheless, without any Moslem prompting, Mr. Balfour was fully warned at the time of the Paris Conference, against adopting the policy, now found

wanting. That the British Government acted contrary to this expert opinion, is by no means surprising; for in Government business, so many claim experience and the right to advise. In this way mistakes are made, and in this particular case there was the eloquence of M. Venizelos in the balance in favour of Greece, and his plea, being by no means inimical to the Turks as a nation, probably decided the British Government to try the experiment he advocated.

The consequence is that, without fear or favour, the British Government, for some time past, has been considering the reversal of the old policy, on the ground of mere justice to the Turkish people, and the dictates of modern civilisation, away from the long standing religious and racial prejudice, of the contending parties.

How far the revised treaty will go, it is not for me to say, but while leaving the Mohammedans free to call whom they choose a Khalif, (at one time, Baghdad, Cairo, and Cordova, each had its own lawful Khalif!) it cannot reinstate the Turks at Mecca and Medina, which are Arab towns, nor admit that any special interest in Baghdad, belongs to them.

The heroism of Angora alone deserves our sympathetic regards, and inclines us to believe in a better future for the Turks, and a *worthier Islamic* rule than in the past.

I am, etc.,
A. SEFI.

BRITISH POLICY IN THE EAST.

Under the auspices of the National Constitutional Association, a meeting was held last week at Caxton Hall, the subject under discussion being "Our Policy in the East." Lord Amptill, who presided over a crowded meeting, said that these meetings were fulfilling a useful function. Their object was to hear the views of people with special knowledge. Colonel Cuthbert James had been in the Egyptian Administration for years, and Lord Raglan was just returned from Palestine and Syria, where he was a political officer. Their opinions were therefore those of men who thoroughly understood these matters. He proceeded to state that the intuitive judgment of the race in foreign affairs could not be exercised just now, and might be lost, and hence the value of meetings of that kind. He took it that their attitude was to hold what they had and not to clear out of places where the nation had a right to be. At present they had a number of conflicting pledges to face, as in Palestine, where we made promises which we should not have done to people who had no right to be there. The population of Palestine was 93 per cent. Arab, and we had promised to make it a national home for the Jews from all over the world. We had made no fewer than six conflicting promises, but he hoped that the fact that the Sèvres Treaty had not been ratified left a loophole for an honourable settlement.

He pointed to the probability of more fighting between the Greeks and the Turks when the snows melted, and suggested that we were holding too much in Mesopotamia.

Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. Cuthbert James, M.P., said that the present conflict between Greece and Turkey looked like a renewal of the old war between the Crescent and Cross. He pointed out that the whole situation had become of the most complicated kind. We would have to be very patient, but very swift in arriving at a settlement. Matters were serious in Palestine and with the Arabs. In Egypt they had to deal with legacy after legacy dating from the revolt in 1882, which led to the occupation. He complained of the delay in making the Milner inquiry, the same course being followed in the case of Amritsar. Delay was fatal in these cases of disorder. He denied that the Marquess of Dufferin's pledge that the Egyptians would be given self-government when fit for it could be carried out, because the Egyptians were not fit for self-government. The Egyptians who would suffer most would be the fellaheen. He commended the Government for at last trusting the man on the spot in Viscount Allenby. The Government had given the latter a blank cheque—not a good thing—but it was better than having these matters handled by incompetent amateurs.

Lord Raglan said that the feature of the Middle East was the effort to set up a number of independent States which the Government were making. They were utterly reckless about community of interests or defensible frontiers. Mesopotamia had a hopeless frontier, and if our troops left it it would lapse into anarchy or fall again into the hands of the Turks, and large numbers of people would be glad to see the Turks back. In Syria they had had for thousands of years one country; now it had been turned into two. One of them was Palestine. Every unprejudiced person who had visited Palestine since the Armistice said that whether Zionism was right or wrong it was utterly impossible. He met only one Arab who approved of Zionism. He expressed a fear that as things were going Zionism would disappear in a sea of blood, which would be not only Jewish but British.

Cunard Line

MEDITERRANEAN & NEAR EAST

REGULAR FREIGHT SAILINGS FROM
LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER GLASGOW
AND SOUTH WALES PORTS TO
GIBRALTAR ALGIERS MALTA PATRAS
PIRAEUS SYRA VOLO SALONICA
:- SMYRNA CONSTANTINOPLE :-
ROUMANIAN PORTS ALSO FROM—
LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER AND
SOUTH WALES PORTS TO GIBRALTAR
GENOA LEGHORN NAPLES PALERMO
MESSINA CATANIA BRINDISI BARI
ANCONA VENICE TRIESTE AND FIUME

FREIGHT SAILINGS FROM
LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER LONDON SWANSEA
ANTWERP AND ROTTERDAM TO GREEK LEVANT
AND BLACK SEA PORTS

ALSO FREIGHT SAILINGS FROM
LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER :-
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SOME EGYPTIAN JOTTINGS.

(From a Correspondent.)

Among the influences now at work that of the women of Egypt must not be overlooked. The wife of Zaghloul Pasha, who now enjoys the title of "Mother of the Egyptians," is busily engaged in promoting a movement which is quite a new feature in social life. A meeting held recently at the absent Pasha's house was attended by 800 "ladies of distinction" from all parts of the country. Patriotic speeches were made, and an oath (probably composed by the Sheikh Mohammed Shakir), was taken by all present to the following effect:—"We swear by Almighty God and all his Prophets that we are determined to boycott the aggressive English, and consider it unlawful to touch anything made by them. God's punishment will fall on those who break their vow. We pray to God that our beloved and honoured Zaghloul Pasha may soon be restored to us." At a second meeting it was decided to send a telegram to the Pasha expressing complete confidence in him, and a determination to resist the formation of a Ministry until his aims are fulfilled. All ladies present were urged, and undertook, to do all in their power to support the Nationalists' programme. The influence of women of the higher ranks in Egypt is very considerable, and as they are now pledged to a propaganda in all towns and villages, it will no doubt spread rapidly downwards, and help to keep alive the existing agitation with which the sensible and "moderate" party has to contend.

A new sign of the times in Cairo, described by the *Akhbar* (News), is the establishment of an "Eastern Union Association," the object of which is to promote unity among Oriental nations without distinction of religion or race. For the present it seeks to enrol members from Egypt, Syria, Turkey, and Persia (India is not mentioned). It will endeavour to spread true culture in the East, and to disseminate sound literature, and it will work for cohesion among all Oriental States and Communities with a view to resisting Western aggression. It should be rather exclusive, as members must be persons of good social standing, and of literary and linguistic attainments. A council has been formed and rules drawn up, and in part published. The President is the Sheikh-el-Bakri, who claims descent from the Prophet, and is the Nakib-el-Ashraf, or Chief of the Sherifs, and head of all the Dervish Orders of Egypt. The Vice-President is Prince Daoud, and the Secretary M. Zeki. The treasurer is a well-known Persian. There are two assistant secretaries. The council includes Ahmed Tewfik (a member of Adly Pasha's mission), Dr. M. Sabit, Nured-in Bey, and other notables.

In the past, movements like those now afoot have seldom been long-lived. At the outset there is a good deal of enthusiasm, and perhaps the collection of a fund; but they generally die away from indifference, and a lack of any sustaining vitality on the part of the majority of the members. Very little is said on the subject of a British garrison. A correspondent of the *Mokattam* asks whether that paper will advocate and support the establishment of a "League of Eastern Nations," as a counterpart to the "League of Nations" which is acting independently of the East. The Orient should do likewise. A writer in the *Akhbar* says that a British garrison is quite unnecessary: the geographical position of Egypt is such that it will for ever furnish an excuse for one. As long as there is a Suez Canal the British must pass through it, and must control the Canal, and therefore Egypt. But their ships must also pass through the British Channel; and as France is on one side of it they should similarly control and dominate France.

Afghanistan is sending for a body of teachers from the Azhar University of Cairo.

March 22 is now fixed as the date for the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of England, France and Italy in Paris to consider the Near East question.

MANDATES IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

Last week, at the Royal United Service Institution, Lieut.-Colonel F. W. Barron, R.A., of the General Staff at the War Office, lectured on the Mandates in the Middle East, with special reference to the defence of India. Major-General Sir W. S. Brancker presided.

Before the war, said the lecturer, the chief danger to India was supposed to be Russia. Now the dangers were different. Within the last two years there had been a large immigration of Jews of all tribes and colours into Palestine, including a large number of Russian Bolsheviks. The trouble between the Jews and the Arabs in Palestine looked like going on. The Arab imagined that we intended to drive him out of what had been his home for hundreds of years. Apparently, owing to our commitments, we could only carry on, indulging in the famous hope of Mr. Micawber. In Persia, where our influence used to be so strong, the British name was now mud. Why not come away from Palestine and Irak? The answer was that we had to remain in Palestine because of our promise of providing there a national home for the Jews, and to remain in Irak because of the mentality of the peoples of India. If we retired precipitately from Irak the whole of the East would say it was because we were driven out. As possible attackers of India, we could now wash out the Afghans, the Bolsheviks, and the Germans. There remained only the Turks, joining in a general attempt by Islam to drive us out of India. The remedy he suggested was that we should make friends with the Turks. There was a fair prospect in that event of the two countries becoming lands flowing with milk and honey.

Sir Michael O'Dwyer said that when we occupied Baghdad in 1917 extraordinary enthusiasm was shown by the Mohammedans of the Punjab, who said that as we had blocked the Turks and the Germans the frontier of India was secure. For political reasons he hoped we should remain in Palestine and Irak.

THE BRITISH SCHOOL OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN JERUSALEM.

A meeting of the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem was held last week at King's College, Sir Frederick Kenyon presiding. The report stated that the programme for 1922 included exploration of sites in the Plain of Acre, with a view to discovery of further evidences of early civilisation in Palestine. Mr. D. G. Hogarth, Chairman of the Council, in moving its adoption, remarked on the scientific and political value of the work of the school, and expressed the hope—which there was reason for entertaining—that help would be given by the Secretary for the Colonies. Financial support was badly needed. The report was adopted.

Dr. John Garstang, the Director, referred with satisfaction to the facilities received from the Government, and described the central and local museums that had been established. A hundred and twenty packing cases, intended in other days for Constantinople, had been discovered in cellars, and 6,000 objects had been catalogued. Objects of local interest, which would lose half their value if removed, were being exhibited and preserved. The great Roman sculptures of the 1st and 2nd Centuries at Askalon, weighing in some cases as much as six or seven tons, would not be transported, but were now effectively arranged beside the wall of the old theatre. Early Hebrew mosaics, with inscriptions, found at Jericho, had, however, been placed in safe keeping in the Central Museum. He referred to various interesting ruins, monuments, and remains of early civilisation, and testified to the general progress of research in Palestine.

A MESHTROVITCH STATUE.

(By our former Belgrade Correspondent.)

Some time before the war the Belgrade Municipality arranged with Meshtrovitch, the famous sculptor, for a statue on the fountain on the Terazije. The eminent artist agreed upon a price of 200,000 dinars, and 20,000 were paid to him as earnest money, as is the custom. The Municipality have now asked M. Meshtrovitch to proceed with the work, but the sculptor has replied that when the contract was made the dinar was as good as the Swiss franc, and that to-day he requires the balance of 180,000 to be paid in Swiss francs. Whether the town authorities have accepted this view remains to be seen, but an obvious answer is ready to hand for them. When the contract was made, the dinar was equivalent to the Austrian krone, and so they should pay the balance of 180,000 in Austrian krone, and if the artist does not accept this, let him return the 20,000 dinars which he received, but at to-day's rate, that is, 300,000 dinars, which is the present equivalent of 20,000 Swiss francs.

Preliminary results of the General Election in Roumania show that in 211 of a total of 369 seats the Government has been returned with a large majority. The figures are—Liberals, 102; National Party (Transylvania), 16; Peasants' Party, 17; People's Party, 10; Socialists, 2; Nationalists, 4.

According to messages from Marseilles published in Paris on March 9, a ship left the port last week for Braila, where it was to take on board, in accordance with the French plan to aid the famine sufferers in Russia, 4,500 tons of wheat for Odessa.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

In consequence of queries, the Editor thinks it advisable to state that the quotation from any article does not necessarily imply that the views expressed are shared by "The Near East." On the contrary, an attempt is made to include as far as is possible in the available space all sides of the various questions discussed.

India and the Near East.

The *Morning Post* of March 9 is plain in its condemnation of the way in which the Government of India has recently attempted to influence the decisions to be made at the Near East Conference. Of the message and its publication it says:—

For we have the plain hint here that the unrest in India must be allayed by changes in the Imperial policy elsewhere. Such an attitude is something new in the history of the British Empire, and we venture to say that if it continues the British Empire will not last very long. The evacuation of Constantinople; the suzerainty of the Sultan over the Holy Places; and the restoration of Ottoman Thrace, including Adrianople and Smyrna—these are questions of high policy which ought to be decided not under compulsion but according to the merits of the case. For our own part we have always thought it good British policy to maintain the power and prestige of Turkey as far as possible, and we resisted, as far as we could, the tendencies which threw the Sultan into the hands of our enemies. But we must recognise things as they are. To leave the Sultan in Constantinople is reasonable and wise; the restoration of Ottoman Thrace, including Adrianople and Smyrna, does not appear to us practical. As for the suzerainty over the Holy Places, Jerusalem, which is a Holy Place of the Mohammedans as well as of the Christians, is now in the hands of Sir Herbert Samuel, and if Lord Reading and Mr. Montagu combine to relieve him of that responsibility we shall have to revise our opinion of the Jewish question. As for the Hedjaz, it is in the hands of our good friends the Arabs, who have a far more ancient and more valid title to be their keepers than any Turk. Indeed, we cannot conceive that the Indian Mohammedans should be so ignorant of their own religion as to drive out the present keepers of their Holy of Holies in order to restore a comparatively modern usurper like the Sultan. We have, indeed, some difficulty in believing that these demands are made in good faith, or by the Mohammedans of India. Why should they trouble about a Christian Power in Smyrna or Adrianople, when, as a matter of fact, there is a Christian Power in India itself? Their interest in the Holy Places is acute and legitimate; but as long as they have access to the tomb of the Prophet, and as long as it is secure also from profanation in the hands of its present august and orthodox keepers, we cannot see that they have any grievance. And we hope nobody in this country will be so foolish as to suppose that the secret of Indian unrest lies in these questions of the Near East. There is a bearing, we admit; but the bearing is not vital, and is rather a pretext than the true motive.

It proceeds to plead for a policy of the "firm hand" in India as elsewhere, and concludes:—

We have never seen any evidence that the British Government realise that their enemies in all parts of the world work upon a common plan and bear us an implacable enmity. Let us by all means follow a policy friendly to Turkey, for such a policy is, and has always been, in the British interests. But do not let us delude ourselves that we can placate or disarm our enemies by so doing. One grievance is as good as another, and as soon as one is removed another will be found. It was Kenya yesterday, to-day it is Asia Minor; to-morrow it will be North Africa. No, there are enemies who cannot be placated, but must be fought. They

only grow stronger with concessions, and derive encouragement from our repeated surrenders. We must either stand up to them or perish.

And the *Daily Telegraph* of the same date is scarcely less severe:—

It is not quite clear why the restoration of certain European territories should be of such grave moment to the inhabitants of India, the great majority of whom are not Mohammedans, and have never heard of Thrace; nor to those 250 millions of Hindus, Sikhs, and outcaste persons can it matter very much which of two Moslem potentates guards the tomb and birthplace of the Prophet. The Mohammedans, though a minority, are active, energetic, and militant, and the Indian Government is evidently alarmed at the growing proofs of their alienation from the British raj. Hence its urgent, and even piteous, appeal to the home Cabinet to placate them at all costs, even to the extent of reversing its whole Eastern policy and readjusting frontiers in Europe and Asia Minor which do not in the smallest degree affect the interests or security of India. The destiny of Adrianople and Smyrna is a pure question of sentiment, so far as Indian Mohammedans are concerned. It is, however, a sentiment that has been fiercely inflamed by agitation, so that many of the children of Islam in our Eastern Empire believe that deliberate injury has been inflicted upon the spiritual head of their religion, and are ready to avenge it by co-operating with those whom they have hitherto despised as infidels. The Indian Government feels that its difficulties would be lightened if we could come to an amicable understanding with the Turkish Power. In its eagerness to be relieved of one source of embarrassment it has committed itself to a declaration which travels far beyond the bounds of India, and challenges the entire policy which the Imperial Government has adopted in the Near and Middle East. That policy has been settled in Downing-street, in conjunction with Paris and Rome; it cannot be dictated from Delhi or Simla. If a legitimate revision of the Sèvres Treaty would assist us to restore good relations with Turkey—an object every British statesman is anxious to attain—the process may be attempted. But it must be considered on its merits, and with due regard to the international situation as a whole. We shall certainly not consent to hand back Greek Christians in Europe to Ottoman rule merely because that might pacify certain Khalifate fanatics in Indian towns, and—possibly—make life a trifle easier for some perplexed personages in Indian secretariats.

We confess that this remarkable document does not inspire us with profound confidence in the wisdom and firmness of the Indian Administration. It does not suggest that Lord Reading and his advisers are facing a most dangerous situation with the stern grasp of facts which the circumstances demand. They seem to be engaged on their favourite occupation of trying to overcome disaffection by concessions to one disaffected group or body of persons after another. The present Viceroy has already practised that expedient several times with very little success. His efforts at conciliating the Swaraj extremists, the Punjab revolutionists, the Ali brothers, and Gandhi himself have, in turn, failed. Revolutionists and rebels, especially in the East, are not disarmed by surrender; they are only confirmed in the belief that they are too formidable to be touched. We do not suppose that the modification or reversal of our whole Eastern policy would restore the loyalty of the unscrupulous agitators who have combined with their secular opponents to rouse the bigotry of Mussulman mobs and Moplah savages. It would be just another victory for the fomenters of disorder, and would only stimulate them to fresh efforts. Even if it did allay Mohammedan excitement, it would do nothing to dissipate the other and graver

troubles of India. The Islamic movement is not, and cannot be, the cause of the riots, outbreaks, and seditious manifestations in districts and among communities which are not Mohammedan.

Egypt.

A writer in the *Outlook* of March 4 believes that there is a serious danger that the success of Lord Allenby's visit to London may lull the public into complacency over the Egyptian question, but, he points out, the British Government was not asked to change its views about Egypt, only its methods.

There are four points on which we desired to be reassured before we abolished the Protectorate: (1) The security of our communications through the Suez Canal; (2) the danger that some other European Power may attempt to take our place when we withdraw; (3) the protection of foreign interests in Egypt and the protection of minorities; and (4) the Sudan. In the Treaty proposed by the British Government last December, and rejected by the Egyptian Delegation, definite guarantees were required from Egypt on those four points. Lord Allenby has pointed out that such guarantees, even if they could be obtained, would not be worth the paper they are written on. He has accordingly induced the British Government to abandon the idea of a Treaty, and, instead, to abolish the Protectorate forthwith, at the same time laying it down that these four subjects "are absolutely reserved to the discretion of His Majesty's Government until such time as it may be possible by free discussion and friendly accommodation on both sides to conclude agreements in regard thereto."

In other words, the Treaty has simply been postponed. In the meantime we grant Egypt her independence and declare a kind of Monroe Doctrine, to keep other people out. This change of method has enabled Sarwat Pasha to form an Egyptian Government, so that martial law may cease, and that is a considerable gain. But to represent it as a settlement of the Egyptian question is a dangerous mistake. Not one single point at issue between ourselves and the Egyptians has been settled. We agreed in principle to the abolition of the Protectorate months ago. On the most vital point of all—the possible interference of other European Powers—we are taking steps to guarantee ourselves, without any reference to Egypt: we are formally notifying the world that such interference will be regarded by us as an unfriendly act. Why a mere change of method, no doubt very sensible in itself, should be "featured" in the Press as though it amounted to a settlement of the Egyptian question passes my comprehension. It is a poor compliment to Lord Allenby.

The *New Statesman* of March 4, on the other hand, thinks that to see anything but a reversal of policy in the latest developments is a superficial reading of the affair. Tracing the recent history of Egyptian events, it comes to the "struggle" between Lord Allenby and certain members of the Cabinet:—

It is important to insist on the seriousness of this battle, not merely in order to expose the lack of vision and the bad faith of the British Government—for that needs no further exposure—but to emphasise the clear vision and the good faith of the High Commissioner and the Anglo-Egyptian officials. Lord Allenby is no longer to be regarded—if he ever was to be so regarded—as an impartial agent of a despotism seated in London. He has ranged himself on the side of Egyptian independence. His views have been moulded by the facts as he has seen them on the spot and not by Utopian ambitions conceived some thousands of miles away. He has no political axe to grind and his military reputation is too big for the puny strategists of the War Office to turn up their noses at. He is a formidable opponent and a formidable ally, and the part he chooses to play must be a factor of the first importance. Egyptians have realised what it means to have him on their

side, and we think that some of the more implacable critics in this country would do well to realise it too.

It outlines the present position, and proceeds optimistically:—

We do not see, then, how any honest man can refuse to find large grounds for hope. On the other hand, we shall not halloo till we are out of the wood, cheerful though we may be at the thought that Lord Curzon and Mr. Churchill have at length realised that it is a wood they are in in Egypt and not a kitchen garden of the British Empire. It would be idle to pretend that there are not grave practical difficulties ahead. We expect the new proposals to find a ready acceptance among a large number of Egyptians. We know, indeed, that they actually represent the demands of an important section of opinion—the moderate or conservative party of which Adly and Sarwat Pashas are the most prominent leaders. But what remains to be seen is the attitude of Zaghlul Pasha, and, supposing his attitude to be hostile, how large his following will be. If the Zaghlulists were wise men, we think they would welcome the opportunity they are offered. The Protectorate has gone and martial law will go; the Egyptian Government will be free to hold an election, and, should it for any reason hesitate, could clearly be compelled by the overwhelming force of popular opinion. If an election is held, what have the Zaghlulists to fear? They have claimed consistently to represent the views of the vast majority of the nation. Presumably, therefore, they may count on securing a vast majority of seats, and raw as they may be in the practice of democratic government, they can hardly fail to secure the independence of their country within those limits—that is to say, with those concessions to British interests—which Zaghlul himself has admitted. But we are not sure, unfortunately, that the Zaghlulists are as wise as they ought to be

That there are certain limitations which must for the present attach to the full sovereignty of Egypt is certain. We want them to be as few and as light as possible; we do not want them to remain for ever. Nor do we want them merely for our own peculiar interests; our reactionary Imperialists have prated far too much on the subject of our "vital communications," and Mr. Lloyd George, in his telegram to the Dominion Governments, has perhaps been unnecessarily emphatic in his warning to other Powers to keep their eyes off Egypt. But the warning is a not altogether useless reminder to some Egyptians and to some Englishmen who talk as though we had no concern in Egypt at all. For it is well to remember that other Powers have their eyes on Egypt, in the sense that they have large communities of their nationals there, for whose welfare they are tender—a good deal more tender, we think, than for the feelings of the native Egyptians. In a word, Egypt is an international problem, and the status and condition of Egypt are factors in the peace of the world. That does not mean that we, or anybody else, are entitled to treat Egypt as a pawn; but it does mean that the Egyptian people must accept, for the advantage of all as well as their own, the implications of their economic position and their political weakness. It means that, if we do not have special privileges in Egypt, some other Power will—at any rate until the day when the League of Nations has become a reality. It rests with Egypt to make her choice, and it is to be hoped that, in the words of Lord Allenby's note to the Sultan, reflection and not passion will guide her attitude.

Copies of the Russo-Persian Treaty of February, 1921, ratified and signed by the Persian Government and the Soviet authorities and sealed by the Shah prior to his departure for Europe, have been exchanged.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE SONG OF SONGS.

"THE SONG OF SONGS: Being a collection of Love Lyrics of Ancient Palestine. A new translation based on a revised text." By Morris Jastrow, Jr.; Ph.D. LL.D. (J. B. Lippincott Company. 12s. 6d. net.) 124

This book has a melancholy interest for us in that it is the last work of Professor Morris Jastrow; the "Foreword" is dated but five days before his death. It is written with all the fervour of a literary enthusiast who has been carried along by the charm and increasing interest of his theme. The author explains his point of view, and also the *raison d'être* of the book, in the "Foreword," in which he disposes of the Solomonic authorship as "a pure tradition," and also of "the totally misleading allegorical interpretation" (p. 10). "The Song of Songs," he tells us, must be taken "for that it is, a continuous ecstasy on the theme of sensual love," (p. 11). "For the songs are folk-songs. All the songs are expressions of folk emotions," and "we cannot speak of an author or of authors in connection with these songs, any more than there are specific authors to folk-tales and fairy-tales" (p. 11, 12). "The seriously minded but unimaginative Rabbis of the Talmudic Age were no longer able to appreciate the folk spirit," and so "they took refuge in an allegorical interpretation" (p. 15). The inclusion of "the Song of Songs in a sacred collection (*i.e.* the Bible) comes to reinforce the instinctive conviction of mankind that human love is sacred, even its passionate manifestation, when not perverted by a sophisticated self-analysis" (p. 16). An argument, skilfully as well as positively presented, which will be welcomed by those who have vainly tried to trace a sustained high religious ideal in the verses of the Song of Songs. Professor Jastrow dates the Songs somewhere "in the second half of the third century B.C. *i.e.*, after 250," and considers that the interpolation in the text of Greek and Persian words places one Song, at least, "five centuries after Solomon."

The controversy that has long waged around the Songs as to their authorship, date, character, and interpretation, occupies rather more than half the book. There is, however, no reference to the interesting fact that the descriptions of country correspond rather closely to the fertile, gracious district between Bethel and Hebron which a long tradition identifies with Solomon—his Sealed Fountain, his Pools, his Garden. No one who knows the region can read the Songs without these scenes arising in his mind in continuous illustration. Professor Jastrow ascribes the rise of the Solomonic tradition to the dominating influence of the Wise King upon the Hebrew imagination, and thence reflected in Hebrew literature. Solomon was "the *grand monarque* of Israel," and "the symbol of royalty," a tradition of greatness and magnificence which grew in proportion as the fortunes of the Kingdom of Israel dwindled and declined. But then arose the difficulty of ascribing to such an one as the Wise King the authorship of the most passionate love songs in the national literature, and so an allegorical interpretation must needs be sought. The Songs were made to typify "the relationship between Yahweh and Israel" (chap. ii, iii). The early Christian Church quite easily changed the meaning of the allegory into the expression of Christ's love for His Church (chap. iii), and, with very few exceptions, theologians ever since have adhered to this view. Bossuet in 1693 adopted the view of Origen that the Songs were composed by Solomon in honour of his marriage with Pharaoh's daughter; while scholars of such widely differing scope as Franz Delitzsch, Ewald, and Renan agreed in considering it as a drama—an interpretation which naturally entailed a good deal of adjustment and revision on their part.

All this portion of the book is extraordinarily interesting and well carried out; the man of letters is evident as well as the Biblical scholar. It is when we come to the translations of the Songs themselves that we are disappointed. Each has been retranslated and rearranged, with copious notes, but nowhere do they approach the smoothness, the grace and beauty of the

Old English version, as we have it in the Bible. Such lines as

Thou art as clarified oil,
Therefore do the virgins love thee:

and

The saffron of the plain am I, . . .
As the lily among thistles
So is my darling among maidens,

are poor poetry compared with the musical rhythm of the Authorised Version. And the reader will have a sense of real beauty being lost when such a verse as

"Awake, O North Wind, and come, thou South,
blow upon my garden that the spices thereof may
flow out. Let my Beloved come into his garden and
eat his pleasant fruits."

is replaced by these bald lines:

"Awake, northwind and come;
Southwind, blow upon my garden!
That my love may come
And eat its pleasant fruits."

To translate poetry with absolute verbal fidelity may be to sacrifice the living spirit to the dead letter.

It would be unfair to end on a note of criticism; and, indeed, we think this is the one point on which the book invites it. We are sure that its many readers, whether already familiar with Professor Jastrow's other work or not, will be amply repaid by the perusal of this book; and they will feel that his last work is fully worthy of his reputation both as a keen and painstaking Biblical scholar and as a skilful and well-read man of letters.

E. M. E. B.

A REPRINTED CLASSIC.

"MOGREB-EL-ACKSA: A Journey in Morocco." By R. B. Cunningham Graham. (London: Duckworth & Co. 18s. net).

Mr. Cunningham Graham's classic on Morocco was first published in 1898, and it is good, after all these years to have it reprinted. For it is something much more than a mere travel book; and though its historical value has been diminished by the unwelcome processes of time, its literary worth nothing can impair. We are, therefore, unreservedly grateful to Messrs. Duckworth for giving us once more this fine record of a fine man's journeyings.

It would be superfluous to attempt to review or to appreciate this reprint; we propose merely to remind readers of the distinguishing marks of the book. There are many things that make "Mogreb-el-Acksa" different from all other works of this kind. Let us quote from the author's inimitable preface:—

I fear I have no theory of empires, destiny of the Anglo-Saxon race, spread of the Christian faith, of trade extension, or of hinterlands; no nostrum, by means of which I hope to turn Arabs to Christians, reconcile Allah and Javre, remove the ancient lack of comprehension between East and West, mix oil and vinegar, or fix the rain-bow always in the sky so that the colour-blind may scan it at their leisure through the medium of a neutral-tinted glass; and generally I fear I write of things without a scrap of interest to right-thinking men; of humours, sayings, proverbs, traits of character; little of eating, drinking, or night alarms of vermin, as travellers will; but on the contrary, of lonely rides, desolate camping places, of ruined buildings seen in peculiar lights, of simple folk who pray to Allah seven times a day, and act as if they never prayed at all; in fact of things which to a traveller, his travels o'er, still conjure up the best part of all travel—its melancholy.

Easily in the lightsome beauty of such philosophy we follow him and his companions on their unsuccessful journey to Tarudant, feeling with him in his imprisonment by the Kaid of Kintafi, lingering with him over the slow loveliness of Marrakesh, in fact laughing, jiving, regretting, and fearing with him all the time. In other books may be found a greater display of learning, or a vider sense of adventure, but for the broad warmth of its sympathies, its keen perception of unusual beauty, the honest commonness of its judgments, and for the general tone of its magnificent humanity, "Mogreb-el-Acksa" remains unsurpassed.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.**To-Day.**

March 16 (New Style).

March 3 (Old Style).

Ragab 17, 1340 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.

Adar I, 16, 5681 of the Jewish Calendar.

The Persian Minister, accompanied by Fatollah Khan Noury (Secretary of Legation), has left town for Paris.

Lord Porchester, 11th Hussars, has arrived at 1, Seamore Place from Constantinople.

The Prince of Wales will arrive home from India on June 20. His Royal Highness will be unable to accept any public engagements until the autumn.

The Marquess Curzon, who has been recently confined to his room, and has been ordered by his doctor to take a complete rest, left for the country on March 10.

Dr. Jean Cantacuzène, professor at Bucharest University, has been selected as the representative of the Roumanian Government at the Health Conference of Warsaw on March 20.

At Buckingham Palace, on March 10, the Right Hon. E. S. Montagu, M.P., was received in audience by The King and delivered up the Seals of Office as Secretary of State for India.

The marriage arranged between Mr. Thomas Beaumont Hohler and Miss Cynthia Astell will take place at half past two o'clock on Thursday, the 30th inst., at St. George's Church, Hanover Square.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place shortly at Mhow, Central India, between Major E. W. Chadwick, M.C., Royal Artillery, and Joan, only daughter of Colonel and Mrs. L. H. Abbott, Indian Army.

Lady Winifred Gore has arrived at Government House, Lahore, from Flag Staff House, Delhi, where she has been visiting the Commander-in-Chief and Lady Rawlinson.

The engagement is announced between Lieutenant Gordon D. Brown, R.N.R., F.R.G.S., second son of Lieutenant-Colonel Oscar Brown, D.S.O., of Tavistock, and Annie, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Heaton, of Ceylon.

The engagement is announced of Lieutenant-Commander Edward Hastings, O.B.E., R.N., only son of Admiral and Mrs. Hastings, of Bayford Hall, Herts, and Grisell Cochrane Baillie, only daughter of Lord and Lady Leamington.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir George Olaf Roos-Keppel, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., of Whitehall Court, S.W., a member of the Council of the Secretary of State for India, and for some years Chief Commissioner of the North-West Provinces, who died on December 11, aged 55, left estate of the gross value of £20,282, with net personalty £16,425.

Izzet Pasha, the Turkish Foreign Minister now in London, motored on March 10 to Cambridge, where he was shown over the University by Professor Browne. Nabi Bey, a former Minister for Foreign Affairs and delegate of the Porte at the Peace Conference, arrived last week from Paris and has joined Izzet Pasha at the Ritz Hotel.

General Sir Charles Harington, the Commander-in-Chief of the Allied forces, left Constantinople on March 11 in the Orient Express for London at the invitation of Lord Curzon in order to advise the British Govern-

ment on the Turkish situation. It is stated that he will probably attend the conference of Foreign Ministers in Paris.

Prince and Princess Christopher of Greece gave a dinner party, followed by a dance, on March 7, at the Villa Kasbeck, Cannes, to celebrate the engagement of the Crown Prince of Denmark and Princess Olga of Greece, both of whom were present. Other guests included the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess Cyril, the Grand Duchess Anastasia, Princess Nicholas of Greece, Princess Elizabeth of Greece, the Infanta Beatrice, and Princess Xenia and Mr. W. Leeds.

His Excellency Sardar Abdul Hadi Khan, the newly-appointed Afghan Minister to the Court of St. James, will, we understand, present his letter of credence to the King at Buckingham Palace shortly. The personnel of the Legation is as follows:—Sayad Qasim Khan (Councillor), Aziz Rahman Khan (First Secretary), Ghulam Ghaus Khan (Second Secretary), and Mohammed Safdar Khan (interpreter). The Minister and the personnel of the Legation are staying at the Ritz Hotel. This is the first time Afghanistan has been represented in this country.

The Bulgarian Minister and Madame Stancioff entertained a large number of friends last Thursday at 51, Queen's Gate. Among those present were:—The Minister of the Netherlands and Madame Van Swinderen, the Italian Councillor and Madame Cora, the Italian Military Attaché and Madame Riggi, Prince Max Lobkovitz, Major and Mrs. Villiers-Stuart, Major Cumberbatch, Major Neate, Sir Edward and Lady Boyle, the Dowager Lady Boyle, Miss Buchanan, the Hungarian Minister and Madame de Hédry, Mr. Boyd, Madame and Mlle. Wolkoff, Captain Petroff, and other friends.

The Earl and Countess of Lytton, who lunched with the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace on March 8, and bade farewell to their Majesties prior to taking their departure for India, left Victoria the following afternoon *en route* to Bengal, where his lordship will take up his new duties as Governor of the Province. Mr. E. S. Montagu was present to bid farewell to them at the station, and thus performed practically his last official act as Secretary of State for India. Many personal friends of Lord and Lady Lytton were at Victoria to see them off and bid them "God-speed;" among the number were Lord Islington and Lady Islington. The travellers proceeded to Dover by the afternoon boat train, crossed to the Continent, and resumed their journey to Marseilles, there to embark for India.

The marriage was celebrated on March 7, at St. George's Church, Hanover Square, between Captain Henry Dane, Indian Army, younger son of Sir Louis and Lady Dane, and Victoria Alexandrina, daughter of General Sir Reginald and Lady Wingate, and a god-daughter of Queen Victoria. To witness the ceremony the Princess Royal, with Princess Maud, was present. The officiating clergy were Prebendary Thicknesse, and the Rev. P. F. Wigan, of Tewkesbury. Among those present were Lady Wingate, Sir Louis and Lady Dane, Major and Mrs. Dane, Mrs. Ronald Wingate, Mrs. Fleming, Colonel and Mrs. George Wingate, Colonel A. W. and Mrs. Wingate, Miss A. M. Wingate, Mrs. Greany and Miss Greany, Miss Wingate, Mrs. Elkin Mocatta, the Dowager Duchess of Roxburghe, the Countess of Stamford and Lady Jane Grey, Lord Blyth and the Hon. Mrs. Gerald Gold, Lady Frances Balfour, Lady Victoria Villiers and Miss Villiers, Lady John Joicey-Cecil, Colonel and Lady Edwina Lewin, Colonel and the Hon. Mrs. Acland, the Hon. Mrs. Stanley Jackson, the Hon. Mrs. Edward Lascelles, Colonel the Hon. Milo and Mrs. Talbot, the Hon. Mrs. Edmund Bevan, Mr. and the Hon. Mrs. Sydney Seymour, General Sir Charles and Lady

Alice Fergusson, General Sir Archibald and Lady Hunter, Major-General Sir Charles and Lady Parsons, General Sir Ronald and Lady Lane, Lady White, General Sir Josceline Wodehouse, Sir Vincent Corbett, Sir John Cockburn, Colonel Sir Francis and Lady Younghusband, Lady Alexander, Sir Edgar Bonham-Carter, Sir Sidney Low, Sir Arthur and Lady Whinney, Sir Henry and Lady McMahon, Lady Chetwode, Sir Bartle Frere and Miss Frere, Sir Herbert and Lady Read, Lady O'Dwyer, Sir Arbuthnot and Lady Lane and Mrs. Harold Chapple, Sir Hamilton and Lady Grant, Lady Palmer, General and Mrs. Saward, Miss Carnegie and Miss K. Carnegie, Mr. T. W. Gull-Acland, Mrs. Bertram Romilly, Mr. I. Vinogradoff, Colonel A. C. Yate, Miss M. Cochrane, Colonel and Mrs. Hans-Hamilton, Mr. and Mrs. O. Mocatta, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Napier, Mr. W. H. Bonham-Carter, and Dr. and Mrs. Acland.

The reception was held at the residence of Mrs. Elkin Mocatta in Great Cumberland Place.

CAIRO TO BAGHDAD.

Mr. Montague Bell's Arrival.

We have received telegrams both from Cairo and Baghdad announcing the safe arrival in the latter city of Mr. Montague Bell, Managing Director of THE NEAR EAST. Mr. Bell left Cairo on March 6, by air mail, and arrived in Baghdad on Saturday, March 11. He is the first Pressman to make the journey by this route.

A ROMANCE OF THE DESERT.

On March 9, at the Royal United Service Institution, Whitehall, Air-Commodore Brooke-Popham lectured before the Central Asian Society on the Cross-Desert Route from Cairo to Baghdad. He said there had existed from the most ancient times a caravan route from Damascus to Baghdad with wells at intervals along its course. But military aeroplanes could not be sent across territory that was not under the British mandate, so another almost waterless route was selected farther south, and a track made by a convoy of motor cars for the aeroplanes to follow. Such a track was necessary, because if an aeroplane had to descend in the desert it would be very difficult to find it unless it could be searched for along a definite line. In the course of his address the lecturer told the following story:—

"On the occasion that I crossed the desert to Baghdad there was quite a gathering at El Djid. There was the R.A.F. car convoy returning from the East, another car convoy which had been reconnoitring for a railway came down from the North, and there was my flight of three aeroplanes from the West. Three independent parties all meeting at this poor little well in the midst of the vast uncharted desert. The party from the North told me they had come across a sheikh who had been wounded two days before in the course of a raid made on him. They suggested that as he had been friendly to the R.A.F. convoy when it was working to Baghdad, it would be a good thing now to fly him to Baghdad for hospital treatment. This was referred by wireless to Sir Percy Cox in Baghdad; he agreed, and so we decided to do it. A couple of Ford cars were sent off to pick up the sheikh and take him to landing ground 4 A. About four hours later I started off with three machines, and just as we got over 4 A we saw two little black dots hurrying along over the desert, these being the two Ford cars with the wounded sheikh and a friend. We landed all right, put the sheikh into one of our machines and eventually got him to Baghdad in safety. What the sheikh thought of it I don't know. Poor man, he wasn't given a lot of chance to object. Hustled first into a Ford car, then into the strange looking contraption of wood and canvas, borne for hundreds of miles through the air, lifted into an ambulance and, before he knew what was actually occurring, lying on a bed in Baghdad hospital and being X-rayed. Somewhat alarming for a wild sort of child of nature who had probably never slept in a house in his life."

The sheikh recovered, and later events showed that the incident had not failed to produce a friendly feeling on the part of his tribe.

The British troops in Constantinople, hitherto styled "The British Army in Constantinople," are now to be officially designated "British Corps of Occupation, Constantinople." They are under the command of Major-General T. O. Marden.

The Calcutta University Budget estimate for 1921-22 has been adopted. It showed a deficit of £33,000, which the Vice-Chancellor ascribes partly to the defection of students and partly to the non-cooperation movement.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 1922.

THE RETIREMENT OF MR. MONTAGU.

It is not yet possible to offer a considered opinion on the circumstances which have resulted in Mr. Montagu's enforced retirement from his office as Secretary of State for India. The official explanation published on Friday was rejected with scornful ridicule in his speech to his constituents on the following day ; we are writing before the issue of the rejoinders which that speech must inevitably call forth ; the strong feeling by which it was characterised warns us against accepting it as an impartial account of the case ; and experience of similar controversies in the past justifies the anticipation that the ultimate truth will be reached only when the secret memoirs of the day become the property of a later generation. Certain facts, however, stand out clearly. It is less than a month since Mr. Montagu's administration of India was formally challenged by a hostile resolution in the Commons. From that ordeal he emerged to all appearance triumphant, and it was generally agreed that this result was due mainly to the effective support accorded to him by the Prime Minister. It is the same Prime Minister who has now ordered his resignation : if a sacrifice had been intended, it could have been carried out as easily in February as in March ; and the inference appears to be justified that the cause must be sought in events occurring within the last few weeks. To pursue the topic further would carry us into the somewhat turbid stream of the internal relations subsisting between the discordant elements of the present coalition. We prefer to leave those waters to the quidnuncs of the daily Press, and to turn to questions less interesting, perhaps, but of more serious moment to India and the British Empire as a whole. We have to inquire first whether Mr. Montagu's departure from Whitehall indicates a radical change of policy in regard to India ; and, second, what effect it is likely to have on the course of events in that country.

On the first question we have at present only Mr. Montagu's assurance that no alteration in policy is involved, but there are good grounds for the conclusion that this assurance is justified. There is no doubt that public opinion in this country is uneasy regarding the situation in India, but there are no signs whatever that it has been decided to depart from the policy accepted nearly five years ago. It is not possible to speak so confidently of the Cabinet, for reversals of its policy have been somewhat numerous of late ; but they have been such as must be expected in the present anomalous state of politics ; and, as Mr. Montagu argued, a housing or an education, policy is a very different thing from a deliberate undertaking to change the course of Asiatic history. The name of the new Secretary of State has not yet been announced, and it would be idle to speculate on the proclivities of an unknown individual ; but if, as we hope will be the case, the office falls to a statesman distinguished for sound, British, common sense, we shall expect to see some alteration in methods, for which there is room, but nothing which could be described as a reversal of the policy of leading India by degrees along the road of which democratic self-government is the end. Several of our contemporaries anticipate that Lord Reading will follow Mr. Montagu into retirement. On that point also definite news has not yet reached us, but if the anticipation should prove to be correct, we should not regard the event as one of great significance from

the standpoint of policy. A change of Viceroy would be inconvenient at the present juncture, but it might be less injurious than the retention of office by a Viceroy who might feel uncertain of Cabinet support ; and in any case we see no reason to suppose that a fundamental change of policy is in sight.

The other question raised by the events we are discussing is their probable effect on thought, or rather feeling, in India ; and on this point it is necessary to attempt to strike a balance. Mr. Montagu's name counts for much more in India than in this country. He has won the reputation of being a staunch friend to Indian aspirations, and his presence in Whitehall has undoubtedly been an influence for good with that large mass of opinion which has for so long been wavering between moderation and extreme action. His departure will be read in some quarters as foreshadowing a change in policy, and, seeing that stability is the most immediate need, anything which tends to increase uncertainty is a thing to be regretted. A more definite result must be anticipated in the case of the Moslem population, whose sentiments regarding Turkey are now well known. It may be true that such sentiments have no valid foundation in religion or history, but nevertheless they constitute an important political fact. Altogether apart from the agitators who have exploited ignorance or sentimentality, there are many millions of Indians who genuinely, if mistakenly, believe that their spiritual leader, the Sultan of Turkey, has been outraged by the terms of the Treaty of Sèvres, that the British Government is primarily responsible for the outrage, and that Mr. Montagu has made a gallant though unsuccessful stand against it. So long as he remained at Whitehall, it was possible for these Moslems to hope that he would eventually succeed : his departure will go far to destroy that hope, the more so that it has taken place in circumstances which will certainly be represented as a definite defeat for the Crescent. It must not be assumed that in saying so much as this, we are giving our support either to the extreme Moslem claims, or to that modification of them which has been put forward as essential by the Government of India. That question is much too large to be dealt with incidentally, and we are not stating what Indian Moslems ought to think, but rather what they actually feel ; our point is that the Government's position in India will be weakened through the loss of some potential support, and through the confirmation of some hostility which already exists. On the other side of the balance sheet, it must be recognised that Mr. Montagu's departure will be viewed with relief by most Englishmen in India. He resents bitterly the charge that he has attacked the position of the Services, but here again we are dealing with feelings, not with their justification, and of the strength of this feeling there is unhappily no doubt. More important than this consideration is the fact that Mr. Montagu's presence at Whitehall has made for that lack of the sense of realities which has characterised the recent actions of Indian politicians in the mass. They are too apt just now to assume the benefits resulting from their inclusion in the Empire as their unquestioned right, and to overlook the conditions on which those benefits are available. Some of them have of late attempted to dictate their terms to Parliament, and there is no doubt that this attitude has been based very largely on confidence in Mr. Montagu's responsiveness to every popular demand. The interposition of a fairy godmother between Sovereign and subjects has served some useful purposes, but its indefinite prolongation has threatened serious dangers. If, as we hope, Mr. Montagu is succeeded by a statesman of the solid type, the effect in the long run will be to help Indian politicians to a juster view of their position in the Empire. They are perfectly justified in bringing their views and wishes before Parliament, but they need to realise that a frank acceptance of Parliament's decisions is the first condition for the attainment of their desires. The temporary injury to the Government, of which we have spoken, will be fully compensated if the change at Whitehall should conduce to early realisation of this fundamental fact.

THE BOBBERY PACK.

MEMORIES OF A BAGHDAD HUNT.

By "*Abu Nakhla*."

The Bobbery Pack hunted a country on the banks of the Tigris and Diyala rivers and not a thousand miles from the ancient capital of the Abbasid Khalifs. One of their favourite meets was within a few hundred yards of the tomb of the Sitta Zobeida, wife of Haroun er Rashid, and another near the twin shrines of the two Kadhims, Imams of the Shia faith. They have hunted lines past what the ignorant still suppose to be the last resting place of Joshua the son of Nun, and past the Mosque of Abu Hanifa, one of the four great orthodox lawgivers of Islam; and the field—to say nothing of the pack—have lunched on lamb roasted whole in the black tents of an Arab Sheikh, pitched beneath the shadow of a tower built by the Kassites some fifteen centuries before our era, when Babylon was still mighty.

Of more practical importance perhaps were the old Turkish trenches and the canals of all sorts and sizes, both wet and dry, which had to be negotiated somehow, and that without too much delay, if the rider was to keep with the "long dogs" who comprised the pack. We called them Persian Greyhounds by courtesy, but not all their pedigrees would stand too close a scrutiny. "Sam," a big, raking, rough-coated black and white dog with a beautifully feathered tail carried as a greyhound should, had lived too long among the fleshpots of the gilded Staff, and was all "eye-wash" and little work. "Iodine" got his name from the fact that he seldom returned from a hunt without at least one wound. He had the heart of a lion, and, although rather on the slow side, always went in the moment he arrived. He never could learn to tackle far enough forward, and eventually was killed by a jackal twice his own weight who tore his throat clean out. He was mourned by all, and was the only hound the pack ever lost in that way. The list is too long a one to go through, but "Rosie" must be mentioned—a hard worker, everybody's pet, and the mother of several good puppies. "Tiger," too, with the extra weight and power of jaw which he got from a fox-hound strain was useful at the kill.

In theory the pack hunted jackal, fox, and hare. In practice they had a regrettable tendency to hunt anything which would run, and there are stories of a blaspheming master, aided by an equally mellifluous whip, trying to turn the pack, who were heading at full stretch for the desert on the heels of a donkey, who was evidently set on making what might have proved to be a record point. And it may be added that eight couple of greyhounds, when they are really going over broken ground, take a good deal of getting round.

Cats were very apt to get chopped near Arab houses, and many a lizard has been run to ground after a fine burst of twenty yards. The greyhound is ever an optimist, and a fool at that, and never seemed able to realise that the odds were too heavily in favour of, say, a lark, for it to be worth the while of a full-grown hound wasting his energies in hunting him.

The writer is reminded of a certain General who hunted the great desert lizards of the Euphrates side by the simple process of running over them in a Ford car. Both he and his driver became so desperately keen for blood that they either did not see or ignored any minor obstacle that came between them and their quarry, and some of the turns executed when the lizard

kinked would have done credit to a winner of the Waterloo Cup, but were, when you were an unwilling passenger in the car, things to make a brave man quail.

This, however, is possibly contrary to good order and discipline, and certainly is a digression. There was one nerve-shattering day when hounds were drawing across newly irrigated crops and the going was so deep that a horse could only flounder through slowly. The inevitable irresponsible idiot halloed an imperfectly seen object moving in the barley, and away went hounds on the line of what proved to be a small Arab girl of some eight summers, who made wonderful travelling and gained the shelter of the family hut with a short length to spare. The pariah dog of Mesopotamia, though much smaller, bears a considerable resemblance to a jackal both in build and gait, and there was one occasion at least upon which a "pie" dog was mistaken on a distant view for a jackal and hunted in all good faith until he gained the Arab tents to which he belonged, and turned to bay supported by his fellow pies.

Probably the best hunts were those that started with a view at a long distance. When a jack is pushed up only a few hundred yards ahead of greyhounds he has not much chance, unless the pack is already tired with one or two long courses earlier in the day, or unless the ground is so broken or covered with camel-thorn that hounds cannot develop their full pace. But when the jack is viewed at perhaps half a mile and decides on some earth or date garden that he wishes to make, then you may look for anything up to four miles and fast enough to suit the greatest thruster.

You must gallop from the moment that the jack is viewed, and it is interesting to watch greyhounds being laid on at that pace. They will gallop alongside or behind a huntsman upon whom they know that they can rely to show them sport with their heads well up and obviously with perfect confidence that a quarry is afoot in front of them. Considering how close, compared with that of a man their view-point is to the ground, they will get a view at an astonishing distance, and although they hunt of course mute, there is never any doubt as to the exact moment when the first hound has done so. After that it is a question of pace *versus* staying power; if the jack can keep away from greyhounds for two miles it is a shade of odds in favour of his final safety, although it is probable that with time and careful breeding a pack could be collected with more staying power than the one we are speaking of. It is difficult, too, to get a greyhound pack to tackle a jackal when they are really tired at the end of a long burst, and the writer recollects seeing, when hunting with a very excellent pack who were for some time neighbours of the "Bobbery," the curious spectacle of an exhausted jack lying on the ground surrounded by an equally exhausted pack and a crowd of men and horses, all with bellows to mend.

Packs vary very much in their ability to pull down and kill a jackal, and may on occasion require some assistance; but novices may be warned not to interfere unless they have a loaded crop and, even then, to do so with caution. (If these words come to the eyes of the "Shark" he will look with pleasant memories at certain honourable scars).

Once and once only, as far as the writer is aware, did the Bobbery Pack hunt wolf. Two were viewed with a long start, and made off at a tremendous pace towards the Diyala river. Their pace indeed was the first clue that we had that we were not hunting jackal, and we were never quite sure of it until after the hunt, when we



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were told so by natives close to whom the wolves had passed. They made straight over the high embankment of the Baqubah railway which hid them from view for a time. As the leading man of the field topped the bank he saw the two about a quarter of a mile ahead and looking, as he thought, very large for jack; but wolf had never been reported in the neighbourhood. Just after this the two leading hounds closed with the second wolf and rolled him over, and the pack and quarry topped an old Turkish flood-bank together and were again lost to sight. Hounds were found at fault just beyond the bank in a depression, and the wolves were never seen again. It is probable that a jackal had thrown them off the line and then gone to ground.

The hare in Mesopotamia will sometimes give an exhibition of circles and figures of eight which require a polo pony to follow, and which have (for the hare) one inevitable and speedy end; but more often she takes a good and takes it very fast. She has, too, a disconcerting habit of going to ground.

One winter morning the pack was drawing out from the meet past a low range of hillocks which were honey-combed with old Turkish trenches and "funk-holes," which made them in places quite unridable. The pack, followed by the field, moved northward along the west side of the hills, while B was sent round the west side in case any jack should break that way. To B's right again, and crossing his front, was the Fellujah road which, as it so happened, had been giving B some trouble in his official capacity, owing to the activities of a gang of footpads whom he had been unable to lay by the heels.

However, it was not long before a glimpse of something moving in the trenches made B forget official worries, but, remembering the good old rule, he began religiously to count twenty before a halloo, and at the same time manoeuvred for a better sight. Before he got to "ten" he was able to enfilade a short length of trench, and was aware of three human figures, bent double and making all the pace they could southward or "back." B could not follow across the trenches—the odds in that warren were too much on the dismounted man—and he had no desire to turn his horse loose, so he had recourse to a series of halloos that would have shamed a banshee, trying the while to keep the three Arabs in sight. They, realising that the weird outcry produced by the Englishman meant that they had been seen, separated, and it became increasingly difficult to keep any idea of where in the labyrinth of trenches they had got to. B's horse, knowing full well that a halloo ought to mean a hunt, and furious at not being allowed to get ahead, abandoned the use of his front legs altogether and progressed magnificently but inconveniently on his hind ones only; and the field seemed as deaf as adders, and no man came over the sky-line to help the situation. At last when B had lost sight of two out of the three men, and when things were looking pretty desperate, three figures galloped tardily over the crest. It took a little time before they could be got to understand that we were out for business and not for pleasure, but the idea soaked in at last, and one of them galloped back to get the field to encircle the trenches. Meanwhile one of the Arabs slipped quietly from the south end of the trenches and got away with a good lead before the field could be informed what was happening. He was pulled down in the open after quite a nice little hunt. A second man broke quite close to where they had first been viewed, and gave no sport at all. The

third got clean away. Enough stolen goods were found in one of the trenches to make a good load for a second horse who was impressed for the purpose. Altogether quite a useful morning's hunt.

Coursing with "long dogs" may not be legitimate hunting but, if good fun, good fellowship, and happy memories are any test, it is very good sport. The field that followed the Bobbery Pack are scattered to the four quarters of the world whence war and chance brought them to the Land of the Two Rivers, but wherever they be where men ride to hounds, from the Pytchley to Peshawar—here is "good hunting!" If they never have worse than some of the gallops they had with the Bobbery Pack they will not do too badly.

SUDAN NOTES AND RECORDS.

The last number of the 1921 issue of *Sudan Notes and Records* has been delayed, but by the time that these lines are in print, copies will probably have reached this country. Among the contents are:—

1.—The religious confraternities of the Sudan.

An account of the Islamic tariqas and kindred organisations, by C. Willis, Esq., O.B.E., (Director of Intelligence Sudan Government).

2.—The Ruff.

A description of a well known bird which visits the Sudan and is a grain feeder, by J. E. M. Mellor, Esq.

3.—A description of certain taxes levied upon Nomads under the old Turkish Government, known as Zeka &c., by C. E. Lyall Esq., O.B.E. (Civil Secretary, Sudan Government)

4.—The Scholi and their neighbours; a description of a peculiar people living on the borders of the Sudan and Uganda, by Major Powell, R.A.M.C.

5.—Secret Societies.

A compilation from official sources on the most recent information in respect to a number of most pernicious and obscene organisations. The creeds and rites apparently resemble the worst forms of the West African Ju-ju and it is not improbable that they are either part of these societies or owe their origin to attempts to imitate them.

THE EXPLORATION OF THE SAHARA.

An expedition organised by Mr. Angus Buchanan left Liverpool on March 8 for Nigeria to explore certain areas in the Central Sahara. The party, which sailed from Liverpool for Lagos in the s.s. *Aba*, consists of Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Francis Rodd, son of Sir J. Rennell Rodd, formerly British Ambassador at Rome, and a cinema operator, Mr. Glover. Mr. Buchanan visited Air in the Central Sahara in 1920, and made a valuable collection of birds and animals. He has recently published a book on this journey. On the present expedition he will devote himself primarily to the natural history sections of science, and hopes to form a considerable collection of bird and animal specimens connecting the fauna of the north with those of Central Africa. Mr. Rodd is more especially interested in the historical side, and one particular point of interest arises in this connection, namely, the classical penetration and exploration of the Central Sahara from the Mediterranean. It is stated that Mr. Rodd will furnish the *Morning Post* with an account of the expedition's travel and achievements.

The expedition will land at Lagos and entrain forthwith for Kano, where about three weeks will be spent in collecting camels and personnel.

LORD KITCHENER MEMORIAL.

We understand that in the competition for the Memorial to Lord Kitchener the successful competitor is Mr. W. Reid Dick, A.R.A. The Memorial, it is stated, consists of a recumbent figure of Lord Kitchener, with figures of St. Michael and St. George and a Pieta, and it will be placed in a chapel at the base of the south-west tower at the entrance of St. Paul's Cathedral. The architecture was entrusted some time ago to the Cathedral architect, Mr. Mervyn Macartney, and Mr. Detmar Blow.

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THE MIDDLE EAST.

MR. CHURCHILL'S STATEMENT.

In the House of Commons on March 9, Mr. Winston Churchill, Colonial Secretary, on a Supplementary Estimate of £1,737,600 for Middle Eastern services, made an explanatory statement of considerable interest. He had, he said, a fairly satisfactory tale to tell. There had been no going back upon the undertaking that he gave the House last June. On the contrary, the rate at which troops had been withdrawn from Irak had been accelerated, and consequently expenditure had been diminished. Let the Committee see the milestones on the road which had been travelled. When the war came to an end there was in Irak and Palestine an army of 175 battalions. The Estimates for 1920 showed that that army was being demobilised, and on April 1, 1919, the force had fallen to 99 battalions, and the cost was estimated at about £75,000,000. In 1920-21 a further reduction to 70 battalions, costing about £40,000,000, was shown in the Estimates; and, for the current year, 37 battalions costing £32,500,000. The policy announced by him to the House last year brought a saving of about £5,500,000 on the Estimates of 1921-22, and offered a prospect of a further reduction of nearly £18,000,000 on the Estimates of 1922-23. Last year he stated that he hoped the expense of Palestine and Irak might together be in the neighbourhood of £10,000,000 in the year 1922-23. If the anticipations of last year had been fulfilled to a very considerable extent up to the present moment, a real measure of credit should be extended to those skilful, sagacious officers on the spot on whom the whole labour and difficulty of carrying out this policy had rested, as well as to the group of highly skilled and experienced advisers who were gathered together to form the Middle East Department, and from whose united action their policy in Mesopotamia had been entirely derived.

The reduction of expense mainly took the form of a great diminution in the garrisons. The 48 battalions which were in Mesopotamia alone at the beginning of the year they decided to cut down at once to 23, and then he hoped to reach the figure of 12 by the end of this financial year. They had actually reached the figure of nine, and ultimately they contemplated dropping to six, and even to four.

These great reductions had been obtained by policy, by air power and by local forces. As these local forces came into being the British and Indian troops were being withdrawn to railhead. They had not got lots of small detachments of British or Indian troops scattered all over the country. Eight air squadrons were concentrated at Baghdad, and these constituted the principal agency by which the local levies all over the country were supported and the authority of the Arab Government was rendered effective. The military control and security of Mesopotamia would be placed in the coming year under the charge of an officer of the R.A.F. The air mail was now running with very fair regularity from Baghdad to Cairo, and the whole of the Government mail communications with Mesopotamia had been shortened by a month or six weeks.

Great Britain was not so much holding Mesopotamia as allowing the country to hold itself. They had endeavoured to set up a form of Government which could claim the support and respect of the inhabitants. The municipal elections, which, under the electoral law of Irak, were an essential preliminary to the elections for the National Assembly, were nearly concluded, and it was interesting to note that they had resulted in the return of moderate men in sympathy with the policy of his Majesty's Government. In many cases the Emirs appointed by the British Government were elected. That was the more remarkable in that we had practically no troops outside Baghdad.

He could not help feeling that we should be well advised to pursue the path of developing Arab institutions, and he could see no reason why we should not make progress in the near future. The total number of British officers and civilians killed in the whole of Mesopotamia and Turkestan during the whole of last year was only six, and seven were wounded. Three of these were killed and four wounded by air accidents. No one had been punished for treason of any sort, and there had been but one single deportation.

In the war, when we were fighting for two or three years on a great scale on the Euphrates and Tigris, we spent £200,000,000 or £250,000,000. The money spent in Irak since the war on the demobilisation of the troops and bringing them home and other matters certainly amounted to £125,000,000. The question to be settled was: Can it all absolutely be thrown away for nothing, just at the moment when it may well be that satisfactory results are at hand? He thought it possible that an expenditure of £8,000,000 this year in Irak and about £4,500,000 next year, and a considerably smaller sum the year after, if all went well, would suffice to carry us forward to the time when we might reasonably expect to secure some return both in trade and development of the valuable oil possibilities which abounded all over that area. If we could create a contented and tranquil native state, under a Government that it liked and supported, and through that Government secure the gradual beginning of economic development, at the same time continually reducing our responsibilities and burdens in regard to that country, we might, at the cost of two or three years of diminishing expenditure—£8,000,000, £4,500,000, £3,000,000, and £2,000,000 a

year—get into a position where we should not have thrown away the immense sums we had spent, but should have discharged the responsibility we undertook, and have not been put into the humiliating position of returning the mandates we had accepted.

Turning to Palestine, Mr. Churchill said that the expenditure on that country for 1921 was £8,000,000, the expenditure in the present year was approximately £4,000,000, and he was expecting to get through the coming year for about £2,000,000. That was not an absolutely unsatisfactory state of affairs. As to Palestine, he was not in the same position as he was in the treatment of the Irak question. In Palestine the Government were pledged to a policy absolutely right in itself, but which nevertheless did encounter, and must necessarily encounter, a great deal of suspicion and resentment on the part of the majority of the population. There had been a very quiet and peaceful year in Palestine. Broadly speaking the country had been tranquil, though he did not for a moment pretend that the feeling of irritation, suspicion, and disquietude had disappeared from the hearts of the Arab population. The Jewish immigration had been most strictly watched and controlled from the point of view of policy. Every effort had been made to secure only good citizens who would build up the country. Altogether about 9,000 immigrants had come in this year, and they brought with them the means of their own livelihood. The Zionist Association were spending nearly a million a year in the country.

He had been brought up against a very difficult situation. The Arab delegation which had been in this country, and other representatives with whom he had discussed the matter, had said, "If you are able to give a free Constitution to Irak, why cannot we have a similar free Constitution?" He had decided to go to the utmost length which was possible in giving them representative institutions, without falling into a position where he could not fulfil those pledges to which the Government were committed by the Zionist policy. The power to carry out those pledges must be retained in the hands of the Imperial Government, but he had most strongly urged the Arabs to take part in the new elective councils and to bring their critical faculties to bear on all questions connected with the Government. There was now a very wide franchise in Palestine. Of course there was a secondary election. Nearly everybody had a vote, but these voters elected 1,000 secondary electors, who in turn chose the Legislative Council, with certain nominated members. There would be an elected majority on the Council of Jews and Arabs.

With regard to Transjordan, the Emir Abdullah, brother of the Emir Faisal, had fulfilled the expectations reposed in him. Public security there was increasing every day. Only two raids had taken place since March, 1921, and both were suppressed at the outset. A year ago that country was in a state of complete anarchy and the French were complaining every day of the disturbance of their territory owing to the fact that all this territory was in a derelict condition. There had been no British troops there; the work had been done entirely by British officers raising local levies, by an Arab prince who displayed the insignia of his house, and by a few armoured cars and occasional small visitations by a few aeroplanes. The cost had been about £100,000—less than the price of a single battalion, which, if stationed there, would have been in a very dangerous position.

Regarding an item of £30,000 in the Estimate for the gendarmerie of Palestine, Mr. Churchill said that the original Estimate for Palestine was something over £3,000,000, and it was then intended that the country should be held by troops under the War Office in the ordinary way. But he proposed to the Cabinet that they should endeavour to effect further economy by using Indian troops and by having a force of white gendarmerie and by transferring the control of Palestine entirely to the Colonial Office, in the military as well as in the civil sense. The result had been that the Estimate had been reduced by £1,000,000 for the coming year. These gendarmes had been formed, to a very large extent out of constabulary and auxiliaries who had served in Ireland. The greatest case had been taken to obtain men of the very highest possible character.

With regard to the Arabian subsidy, it was again a question as to whether gold made a better weapon than steel. No doubt a greater measure of peace had been kept by these subsidies than would otherwise have been possible. He could not guarantee that the future would be unclouded or that no storms or misfortunes would arise. He could only say that he believed the course which the Government was pursuing was the best in the circumstances; that there was much more reason for thinking it would succeed this year than there was last year, and that the reasons which induced the House last year to adopt it, to-day presented themselves in a far more considerable measure.

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Mr. Asquith criticised the expenditure in that part of the world. While hoping that the Colonial Secretary's expectation of reduced expenditure would be realised, he thought that Ministers were disposed—not in regard to Mesopotamia alone—to throw up their hands and to ring the joy-bells before they were quite out of the wood. The fulfilment of a number of hypothetical conditions in the sense which all desired was essential to a view of the future, which would enable them to accept, without fear of Supplementary Estimates next year, the Colonial Secretary's figure of £8,000,000. Progressive reductions year by year of the troops in Mesopotamia and of our expenditure there were illusory unless there could be brought about an absolute, agreed, permanent arrangement between Turkey and the other Powers. He did not wish to say anything which might embarrass the negotiations which he understood would shortly be going on in Paris, but after the remarkably grave and even formidable pronouncement which had appeared that day on the authority of the Indian Government after consultation with the Governors of the several Presidencies, it was of the utmost importance that no illusion should be allowed to exist as to British policy in the Middle East.

Mr. Ormsby-Gore thought they might congratulate themselves that the new policy in Mesopotamia had turned out better than a great many people anticipated. In his opinion the House ought to be told what the cost of the civil administration of Mesopotamia as a whole had been, and not merely the deficit, which appeared in the Estimate at over £1,000,000. They ought, also, to have some indication of what the policy of the Government was in Southern Arabia. Having regard to the religious quarrels and riots between Mohammedans, Jews and Christians in Jerusalem, the Force would have the most difficult and delicate duties to perform, and accordingly it was most essential that it should be of the highest possible character in the matter of discipline. As to the railway in Mesopotamia, he felt certain that so long as it was worked by the State it would never be made to pay.

THE BRITISH MOSLEM SOCIETY.

The Minister of Afghanistan paid an informal visit to the Moslem Mosque at Woking on March 12, when he received an address of welcome from the British Moslem Society. His Excellency Sardar Abdul Hadi Khan was received by Khaja Kamal-ud-Din, Imam of the Mosque, and among those present to welcome him were Lord Headley, President of the Society, Prince Faiz of Mahawadar, the Princes Sadiq and Aziz of Mangrol, and the President and members of the Palestine Arab Delegation. The address of welcome, which was read by Lord Headley, referred to the difficulties harassing Islam and the Khalifat to-day, and expressed the hope that they would be dispersed in the only manner acceptable to Moslems, and that the integrity of the Turkish Empire, with the Sultan as Khalif and Guardian of the Holy Places, might be fully established and maintained.

The Minister replied that it was a matter of deep satisfaction for him to know that their English brethren shared the political creed of the rest of the Islamic world. He was impressed to find that their hearts were throbbing with the same universal sentiment on the vital question of the Khalifat and its present defenders.

REVOLT IN ALBANIA.

The Rome correspondent of the *Morning Post* writes (March 12) :—"Albanian bands led by three Moslem Beys have seized Tirana without opposition and driven Ahmed Zagolli's Government to seek refuge at Elbassan. Information reaches me that Albania is in a difficult financial and political situation, the only real factor in that so-called parliamentary State being the number of armed retainers whom each chieftain can bring into the field." It must be remembered that news from Albania *via* Italy sometimes becomes a little confused, and it is to be hoped that affairs do not actually bear so anarchical an aspect as is suggested. A Reuter message, however, states that armed peasants have seized Durazzo, the Government officials having left on a steamer; and that in fighting between the Tirana Government troops and the rebels, Melek Frasherri, Commandant of the Government troops, was killed.

GENERAL MAUDE'S STATUE.

The bronze equestrian statue of the late Lieutenant-General Sir Stanley Maude, executed by Sir William Goscombe John, R.A., has now been completed, and is to be on view at the Burton Bronze Foundry, Thames Ditton, between the hours of 11.30 and 3.30 until Friday, March 17. The statue, which will shortly be sent to Baghdad for erection in front of the gates of the British Residency, has been subscribed for by all ranks of the Army which General Maude commanded in Mesopotamia at the time of his death. It is one-and-a-quarter life size, and will stand on an imposing pedestal and platform designed by Mr. E. P. Warren, F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A.

On March 6, M. Andreas Kavafakis, the Athens correspondent of the *Morning Post*, was assassinated in the Greek capital. He was proprietor of the Venizelist organ *Eleftheros Typos*.

THE NEW CONSTITUTION OF INDIA: RHODES LECTURE.

Sir Courtenay Ilbert not being fully recovered from his attack of influenza on March 8, the second Rhodes lecture was, like the first, read for him by his daughter, Mrs. Fisher. It dealt with the Provincial Governments of India. The provincial governments, Sir Courtenay Ilbert stated, were to a large extent emancipated from the tutelage under which they formerly existed. They had special subjects to deal with, special powers of raising revenue and they might borrow. In the position and functions of the present legislatures the new Constitution made drastic changes. The Legislative Council for every province was to consist of the members of the executive council and of members either elected or nominated. Of the members of each council not more than twenty per cent. were to be official members and at least seventy per cent. were to be elected members. The number of members in each council was much greater than that of the old legislative councils, even after these had been enlarged under Lord Morley's Act of 1909.

Owing to the powers of the Governor to act independently of or in defiance of his legislative council, the lecturer said, the general scheme of the Act was to give the legislative council large powers of control, both over finance and over general legislation; but at the same time to arm the executive government with the power of obtaining such money, and the passage of such laws, as were necessary for the proper administration of the province. In the case of money the annual appropriations were submitted to the votes of the council in the form of demands for grants. If the council refused assent to a demand relating to what was called a reserved subject, and the Governor certified that the expenditure was essential to the discharge of his responsibility for the subject of the expenditure, the Governor in Council had power to meet the expenditure notwithstanding the refusal. If the demand related to a transferred subject the assent of the council was required; but the Governor could nevertheless, in cases of emergency, authorise expenditure which was in his opinion necessary for the safety or tranquillity of the province, or for carrying on the administration of any department. Thus the Governor could provide funds for any unforeseen emergency, and also in the last resort prevent a transferred department from being temporarily closed down on account of refusal of supplies. Similar powers existed if the Council refused to pass a bill, which the Governor certified as being essential to the discharge of his responsibilities.

Mustapha Kemal Pasha has been re-elected President of the Angora Assembly.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

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Success of the Fair.

While it is too early to estimate the full results of the British Industries Fair the information at my disposal suggests that it has been very much more successful than was anticipated. All sections of the Fair have reported an encouraging number of enquiries, and several branches of industry have had a surprising number of orders. At the White City the section devoted to chemicals and pharmaceutical products did particularly well, while at Birmingham our representative found that the makers of power engines were notably satisfied with the results that had been achieved. In view of the prevailing conditions it is evident that the Fair has more than justified its existence, and the business done this time suggests very plainly what may be expected in more normal times.

A P. and O. Issue.

This week saw the P. and O. Company join the ranks of the numerous concerns that have of late been seeking fresh capital. The amount offered was £3,500,000 in Five and a Half per Cent. Debenture Stock at 96½ per Cent., and as was to be expected the investing public took the view that this was an opportunity not to be ignored, and within a few minutes of the lists being opened the issue was oversubscribed. The new stock ranks immediately after the Three and a Half per Cent. Debenture stock outstanding. It is stated that the proceeds of the issue are to be applied "more especially to the construction of new vessels, when prices come down to an economic figure, to replace those destroyed by enemy action during the war, and to build others to meet the growing requirements of the company's business."

The Ter Meulen Scheme.

After all it has been decided to proceed with the Ter Meulen Scheme for export credits. As I have pointed out in these columns the results so far achieved have not been encouraging, but the view is taken by the authorities responsible that before very long the countries the scheme was designed to help will be only too willing to take advantage of it. If good grounds exist for that belief, and I am informed that that is the case, then there is everything to be said for perseverance in regard to the scheme. My criticisms have been directed against the delay that there would be before the scheme could be brought into operation not against the scheme itself. However good a project may be—and the Ter Meulen Scheme is admittedly as good as anything that has been devised for solving the problem of the exchange—the world cannot afford to wait indefinitely for its adoption.

The Greek Loan Question.

For the present at any rate there would appear to be no prospect of the flotation of a Greek Loan in this country. But it would be premature to assume as some of our contemporaries have done that there has been a definite break in the negotiations. They have

not so far been successful, but the statement of M. Gounaris before the National Assembly at Athens shows that he is far from being dissatisfied with the results of his mission though it is impossible to follow him in his optimism as to the immediate outlook. Indeed the report that the Greek Government has decided to issue an internal loan suggests that a rapid conclusion to the negotiations is not anticipated. As soon as peace has been concluded with Turkey the position will be vitally different, and once that happens I assume that a London loan will shortly follow.

The Result of Taxation.

To-day an extraordinary meeting of the Mortgage Company of Egypt is to be held to sanction the transference of the control and management of the Company from London to Cairo. This development, which has been instigated by the Agricultural Bank of Egypt which holds the bulk of the Ordinary shares and 4,787 preferred shares of the Company, is the very natural consequence of the crushing burden of taxation which has to be borne in this country at the present time. There have been a number of similar instances since the war, and it is to be hoped that the growing tendency of companies to transfer their offices to other countries will not be lost upon the authorities who so far have shown no signs of realising the effect of the heavy taxation on business enterprise.

Protection for India.

One aspect of the Indian Budget on which I have not touched is its distinctly protectionist colouring. This, I venture to think, is an indication of things to come. The Fiscal Commission in the course of its tour over India lasting many months has heard a variety of opinions from the leaders of commerce in favour of a definite protectionist policy. There is so far no indication of the conclusions at which the Commission may have arrived, and it may be some time before we have the result of their deliberations, but the provisions of the Budget certainly lead to only one view. How far India would benefit from protection must remain to be seen.

Commentator.

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REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

EGYPT.

Cairo, March 4.

Improved Financial Position.

The financial returns of the Egyptian Government for the nine months ending December show a decided improvement as compared with a year previously. Revenue has amounted to L.E.32,101,353 and expenditure to L.E.29,327,565, as against L.E.30,907,630 and L.E.31,872,950 respectively at the end of December, 1920. There is consequently a surplus of L.E.2,773,788 compared with a deficit of L.E.965,320 at that date.

As a matter of fact, however, although the net position is improved the **revenue situation** is not so satisfactory. Making allowance for the proceeds from sales of the cereal stocks held by the Supplies Department which amount to L.E.3,253,718 the revenue receipts are L.E.2,059,995 down compared with the 1920 nine months. Customs are down L.E.2,090,359, railways L.E.81,274, State Domains, L.E.205,924; Military Exemption Fees, L.E.116,380; Interest on Funds, L.E.1,505,451, and Sale of Land, L.E.534,156; while the following heads show increases, Tobacco Dues, L.E.621,147; Ghafir Cess, L.E.154,680; Cotton Tax, L.E.934,874; and Extraordinary Receipts, L.E.960,893.

On the expenditure side there is a gross reduction, but deducting the L.E.4,773,930 shown for cost of cereals purchased by the Supplies Department the net difference is L.E.7,319,315, mostly accounted for under the heading of Railways, which owing to decreases in coal and other purchases required are L.E.6,929,732 less than the previous year. There is a decrease of L.E.1,143,015 under high cost of living allowances and of L.E.98,678 under Survey, but an increase of L.E.259,184 under settlement of claims arising out of disorders. There is every reason to anticipate a fairly substantial surplus at the end of this month when the current financial year closes.

GREECE.

Athens, March 1.

Trade with the United States.

The value of goods imported into Greece from America from January 1 to November 30 amounted to 28,826,853 dollars as against 35,761,596 dollars during the equivalent period in 1920. The value of Greek goods exported to the United States from January 1 to November 30 amounted to 20,713,044 dollars, that of the same period in 1920 being 19,278,039 dollars. Whereas in November, 1920, Greece imported from America goods of a value of 4,057,750 dollars, the figures for November, 1921, were only 1,054,462 dollars. The decrease in the import trade during the last year is attributed to the high rate of the dollar, and it is anticipated that, unless exchange conditions become more normal in the near future, still fewer orders will be placed in the United States during the current year. Needless to say Germany, with her cheap mark, is once again obtaining a very firm footing on the Greek market.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, February 26.

The Grain Question.

During the past week alarming reports appeared in the local papers to the effect that the available stocks of wheat will not cover home needs until the new crop is available, and that owing to the fact that the autumn wheat sowings cover a considerably smaller area than in previous years, the dearth of wheat will continue after the coming wheat crop. The sowing of spring wheat, which is customary chiefly in Bessarabia and Moldavia, is not expected to fill up the gap. The home require-

ments of wheat are now estimated at about 1,500,000 tons, while it is estimated that in the best circumstances the production of the sown area may yield about half of this quantity.

The Government, although considering these reports as very exaggerated, has, nevertheless, decided to stop the export of all cereals until the authorities have checked the existing statistics of available grain stocks in the country. It is not surprising that exact figures are not easily obtainable, for, since the land has been divided up among the peasants, the number of grain stock-holders has also grown considerably, while in pre-war days grain stocks, especially wheat, were in the hands of a comparatively small number of big farmers or grain merchants, and therefore much easier to be checked. Furthermore, by reason of wheat being prohibited for export the price of wheat is now about half of that of barley, oats, and maize, although a much higher grade of grain. In consequence of this the farmers often prefer to feed the animals with wheat instead of other cereals which are free for export. Others are doing everything possible to keep their wheat stocks hidden, hoping one day to be able to export them at the present fantastic prices. For instance, Bulgarian wheat was recently sold at 60 to 65,000 lei per wagon f.o.b. Roumanian Danube ports, while the maximum price of wheat for home consumption is about 25,000 lei per wagon. Oats, barley, and maize have lately been sold at 41,000, 37,500 and 40,000 lei per wagon f.o.b. respectively.

INTEREST ON GREEK LOANS.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders has received information that the surplus of the revenues assigned to the service of the Greek debt in respect of the year 1921 will permit of the increase of the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund in 1922 by the following percentages of the original interest:—

	Interest.	Sinking fund.
Loans of Group I. . . .	42 %	24 %
Do. II. . . .	40 %	24 %
Do. III. . . .	40 %	26 %

With the addition of these percentages, the total interest payable in 1922 in respect of 1921 will be 3.40 % on the 4 % Monopoly Loan; 3.70 % on the 5 % Funding Loan; 3.60 % on the 5 % Loans of 1881, 1884 and 1890; 2.88 % on the 4 % Rentes.

The whole of the additional interest is payable on the April coupon in the case of the Funding Loan and Rentes, on the June coupon in the case of the Five per Cent. Loan of 1890, and on the July coupon in the case of the Monopoly loan and the Five per Cent. loans of 1881, 1884 and 1890. The following are the principal figures on which the above results are based:—The gross receipts in 1921 from the assigned revenues from which the plus-values are derived were 73,493,141 drachmae, as compared with the gross receipts in 1920 of 65,630,414 drachmae, showing an increase of 7,862,727 drachmae.

The receipts of the assigned revenues, after deduction of 18 per cent. of the plus-values for expenses, were 65,406,376 drachmae, and the amount fixed by the Law of Control being 28,900,000 drachmae, there was a plus-value of 36,566,376 drachmae, of which the bondholders are entitled to 60 per cent., namely, 21,939,825 drachmae, which realised by conversion 12,158,401.40 francs. As there was no addition to the plus-values of 1921 in respect of benefit from exchange, half the above sum, 6,079,200.70 francs, is available for interest, and the other half, 6,079,200.70 francs for sinking fund. Adding to the above amounts, in the case of interest, the interest saved on bonds amortised (namely, 1,847,478 francs), and in the case of sinking fund the balance brought forward from 1920 (60,550 francs), the following result is shown for 1921: Total amount available for increase of interest, 7,926,679 francs, total amount available for increase of sinking fund, 6,139,751 francs carrying forward balances of 122,275 francs and 86,461 francs respectively.

THE YUGOSLAV BUDGET.

By M. Burr.

Of all the young states that have arisen out of the war, or expanded beyond all recognition, the kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, generally known as Yugoslavia, has received the largest measure of abuse and contempt, owing to the intrigues of jealous neighbours. Yet, after advanced and industrialised Czecho-Slovakia, Yugoslav currency, low though it is, is better than that of Bulgaria, Roumania, Poland, and Austria, and her natural resources are greater, though her difficulties are more serious.

But she has made a determined attempt to put her house in order in spite of all obstacles, and soon the national assembly or *Skupština* will have an opportunity of discussing a detailed and complete statement of the national finances, with estimates of expenditure and revenue for the coming financial year. The Minister of Finance has made a heroic effort to equalise the two sides, and for the first time a balance is attained, though, as we shall see, on paper only.

The estimates of expenditure are as follows:—

	<i>Dinars.</i>	
Central Administration ..	598,487,881.	35
Minister of Justice ..	185,677,576.	90
Minister of Education ..	459,924,493.	30
Minister of Religions ..	81,619,291.	20
Minister of the Interior ..	38,054,647.	15
Minister of Public Health ..	185,603,764.	95
Minister of Foreign Affairs ..	34,312,197.	50
Minister of Finance ..	829,266,857.	90
Minister of War and Marine ..	1,489,356,657.	40
Minister of Public Works ..	273,095,216.	75
Minister of Communications ..	831,081,742.	60
Minister of Posts and Telegraphs ..	238,254,234.	65
Minister of Agriculture ..	114,156,187.	60
Minister of Mines and Forests ..	206,464,051.	
Minister of Commerce and Industry ..	40,688,995.	06
Minister of Social Policy ..	414,111,489.	85
Minister of Agrarian Reform ..	55,514,979.	10
Minister of the Const. Assembly ..	907,540.	60
Reserve credits ..	81,000,000.	
Total dinars	6,257,577,804.	86

In this statement, certain facts leap to the eye. It is easy to criticise the disproportionate amount claimed by the Minister of War, but we must remember that the tradition of Serbia is that her only defence is her own right arm, which she has vindicated over and over again: also that while she has a disarmed Bulgaria on the east, the machinations of the *komitadjis*, supported by the Kemalists, keep her in a constant state of anxiety, while Hungary, her secular enemy on the north, though perhaps to our eyes helpless, is restless, military, vindictive, and shut off by no natural frontier, while her former ally and jealous neighbour, Italy, is a constant source of anxiety, as recent incidents at Fiume remind us.

At the same time we should give credit where credit is due, and notice that the Ministry of Public Health calls for much more than that of the Interior, in spite of the numerous gibes at the policeocracy of M. Pribichevich, of the Communist plots, and underground and overground activities of the Mohammedan equivalents of Sinn Fein in Macedonia and of the Nikolists in Montenegro, that far greater sums are devoted to Education, and to Communications, the life-blood of the state, which require millions to bring them up to date, and to Posts and Telegraphs, and Agriculture in this yeoman state, and the big vote for Social Policy shows a genuine endeavour to cope with the numerous

social problems that are besetting this young country as well as the old organisms of the west.

And now let us turn to the estimates of revenue. These are as follows:—

	<i>Dinars.</i>	
Customs ..	417,310,000	
Excise ..	390,000,000	
Customs "aggio" ..	810,000,000	
Tax on turnover ..	400,000,000	
Coastal services ..	905,750	
War invalids tax ..	36,063,369	
State domains ..	61,656,369	
Provisional tax on property ..	597,112,984.	61
Extraordinary state supertax ..	400,000,000	
Sundry revenues ..	13,750,000	
Direct taxes ..	1,806,162,550	
State industries ..	1,292,302,523.	50
Other sources of revenue ..	29,311,877.	75
Total dinars	6,257,577,804.	86

Thus we have a perfectly balanced, but it must be admitted, utopian, budget, for many of the items call for investigation and comment. The first thing that strikes the eye is that while the estimates of expenditure are detailed down to fractions of a dinar, many of the revenue items are in exceedingly round figures. That is to say, they are highly theoretical, and probably, on both sides, the financial authorities have taken far too rosy a view.

A captious critic could easily find much with which to find fault, for destructive criticism is easy: an examination of details shows that in some departments the krone currency is still adhered to, that ordinary and extraordinary expenditure is badly divided, that some of the totals are as badly over-estimated as others are under-estimated, that duties are unequally allotted, and that a mass of vital detail, especially in connection with the services of posts, telegraphs, and railways, is not forthcoming.

It must be specially remembered that most of the estimates of expenditure are vitiated by the later fall of the dinar, which affects all payments due abroad, such as interest on foreign loans, purchases on state account, and so on, and also that as the dinar falls so the cost of living rises, so that extra allowances to officials must be increased proportionately. The dinar has fallen heavily since the budget was drafted, and this automatically increases the estimates of the Ministry of War. The estimates for maintaining 180,000 troops, officers and gendarmes, are based on the price of wheat, at 2½ dinars per kilo, but the price had risen by February to 4 dinars. The army was also involved in a heavy liability for purchases abroad, which naturally cost more as the dinar falls. It is, in fact, impossible to make estimates for the future with anything approaching accuracy, and the only thing to do is to provide for a large margin for contingencies. Certain other big outgoings are omitted, but will have to be met since they are already voted, such as the 100 million credit for agriculture, a loan of a similar amount to the municipality of Belgrade, and another of 360 millions to the army for food against the coming harvest: it is true that these are set off against some sort of security, but it would be better business to write them off at once. Anyhow, the disbursements have to be met.

(To be concluded).

Efforts are to be made by the Bulgarian Ministry of Agriculture to substitute modern agricultural methods for those now in use.

Among a number of suggestions put forward for the absorption of the entire power output of the Ceylon hydro-electric scheme is one for the use of electric energy in the manufacture of rubber goods.

A good deal of interest is being taken in Ceylon in the possibility of employing rubber in the manufacture of high-class paper, and the Government are to make certain paper making experiments.

British Industries Fair.

THE WHITE CITY.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Furniture.

The demand for furniture abroad in normal conditions gave an added interest to this section. The exhibits have developed since last year both in range and quality, and they offered a very clear insight into the potentialities of this typical British industry. Notable among the stands was that of Messrs. Beresford and Hicks, showing some choice examples of antique reproduction furniture. Messrs. B. Cohen and Sons, Ltd., had on view cabinet furniture, upholstery, and chairs, while another interesting stand was that of Messrs. Herman and Phillips, Ltd., at which were displayed artistic examples of acquired and decorated furniture.

A really excellent display of carpets was on view at the extensive stand of Jute Industries Ltd., who also exhibit some inviting rugs. Easy chairs, settees, etc., were shown *inter alia* by Messrs. Goodearl Bros., Ltd., and Messrs. Greaves and Thomas. These exhibits for workmanship and finish were equal to anything at the White City, and they would hold their own in any market overseas. Mirrors and overmantels were shown on an appreciable number of stands, one of them being that of Messrs. O. C. Hawkes, Ltd., and school furniture by Messrs. the Bennet Furnishing Co., Ltd. Messrs. John Heywood, Ltd., and by two firms to whom I have already referred, Messrs. Herman and Phillips, Ltd., and Messrs. the Shannon, Ltd.

Pottery and Glassware, etc.

In a sense I was disappointed with the exhibits of china and earthenware. The manufacture of these wares is peculiarly an English craft; indeed we have achieved something approaching a monopoly of it in certain lines, and one would think that in this section at any rate one would find all the enterprise that could be desired. But the absence of so many well-known firms, discouraged possibly by the trade depression, scarcely encouraged the idea.

Apart from its unrepresentative character I have nothing but praise for this section. On stand after stand exquisite examples of English craftsmanship were on view, and the exhibits left one in no doubt that in this branch of industry we are still progressing. It is heartening to be able to record that very good business was done in this section, and this fact will no doubt mean a great increase in the number of stands next year.

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A stand of particular interest was that of Messrs. W. Moorcroft Ltd., showing some choice pieces of the famous wares of this firm in yellows, red and blues. Notably among the exhibits were some exquisite vases, specially made for the exhibition. Other stands in the pottery and chinaware section that specially attracted my attention, were those of Messrs. Candy and Co., Ltd., Messrs. the Crown Dorset Art Pottery Co., Messrs. Alfred B. Jones and Sons, Messrs. Myott, Son, and Co., and Messrs. the Paragon China Co.

The glassware section contained a most comprehensive range of exhibits, including domestic and fancy glassware, illuminating glassware, lenses, and thermometers. One of the most interesting stands was that of Messrs. Stevens and Williams Ltd., showing among other things exquisite examples of cut-glass ware.

Chemicals, etc.

This section has greatly developed since last year, and made a very fine showing. It had the best situation in the building at the Shepherd's Bush entrance, a thoroughly deserved distinction as I think all will agree who saw the exhibits. The business done in this section by the way was excellent, and it is no exaggeration to say that the number of enquiries and orders came as a pleasing surprise to most of the firms represented. This success makes it certain that many more firms will be represented at the next exhibition.

Notable among the stands was that of Messrs. the British Dyestuffs Corporation Ltd., showing aniline dyestuffs, fine chemicals and drugs. Another stand of special interest was that of Messrs. the Marley Hill Chemical Co., Ltd., showing blast furnace and foundry coke, ammonia products, etc. Messrs. the United Alkali Co., Ltd., showed a great variety of chemicals; Messrs. W. J. Bush and Co. Ltd. had on view a range of synthetic fine chemicals; while Messrs. Burroughs Wellcome and Co. exhibited a number of their well-known products.

Foodstuffs.

A new feature of the exhibition this year, was the inclusion of a section dealing with foodstuffs, etc. The stands which attracted most attention was that of Messrs. Lipton, Ltd., who were showing an extensive range of their products. Messrs. Edward Sharp and Sons, Ltd. of toffee fame, were showing their superkreem toffee, etc. Confectionery and chocolate novelties were exhibited by Messrs. James Pascall Ltd., while Messrs. Meredith and Drew, Ltd., displayed biscuit and cakes. Another stand of more than passing interest was that of Messrs. "O.T." Ltd., who exhibited cordials and many other non-alcoholic beverages.

Toys, Games and Sports Goods.

The toy section was not up to the standard of last year, but it was all the same very interesting. The exhibitors included Messrs. G. W. Harper who showed teddy bears, Xmas crackers, and stockings. Messrs. Clarke, Nicholls and Coombs Ltd., had a large selection of Clarnico Xmas crackers and novelties; Messrs. Hobbies, Ltd., had a well arranged stand of fret saw outfits, treadle sawing machines and lathes. A large rag-house was the feature of the stand of Messrs. Dean and Son, Ltd., who are well known for their rag books, coloured toy books, stencil books, jig-saw puzzles, etc. Messrs. Harbutt's Plasticine Ltd., were showing many models in plasticine, and several sets of home modelling outfits.

In the sports goods section Messrs. Wm. Sykes, Ltd., were exhibiting cricket bats, billiard tables, footballs and tennis equipment. Messrs. F. H. Ayres, Ltd., were showing bowling equipment, gymnasium goods, and all requisites for tennis, cricket, football, hockey, etc., and billiards. Messrs. Folding Boats Ltd., had an interesting stand showing various sizes of folding boats. This firm supplied the late Sir Ernest Shackleton with several of their boats for the Quest.

Photographic Goods, etc.

A great advance has been made in connection with

photographic material, especially in the cinematograph industry. Messrs. W. Butcher and Sons, Ltd., exhibited cinema projectors and cameras, also dark room equipment, while close by Messrs. Jury's Imperial Pictures, Ltd., had on view a "Kalee-Indomitable" cinematograph projector, and a selection of studio arc lamps and equipment. Other stands of interest were those of Messrs. J. H. Dallmeyer, Ltd., Messrs. W. Vinten and Messrs. Ross, Ltd., of Clapham.

THE BIRMINGHAM FAIR.

It would be difficult to imagine a more striking contrast to the White City Exhibition than was presented by the fair at Castle Bromwich, Birmingham. In the former case one saw the finer and more personal adjuncts to civilisation; in the latter one found oneself in the realm of industrial endeavour in the most obvious sense of the word. And where could there be a more fitting setting for the fair than in the greatest industrial centre of England?

As I anticipated would be the case, there was much more activity at Birmingham than at the White City. One felt instinctively that business was being done, and that the fair would be a success. The fair on the day of my visit was literally thronged with visitors, and it is obvious that such a number of buyers would not go home after merely admiring the scenery! The impression of a crowd was heightened by the conditions under which the fair was held. There was not room and to spare as at the White City. On the contrary I do not suppose that the floor area was more than a third of that of the Shepherd's Bush Exhibition. It cannot be said that it made for comfort in seeing the stands, but I think it has been a help in promoting business.

That more trade should be done at Birmingham is obviously only logical as the exhibits there make a greater appeal in this period of reconstruction. They are, in brief, essential commodities, and by that I do not mean to infer that the other exhibits are not—very far from it, but that the Birmingham exhibits represent the commodities that must be replaced at the earliest possible moment by countries struggling to restore pre-war conditions.

In passing I might point out that a visit to Birmingham is no light order as anyone who has spent a day at the White City alone can well imagine. After the train journey there is the long bus ride to Castle Bromwich, an arduous day there, rendered more tedious by the serious shortcomings of the official catalogues, and then the return. It is not an experience that makes one desire to emulate Oliver Twist, at any rate not in the same week.

Why is it, incidentally, that official catalogues should so often be faulty? That of the White City is an excellent production; though even that lends itself to improvement, but that of the Birmingham fair gave literally the minimum of assistance.

This section of the fair, by the way, was not nearly so representative as the White City. It was very largely Birmingham, and while that presupposes its comprehensiveness Birmingham is only one of the many great industrial cities even though the first, and it is greatly to be regretted that other centres were not more adequately represented. It is to be presumed that the reason is to be found in the difficulty of sending heavy exhibits long distances. But if that be the case it is a poor outlook for this section of the fair when the reunion takes place at Wembley. Apart from this shortcoming I have nothing but praise for the fair. In every sense it was an improvement on its predecessor, the Engineering Section being particularly good. As for the quality it is enough to point out that the fair was held at Birmingham.

REVIEW OF EXHIBITS.

Power and lighting equipment for the engineering industry played a very prominent part in the exhibition; indeed it would not be going too far to say that they comprised 60 per cent. of the exhibits.

One of the most interesting stands in the exhibition was that of Messrs. Crossley Bros., Ltd., who were showing types of their crude oil engines. Their exhibits included a large gas engine and a baby engine of the same type, together with their cold starting crude oil engines. Messrs. Edward White were displaying machinery suitable for wireworkers. Their automatic machine will point or taper wires in various kinds of metal, and also cut three wires simultaneously from a coil. Their scouring and polishing barrels were attracting considerable attention, and should find a good market in Near Eastern countries. Messrs. Bell's United Asbestos Co., Ltd., were exhibiting their famous asbestos brake linings, asbestos cement building tiles, packing and joining materials, etc. Messrs. Hancock & Co. (Engineers), Ltd., had two extensive stands, showing on one stand their high temperature electric furnaces for hardening high-speed steel, etc., and at the other stand demonstrations of their coal gas welding plants were taking place. Their new "Rapid" oxy-coal gas cutter worked marvels in cutting through metals of various thicknesses, and it is claimed to be the only cutter which has cut such thick metals with coal gas. An interesting display of hammers, chisels, picks and gardening tools was being shown by Messrs. Wm. Hunt & Sons, the Brades, Ltd. Messrs. Tangyes, Ltd., were exhibiting their famous vertical crude and refined oil engines together with paraffin engines, gas producers, hydraulic machinery, etc., while close by one could have everything one desired in ladders from Messrs. H. C. Slingsby who had on view extension ladders, step-ladders, elevating trucks and platforms and numerous small railway porters' trolleys.

Messrs. W. & T. Avery, Ltd., the well known scale makers, had on view exhibits ranging from a small shop-counter scale to a large colliery machine, also liquid fuel weighers and platform weighing machines. Another firm of scale makers exhibiting were Messrs. George Salter & Co., Ltd., who were showing a large selection of spring balances for domestic and trade purposes, also sad irons, potato chip cutters, and various engineering goods such as locomotive balances, pressure gauges, valve springs, etc. Messrs. Petters, Ltd., of Yeovil, exhibited their oil engines in sizes varying from 1½ B.H.P. to 25 B.H.P. of the semi-portable and portable designs. Some electric generating plants were also on view. Electrical domestic apparatus was the chief feature of the interesting stand of the Metropolitan Vickers Electrical Co., Ltd. Their exhibits included "Cosmos" lamps, electroliers, etc., also everything that could be desired for the kitchen such as electric toasters, kettles, and cookers. Two stands were occupied by the Aerograph Co., Ltd., the pioneers of spray-painting, who were demonstrating the labour saving advantages gained by the method of applying paints and varnishes by spraying. A very artistic stand was presented by the Delta Metal Co., Ltd., who exhibited an extensive range of Delta bronze ware.

(The remainder of this article is unavoidably held over until next week).

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Engineering Topics.

By Our Engineering Representative.

British Aviation Developments.

Considerably greater developments are being made in connection with aviation in England than is generally known. The fact that the 1,000 h.p. engine, so eagerly awaited, has at last materialised, and the further fact that bench tests have shown that it possesses a life very much in excess of any aero-engine yet designed, proves the development made in engine design. It is known that a great advance has been made in connection with the use of triple tractor screws whereby it is possible for them to exert any unequal pull, and there are hints as to new and more efficient wings and as to improvement in the design of both bodies and landing carriages.

For some reason the impression prevails that aviation if not actually dying, is at any rate in a far from virile condition. Nothing could be further from the truth. Subsidies are being granted to companies operating commercial aircraft by the Governments of France, Belgium, Roumania, Poland, Holland, and Germany, and several other States have made provision for such grants in their next year's budgets. The assistance given by the British authorities is well-known and need not be gone into here.

There is ground for supposing that the popular impression regarding the outlook for aviation has been derived from the United States. After a period of enthusiasm over aircraft it was found that American engines were not the equal of those of other countries, their designers were inexpert, their manufacturers inexperienced and their pilots and workmen unskilled. The enthusiasm died down, and the cessation of flamboyant news from U.S. sources as to aerial progress has undoubtedly had much to do with the general idea that aviation is practically moribund.

American Surprise.

United States' experts who have recently visited this country and the Continent have expressed their utter astonishment in finding aerial transport services in active operation. Greater amazement still is expressed at the discovery that travel by air is, in some cases, cheaper than the making of the same journey by rail. Prof. E. P. Warner, professor of aeronautics at the Mass. Institute of Technology states that during his visit to Europe in no case did he find the price of a ticket by air as much as double that of one by land or sea. He points out that the *Deutsche Luft Kursbuch*, the ABC Pathfinder of Germany, will take a passenger from Berlin to Munich for 1,575 marks (exchange rate, February 1). As the distance is 320 miles it would be interesting to work out the equivalent cost per mile in English currency.

So impressed were this authority and his companions that they are initiating a campaign in American newspapers with a view to stimulating interest in aerial navigation and inducing U.S. manufacturers to enter again the field of aircraft and aero-engine production. They are also urging the U.S. Government to grant a subsidy of at least 30 cents per aeroplane mile to companies undertaking to establish and maintain services between fixed points. They suggest an initial expenditure of one million dollars a year, to subsidise 3,300,000 aeroplane-miles, equal to the operation of one machine each way for 300 days in the year over a route of 5,550 miles, the distance from New York to San Francisco and back.

Pickling Castings.

Where trouble is experienced in removing sand from the inner parts of pistons or similar small castings it is often advisable to run them clean in a tumbling machine on account of the risk of breakage. Where the parts are extremely thin or have delicate projections it is by far the better course to pickle them, and wash and dry

them afterwards. Where it is only required to remove the sand and to leave the surface of the iron untouched, a pickle made of one part of strong hydrofluoric acid with eight parts of water should be used, and the parts washed after pickling with a carbonate of soda or washing soda solution.

Where the surface of the casting is to be cleaned up at the same time as the sand is removed, a pickle of one part of highly concentrated sulphuric acid to eight parts of water should be used, the acid being added to the water in mixing. This pickle attacks the surface of the iron, removing scale and loosening any adhering particles of sand, and when this solution is used the parts must be carefully watched to see that the action does not become too pronounced. The parts, after pickling, should be flushed with strong soda and water and well washed in warm water and dried in hot sawdust.

Hardening Small Tools.

It is generally a far from easy matter to harden and temper such small, slender tools as taps, broaches, reamers of small drills by reason of the risk of the steel twisting or warping during the operation, due to uneven heating. Several methods have been suggested and followed, but one of the most successful is to place the tool in a tubular casing with both ends sealed off. A mixture of charcoal and leather cuttings, two of the former to one of the latter, can be used with advantage as the carbonising material and this should be tightly packed round the tools. As soon as a sufficient number of tools have been sealed into the containing tubes these are placed in a furnace heated up to about 1,000 degrees Fahr, and as soon as the tools are in position, the heat is raised a further 470 degrees, and the tools are left in this heat bath for from two and a half to three hours, the length of time depending on the size of the tool. As soon as the hardening process is calculated to have continued long enough the whole tube is plunged into an oil bath and quenched in a verticle position. The best oil to use for the purpose is whale or linseed and it is found that this method of treatment gives the tips of the broaches a fairly soft and elastic centre well tempered to withstand the twisting strain to which the tool will be subjected in use, whilst the cutting edges or the teeth as the case may be will be tough and capable of dealing with the hardest of metals. This method is being adopted in mass production factories, but there is no reason why it should not be followed in the case of small quantities or even single tools.

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Stock and Share Markets.

HEAVY TONE PREVAILS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Tuesday morning.

In view of the adverse developments during the past week it is not surprising that the markets should be rather on the heavy side. The remarkable thing is that they should have kept up so well despite the prevailing conditions, and the fact that they should have done so augurs well for what will happen once the atmosphere is fairly clear once more. Of the three chief factors that have influenced prices—the trouble on the Rand, the Indian position, and the labour situation—India seems to have had most effect, judging among other things by the movements of the Indian stocks. It cannot be said that in general the outlook for the markets is too cheerful, for there are other possibilities of unfavourable factors in the immediate future besides these that we have been experiencing during the past week. Still investors have the consolation of knowing that markets have remained almost unaffected during the vicissitudes of the past year, and they are well justified in assuming that whatever happens now can at the most have only a transient effect.

New Issues.

It is noteworthy that notwithstanding the general position the new issues have been meeting with their customary success. This week we had the P. and O. Debenture issue, which of course was immediately taken up, while to-day the lists are open for another French railway Loan, probably have actually been closed at the time that I am writing this, at least so I imagine judging by what I heard yesterday. A Greek Loan is definitely out of the question for the time being, not that the negotiations have actually come to an end, but because it is simply impossible in present conditions to arrange an accommodation on terms satisfactory to the Greeks. I see that M. Gounaris has been giving a fairly optimistic view of his visit, but the fact that an internal loan is to be raised speaks for itself. Incidentally there is no lack of money in Greece, and provided the Loan is adequately supported Greece ought to be able to raise quite enough to cover her immediate requirements. Later on, when the Turco-Greek war is over, the country will find the London market more accessible.

Gilt-Edged.

The feature in gilt-edged has been the decline in Indian stocks. Consols are $54\frac{1}{4}$, War Loan Fives are $96\frac{3}{8}$, a fall of $\frac{1}{8}$, while the Conversion Loan is $\frac{1}{2}$ up at $72\frac{1}{8}$. In Indian stocks the seven per cent. Loan is 2 down at 103, the $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Loan at 59 is $2\frac{1}{2}$ down, while the three per cent. Loan at 50 has shed a similar amount.

A rather inactive tendency has prevailed in the foreign market. French War Loan Fives at $45\frac{1}{2}$ are $2\frac{3}{4}$ down.

German three per cents. are unchanged at $2\frac{1}{2}$, while Italian Rentes are $24\frac{1}{2}$. Russians have declined all round, while Brazilians have been offered. In Greek securities Monopolies are unchanged down at $31\frac{1}{2}$.

Industrials Quiet.

A very quiet tone has ruled in the Industrial section, the labour trouble naturally causing investors to adopt a cautious tone. Tobaccos have been firm. Bats at 67s. are 6d. up, while Imperial Tobaccos are 53s. 9d. Dunlops are again lower at 6s. 3d.

The Textile group has been steady. Coats are $\frac{3}{32}$ up at $2\frac{3}{8}$, while Courtaulds are unchanged at 37s. 9d. Iron, Coal, and Steel securities have been dull. Vickers are 3d. down at 8s. 6d., Armstrongs have shed 3d. at 13s., Guest Keens are 6d. down at 30s., while Lamberts are unchanged at $1,15\frac{1}{16}$.

Shipping securities have been rather dull. P. and O. are 2 down at 205, Cunards are unchanged at 18s. 9d., while Furness Withys are 3d. up at 26s. 6d.

Oils Variable.

Oils have fluctuated a good deal during the past week, and yesterday a good deal of weakness was displayed in some directions. This is only a passing phase, and holders should not be discouraged thereby. Burmahs are $5\frac{3}{8}$, while Mexican Eagles are $3\frac{7}{8}$, the same as last week. In Trinidad issues Centrals are $3,3\frac{1}{16}$, $2,1\frac{1}{16}$, down, while Leaseholds are $1,3\frac{1}{16}$, a drop of $1\frac{1}{16}$.

Among Egyptians Anglo-Egyptian B are $1,9\frac{1}{16}$, while Oilfields of Egypt are 5s. 6d. In the Roumanian group Roumanian Consolidated are 10s. 3d. a rise of 2s., while Phoenix at 17s. 6d. show a gain of 3s. 6d. I recommended Phoenix some weeks ago when they stood round about 9s. They are expected to go to 25s. or thereabouts but all the same those who bought at 9s. would not be wrong in taking their profit. It is possible to be too greedy in these matters, and it is a sound precept always to leave something for the other person. Dacia Romanos are unchanged at $11\frac{1}{16}$, while Steaua Romanas are 6d. up at 12s. 3d.

Indian Banks Dull.

Among banking descriptions Indian banks showed a dull tendency. Chartered of India are $\frac{5}{16}$ down at 15, but National of India are $\frac{1}{4}$ up at $35\frac{1}{2}$. P. and O. Banking Corporations are $11\frac{3}{4}$, a decline of $\frac{3}{16}$, while Imperial of Persia are unchanged at $6\frac{1}{4}$.

In land securities Aboukirs are 6d. down at 23s. 6d., while Béhéras are 8. Delta Lands are unchanged at 8, Gharbieh Lands are $1,5\frac{1}{16}$, a decline of $1\frac{1}{16}$, while Sidi Salems are 1.

The capital of the Bohemian Union Bank is being increased from 120 million to 200 million crowns by the issue of 400,000 shares of the nominal value of 200 crowns.

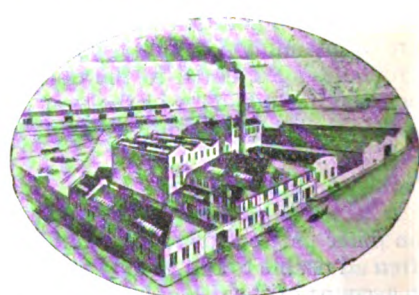
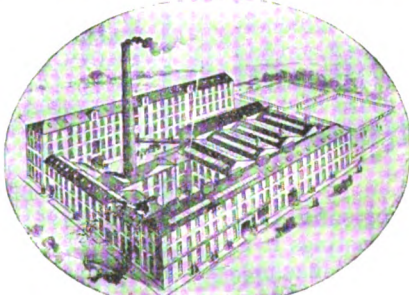
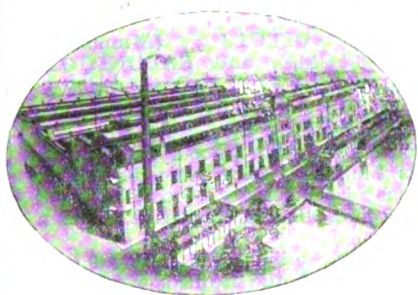
The rubber road-paving experiments conducted in Colombo by the Ceylon Government and some private firms and estates have not been successful.

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Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Sugar.—Home refined has been in moderate request at unchanged rates. Tate's cubes are slightly higher being 9d. up at 52s. 9d.; mineral water sugar has gained 1s. at 48s.; as also London granulated at 47s. 6d., while Lyle's granulated has risen 1s. 3d. at 47s. 9d. Export varieties have shown increases in all cases. West Indian crystallized is 1s. up at 42s., and Czecho-Slovakian has risen 1s. 3d. at 20s. 3d.

Coffee.—Prices are higher. Costa Rica has gained 10s. at 136s., while Indian has jumped 6s. at 112s. Nairobi is 2s. up at 112s., while Jamaica has been firm at 150s.

Tea.—The demand has been maintained for Indian tea, while rates are still advancing. Fine China tea is steady at 2s. 11½d. lb.; good Pekoe Souchong has gained ½d. at 4½d. lb.; while common Java has gained a like amount at 10d. lb.

Oilseeds.—A variable tendency has prevailed. Indian linseed is 6d. down at 19s. 6d., and La Plata at 19s. 3d., has shed 1s. Rapeseed has been firm with Toria the same at 16s. 10½d., and bold Ferozepore unchanged at 18s. 6d. Cottonseed has declined. Indian is 4½d. down at 9s. 6d., and Sakellarides has shed 1½d. at 12s. 6d., while Egyptian black has gained 3d. at 13s.

Oils.—Steadiness has prevailed. Linseed oil has dropped 1s. 3d. at 37s. 6d. Rape oil is quiet; the crude variety has been quoted at 46s., and refined at 48s. Cotton oil is higher with refined at 47s., a gain of 2s. Egyptian crude at 41s. is 3s. up, and deodorized has risen a similar amount at 52s. Turpentine has risen 3d. at 63s. 6d.

Oilcakes.—Linseed cake has come to business at 330s. ton. Cottonmeal cake is quoted at 310s. ton; and Arachis cake has been a firm feature at 220s. Palm kernal cake has been done at 160s.

OPIUM REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Bros., Smyrna, report as follows under date February 28:—

The sales this month on our market amount to 219 cases, of current qualities, extra druggists, and a small percentage of fine soft shipping and Yerli. The average piastre price paid for the above goods is Ps. 776 per oke which is equivalent to 2.82-00 lbs. and as regards the sterling price per lb. this depends on the exchange, which as it stands to-day at Ps. 750 per pound sterling is equal to 8s. 6d. per lb. first cost or 9s. 3d. c.i.f. port of destination. The exchange during the past month has fluctuated from Ps. 720 to Ps. 760 per pound sterling for cheque and dollars 0.68 to 0.64 for each Turkish paper pound. To day it is Ps. 750 for the former and 0.67 for the latter.

Our stock in first and second hands is about 1,340 cases of 160 lbs. per case.

The weather has been very propitious for sowing and the plants already sowed are doing well; but the acreage under cultivation is very small, owing to the disturbed state of the hinterland, and under best conditions we cannot expect a crop next summer of over 2,000 cases. Anyway the restriction of alkaloids and crude drug by the Powers has in a great measure lessened the consumption of opium, so this will compensate for the lower standard of production. Our market closes firm with an upward tendency, owing to the continual weekly demand.

ASIA MINOR FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended February 25:—

Sultanas.—The total estimated arrivals to date total 168,790 bags, the sales are 163,290 bags, and the estimated stock unsold is 5,500 bags.

Markets.—The week's sales of sultanas amount to 100 tons mainly against orders received from the U.K. and from the Continent. Dealers having decided to lower their prices by 3s. to 4s. and exchange having slightly improved, business has

been stimulated, and it is probable that demand will broaden, gradually absorbing the remaining stocks available. The exchange for sterling has been steady throughout the week at 649-652.

CURRENT PRICES.

General Produce—Bacon: (Continental), 113s. 6d. cwt.; (Canadian), 120s. cwt.; (American), 117s. 6d. cwt.; butter (Danish), 170s. cwt.; (Australian), 118s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 125s. cwt.; cheese (Canadian), 96s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 91s. cwt.; lard 70s. cwt.; eggs (Danish), 22s. per 120; Styrian, 17s. per 120; chillies 162s. 6d. cwt.; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 4d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon good to fine) 97s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 127s. 6d. cwt.; (East Indian), 132s. 6d. cwt.; (Central American), 105s. cwt.; (Jamaica), 67s. 6d. cwt.; (Mocha longberry), 106s. 6d. cwt.; (Santos, superior), 63s. 6d. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochin), 55s. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 11½d. lb.; pepper (Singapore Black), 4d. lb.; (Muntok white), 8d. lb.; pimento, 24d. lb.; raisins (Valencias), 85s. cwt.; sultanas (Smyrna), 121s. cwt.; currants (Amalias), 57s. cwt.; sugar (Tate's cubes), 51s. 6d. cwt.; (Lyle's granulated) 46s. 6d. cwt.; (Mauritius crystals), 43s. 7½d. cwt.; (West Indian crystallised), 41s. 6d. cwt.; (centrifugal), 13s. 9d. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 1½d. lb.; rice (Rangoon No. 2), 14s. 1½d. cwt.; (bran Rangoon), £6 8s. 9d. ton; cinnamon (firsts), 11½d. lb.; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 3½d. lb.; tea (common to good common), 1s. 2d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 7½d. lb.; Ceylon (common to good common), 1s. 2d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 6d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 7½d. lb.; Java (common to good common), 10d. lb.; wheat (English white), 57s. qr.; barley (malting), 52s. 6d. qr.; barley (feeding), 38s. 6d. qr.; oats (English), 35s. qr.; oats (La Plata, ex-ship), 28s. qr.; maize (La Plata), 33s. 9d. qr.; flour, 49s.

Metals.—Aluminium, £122 10s. ton; antimony (English Regulis), £35 ton; bismuth, 9s. lb.; copper (standard) £50 6s. 3d. ton; copper (electro), £65 10s. ton; gold bars, 93s. 6d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 90s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 97s. 6d. ton; galvanised sheets (24 G), £15 15s. ton; lead (soft foreign), £20 15s. ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 1½d. unit; molybdenite, 27s. 6d. unit; nickel, £175 ton; platinum, 360s. oz.; plumbago, £20 ton; quicksilver, £11 5s. ton; spelter (G.O.B.), £25 1s.; tin (standard), £143 8s. 9d. ton; wolfram, 10s. 6d. unit; zinc sheets, £35 ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 18s. 7½d. box; silver bars, 32-7/8d. oz.

Chemicals.—Acids: Boric, 61s. cwt.; oxalic, 7½d. lb.; citric, 1s. 10½d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 3½d. lb.; ammonia (sulphate), £16 11s. 6d. ton; arsenic (white powdered), £40 5s. ton; benzole (standard), 2s. 5d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £13 15s. ton; borax crystals, 30s.; cream of tartar, 120s. cwt.; Potassium: Bichromate, 7½d. lb., chlorate 5d. lb.; caustic, £33 10s. ton, nitrate, £42 10s. ton; permanganate, 9d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 1½d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £15 15s. ton.; Sodium: Crystals, 130s. ton; bi-carbonate, £11 5s. ton; bi-chromate, 5½d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £8 13s. 9d. ton; chlorate 3½d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £23 ton; hypo-sulphite, £15 10s. ton; prussiate, 9½d. lb.; nitrate, £14 5s. ton; glycerine (crude, 80 per cent.), £80 ton; glycerine (industrial) (1200 per cent.), £110 ton; lemon oil 3s. 7d. lb.; quinine, 2s. 11½d. oz.; red lead, £34 ton; white lead, £37 15s. ton; white ground lead, £48 7s. 6d. ton; sulphate of copper, £27 5s. ton; sulphate of iron, 75s. ton.

Miscellaneous.—Cotton: (American), 10.18d. lb.; (Egyptian Sakel), 16.15d. lb.; Oilseeds: Linseed (La Plata), £21 ton; palm kernals, £19 2s. 6d. ton; castor seed (Bombay), £15 2s. 6d. ton; Oils: Linseed, £38 12s. 6d. ton; olive (Levant), £74 10s. ton; rape (crude), £51 ton; soya, £37 5s. ton; petroleum, 1s. 4½d. gallon; petrol, 2s. 1d. gallon; fuel oil (ex-tank), £3 10s. ton; coconut (Ceylon), £41 12s. 6d. ton; cotton (crude), £37 ton; ground nut, £43 ton; Rubber: Plantation (No. 1 crepe), 8½d. lb.; smoked sheet, 8½d. lb.; fine hard para, 11d. lb.

Hides and Skins.—Ox and Heifer (first) 90 lbs. and up, 7½d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs. 7½d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 7½d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs. 6½d. lb.; (second) 90 lbs. and up, 8d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs. 6½d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 6½d. lb. Cows (first), 60 lbs. and up, 4½d. lb.; (second), 60 lbs. and up 4½d. lb.; 50 lbs. and under, 4½d. lb.; Bulls (first) 5d. lb.; Kips (first), 6 1-8d. lb.; (second), 5d. lb.; Calcutta Market. Prices in rupees per 20 lb. Arsenic hides (cows) Agras, 13 to 15; Durbhangas, 8 to 10.8; Patnas, 6.8 to 8; Salted cows: 5 to 8. Arsenic hides (buffalo): 3.8 to 9. Skins: Calf, 8 to 10 per 20 lb.; goat, 230 to 265 per 100 pieces.

Coupons No. 13 and No. 4 of the Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment Company's Ordinary and Founders' shares respectively are payable at the rate of exchange of 97½ piasres per pound sterling, less tax, at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, 27, Clement's Lane, E.C.4.

The *Corriere della Sera* states that a big scheme for Italo-American commercial co-operation in the Near East is now under consideration. The United States would work entirely through Italy in the Near East and the Black Sea markets, Italy acting as agent.

ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL.**Capital for Construction of Tankers.**

In the House of Commons on March 10, on a motion to authorise the payment of £950,000 out of the Consolidated Fund for calls on share capital in the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Limited), Mr. Hilton Young (Financial Secretary to the Treasury) stated that under Acts passed in 1914 and 1919 the Government purchased, for reasons of policy a controlling interest in the Anglo-Persian Oil Company for £4,250,000. Among the interests acquired were 1,000,000 £1 Ordinary shares, 1s. paid. Legislation was now required to enable the Government to fulfil their liability to pay up the uncalled capital upon these 1,000,000 shares. It was necessary to pay up this capital now because owing to the normal expansion and growth of this industrial undertaking, fresh capital was required for the construction of tank steamers for carrying oil. The Government's investment in this company had been highly profitable. In the year 1918-19 a dividend of 10 per cent. free of tax was paid on the Ordinary shares. In the following year the dividend was 20 per cent., less tax, and for the past year a dividend of 20 per cent., less tax, had been declared. The Bill would take power to raise this sum by borrowing, and it would impose on the Treasury an obligation to repay that money out of dividends as they were received. The Government's investments in the company were: 4,000,000 £1 Ordinary shares, fully paid; 1,000,000 Ordinary shares, 1s. paid; 1,000 £1 Eight per cent. Preference shares; and £199,000 Five per Cent. Debenture stock.

Colonel Wedgwood said that this investment had already been as satisfactory as the Suez Canal shares venture. He wanted to be assured, however, that with the recent increase of capital the Government had not lost their controlling interest in the company. As the Government controlled the majority of the shares, they should have a majority of the directors. They had only two out of a board of nine or ten.

Sir F. Banbury said that there were two directors on the board, and, although they were in a minority, they held exceptional powers, and could negative any proposition made by the other directors. He would make the Financial Secretary a present of a piece of sound financial advice. The shares were now bringing in a 20 per cent. dividend, and could now be sold at a good profit. His advice was to sell the shares.

Mr. Hilton Young said there was no question of policy involved in the resolution. The resolution must be taken as no indication of any intention on the part of the Government to take any further steps in the direction of Government investment in industry. It would be wrong to say the Anglo-Persian Company operated under the thumb and immediate control of the Treasury or any Government Department or Minister. The vital interests of the Government were secured by the representation of their directors on the board. The call to take up the shares was a legal liability. Failure to take up the shares by the Government would shatter the credit of the Company and destroy the value of its shares. It would be a most serious thing for the Government to refuse to act on the advice of the extremely able board of directors who had brought such success to the Company when they expressed the opinion that the company should apply for the uncalled share capital. The company's need for finance was greater than the capital that would be secured by the call on the shares. The existence of this uncalled liability had been a serious hindrance in the way of the company obtaining finance in the market in the ordinary way. The Government were not prepared to go against the advice of the company's experts.

Colonel Wedgwood—Have we still control of the voting power?

Mr. Hilton Young—Yes, full control.

The resolution was agreed to by 192 to 21.

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Paphos.

PERSIA:
Hamadan.
Kermanshah.

MESOPOTAMIA
Ashar.
Baghdad:
Bassorah.
Kirkuk.
Mossoul.

SALONICA.**SMYRNA.****TUNIS.****SYRIA.**

(Banque de Syrie—Affiliated Bank).

Aleppo.
Alexandretta.
Beyrout.

Damascus.
Hamah.
Homs.

Saida.
Tripoli.
Zahle.

The Bank has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of Credit granted.

Exchange and Merchandise operations effected.

Cotton & Cotton Goods.

MANCHESTER REPORT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Saturday.

The conditions prevailing throughout the market during the past week have shown some improvement. Prices have been firmer, and more interest has been displayed in Lancashire goods owing to there being a possibility of higher values in the near future. There is now less unemployment amongst the operatives. The statistical position of raw cotton is stronger than at the beginning of the year. Although in the distributing centres of the world there is more inclination to replenish stocks of Lancashire goods the political situation abroad is still very unsettled, especially with regard to India, and the fresh developments will no doubt have an unsettling effect on the trade. With regard to cloth the trade outlook for Egypt is rather uncertain, and business has been on a small scale. Miscellaneous orders have been put through for Constantinople. Egyptian yarn prices have been firmer, and although it is still difficult to improve the position of ordinary qualities in 60's twist more orders have been booked in fine combed numbers. Some encouraging transactions have resulted from the healthy piece goods demand for India. Buyers for China have operated on a restricted scale. Fancies have been sold for European markets. American yarns have been stiffer with rather a larger offtake. Demand has been about in bundles for India.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows under date March 8 :—

A well-sustained enquiry has been in evidence during the past week, and without showing any marked signs of broadening out a steady business has resulted, the week closing with a good tone and an all-round hardening of prices. The increased enquiry for low cotton, to which we have been recently drawing attention, assumed quite important dimensions a few days ago; in fact, it has formed quite a feature of the market here, and the bulk of the sales have been of this description. Prices paid varied from 3d. to about 7d. per lb., and a rise in the basis of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to $\frac{3}{4}$ d. was quickly noticeable. This is a substantial rise for this class of cotton, as it is universally regarded as being outside the pale, and is not subject to the normal fluctuations of the spot prices. An interesting point in connection with the above is that instead of the demand coming from the Continent, as might have been expected, the majority of the cotton appeared to have been purchased on account of Lancashire spinners. Apart from this low cotton, a fair enquiry has again been experienced for Fully Good Fair Sakellaridis and thereabouts, but resulting business was of the hand-to-mouth variety, as usual. Rather more attention has been paid this week to Uppers; the best, and Strict Good Fair qualities being chiefly asked for. The selection here for these qualities is of a somewhat meagre description, and bona-fide purchasers have some difficulty in obtaining their cotton.

The small, but remarkably consistent offtake in Sudan cotton has continued, and this cotton is likely to attract a more and

more favourable opinion, particularly if the careful process of selection, which is bearing such good results at the present time, is adhered to. Much stress has been laid in the Egyptian press lately on (1) A coming scarcity of water, (2) The efforts of a supposedly powerful native clique to bolster up the Alexandria market by heavy purchases on a joint account. The first, at the present juncture, falls on deaf ears, as there would appear to be sufficient cotton available to last the season at current rates of consumption. Later on, and particularly should trade improve, this fact is likely to assume more significant proportions. The second, if successful, would, in the long run, prove detrimental to trade by creating a very false position, but we have reason to believe that their efforts are not likely to have serious results.

Manchester reports have been more cheerful latterly. The distrust aroused by the new Indian import duties has been somewhat allayed, and more business is reported with that country than for some time past. The so-called "minor outlets" have also been buying steadily. China, unfortunately, still withholds her support, but hopes are entertained that the exchange will move in her favour and induce her to come into the market again, for it is confidently expected that her requirements are still very large. C.i.f. business remains quiet. Total sales, 2,100 bales (includes 300 Sudan). Quotations are all raised 75 points. Fully Good Fair Sakellaridis 17.75d.

SALE OF LAND IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The attention of the High Commissioner for the Union of South Africa has been directed to the wording of certain advertisements issued by Companies relating to the sale of their land in South Africa. The High Commissioner is informed that it has been assumed that these advertisements are issued with the sanction and approval of the South African Government. The High Commissioner is anxious to give publicity to the fact that such advertisements are entirely unauthorised so far as he is concerned. The fullest possible information may be obtained at the High Commissioner's Office by intending settlers, but in no case will any particular land be recommended for sale.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ..	Piastres to £....	97½	97½
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	97½-98
†Belgrade	Dinars to £....	25.22½	305
Berlin	Marks to £....	20.43	1141-1143
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3.3-8-1.3.7-16
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3.3-8-1.3.7-16
Brussels	Francs to £....	25.22½	52.55-52.60
*Bucharest	Lei to £....	25.22½	585 605
Constantinople ..	Piastres to £....	110	645-670
New York.....	Dollars to £....	4.86 2-3	4.32, 1-8-4.32, 3-8
Paris	Francs to £....	25.22½	49.00-49.10
Prague	Kronen to £....	24.02	253-257
Rome	Lire to £....	25.22½	87.7-8-88.1-8
†Sofia	Leva to £....	25.22½	650-680
Teheran	Krans to £....	50	51
Vienna	Kronen to £....	24.02	32,000-34,000
Warsaw	Marks to £....	20.43	17.750-18.750

*Nominal.

† Sellers.

GOVERNMENT BONDS

INTEREST RETURN UP TO 7½%
CAPITAL APPRECIATION FROM 10%-30%

We have published a series of Articles on absolutely safe Government Bonds (some with actual photographs). Of this series the following have so far appeared.

Date	Price then	Approximate price now
20/10/21 BRAZILIAN 5% FUNDING	61½	£ 73
12/12/21 FRENCH 5% WAR LOAN (B)	37	£ 46½
10/4/21 ITALIAN 3½% RENTES	23	£ 25

These Articles will be sent free of charge or obligation, on application to—
Bond & Stock Dept.

Pall Mall Industrial Investments Ltd
TRAFALGAR HOUSE, WATERLOO PLACE, LONDON S.W.1.



SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE

HAIFA'S GROWING IMPORTANCE.

Shipowners and merchants interested in the trade of Palestine would do well (says *Syren and Shipping*) to keep a close watch upon Haifa. This port, situated as it is, on the Bay of Acre, is less of an open roadstead harbour than others on the Syrian coast, and enjoys shelter from all save north and north-westerly winds. There are prospects, too, of a big harbour being constructed at Haifa, a project which would present few engineering difficulties and would not, as such works go, be very expensive. In addition, the port has good rail connections, and can point to a big and growing trade with Damascus and Aleppo.

During the year ended March 31, 1921, the imports and exports of Palestine were valued at £5,216,633, the contributions from Great Britain being about £1,700,000. The great bulk of these exports were brought to the two ports of Haifa and Jaffa, the share of the former being valued at over two millions.

We learn from a correspondent there that the amount of business which has passed through the port, during the past nine months, has shewn a remarkable increase, and that the next official returns will establish Haifa in the first place among the ports of Palestine, especially as, from the point of view of the importing manufacturer, it is the principal entrepot of the country.

NEW B.I. STEAMER.

The steamer *Howra*, built by Messrs. Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth and Co., Ltd., for the British India Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., was successfully launched from the Walker Shipyard of the firm on February 27. The following are the principal dimensions of the vessel:—Length between perpendiculars 411 ft. 6 ins.; breadth, moulded, 55 ft. 6 ins.; depth moulded to shelter deck 38 ft. 1½ ins. The vessel will be capable of carrying a deadweight of about 10,400 tons on a draft of 28 ft. 3 ins.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

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

Anchor Line.—S.s. *Olympia* for Bombay (Liverpool, March 17); s.s. *Scindia* for Bombay (Liverpool, April 4).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. *Mahanada* for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, March 21); s.s. *Mahsud* for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, April 8); s.s. *Imani* for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, April 25).

Bibby Line.—S.s. *Herefordshire* for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, March 20).

Byron Steamship Line. S.s. *Maid of Spetsai* for Patras, Piraeus, Constantinople, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, Braila, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, March 28).

Clan Line.—S.s. *Clan Ross* for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (Birkenhead, March 23); s.s. *Clan Macvicar* for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, March 27).

Cunard Line.—S.s. *Pavia* for Gibraltar, Ceuta, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza and Sulina (Glasgow, March 28; Swansea, March 30; and Liverpool, April 1).

Ellerman's "City" Line.—S.s. *City of Christiania* for Calcutta (Birkenhead, March 27); s.s. *City of Poona* for Calcutta (Birkenhead, April 10).

Ellerman's "Hall" Line.—S.s. *City of Brisbane* for Bombay, Karachi and the Punjab (Liverpool, March 31).

Ellerman's Westcott and Lawrance Line.—Steamers sail fortnightly for Malta, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz and Braila.

Glen Line.—S.s. *Gleniffer* for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, March 23); s.s. *Radnorshire* for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, April 13).

Harrison Line.—S.s. *Benefactor* for Calcutta (Liverpool, March 25); s.s. *Candidate* for Port Said, Port Sudan, Aden, Mombasa, etc. (Birkenhead, April 20).

Henderson Line.—S.s. *Burma* for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, March 22); s.s. *Pegu* for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, April 5).

Holt Line.—S.s. *Deucalion* for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, March 23); s.s. *Eurylochus* for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, March 23).

Johnston Line.—S.s. *Peruvian* for Piraeus, Syra, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, March 25).

Moss Line.—S.s. *Karnak* for Gibraltar, Malta, Piraeus, Syra, Salonika and Constantinople (Liverpool, April 8).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. *Andalusian* for Tangiers, Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, March 18).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. *Nankin* for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta, (London, March 24); s.s. *Macedonia* for Bombay (London, March 24); s.s. *Morea* for Bombay (London, March 31); s.s. *Padua* for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, April 7).

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. *Mashobra* for Bombay and Karachi (London, March 24); s.s. *Margha* for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, March 31); s.s. *Manela* for Bombay and Karachi (London, April 7); s.s. *Nuddea* for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, April 15).

Prince Line.—S.s. *Syrian Prince* for Malta, Alexandria and Syria (London, March 18); s.s. *Scottish Prince* for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria and Syria (Manchester, March 25).

NEW COMPANIES.

Serbistan Steamship Co.

The Serbistan Steamship Co. has been registered as a private company with a capital of £100,000 in £1 shares. Objects:—To adopt an agreement with Frank C. Strick and Co., Ltd., and Gray Dawes and Co. to purchase, take in exchange or otherwise acquire and hold ships, boats and vessels, including boats equipped for salvage operations, etc. First directors: Wm. Langridge (director Anderson, Green and Co., Ltd.) and Alastair Cameron. Registered offices, 27, Leadenhall Street, E.C.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated March 6:—

Condition of Crops.—March 3. In Sind, standing crops profited by recent rains. Prospects in the rest of the Bombay Presidency good, but cotton deteriorated in Bombay Karnatak. In other provinces prospects unchanged. **Markets.**—March 2.—Bombay cotton market easy. Fine M.G. Oomras, Rs. 339 March, Rs. 355 May. Bombay cotton arrivals from September 1, 1921 to February 22, 1922 were 1,843,000 bales as compared with 1,008,000 bales in the same period of the last year. In Bombay imported piece-goods market there has been some demand from a consuming centre chiefly for bleached mulls and nainsooks, but at very reduced rates. No demand for prints, dyed goods and fancy style yet showing. March 4—Calcutta jute market steady. First Rs. 54 to Rs. 55 sellers, lightnings Rs. 44. March 6—Heavies firm. Liverpools Rs. 45. March 8, at which there are buyers but few sellers. Hessians very firm and rates are higher.

ANCHOR LINE

First-Class Passengers only.

LIVERPOOL TO BOMBAY.

KARACHI via Bombay calling at Gibraltar & Egypt

LARGE STEAMSHIPS. UPPER DECK CABINS.

FITTED WITH ELECTRIC FANS.

RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

PASSENGER SAILING DATES—	
OLYMPIA, MARCH 22.	ELYSIA, MAY 19.
SCINDIA, APRIL 6.	CIRCASSIA, JUNE 22.
CASTALIA, APRIL 21.	OLYMPIA, JULY 5
MASSALIA, MAY 5	

Anchor Line (Henderson Brothers), Ltd.

16, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.3.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 567—Vol XXI.

THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 1922.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

King Fuad of Egypt.

Sultan Fuad of Egypt has become King Fuad of Egypt, and we join respectfully in the congratulations which have been reaching his Majesty from all sides. Philosophers may declare that there is nothing in a title, but human nature will not accept that opinion, and in any case the Egyptians must realize that this change of title actually signifies for them a very great deal. It is unfortunate that the demonstrations attending the change should have been marred by some rioting in Cairo, which was of a sufficiently serious character to compel the police to fire upon the crowd. But the authorities declare that the disorders need not cause anxiety, being only the work of the riff-raff and persons wishing for an opportunity of looting. As the weight of moderate opinion begins to make itself more felt we may hope that such occurrences will become rarer and rarer, and that Egypt will settle down in earnest to show herself worthy of the independence she has so insistently claimed.

Turkish Missions in London.

There were until a day or two ago two Turkish Missions in London, one, headed by Izzet Pasha, representing the Constantinople Government, the other, led by Youssuf Kemal Bey, sent by the Angora National Assembly; but both were at pains to affirm that they had an identical purpose, "to defend our country's legitimate claims." Those claims, it was added, are to "a just and equitable peace;" and if that be their full extent there should be no difficulty about recognizing that they are strictly legitimate. Differences may, and almost certainly will, arise regarding what is just and equitable; but at this late hour it should not be impossible or even extremely difficult to compose those differences. The trouble will be to decide whether the Constantinople Mission or that from Angora is to be regarded as the better qualified, taking all things into consideration, to make terms and—most important—secure their recognition and honouring by Turkey. It would be of happy augury if the two Missions could officially become one; but if Constantinople messages are to be trusted, that is unlikely; for Kemal Pasha is reported to have made in the National Assembly a violent attack upon the Sultan's Government, and, especially, upon Izzet Pasha. We can only hope that this report has on its way to Constantinople passed at one stage or another through

hands unfriendly to a settlement with Turkey; otherwise the outlook is not encouraging.

After the Angora Treaty.

On another page of this issue will be found a description of the unhappy condition of Cilicia and Syria, consequent upon the triumph of Kemalism in those parts. The Angora Treaty was acclaimed by many Frenchmen and some Englishmen as a wise measure, designed, and in fact certain, to placate the Moslems. But events have proved them wrong indeed. In Cilicia we find the Kemalists respecting no one but themselves, arrogating to themselves the title of "conquerors of the conquerors of Germany," and generally making normal life impossible for foreigners. Two morals may be drawn from these facts:—1, that any settlement made with the Kemalists is useless unless it be made by the Allies acting in concert, and 2, that the path of compromise is, to the minds of the "dictators" of Angora, the path of self-humiliation. Those who believe in the virtue of Kemalist promises regarding such essentials as the protection of native Christians, or the rights of minorities, and who equally believe in the solid benefits which will arise from a granting of advanced Turkish claims, will not, we think, find their hopes strengthened by a perusal of this Cilician letter. The common assumption that the whole Kemalist game is a bluff, and that, if treated as they wish, Mustapha Kemal's supporters would behave in a thoroughly reasonable and decent way, is shown by events in Cilicia to be an idle one, in which it is folly to indulge. And we are glad to know, in view of the absolute necessity of concerted action by the Near East Conference (which was due to begin yesterday), that some influential Frenchmen are aware of this, and are not, as has been too hastily assumed, for flinging all things down to placate a temporarily powerful Turkey. We understand that M. Poincaré is by no means so convinced as was his predecessor of the wisdom of the Franklin-Bouillon arrangement, so that we have good hopes that a satisfactory agreement will be arranged between Great Britain and France, and, consequently, Italy.

No 'Scrap of Paper' for Italy.

The new Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Signor Schanzer, made a good beginning when in his first speech as Minister, he declared that Italy, having undertaken, by the Treaty of Rapallo, to respect the independence of Fiume, would abide by her undertaking. The Fascists may declare that the post must be either

Italian or Yugoslav, but the Foreign Minister recognizes that Italy's honour will not allow her to make a 'scrap of paper' of the Treaty of Rapallo. That will be noted with satisfaction in Yugoslavia, and will help still further to improve the relations between the two countries. Now, if Italy acts as firmly as Signor Schanzer spoke, we may hope soon to see the end of an intolerable situation.

The Rising in Albania

No one need be surprised at the rebellion in Albania, for, indeed, no one who knew the country could suppose that the Tirana Government would in the nature of things have a smooth and unchallenged course. The actual situation is by no means clear, but we should doubt very much whether all the hostile manifestations against the Government are part of a concerted plan. As is pointed out by our Albanian Correspondent this week, the country, like other parts of the Balkans, is one where persons count for more than principles, where the tribal instinct is still very strong, and where, we may add, internal strife is a habit that the granting of national independence can only with years assuage. The affair is serious no doubt, but not so damaging as to prejudice the future of Albania as an independent country. The population as a whole is behind the Government, even though big chieftains can always find considerable support; and the latest report is that Bairam Tsurri, who is said to have been sustained by Bulgarian bands, has been captured and hanged. These risings only show how strong the power of individuals and the consequent desire to resist a submergence into national unity yet are in Albania, but the decay of so mediaeval a condition of things is only a matter of time: to suppose it could be brought about in a day would be absurd.

The Greek Cabinet.

The internal condition of Greece's political affairs is very puzzling just now, and, frankly, we were surprised that M. Gounaris, after suffering a want-of-confidence vote, should have been asked again to form a Cabinet. The unexpected has happened, and it would appear from the latest news, that he is succeeding, though slowly, in collecting a Cabinet round him. We note with interest, remembering that the financial trouble is probably the most important of all M. Gounaris' difficulties, that the Ministry of Finance has been offered to M. Pepo Malach, a Greek Jew who has a big reputation in Athens. In the list so far announced of the new Cabinet there are some names that were in the previous Cabinet; and we imagine that this arrangement is a stop-gap until it is seen how things turn out at the Near East Conference. If it is there decided to recognise King Constantine, M. Gounaris will probably be confirmed in his power; but if not, it looks as if he will fall once more.

Expensive Commissions.

Lord Newton did good service when, some days ago, he called attention in the House of Lords to the excessive expenditure in connection with Inter-Allied Commissions in Central Europe, and the consequent effect upon the economic recovery of ex-enemy States and their ability to pay reparations. He had a very strong case and it is a pity that he spoiled it by exaggeration. Had he not done so, Lord Crawford would have had a more difficult task than he had in replying to the indictment. The fact is that these Commissions are a real scandal, not because the members are well paid (that is necessary if the right stamp of man is to be secured) but because they are usually far too big for the work they have to do.

If three or four Allies have to be represented on such a Commission, the resulting Commission is, roughly, three or four times as large as is really necessary. A further result is that much time is wasted in petty details and the Commission goes on existing long after it might have been wound up, running the ex-enemy country concerned into quite unnecessary expense and, to that extent, damaging the power to pay reparations. Unfortunately the principle of having each Ally watched by his fellow-Allies seems to have been accepted, and it is probably too late to go back on it now. But we would urge on the Conference of Ambassadors to review at frequent intervals the size of these Commissions and to insist on their being kept cut down to what is absolutely essential. Also, no Commission should be allowed to function for one day longer than is absolutely necessary. We prefer not to specify definite instances at present, but there is certainly more than one existing Commission in the Near East which might be cut down now, or very soon, to one representative of each Allied Power, with a clerk each, stationed in Paris or London.

The Removal of the Bulgarian Censorship.

It was with extreme pleasure that we learned recently that M. Stambolisky's Government have removed the Press Censorship in Bulgaria. No doubt their reasons for so long maintaining it were excellent, but the time for a more complete freedom of speech was manifestly ripe, and in any case the Government can by this measure only suffer in words what they possibly might have endured in action. In a country placed as Bulgaria is to-day, where there is inevitably a certain amount of both internal and external discontent, safety-valves are essential; firmness without discretion can easily be as disastrous a method of governing as the opposite method. We therefore wholeheartedly welcome this step, and congratulate its promoters; and we would further suggest the desirability of granting once more the liberty of free meeting, believing firmly as we do that what is driven underground must sooner or later erupt somewhere, but that which floats free is easily dissipated.

An Outrage in Bulgaria.

This week our Sofia Correspondent reports an outrage perpetrated by a discontented Bulgarian, presumed to be a Communist, on the American Legation at Sofia. The outrage was bad enough as it was, but we are glad indeed that it did not cause any loss of life. This method of ventilating one's grievances is a time-honoured one in the Balkans, and one the disuse of which is probably a matter of long years; and it is rather the grievance than the expression of it that is instructive to outsiders. The motive of the crime is supposed to lie in objection to the relief work which the Americans are carrying on on behalf of Russian refugees in Bulgaria, and it would therefore appear that the attempt was rather the outcome of one individual's fanaticism than a single incident in a general scheme. It is true that the danger of Communism in Bulgaria is by no means extinct, but this particular event has no obvious relation to that danger.

The End of the Prince's Tour.

The Prince of Wales left India on Friday, and the occasion was naturally taken for the publication of a large number of impressions of his tour and its results. In our judgment the most appropriate of these was the resolution passed by the Legislative Assembly, recording in simple words its appreciation of the visit undertaken

to enable the Prince to become acquainted with India, and India to be come acquainted with the Prince. That object has in fact been attained, and it is futile for individuals to express regret that other results which they may have hoped for have not followed. Regarding the part played by the Prince, it is sufficient to refer to the universal testimony that the longer his stay, the warmer was his welcome. As for India, there can be no doubt that the reputation of the country as a whole has suffered seriously throughout the Empire, owing in the first place to the activities of the revolutionary section, and in the second to the failure of the rest of the community to assert itself. That failure will have to be paid for in due course, but the price will depend largely on the extent to which the lesson proves to have been taken to heart, and the unpleasant features of the tour may even serve a useful purpose if they lead to a more real appreciation of the duties implied in citizenship of the new India, and the Empire.

The New Secretary of State.

At the beginning of last week a student of politics asked anxiously what would happen to India "with Gandhi in the lock-up and Montagu among the unemployed." The answer he received, which was "nothing particular," seemed hazardous at the moment, but it has so far proved to be correct. The interregnum at the India Office was, however, terminated last Saturday by the appointment of Viscount Peel to be Secretary of State, and the new Under-Secretary will probably have been chosen before these lines appear in print. Lord Peel has enjoyed little of the lime-light during the last few years, but he has a long record of sound administrative work, and his very name suggests the inheritance of those solid English qualities which in our view are most wanted just now in Whitehall. The course of party politics in this country suggests that his tenure of office may be short, and one is tempted to wish that the post were non-political, but we have not reached that stage yet, and, provided there is reasonable stability in India, we need not be seriously disquieted at the prospect of occasional alterations of Secretaries of State.

Mr. Gandhi's Arrest.

The most striking feature of the messages which have dealt with the arrest of Mr. Gandhi is the consensus that it has come to India as an anti-climax. His personal influence seemed to be waning, some of the most active brains behind him were no longer available, and there were already signs that the revolutionary movement might disintegrate into the numerous localised and discordant elements to which he had given the semblance of unity. It would be a grave error to regard this disintegration as a certainty, for so long as causes of discontent exist, temporary unification is always possible, but at the moment it looks as if a definite step had been taken towards what bureaucrats would call provincialisation. This would not of course mean that the trouble is at an end. In nearly every part of India the large numbers of men who hope to profit by disorder have been encouraged by the events of the last year or so, and disorder will come wherever the authorities allow; but some recent pronouncements have shown that the provincial Governors are not disposed to allow it, and the programme outlined in last Monday's statement regarding Oudh is the sort of thing to convince India that the time has come to settle down to ordinary life.

THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Monday Evening.

Potatoes and Wild Oats.

Mr. Lloyd George is sowing potatoes at Criccieth, while his colleagues and opponents are sowing wild oats in London and elsewhere. The Prime Minister will not be back in Downing Street until next week, and by that time he will have made up his mind whether he will remain in office or not. For it has come to that. The balance of the Coalition is upset; its Liberal element has shrunk and is likely to shrink still further, and its Conservative element goes on from strength to strength and from intolerance to intolerance. A meeting of Conservative members was held at the House last week which was to profess support of the Prime Minister and the Coalition; but it broke up without passing the resolution, and only one conclusion can be drawn—that the Conservative Party is sick of the Coalition, and tired of the Prime Minister.

Mr. Lloyd George, who is not and never will be a Conservative, is equally tired of his mutinous majority. It is believed that he would have stayed on to settle things at Geneva, but the great hopes of that Conference are diminishing; America will not come in at all, and France only comes in with reservations. It is suggested that the Conservatives would not mind his staying on as their nominal leader, obeying the policy which they choose to dictate; but that is an absurd idea. The Prime Minister will not be in anybody's pocket, nor will he sell himself to the fanatical Die-Hards. He is tired, too—he has been in office without a break since December, 1905—and would probably be glad of a real holiday; after which, with energies restored, he could enjoy himself in opposition for a space, eventually undertake a platform campaign, and hope for a return to Downing Street in a couple of years with more real power than he has at present.

In the meantime, according to the quidnuncs, a purely Conservative Government could carry on. Mr. Austen Chamberlain would be Prime Minister; Messrs. Fisher and Shortt, the two remaining Liberals, would resign, and make room for two Unionists; Mr. Winston Churchill, who is sometimes a Liberal and sometimes a Conservative, and mostly just Mr. Churchill, might be expected to remain. Such a Government would probably last out the year; it is doubtful whether it would last longer. The chief point in its favour is that it would avoid the necessity of a General Election, which the public do not want this year.

The weakness of contemporary Conservatism is that it has no policy, and that its anarchical element kills one leader after another—"Balfour must go," "Bonar Law must go," "Lloyd George must go"—is it probable that Mr. Chamberlain would give greater satisfaction in the long run? The "damn the consequences" element is still far too strong in Unionist circles, and while that is so, I doubt whether the country will believe in Conservatism as it did in the great days of Lord Salisbury. Superficially, events are playing into the hands of the Conservative Party; fundamentally I fancy they are more favourable to Liberalism and Labour. The North of England at least has no use for the kind of Conservatism which has been most in evidence lately, and no party which does not hold the North is secure at Westminster.

Personalities and Principles.

Political principles, however, are less important at the moment than personalities. Both Lord Derby and the Duke of Devonshire have refused the Indian Secretaryship, which pretty definitely indicates their opinion that they have no further use for the Coalition; *The Times* took the unusual and perhaps unwise step of congratulating them on their refusal. Lord Derby at least is a shrewd tactician who never worships the setting sun; the Duke is a man of considerable quiet ability with no great personal ambition; if he had thought that duty called him to serve he would undoubtedly have joined the Government, even though it was certain to fall within a week. The fact that two such different

men declined one of the great offices which has finally been accepted by Lord Peel, is eloquent of the present position.

These troubled waters should provide good fishing for the Independent Liberals, but they are still in vitriolic mood. Several of the Coalition Liberals would be glad to go back to the Wee Frees, if the thing could be done decently and unobtrusively; but Lord Gladstone, the party organiser of Mr. Asquith's little band, has announced that they must make a public confession of sin before they can be received back within the fold. That is enough to freeze any budding convert out, and Liberalism will never make its fortune as a narrow-minded sect with such extreme canons of orthodoxy—especially as it changed its own principles last year by incorporating some of the Labour Party's ideas on the sacred banner.

Altogether, home politics are likely to be engrossing enough during the next few months. Everybody is manoeuvring for position; everybody is making calculations in private, and professions in public; and the public is taking a fairly heavy discount off some of these professions.

A London Murder.

London has been horrified this week by the news of a ghastly outrage. Lady White, the widow of a well-known public man, who lived quietly in a West End hotel, was discovered early one morning in bed with grievous injuries to the head, which had been so battered by some heavy instrument that portions of the brain protruded. She died some hours later without regaining consciousness. There was no clue to the murderer, who took no valuable property—perhaps owing to being disturbed—and nobody saw him enter or leave the hotel, which is not one of the great caravanserais but a small select house where any stranger would be instantly noticed.

The Peel Case.

The case against Captain and Mrs. Peel for back-titling racing telegrams aroused great interest, as the parties were wealthy and socially prominent. Captain Peel pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment—a sentence that has been criticised as inadequate. Mrs. Peel was acquitted on the legal ground that a married woman is presumed to have acted under her husband's coercion—a very old principle of jurisprudence—but Mr. Justice Darling made it clear that, although the law compelled him to take this view, he did not believe it to be true in fact in the present case. As this couple were rich and well-connected, no stress of want or necessity compelled the crime. It is being suggested that the legal presumption of a wife's innocence should be abolished, as it is now obviously an anachronism.

The Ethics of Business.

A Conference is to be held next year at Birmingham, by representatives of all religious denominations, to discuss a question which is now being studied by various groups of enquirers—whether one can be a good Christian and a successful business man. The debate is to include the ethics of low wages, Stock Exchange speculation, and all manner of controversial points. The weakness of the programme, so far as I have seen it, seems at present to lie in the fact that no great business man has yet been prevailed on to state his opinion. Sermons on the sin of gambling are obviously ineffective since they are only heard by the converted.

The Week's Books.

The spring publishing season is being delayed owing to a strike among the packers and distributors at the publishing houses. In consequence, a number of new books that were announced for this month are being postponed; there is, however, no difficulty in getting works that have already been published. But that ferocious beast of prey, the reviewer, finds that he is in for a lean and hungry time, owing to the enforced economies of publishing.

One interesting little work that has run the blockade is "The Home Life of Swinburne" (Philpot), by Mrs. Clara Watts-Dunton. She describes how her husband weaned the great man from a tendency to too strong liquor: "On the occasion of each change to a drink less potent than its predecessor, some literary reason was assigned which would awaken desire to emulate some real or fictitious hero beloved by Swinburne. He gave up brandy because Tennyson drank port, and changed from port to burgundy because that was the tippie of Dumas' immortal musketeers. Then for an equally good reason he proceeded to claret, and finally, as it was Shakespeare's drink, to beer." Swinburne's favourite author was Dickens, with Thackeray, and Conan Doyle—at least the Sherlock Holmes stories—in places of high honour.

"Woodrow Wilson as I Knew Him" (Heinemann) by Joseph P. Tumulty, leaves the general impression on the reader that Mr. Tumulty was a greater man than the President, which is a little unfortunate, since the world is hardly likely to accept that verdict. But there are many interesting things in the book. He gives a reason for the President's hesitation in entering the War in the following quotation: "The thing that daunts me and holds me back is the aftermath of war, with all its tears and tragedies. I come from the South (the Southern States), and I know what war is, for I have seen its wreckage and terrible ruin. It is easy for me as President to declare war: I do not have to fight, and neither do the gentlemen who now clamour for it. It is some poor farmer's boy, or the son of some poor widow away off in some modest community, or perhaps the scion of a great family, who will have to do the fighting and the dying."

"Prime Ministers and Presidents (George H. Doran), by C. H. Sherrill, is another volume of personal sketches. One actual conversation between President Wilson and Mr. Hughes, the Prime Minister of Australia, will suffice. In connection with the New Guinea mandate, President Wilson thought it necessary to cross-examine the Commonwealth statesman as to the good intentions of Australia. "Would Australia agree to forbid the sale of arms to the natives?" "Yes," replied the suspected Australian. "And also the sale of alcohol?" "Yes, because alcohol is not good for cannibals." "And you would freely admit all missionaries?" "With pleasure, said Premier Hughes, "our reports show that those particular cannibals haven't been getting half enough to eat." As the cricketers say, the President retired hurt.

OCELLUS.

CRICKET IN JERUSALEM.

In a recent lecture on cricket at Rugby School, Captain P. F. Warner, speaking of his experiences of cricket said he had made a "duck" in Spain, scored 100 in Jersey, and in 1919 played beneath the shadow of the walls of Jerusalem. He told the sergeant-major who umpired for the latter match that he thought of giving up cricket. "Don't de a d—d fool, Sir, if I may say so," he replied; "I never saw so straight a bat between Dan and Beersheba, and I have been out here five years."

It was stated last week that owing to the large number of applications that have been received for the Palestine Gendarmerie recruiting is now closed. There were 400 vacancies for this country, and for these 2,000 applications were received.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

From Our Own Correspondents.

EGYPT.

Cairo, March 11.

The Situation Improved.

The situation as far as can be gauged is steadily improving. There have been no troubles in the provinces, and the demonstrations which marked the early part of the week have subsided. If the Cabinet continues the same firm policy, there should be little fear of any further trouble. At the same time a good deal of criticism has been aroused by the appointments it made at its first Council meeting. While in certain cases the Cabinet appears to have gone out of its way to promote somewhat junior men, or men inexperienced in administrative work, nevertheless the introduction of new blood may not after all be such a bad thing; and time alone can show whether there is real ground for these criticisms, which one cannot help suspecting are to a great extent prompted by personal considerations. The appointments referred to are those made to Under-Secretaryships of Health, Communications and Agriculture. In the three last named administrations the posts were vacant, the Englishmen holding them having recently retired. In the Ministries of Finance and Public Works there are still English Under-Secretaries, and the new appointments are intended to be additional to the establishment pending arrangements for the retirement of the latter. Apart from the fact that the appointment of Egyptian Under-Secretaries in every Administration is the natural outcome of the decision to give Egyptians greater freedom in the administration of their country, this departure has been rendered necessary by the fact that the Cabinet is henceforward to be responsible to Parliament. It will obviously be impossible for Ministers to reply to all the questions concerning their administrations which will be raised in the new representative body, when it comes into existence, and they will have to be assisted, as in other countries, by Under-Secretaries, who in the circumstances must be Egyptians.

A corollary of the establishment of the principle of ministerial responsibility must be the curtailing of the control hitherto exercised by the British Advisers. The latter have hitherto "advised" the Ministers at the head of the Administrations to which they have been attached, and in pursuance of the principles laid down by Lord Granville in the early days of the Occupation Ministers have always had to follow the advice thus given them. Obviously under the new order of things this cannot continue; for Ministers cannot be expected to accept responsibility before a representative body for decisions which they have been compelled to take under pressure from Advisers who are not responsible for their actions to the same representative body.

From now onwards, therefore, the so-to-speak direct control hitherto exercised by the British Advisers must disappear, and Ministers will be free to carry on the administration of the country provided that what they do does not affect those interests the protection of which has been reserved for the absolute discretion of the British Government and in regard to which the views of the High Commissioner will have to prevail.

A first step in this direction was registered at the first Council meeting of the new Cabinet which was not attended by the Financial Adviser. Hitherto that official has always had a seat on the Council, and although theoretically he enjoyed no exclusive power he had acquired a predominating influence over the decisions of the Cabinet, not merely in financial matters and had become the interpreter of the views of the British Government on the Council of Ministers. From now onwards he will not sit with the Cabinet, but, while retaining all his advisory powers, he will still control the financial activities of the Government insofar as they affect the interests reserved for the absolute discretion

of the British Government.

The decision of Parliament ratifying the abolition of the Protectorate and the recognition of the independence of Egypt is anxiously awaited here, and until it is received the Egyptians generally refuse to believe that this important change has been decided upon. It is understood that as soon as the ratification by Parliament is notified to the Sultan he will announce the fact to his people in a rescript in which he will proclaim himself King of Egypt.

St. Andrew's Sale of Work.

A most successful sale of work organised by the Women's Guild of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church was held this week at the Continental-Savoy Hotel. Lady Congreve, the wife of the G.O.C., performed the opening ceremony in a very happily worded little speech, and it is understood that the sale, which was exceedingly well attended, realised the sum of L.E. 300—a most welcome addition to the funds at the disposal of this Association which does an enormous amount of good work in the direction of assisting the various foreign and British missionaries and charitable institutions operating not only in this country but also abroad.

A Successful Flower-Show.

The Horticultural Society of Egypt held their annual flower-show this week in the Ezbekia Gardens. It was certainly the largest and most comprehensive exhibition of its kind seen in Egypt for many years, and the exhibits demonstrated what an advance horticulture has made out here. The opening ceremony was performed by Lady Allenby, who, ever since she came to Egypt, has materially helped the progress of the Society by the practical and active interest she has always taken in its work.

Moliere Tercentenary Fete.

The other evening the French community gave a great fete in honour of the tercentenary of Molière. It was a most successful and interesting evening and was thoroughly enjoyed by a large company including a considerable number of English residents and Egyptians. This is an example of the manner in which, by contrast with ourselves, the French do honour abroad to their famous men of letters, and it explains how, in spite of political changes and the extension of English instruction in the schools, France has managed to maintain her intellectual influence over the *Intelligenza* in this corner of the Mediterranean. It is surely about time that we did something to emulate our continental friends and give more prominence in countries like this to the literary and intellectual achievements of our nation. When, for example, will some one organise a Shakespeare festival?

Port Said, March 7.

"The" Wedding-Day.

The 28th was signalled here by a salute from the battery, and all the men-o'-war in port dressed ship to do honour to Princess Mary.

Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's Advice.

A few days ago Mr. Ramsay MacDonald was in Port Said, and the local Committee of the Delegation invited him to a tea and reception at the Casino Palace Hotel. There were various speeches in Arabic and English, and Mr. MacDonald was presented with a very fine lamp of eastern workmanship as a souvenir of his visit to Egypt. In reply Mr. MacDonald gave an excellent speech, and at the end acted the part of the candid friend, and in forceful and earnest words reminded the Egyptians that political assassination never yet helped any cause, and that it was ruining the Egyptian cause throughout the world.

Lucky Children.

Last week the Captain and Officers of H.M.S. 'Ceres,' gave a children's party, and the children were allowed to

bring escorts. The afternoon was literally "a howling success" for the howls of delight at the merry-go-round, and the aerial railway, and the shoot, and the cinema, and the diver's hand shake, and the conjuring tricks, were heard across the harbour. Altogether the escorts and the children had a most glorious time.

The weather has been extremely changeable, and several severe storms of thunder and lightning have been experienced the last few days.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, March 6.

The Elections for the Senate.

The general elections began on Wednesday, March 1, with those for the Senate in the Old Kingdom, Bukovina and Bessarabia. Out of a total of 116 seats, the Government secured 104, namely, 80 in the Old Kingdom, 16 in Bessarabia and 8 in Bukovina; while the 12 seats obtained by the Opposition consist of 8 in Bessarabia—won exclusively by the Tzarani— and 4 in the Old Kingdom, divided among the various groups of the Opposition. The elections for the Senate in Transylvania and the Banat will take place towards the end of this week, after the Chamber elections.

The above figures speak for themselves and it may be safely assumed that this success surpassed even the Government's expectations. The Opposition, however, in order to explain away their defeat, represent the Government's success as too sweeping to be honestly won and ascribe it to the use made of the administrative apparatus.

Judging from the total number of votes, the Tzarani made a fairly good second, followed by the coalesced groups of MM. Také Jonescu and Jorga, and then by General Averescu and M. Marghiloman's parties. The result, no doubt, forebodes for the Chamber elections, if not an equal success, at least a very satisfactory issue for the Government.

Overseas Club Dinner.

The Bucharest Group of the Overseas Club, which was formed only a few weeks ago, celebrated its inauguration by a dinner, which took place on Princess Mary's wedding day, at the Hotel Boulevard. Thanks to the efforts of the Organising Committee, consisting of Mrs. C. Hinscliff, Mr. L. A. Rutherford, Mr. H. A. Smith and Mr. J. Young, this first big venture of the Club was crowned with great success. The British Minister, Sir Herbert Dering, and Lady Dering were present as the Guests of Honour; and Lt.-Col. Duncan, the Military Attaché, and Mr. Millington Drake, First Secretary of the Legation (both members of the Overseas) were also guests. Mr. S. A. Guest made an excellent chairman and largely contributed to the delightful evening by his witty and pointed speeches.

The toast of "The King" was followed by the reading of a letter from Queen Marie of Roumania, who is British by birth and had graciously consented to be an honorary life member of the League. This letter runs as follows:—"As I have been made Honorary Life Member of the Overseas Club, I would like you all to feel that my thought is with you this evening when your Bucharest group meets for the first time. I wish you all good luck and happiness, and am so glad that the day you chose for your dinner is the wedding day of my dear young cousin Princess Mary, so dear to every English heart. Three cheers for Princess Mary and for the success and welfare of your Club all over the world.—Marie." Needless to say, the reading of this letter was greeted with enthusiastic applause and cheers, and the toast "The King and Queen of Roumania" was followed by a burst of renewed applause.

Greetings to Princess Mary.

The third toast was that of Princess Mary, proposed by Sir Herbert Dering, who had had the happy idea of sending a message of congratulation from the Legation, Consulate and the entire British Community, and timing it so that the reply arrived in time to be read at the Overseas' dinner. The Minister's speech most eloquently put into words the thoughts of all present,

which at that moment were centred on our beloved Princess, who, as Sir Herbert Dering rightly said, had so endeared herself to the hearts of the people during the war and after. Princess Mary's reply by telegram was read and listened to with intense interest, and for the moment everybody present felt himself in touch with the great event taking place in the "old country."

The toast to the Guests of Honour, included besides Sir Herbert and Lady Dering, a number of American and Roumanian friends, including Admiral Pantazzi, whose wife is an associate member of the Group and the authoress of a very interesting book on Roumania. Admiral Pantazzi replied to the toast in a very happy little speech in French. Mr E. Palmer, the American Consul in Bucharest, also replied.

Colonel Duncan, who proposed "The Overseas Club," put before us the ideals for which we stand in a most helpful and forcible way; and Mr. Millington Drake proposed thanks to the organising committee, and so another toast was drunk, and replied to by the Rev. Claude Hinscliff in the name of those concerned.

There were about one hundred persons present, and after the dinner the centre of the floor was cleared for dancing. The dinner itself was quite excellent, and the chef of the Hotel wrestled successfully with one culinary difficulty, namely "pancakes" in honour of the day—Shrove Tuesday. Two of the members—clever at mechanical and engineering work—made for this occasion and for future use an exact replica of the Overseas Badge, 3 feet in diameter.

General News.

The Crown Princess Helen of Roumania together with her baby boy, Prince Mihai, are expected to leave Athens for Bucharest on March 15.

The Roumanian Royal family journeyed on Saturday, March 4, to Curtea de Arges, the burial place of the late Sovereigns, to attend the annual requiem in memory of Queen Elizabeth—"Carmen Sylva."

The International Commission for the Delimitation of the Roumanian-Hungarian boundary arrived last week at Arad. The Commission is composed of representatives of Great Britain, France, Japan and Italy, besides the Roumanian and Hungarian delegates.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Belgrade, March 11.

Revival of the Fiume Incident.

Four days ago the *fascisti* whom official Italy now recognises and now disowns, were once more let loose; and the streets of Fiume are again the scene of terrible civil-war. The Independent Government of the Free State of Fiume has been expelled by them, in order to provide official Italy with an excuse to land the troops which she was compelled to remove from Fiume under the pressure of the Great Powers some months ago. To give the finishing touch to this tragi-comedy a telegram from Trieste states quite proudly that the *fascisti* after a "heavy fight" have stormed and taken two destroyers belonging to the Italian Navy. It takes very little to see how easy it would be for a mob armed with rifles to "storm and take" two warships operating on the high sea! An English daily newspaper reproduced the above, probably thinking it quite natural for men to swim out to sea, put up a heavy fight, and board a man-of-war. English newspapers are usually regarded here as the only ones that endeavour to publish nothing but the truth, and some anglophobe Belgrade papers have welcomed this rather sad misinformation as a chance to point out that even the biggest English papers are lending their columns to the unjust cause of Italy.

The Parliament at Belgrade had a very feverish sitting and all the Members without exception demanded a final settlement of Yugoslav relations with Italy. The Minister of Foreign Affairs outlined his position, stating that the Yugoslavs have protested, but his speech was so frequently interrupted that it was impossible to hear how he finished it. To one who knows this country it was very plain that the war-fever is unfortunately again setting in among the population. More reasonable

men are earnestly hoping that the Great Powers will intervene in time to prevent more serious consequences to this latest provocation. Only a few days ago everybody welcomed the change in the Italian Government, hoping that an end had been reached of all this trickery and provocation, but now this illusion has gone, to make room for the opinion that Italy may change her leaders but will always pursue the same policy.

Quadruple Entente Delegates in Belgrade.

The first series of meetings of the Quadruple Entente delegates is ended. A complete understanding as regards the future Genoa Conference discussions has been arrived at, and now everybody is calmly awaiting the fixing of the date of Genoa. Poland and Czechoslovakia made a friendly settlement of their border differences, and as a direct consequence Poland joined the Little Entente, which is now to be called the Quadruple Entente. Main points which they will discuss collectively in Genoa will be the economic reconstruction of Central Europe, the attitude towards Russia, and the settlement of liabilities which have to be borne by the States that used to form Austro-Hungary before 1914.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, March 11.

Greece and Bulgaria.

THE NEAR EAST in its number of March 2 mentioned that Bulgaria had not yet resumed diplomatic relations with Greece. This defect is soon to be remedied, M. Cuneff having received orders to proceed to Athens as Chargé d'Affaires. M. Cuneff, who was formerly chief liaison officer with General de Fourtoul, the President of the Military Commission, expects to leave Sofia towards the end of March. M. Kissef, the Minister elect, will not go to Athens for the present, as his services may be required for the Conference of Genoa, but it is probable that he will take up his new post without any further loss of time. In sending M. Cuneff to Athens the Bulgarian Government have done what they should have done long ago. The Greeks have been represented in Bulgaria by M. Panourias in the capacity of Chargé d'Affaires for over eighteen months, but at Athens the United States have looked after Bulgarian interests. It is very difficult to remain on good terms with another country when one has no Diplomatic representation in the country concerned. This is particularly true of two countries such as Greece and Bulgaria who have a common frontier and who have many outstanding differences to clear up.

Communism in Bulgaria.

A Press telegram received from Budapest last week stated that the Hungarian police had arrested a number of Communists, who were the chiefs of an organisation having its headquarters at Budapest and agents established at Sofia and other Balkan capitals. The trial of these Communists will test the truth of the above quoted telegram, but it would occasion no surprise to learn that a Communist organisation was at work in Bulgaria, under the very noses of the Government. In order to check Communist plots it is necessary to have a strong army and gendarmerie, neither of which Bulgaria possesses. Bulgarian Communists are for the most part not especially dangerous, but their foreign compatriots, who, owing to the ungaurded state of the frontiers, have full access to Bulgaria, are capable of stirring up trouble. This trouble, moreover, need not be confined to Communists; London papers often refer to Bulgaria as being used as a means of communication between Angora and Moscow, and even Angora and Berlin. This is very natural, as Bulgaria's geographical position is excellently adapted for forming a connecting link between Germany, Russia, and Turkey. In addition, a large strip of territory ungaurded by soldiers or gendarmerie offers many advantages to those people who dare not entrust their missives to the ordinary post.

Questions asked in the House of Lords last month show that there are some British politicians who realise

that Bulgaria, disarmed and defenceless, may become a centre of "Utopian unrest" instead of the "Utopian Paradise," planned by the Paris Peace Conference. Anyone, be he diplomat, soldier, or politician, has only to visit Bulgaria, study local conditions, and he will return convinced that the military terms of the Treaty of Neuilly are thoroughly unpractical. Besides being unpractical they are dangerous, as it is in no one's interests that the Communists should have all their own way in Bulgaria.

M. Stambolisky in the Provinces.

M. Stambolisky left Sofia ten days ago for the provinces, and conjecture is rife upon the meaning of his absence when many political matters claim his attention. It is said that the Prime Minister has visited M. Draghieff at Stara Zagora with the object of sounding the latter as to his willingness to enter the Cabinet. M. Draghieff, one of the founders of the Agrarian party, has lived quietly at Stara Zagora for the last two years; but he is still a certain force in the country, and some of the junior members of the Cabinet are thought to favour the idea of his return to active political life. Well informed circles are of the view that M. Draghieff will not return so long as the Cabinet continues its present internal policy, nor so long as certain Ministers retain their portfolios. Since the censorship was ended, rumours have been current to the effect that M. Draghieff, Minister of the Interior, had resigned, and that M. Oboff, Minister of Agriculture, would be called upon to resign. No confirmation is forthcoming of either of these rumours and it may be that they are due to the letting off of steam consequent on the withdrawal of the censorship.

Ministerial Problems.

It is, however, evident that the Cabinet has some thorny problems to solve. Chief amongst these is the Budget, which the most strenuous efforts of M. Tourlakoff have so far failed to balance. In addition there are the payment of Reparations for 1922, the dispute with Sofia University, which is approaching a climax, and the threatening attitude of the Clergy, who are annoyed at having their war bonuses reduced. Other and minor difficulties exist in plenty, and the lot of the Cabinet is certainly not an enviable one. That they will weather the storm, as they have weathered others, is not to be doubted, on account of the reluctance of the opposition parties to come to an understanding.

Mme. Karsavina.

Madame Tamara Karsavina, the famous Russian ballet dancer, will dance at the Free Theatre, Sofia, on Monday, March 20. All the proceeds of the performance will be given to the Russian refugees in Bulgaria.

A Bomb Outrage.

A bomb was thrown last night into the Chancellery of the American Legation. No one was in the room at the time and the explosion caused no material damage. The author of the outrage has not yet been caught although he was seen to run away by several persons who were in the street. No reasons can be as yet advanced for the outrage, but it is possible that it is the work of a Communist who disapproves of the relief work that the American Legation is carrying out here on behalf of the Russian refugees in Bulgaria.

Tennis in March.

Owing to the exceptionally fine weather it has been possible to begin the tennis season at Sofia.

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GREECE.

Athens, March 10.

Murder of a well-known Journalist.

A highly respected Greek journalist, Andrew Kavafakis, Editor of the *Eleftheros Typos*, a Venizelist paper, has fallen a victim to the bitter political antagonism which has for so long divided Greece into two hostile camps. Readers of THE NEAR EAST probably remember that while walking in Stadium Street one evening last August, M. Kavafakis was attacked with walking sticks and slightly injured in the head and body. This time, however, the cowardly murderers had apparently made up their minds to rid themselves once for all of their man.

At about 9 p.m. on Monday last Andrew Kavafakis left the editorial offices of the *Eleftheros Typos* in Edward Law Street, and hiring a cab drove to his home situated in Troia Street in the suburb of Patissia. Reaching his house half an hour later, and having paid his cab fare, he was about to unlock the front door when six revolver shots were fired in quick succession from a dark "cul-de-sac" immediately opposite his house. Mortally wounded in the head and stomach, M. Kavafakis fell on the pavement unconscious. When medical aid arrived it was too late, as the victim was already dead.

The funeral took place on the following afternoon and was attended by thousands of people including all the prominent Liberals in Athens, and the editors and staffs of all the Athenian newspapers. At the conclusion of the funeral service, which was held at St. George's Church, speeches eulogizing the character and the patriotism of the deceased and stigmatizing his assassins, were delivered by General Dangelis, on behalf of the Liberal Party, and others.

Both sections of the Press are vehemently attacking the Government and particularly the Chief of Police, whom they accuse of complete inability to ensure public safety in the capital. As a sign of protest the editors of all the Athenian papers, with the exception of the *Stemma*, suspended their publication for 24 hours.

The murderers who, according to the cabman's statement were three, two of them being soldiers in uniform, have not so far been traced; one arrest has, however, been made.

The Prime Minister's Return.

After an absence of over four months Monsieur Gounaris has returned to Athens. On the morning following his return the Premier was received in audience by the King whom he put *au courant* with the actual position of the national questions, also with the results of his *démarches* in the various European capitals. In the afternoon of the same day a Council of Ministers,

held at the Prime Minister's private office, discussed the situation in general and decided to convoke the Constituent Assembly on the 10th inst. (to-night) when M. Gounaris will make important declarations and will ask for a vote of confidence.

Replying to the representatives of the Press, who asked him whether there was any truth in the rumour that the Government intended to resign, M. Gounaris said that these rumours were absurd, as he had never thought of resigning. He would retain the premiership as long as the National Assembly and the people continued their confidence in him. There was no doubt, added the Premier, that Greece was struggling against great difficulties, but the Government at present in power ought not to be blamed for that. Immediately after the conclusion of the Great War every one of the victorious nations took all necessary steps to ensure the complete disarmament of its nearest adversary. Unfortunately those who at the time were holding in their hands the destinies of the country had failed to obtain the application of such measures against Greece's direct enemy, Turkey. There should be sought the main cause of the present difficulties of Hellas, which the Government would do its utmost to overcome.

The Political Situation.

It was generally thought here that on his return from his prolonged sojourn abroad, M. Gounaris would, after giving a detailed account of his doings and enlightening the people on the real state of the national affairs, resign with his entire Cabinet without even going to the trouble of asking the National Assembly for a vote of confidence. No little surprise was therefore caused when the Premier immediately after his return made it perfectly clear that he had not the slightest intention of parting with the Premiership. That even some of his own followers in the Chamber had expected him to resign is proved by the fact that many of these have openly declared that they will unreservedly blackball their leader. These deputies about 26 in number, are all Members for Macedonia and are headed by M. Boussio. If to these are added the Mussulman, deputies of Macedonia and Thrace numbering 27, who will also in all probability vote against the Government, M. Gounaris' position would appear to be rather critical in view of the fact that not only the Liberals (85 votes) but the followers of M. Stratos (about 30 votes) and the Independents (20 votes) have declared most emphatically that they will not support the Government. Seeing that the total number of deputies actually in Athens is only 319, it would appear that if, as anticipated, the above 188 vote against the Gounaris Government, this is already doomed. Even if the Mussulman deputies (these as a rule change their mind at the very last moment) decide to afford their support to the Government, the latter would not obtain a majority and would be obliged to resign.

Miscellaneous News.

After spending four days in Athens, M. Stergiadis has returned to Smyrna. He was received in audience by the King and on the day of his departure called on the British and French Chargés d'Affaires.

The eight prominent Liberals who were arrested a fortnight ago for the publication of an article in the *Patris*, have been released.

The situation in Crete is still serious, collisions between the Government troops and the insurgents taking place almost daily. More reinforcements have been despatched to the island lately.

TURKEY.

Constantinople, March 14.

The Missions to Europe.

Although, according to official announcements, the sole object of the journey to Europe of the Commissioner for Foreign Affairs of the Angora Government, Yousouf Kemal Bey, is to enlighten public opinion with regard to the objects of Kemalist policy, the utmost indignation was aroused in Angora by the action of the Sublime Port in sending Izzet Pasha to assist the Angora envoy in that task. The acting Commissioner for Foreign

Cunard Line

MEDITERRANEAN & NEAR EAST

REGULAR FREIGHT SAILINGS FROM
LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER GLASGOW
AND SOUTH WALES PORTS TO
GIBRALTAR ALGIERS MALTA PATRAS
PIRAEUS SYRA VOLO SALONICA
:- SMYRNA CONSTANTINOPLE :-
ROUMANIAN PORTS ALSO FROM—
LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER AND
SOUTH WALES PORTS TO GIBRALTAR
GENOA LEGHORN NAPLES PALERMO
MESSINA CATANIA BRINDISI BARI
ANCONA VENICE TRIESTE AND FIUME

FREIGHT SAILINGS FROM
LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER LONDON SWANSEA
ANTWERP AND ROTTERDAM TO GREEK LEVANT
AND BLACK SEA PORTS

ALSO FREIGHT SAILINGS FROM
LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER :-
GLASGOW AND SOUTH WALES
PORTS TO HAVRE ST MALO AND
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Affairs informed the Great National Assembly that in his opinion the Central Government was trying to carry out by trickery the object which the former Grand Vizier, Damad Ferid Pasha, failed to accomplish by the use of force, namely the destruction of the Angora Government. A telegram of warning was therefore sent to the Sublime Porte, and serious measures were threatened if the Imperial Government persisted in pursuing a line of conduct opposed to the sacrosanct policy of the representatives of the people. What reply the Sublime Porte sent to this missive is not known, but Mahmud Pasha Churuksulu suddenly discovered urgent business in Angora, where he has doubtless done his best to persuade the representatives of the people not to make fools of themselves. At all events, in the course of a subsequent sitting of the Great National Assembly, when certain deputies suggested that Izzet Pasha should be summoned before the Anatolian Tcheresvechaika, or Independent Tribunal, to answer a charge of High Treason against the Nation, the Acting Commissioner for Foreign Affairs explained that after all Izzet Pasha was not such a bad chap and there was no doubt whatever that he would support the Nation's Only Representative to the utmost of his ability. The Great National Assembly then expressed its satisfaction by according the Acting Foreign Commissioner a vote of confidence.

The precise objects of the two missions are still something of a mystery, for it is hardly likely that the two Foreign Ministers would undertake such an extensive and expensive journey merely to explain what has already been explained at length upon innumerable occasions. In view, however, of the forthcoming Conference of Allied Ministers in Paris, and of the Conference of Genoa, there can be no doubt that good reasons exist for the presence of the two envoys in Europe. The primary object of both missions is doubtless to secure the further isolation of Greece, for in spite of all advertisements to the contrary, the Kemalist army is certainly in a weaker position than it was twelve months ago. In the next place it is essential from the Turkish point of view that the Allies should be prevented, if possible, from coming to an agreement amongst themselves to enforce their own peace terms, or to cut the ground from beneath the feet of the Angora Government by coming to an understanding with Russia in regard to the Straits Question and the settlement of the eastern frontier of Turkey. It is not difficult to understand why the Imperial Government decided not to authorise Youssuf Kemal Bey to act in the name of the Sultan; for such a proceeding would put an end to the equivocal position of the Central Government, and render impossible any disavowal of the most fantastic claims of the Angora Government. Izzet Pasha's task, therefore, is to try to lay the dust which may be raised by Youssuf Kemal Bey.

The Greeks in Anatolia.

For some time past rumours have been current to the effect that even if the Athens Government were to consent to the evacuation of Anatolia, the Greek army would refuse to carry out orders to that effect, and would support an independent government to be proclaimed in Ionia. In other words, war between Turkey and Greece would be succeeded by a war between Kemalistan and Papoulasthan, for General Papoulas himself is said to be secretly at the head of the movement. On paper the idea may appear fantastic, but was not the Nationalist Movement at first regarded as fantastic, and were not the Nationalist forces scornfully described as a mere collection of brigand bands? Why should the Greeks, who have a considerable regular army in the field to give them a start, be unable to emulate the example of the Turks? It is true the Russians have been largely responsible for the continued existence of the Angora Government, but past history has shown that amongst the Greeks private effort may produce the most extraordinary results. Greece practically owes her independence and her existence to the private efforts of individual patriots, who have presented warships and universities to their country. The feeling against the withdrawal from Anatolia is growing constantly stronger,

and the severe measures taken by the Angora Government in the Black Sea coastal area have served to strengthen still further the determination of the Greeks to hold what they have won. The movement against the evacuation of Anatolia should not therefore be regarded merely as propaganda, or of no great seriousness. On the contrary, the Allies may find it far more difficult than is generally imagined to destroy the Frankenstein created by their own mistakes during the last three-and-a-half years.

ALBANIA.

Tirana, March 10.

Gathering Clouds.

There are grave signs of an acute crisis in Albania, a crisis that may prove fatal if its dimensions grow too big, but one that may also have a salutary influence on the country if the insurrectionary movement is crushed. The issue of the matter will be of the utmost importance to Albania, and will profoundly affect the political life of this young and inexperienced people.

To understand the nature of the tempest which threatens to shake Albania and its Government, it must be remembered that the country is still in what may be called a "patriarchal" condition, in which the personal factor is of immense importance, often, indeed, counting for more than principle: a movement has but to be led by an influential person, and it at once has to be reckoned with. Your readers will recall that in my letter dated January 29 and published in *THE NEAR EAST* of February 9, I mentioned certain signs of discontent at Scutari. At first not much attention was paid to the matter. Now this little insignificant movement of protestation, which manifested itself in the North, ran the risk of becoming more complicated and, by collaboration with other elements nearer Tirana, of spreading.

Towards the end of February the Government requested Dr. Tourtoulis and Mgr. Bumci—both members withdrawn from the High Council—to leave Albania immediately, so that their attitude might not give rise to comment and that they might not be accused of stirring up strife. The two men obeyed this order with good grace, and quietly took the exile's road. But all the time other and more important factors were entering into the game. It will be remembered that Hassan Prishtina, Mustapha Kruja, and Zia Dibra—all three accused of a *coup d'état* in last December—were to be brought before a Court of Justice. Hassan Prishtina is still in Albania; the other two have disappeared. To the activities of these two agitators must be added those of Bairam Tsurri, a chieftain from Yankova, of more than sixty-five years of age, an energetic man who up to the present has shown great patriotism and honesty. Unfortunately he is an enemy of Ahmed Zogolli, Minister of the Interior.

To these personal influences it is necessary still further to add another action of a political character: the discontent caused in the North-East of Albania by the decision of the Conference of Ambassadors at Paris on November 9 last, which was so prejudicial to the frontiers of Albania. To obtain an idea of the indignation aroused in the country by the diminution once more of Albanian territory, one must visit the region recently evacuated by the Serbs, the country along the Drin, completely ravaged by Serbian troops, and still groaning in its misery. This last factor explains to us why Elez Youssuf, chief of the Drin region, has taken part in the movement.

The Actual State of Affairs.

At the moment at which I write these lines the movement is developing and is very far from settling down. It is nevertheless a remarkable thing that the people have taken no part in the affair; on the contrary they are supporting the Government, and the Militia is faithful to the authorities. This gives grounds for hope that in a short time the Government will be able to stifle this insurrection, which, for the time being at least, appears to be very circumscribed, and has not been attended by any kind of outrage.

The Recognition of Albania.

The latest information at Tirana states that the Governments of Sofia and of Berne have officially recognised Albania *de jure*, and the early arrival of a Bulgarian representative is expected.

The Postal Service.

On March 1 Albania was admitted into the Postal Union, the formalities being carried through at Berne. Postal communications with Albania are still very uncertain, the only route at the moment being *via* Italy. A postal and telegraphic convention with Serbia and Greece has always been desired, and attempts have been made to arrive at an agreement. This may henceforward be made easier.

The Albanian Minister in London.

With the consent of the British Government, M. Mehmed Konitza has been nominated Albanian Minister Plenipotentiary in London. M. Konitza left Tirana this week, and should already have arrived in London. He is the first representative of Albania in London. The new Minister lived in London in 1912 and 1913, as Albanian delegate to the Conference after the Turko-Balkan War; moreover, he has further been in London from 1914-1919—the duration of the Great War—as delegate of the great Albanian federation Vatra of the United States of America. After the Armistice, at the assembly of the Congress of Durazzo in December 1919, he was made Minister of Foreign Affairs, a post that he also held at the Grand Assembly of Lushnia in January, 1920. From December, 1920, until his nomination to his present post, M. Konitza has remained in London as delegate of the Vatra. It is hoped that this appointment will still further cement the cordial relations between Great Britain and Albania.

Serbian Agents in Albania.

Serbia keeps two agents in Albania, one at Scutari and another at Koritza. The Government of Tirana has just notified these two agents that they can no longer be tolerated, if they cannot be nominated and officially accredited as consuls. An answer from M. Pashitch's Government is now awaited.

Albania and the Paris Conference.

The Conference of Ambassadors is not very urgent in its desire to do justice to the demands of Albania, and the procrastination characterising the solution of outstanding questions often places the Government of Tirana in a very difficult position.

A solution of three questions is awaited, namely: the evacuation of Scutari by Italian troops, the evacuation by the Greeks of the region South of Koritza, and lastly, the remission to Albania of the sum arising from the excess of receipts over expenses during the administration by the French of Koritza (1916-1920), a sum amounting to 1,200,000 francs which was handed over to the French Minister of Finance while awaiting a definite ruling on the fate of Koritza, a decision which was made on November 9 at the Conference of Ambassadors at Paris.

Two Commissions.

The Commission of Inquiry has left Albania for Geneva, where it will present to the League of Nations a detailed account of its operations. Before leaving Albania the Commission of Inquiry met the Frontier Commission which has just arrived at Scutari, and which will soon enter upon its duties in determining the frontier between Serbia and Albania.

As M. Yovanovitch, the Serbian Minister at Berne, had, on January 18, presented in the name of his Government a Note to the League of Nations, in which he set out grievances against the Albanian Government and particulars of events in the neutral zone and along the frontier, the League of Nations has charged this Commission to verify these complaints. The Commission has just ended its report and the League has published it, bearing the date February 22, 1922. In this report the complaints formulated by Serbia are denied and are challenged on all points.

IRAQ.

Baghdad, March 2.

The Political Situation.

Things are settling down in Iraq, very slowly it is true, but on the whole satisfactorily. There are, however, some disquieting signs which do not augur well, and which if not attended to very soon may lead to trouble. First and foremost comes the collection of the revenues. In most parts of the country the taxes are being paid without any trouble, but in most of the Muntafiq *liwa*, and in some parts of the Hillah *liwa* little or no revenue is being collected—and that in spite of the fact that these are among the biggest revenue producing districts of the country. It is very doubtful whether the money to pay now exists in these districts even if the tribesmen had any intention of paying. It certainly was there, but most of it has now been spent on the purchase of rifles; and it is not clear what steps Government will take to enforce the payment of its demands.

The situation is critical. Government has not at its disposal at the moment sufficient forces to coerce the tribesmen into paying, and at the same time any refusal to pay on a big scale will make the State's finances so precarious as to make it very difficult for the Government to carry on its work. At such a time the presence of a strong and capable Minister of the Interior is very necessary, and it is a pity that the present Minister, Haji Ramzi Bey does not show greater initiative in dealing with events.

Party Differences.

It is unfortunate, too, that, at such a time, when it is essential that party differences should be sunk in an attempt to place the national Government on a firm footing, a large number of officials show a distinct tendency to differentiate between those persons who rose in revolt in 1920, and those who did not, usually to the detriment of those who did not rise. It is natural perhaps, but none the less unfortunate that many of the new officials are of opinion that they are indebted to those who rose in 1920 for their appointments to their present posts, and feel it incumbent upon them to repay that debt in any way possible. This attitude is only creating a cleavage which did not actually exist to any appreciable extent before, and it is for Government and all its officials to see that the persons who did not rise in 1920 did not remain inactive through any lack of patriotic sentiment, but merely because they are the persons who will support Government *qua* Government in the interests of law and order; and the young Arab Government should be careful not to alienate the sympathies of this important section of the population. With all these unfavourable signs, however, the situation is certainly better than it was three months ago.

Chief of Police.

General Nuri Pasha Sa'id has been appointed Director General of Police.

ASIA MINOR.

Smyrna, March 7.

Yesterday the Greek Archbishop of Smyrna, Chrysostomos, was responsible for a slight perturbation in business circles. He announced that all Anatolian Greeks between the ages of 18 and 50 were called up to serve as volunteers in the Greek forces, and that one-fifth of Greek fortunes would be required for the upkeep of the volunteer force. This news seems to have induced many of the wealthy Greeks to reduce their deposits in the Greek banks, and there was, for a time, considerable danger of a "run" on all Greek banks. The Greek military authorities promptly issued a notice that the Bishop's action was unauthorised and that only the War Minister had the right to call up recruits for the army. The "run" on the banks ceased forthwith and to-day business is "as usual," *i.e.*, very bad indeed.

CYPRUS.*Nicosia, February 28.***The Legislative Council.**

The Chamber, with its diminished members, is to be opened on March 7. In addition to the Budget, thirteen draft laws will be submitted. They will include new, or amending bills, relating to the penal code, post office and customs, church properties, advocates, motors, shooting and the protection of wild birds. The Budget is framed for nine months only, as for the future the financial year is to date from January 1, instead of April 1. Estimated expenditure amounts to £402,093, including the following votes:—Police £66,715; prisons £12,680; Forest £59,550; Land Registry and Survey £33,567; Medical £24,246; Public Works £38,097; Education £22,902; Treasury £21,554; Secretariat £21,843; Post Office £13,931; Agriculture £12,928. It will be noticed that the Agricultural Department figures for a smaller sum than the Post Office, although agriculture is the life of the island.

Figures for the Quarter ended December 31 last show that the value of exports from Cyprus amounted to £331,679, an against £319,516 in 1920: and that of imports to £479,836, as against £405,101. The depression in trade continues, and the above figures show that the island is far from recovery to normal conditions of progress.

Letter from the Oecumenical Patriarch.

A letter of peace and greeting from the Patriarch Melétios at Constantinople, sent in accordance with established custom after a new enthronement, has been received by the Archbishop at Nicosia. It makes special allusion to the time he spent in Cyprus as Bishop of Kitium, and of the bonds which unite him with the island, its clergy, and Orthodox people, for whose welfare he prays. The Archbishop will lay the letter before the Holy Synod, in order that the terms of the reply may be considered. The Greek Church of Cyprus, like some of its sister independent churches, is adopting a cautious, wait-and-see, attitude, in view of the dispute between Greece and Constantinople over the Election, which has brought confusion into the ecclesiastic community. In Cyprus it is hoped that the chasm which at present divides the Orthodox Church into two parties will soon be bridged, and an understanding arrived at, although feeling at present runs high at Athens.

General News.

All the Russian refugees except those who propose to settle in the island, are warned to be prepared to leave the island about June for Serbia, between whose Government and the British an understanding has been come to as to settlement.

The grain (80,000 bushels) in the Nicosia stores has been sold to bakers at 5s. the bushel.

Amongst the institutions which have been adopted from the British Community are football, hockey, and other games. Both Greeks and Turks are now proficient players, and several good clubs exist. A number of both football and hockey matches have been played at Nicosia and other towns. A football club of Cypriots at Athens has been distinguishing itself; and its members have played a Greek team at Phalerum, in the presence of the King, the Royal Family, and a large concourse of spectators.

KEMALISM IN CILICIA.*Beyrout, February 24.***Idealism v. Sense.**

The Kemalist régime, judged by its application in Cilicia, seems to be the expression of a fierce nationalism which may have some admirable features, but has certainly also its ridiculous side. The fact is that the Kemalist policy has the virile ambition of maturity combined with the simplicity and impotence of childhood; and it is precisely the Kemalists' unconscious-

ness of this impotence that makes their proud efforts for complete independence appear so futile. This is reflected in their new Customs tariff. Foreign flour, for example, pays a duty of 140 per cent., and the avowed object of the impost is to protect and promote the cultivation of cereals in the country. The Young Turk legislator, filled with idealism but devoid of practical sense, seems oblivious of the hard fact that the war has sorely reduced agricultural labour, and that the few hands left available were, and are still, being enrolled for active military service.

The military spirit, indeed, dominates the Kemalist Government more than ever. Although the French before the evacuation loudly trumpeted their protection of minorities, and especially of Syrian subjects in Cilicia; yet, as soon as they left the country, the Kemalists openly declared their disregard of all foreign intervention (the abolition of the the Capitulations forms a vital condition of their published programme) and intimidated to the Syrians in Mersina that they, like all Turkish subjects, will be liable to military service. Those who are allowed to leave the country are clearly given to understand that they will not be allowed to return.

A measure of Spartan severity is the prohibition of the importation of alcohol and all alcoholic liquors. Another measure not less worthy of respect is the prohibitive taxation of all articles of luxury—a definition which comprises practically anything not of absolute necessity.

Postal Censorship.

Censorship is applied with almost savage severity. All letters by incoming mails are opened and delivered only after delays of varying lengths, and with both sides of the envelope torn. Letters of more than one page have little chance of delivery to the addressees; and the most distant allusion to political subjects renders correspondence liable to prompt suppression. The whole postal administration seems to be in a hopeless condition. These and other reasons may have decided the British Post Office to return to the senders letters addressed to Mersina. The captain of a British steamer is said to have been prevented lately from landing at that port.

Hardly 2,000 Christians are left in Mersina and the remainder of the population, some 10,000 souls, consists of Turks and a few Jews.

In Adana the population is said to be now not more than 40-45,000, with an insignificant Christian element. The total number of refugees that have left Cilicia since the evacuation is estimated at 120,000, including, of course, Greeks. Syria has absorbed about 20,000.

Syria Hard Hit.

Imports from Constantinople and other parts of Turkey outside the Kemalist rule are liable to the same duty as goods from foreign countries. The existence of customs barriers between Syria on the one hand, and Palestine and Mesopotamia, on the other, had already dealt a severe blow to Syrian traders, and now the putting up of this protectionist Customs barrier by the Kemalists has closed Cilicia and Southern Armenia to them, and proved the crowning blow to Syrian commerce. Beyrout, the centre of Syrian trade, is passing now through a financial crisis of the acutest kind. The rare phenomenon was witnessed the other day of the Banque de Syrie having transacted no business, no client having been seen at its counters. Important merchants are being hard put to it to find a couple of hundred pounds in cash.

As no development works have been undertaken in the country, French capital being shy of any investments in Syria, the immediate outlook is very gloomy indeed. The Customs statistics for the next few months will prove a faithful mirror of the situation.

It is interesting to mention in this connection that the Customs receipts for Beyrout, Tripoli, Latakia, Saida, Alexandretta, Aleppo and Damascus for the month of November, 1921, amounted to Frs. 7,000,585.68, while the receipts of the port of Beyrout alone for December last amounted to Frs. 4,900,181.24.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

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

WANTED—A MOSLEM CONFERENCE.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—The notice of the British people has more than at any previous time been directed to the Turkish and Moslem question by the publication by the Indian Government of the amendments which it considers necessary to the Treaty of Sèvres to meet the desires of the Moslems of India.

The granting of the demand for the evacuation of Constantinople by the Allied forces, provided proper arrangements are made to safeguard the freedom of navigation in the Straits; appears undoubtedly to be an essential feature in any genuine attempt to revise the Treaty of Sèvres, while a solution of the Smyrna and Thracian questions might be found in the granting of local autonomy with Turkish Suzerainty over Smyrna and the city of Adrianople. This, whilst reasonably satisfying the demands of the Mussulmans of India would not be unduly unfair upon Greece, especially if territorial compensation were conceded to her elsewhere. The remaining question, that of the restoration of the suzerainty of the Sultan over the Holy Places of Islam is far more difficult to deal with, being a purely Moslem religious question, affecting in its wider aspects not only Turkish and Indian, but Arab and Persian Moslems, and one in which a non-Moslem Power is quite incompetent to intervene.

The Persian Mujtahids, the spiritual heads of Shiah Islam and the guardians of Kerbella, Nejef, Kazimain and Samara, which constitute the great Shiah Shrines of Irak, may be lacking in enthusiasm in their allegiance to any Sunni ruler, but a Prince of the House of Ali, such as King Faisal, must by the mere fact of the tradition of their faith appeal to them far more strongly than a sovereign who cannot claim descent from the Prophet, and against whom they revolted without hesitation in the course of the World War.

The intervention of the British Government in regard to the spiritual wardenship of Mecca and Medina, a subject, which might raise in an acute form the question of an Arab *versus* a Turkish Khalifate, is equally impossible, and would moreover constitute the severest affront to orthodox Moslems throughout the World. The question of the Moslem Holy Places concerns Mohammedans only, and can be discussed and brought to a satisfactory conclusion only by them.

Cairo, after the lapse of many centuries, is now about to become an independent kingdom once more. It possesses in El Azhar the greatest centre of Moslem ecclesiastical learning in the world, a centre from which Moslem divines from every nation in Islam are proud to take their degrees of Ulema.

The Government of Egypt could issue to the Governments of Turkey, the Hejaz and neighbouring States, Irak and Persia, invitations to a Conference of Spiritual and Temporal Moslem representatives both Sunni and Shiah, and including a delegation from India. This Conference should have as its aim the drawing up of a Treaty of Religious Peace for Islam, a complement to the Political Peace Treaty to be concluded in Paris.

A Conference of the kind here suggested would doubtless be faced by many difficulties, but, at the same time, it would seem to provide reasonable hope of a settlement, inasmuch as it would be in the hands of Moslems only, and therefore, if approved by them, be acceptable to all Indian Moslems too, with the exception of those who are using their Faith as a cloak for revolution in their own country.

I am, etc.,

ADOLF WALEY.

Alderhurst,
Engfield Green.

March 16, 1922.

BRITAIN AND INDIA.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—“F.H.S.” does me too much honour when he says I held up certain methods “as a model for statesmen of the present day.” My intention was not to offer methods, but to indicate a point of view, which I thought might interest your readers. On the question of fact raised by your correspondent, I must admit that I am not a specialist in modern revolutions, and cannot point to one “which has been engineered by the moneyed class;” but that proves nothing, except, perhaps, my ignorance. India, however, has created precedents before now, and the significant feature of the present movement is the amount of money which is being spent in its support. Does that fact indicate that increasing poverty is the initial cause? The late Mr. Tilak was not exactly penniless, but he was generally regarded as a revolutionary all the same. Some of the present-day leaders are known to be men of great wealth, and the amounts subscribed by Bombay in particular have been remarkable. The truth is that a programme of low wages and no super-tax, while it would not be a popular cry, appeals very strongly to men of the race of Jeshurun, and some of them have been putting money into a movement designed primarily to oust British ideas of democracy and disturb justice. If such a revolution should unfortunately take place, it will not be the work of a “penniless intelligentsia,” like that to which “F.H.S.” refers, but partly of the get-rich-quick clan, and partly of the high Tory party which in India says so little, but pulls so many strings.

I am, etc.,

OUTIS.

Y.W.C.A. WORK IN SMYRNA.

A correspondent sends us the following account of work amongst factory girls which is being carried on by the Y.W.C.A. in Smyrna:—A very interesting report has come in from Mademoiselle Theodora Isakidou, the Greek secretary of the old stone barn which houses the industrial work of the Association in Smyrna. All round this shed is a thickly populated district, depending chiefly for its livelihood on the carpet and tobacco factories. Originally the shed was intended for a rest room and club house for the girls, but actually it has become a real family meeting place, and not merely do grandmothers, granddaughters, and mothers come to it, but also some fathers and brothers as well. The girls sit outside or in, as the fancy takes them, and the great thing is that they are learning to sew and make their own dresses. The girls, after their day's work, try to come in time to wash and get ready for their classes. They are learning to study now, and show more interest in other things. They began arithmetic, and are learning the numbers from 1, 2, 3, up to a 100. They think it something great, and go out to their outside friends telling them all about how they are learning and how they enjoy coming. It is very encouraging to see their improvement, and one who knew them from the beginning can see the difference in their manners. They try to use better language, using new words in talking, and sometimes they get it right, and sometimes quite otherwise, but the great thing is that they persevere.

One of the factory girls, aged 14, made and finished her own dress and wore it home to show it to her mother. Without any organized publicity department, the whole neighbourhood heard immediately that Olympia had sewed her own dress, and she is now making one for her younger sister, which has encouraged other girls to bring their dresses to sew under the guidance of the secretary.

Members who live in far away towns where most people can, sew and read and write, can hardly imagine the picturesque confusion in the narrow street in the towns in the Near East, when a little Olympia goes running home, holds out the skirts of a new dress for all the neighbours to see, and is followed by a tail of small children, chanting “Olympia made that dress herself.” Or when perhaps some bigger Theodora amazes her family as they sit by the dim lamp, by actually counting up to twenty-five, “just like a schoolmaster or the foreman in her factory.” No wonder the neighbours come to hear her do it.

THE MYSTERY OF THE ORIENT. IV.*

By Edouard Driault.

(Continued).

As we have seen a composite Poland re-arise, we have seen born from a Moldo-Wallachian Union a Roumanian Kingdom, which the Great War has resolved into a composite Roumania. We have seen the birth of a little Serbia, at first timidly autonomous, and the Great War founding a vigorous nation in the form of the Triune Kingdom of the Croats, Serbs and Slovenes. We have seen the birth of a Bulgaria to which the supremacy of the Balkans appeared at one time to be reserved. Perhaps some day we shall tell here the history of these young nations. It has great dramatic beauty and exceptional moral value. It is full of promise, but to such we can merely point.

It is, however, of Greece to-day that we have to treat, and even so, we only wish to study in this year's lectures the story of the glorious insurrection of which she celebrates the centenary to-day under trials similar to those of her first years of liberty. And, after all, there is no finer spectacle in history than that of the persistence of the Greek nation under Turkish servitude, than that of its resurrection a hundred years ago, the phoenix issuing from the flames, than that indeed of the Hellenic Renaissance. The historian will be allowed to take no account here of contemporary passions and prejudices, but to consider only the historic truth, to write history and not politics or political economy. This is easy when one is sustained by arguments of secular solidity.

The Greeks style their insurrection of March 25, 1821, the *Evangelismos* "the good news." Nothing more just. The French Revolution and Napoleon had awakened throughout Europe the aspirations of nationalities. The congress of Vienna and the Holy Alliance thought to stifle these for ever and to re-establish the pretended rights of dynastic authority.

The independence of Greece was the first triumph of the principle of nationality, the first application to the history of peoples of the doctrines of the French Revolution. It was thus that it was accepted by the most generous minds of the day, not only by Lord Byron and Chateaubriand, but by Victor Hugo, Canning, Laffitte, Armand Carrel, Edgar Guinet, and Michelet; it was for this that the Greece of that day excited unceasingly the grand anger of Metternich, the Chancellor of the Holy Alliance.

Who anyway to-day desires to resume the role of Metternich? An idle wish at best, for it would be an historical anomaly. Greece, liberated amid massacres, pursued her course amid the rivalries of the Great Powers, who were solicitous only of their individual interests and jealous to secure for themselves the best portions of a marvellous heritage. She grew all the same, as grew, moreover, Serbia and Roumania. Edmond About, who was none too courteous to the Greeks, announced to them, however, in 1862, "The glorious day, and near, when all the Greeks of Europe would re-vindicate their independence and rush towards unity. . . . on the ruins of Turkey," he cried, "a great Greek nation will arise, as the great Italian nation rose from the ruins of clerical despotism. . . . What is necessary to achieve this revolution, already fashioned in the heart? . . . Ask nothing of the foreigner. . . . Beware of European diplomacy; it is to it that you owe thirty years of feebleness and impotence. Expect nothing but from yourselves. . . ." We will re-peruse one day the whole of this letter of the author of the "Roi des Montagnes": it is very eloquent. Perhaps also we shall sketch later the evolution of the "Grand Idea," its wings suddenly spread across the azure over all the lands of the Greek race to emancipate them from a yoke ever and ever more intolerable. We shall tell how, amid the complications of politics—in its very essence—heavy footed, and vowed to contradictory interests Greece, none the less, by force of circumstances and of

her right, became possessed of the Ionian Islands, of Thessaly, of Crete, of Macedonia and of Thrace.

And the Great War has had the same conclusions in the Orient as elsewhere. And the treaty of Sèvres is of the same nature as the Treaty of Saint Germain: the latter has put "finished" to the Hapsburg monarchy which was an organisation of domination over Czechoslovaks, the Poles of Galicia, the Roumanians of Transylvania, the Yugoslavs of Croatia and Bosnia. The former put "finished" to the Ottoman Empire which was an organisation of domination over the Greeks of Europe and Asia Minor. Both cessations are ordained by the irresistible evolution of revolutionary right, of the right of peoples to dispose of themselves.

(To be continued).

TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

(Egypt (Zaghoul Pasha).—Iraq: Geographical Limits; Administration (Cost).—Indian Army Officer Pensioners.—(Wednesday 1st March.)

Peace Treaties: Turkish Reparation; Syrians.—Georgia.—Arab Rulers (Subsidies).—India: Madras (Central Government contribution); East Indian Railway Strike; Army Officers' Pensions.—Business of the House (Turkey).—(Thursday, 2nd March.)

Peace Treaties: Near East.—India: Military Requirements Inquiry; Civil Posts (Military Officers); Emigration; British Garrison.—Egypt: British Officials (Retirement).—Egypt.—Roumania (Hungarians).—Bulgaria.—Turkey.—Indian Army Reserve of Officers.—(Monday, 6th March.)

India: Reform Scheme (Cost); Sail Canvas (Tenders); Finance; Imperial Preference.—Peace Treaties: Turkey.—Immigration, Palestine.—India: Forest Service (Pensions); Bengal Pilot Privilege; Reserved Subjects.—Palestine.—Sudan.—Tuesday, 7th March.)

Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Payment of calls).—Friday, 10th March.

Greece, King Constantine.—India: Mr. Montagu's Resignation.—India: Press Acts; Peace Preservation, Bengal; Disturbances, Assam.—Aden. (Monday, 13th March.)

India: Disturbance, Chauri Chaura; Repeal Bills; Public Works Department (Officials).—Palestine: Immigrants; Constabulary.—Somaliland.—Palestine.—India: Colonel Wedgwood, M.P. (Letter); Statement of Policy (Publication).—Supply: Vote on Account, Egypt.—Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Payment of calls).—(Tuesday, 14th March.)

Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Payment of calls) (Continuation of Official Report of Tuesday, 14th March)—Azerbaijan and Georgia.—Turkey (Public Debt).—Military Forces, India.—India (Mr. Montagu's Resignation).—Turkey.—Iman of Sana'a (Cost of Mission)—India (Mr. Montagu's Resignation).—(Wednesday, 15th March.)

SALONIKA WAR MEMORIAL.

The scheme for the erection of the Battle Exploits Memorial at Salonika has now taken definite shape. The funds were subscribed by the Army when in Macedonia and the sum available is about £4,000. The memorial is to be erected at Colonial Hill, looking out on Lake Doiran and in close proximity to one of the largest cemeteries where many of those who gave their lives in the final attack on the Doiran position in September, 1918, are buried. This was the attack which so greatly assisted in giving the *coup de grace* to the Bulgarian army. The memorial is to take the form of a massive pylon about 40 feet high, built of local material. Near the base on each side will be inserted a marble panel with the dedicatory inscription on one side in English and on the other side in Greek. At each end of the memorial will be a panel giving a list of the formations. At the four corners of the memorial, some distance from it, will be four piers into the sides of which are sunk marble panels giving the names of the missing. These piers will form the memorial to the missing, and are being carried out at the expense of the Imperial War Graves Commission.

General Sir George F. Milne, who commanded the British Salonika Force from late in 1915 to the end of the war, appointed Major-General Sir William Rycroft as his deputy to deal with the matter, and he has for some months been in close touch with the Imperial War Graves Commission regarding the arrangement of the details. The memorial has been designed by Sir Robert Lorimer, A.R.A., R.S.A., Architect to the Commission for Italy, Macedonia and Egypt.

Afghanistan having instituted a Legation in Rome, the Italian Cabinet has appointed the Marquis di Paterno Minister Plenipotentiary in Kabul.

* Earlier portions of the paper appeared in "The Near East" of December 29, January 12, and February 23.

MUSICAL NOTES.

ON GRAMOPHONE RECORDS

The following comments on "His Master's Voice" records published in February were unavoidably held over from my last Notes:—

It is very pleasing to be able to set down such remarkable improvement in the reproduction of the *timbre* of the pianoforte as is manifested in the record made by Lamond of Liszt's "Ronde des lutins in F sharp minor." This is easily, so far as my knowledge goes, the best pianoforte record yet produced, and it is worth mentioning that it is not only in the more glassy resonances of the instrument that the improvement in the reproduction of tone is noticed. To add that it is brilliantly played would be superfluous. I am sorry to say that I do not like Lamond's playing of the second movement of Beethoven's Sonata No. 10 in F which is on the reverse side of the Liszt; it is academic and ponderous. Lamond's rugged, magisterial style suits the later Beethoven, but in the earlier works we do need more delicacy. Still, the record is very well worth getting for the Liszt, which is a sheer joy.

It was, as the world knows, largely through his records that Heifetz achieved his fame, and that excellence is sustained in No. 1 of Sarasate's "Gypsy Airs." This is a magnificent record, with the tone of the fiddle coming through beautifully clear and true. The piece with its contrast of broad *cantilena* and brilliant, florid passages, is just the thing in which Heifetz excels, for nothing is technically impossible to him, and that sculptured calm which in bigger works makes him fall short of greatness in these superficial pieces actually makes his mastery over his instrument more apparent than ever.

Caruso comes with a most intriguing Neapolitan song, Gioe's "T' m' Arricordo e Napule," singing it with irresistible verve and abandon. And Battistini makes a record of Carrissimi's "Vittoria, Vittoria," delighting in its opportunities for contrast, and exulting in the pure Italian passion.

Among the more serious records published in March there is perhaps none so notable as the completion on two discs of Elgar's "Enigma Variations." All the fourteen parts of this magnificent work have now been recorded, and in reproducing them "His Master's Voice" Company have done nothing better. There is in the last three Variations, as there was in the preceding ones, a most remarkable fidelity in detail; in fact the instrumental characterisation is marvellous. But not only in the balance of sonorities are these records a triumph: the expression of Elgar's conducting is revealed in an astonishingly illuminating way. It is comforting indeed to have this masterpiece in complete form, and those wishing to understand the renaissance of modern British music cannot do as well as to acquire the whole set. I ought to add that on the reverse side of the last section of Variation XIV. is recorded "The Sanguine Fan," a little-known ballet work of Elgar: it is distinctive of the composer, especially in the leaping delicacy of the higher strings against the held themes of the wood-wind, but it is scarcely a notable work.

Miss Isolde Menges will certainly increase her reputation by means of a record which bears Debussy's valse "La plus que lente" and the "Fugue in A-major" of Tartini-Kreisler. The first makes a very effective violin piece, and is played here with fine tone and beautifully supple phrasing; but the second is altogether a much more satisfying affair, being done with admirable steadiness of rhythm and mastery in such things as double-stopping and the execution of wide chords.

The choice of one of Mendelssohn's "Songs Without Words" (the "Cradle Song") was hardly worthy of

Mischa Elman, but the record is bound to be popular. The fine broad tone and the clear, flowing stream of melody are in themselves sufficient to secure that.

The Catterall Quartett have again made a most enjoyable record, this time out of the *andante* movement from Schumann's Quartet in F (Op. 41, No. 2), and the *scherzo* from Tchaikovsky's Quartet (Op. 22). The Schumann has moments of exquisite loveliness, and is treated with a very warm tenderness, though here and there is a slight lacking in grace and in discipline (particularly in the lower strings). Tchaikovsky's unwarranted gift of melody is very evident in this *scherzo*; but his construction is on the whole weak. His work is here played with intriguing *rubato*, and the viola especially puts in some notable work.

Two pianoforte records are issued in the last batch: Cortot in two Chopin Studies in G flat major (Op. 10, No. 5, and Op. 25, No. 9), and Mark Hambourg in the Fugue in D major and the Prelude in D major of Bach as arranged by d'Albert. Cortot records are always a delight, though the *timbre* of his instrument has been caught less in the first study than in the second. There are unequal resonances in the first which hinder the realisation of its unity. But no one can resist the steely flexibility of Cortot's rhythm, and his *staccato* touch in the second study, a marvel in actuality, is well reproduced. In the Bach works the *timbre* is more closely approximated to the real thing, though a nearer approach has been achieved. The Fugue is played with all Hambourg's characteristic impulsiveness—one imagines that he played it for reproduction much too fast; but the Prelude is better, though the rich fullness of the ending is partly lost.

A Love Song Recital.

We have begun to regard Mr. John Coates' recitals at Chelsea as sources of fortnightly recreation and refreshment; they are each in fact an artistic mission, a vitalising human experience. What he sings (so long as it be good) does not greatly matter, for the intimacy and certainty of his appeal are constant. His last recital was made up wholly, except for two Purcell encores, of modern English love-songs, and but for two or three lapses it was one of sustained and stimulating merit. If there was nothing to equal the sculptured beauty of Denis Browne's "To Gratiana dancing and singing," a memorable work that was sung by Mr. Coates with wonderful reserve and command, there were many songs that completely succeeded in their aim: Ernest Farrar's "And wilt thou say me Nay," for instance, or Julius Harrison's "To Chloe," or Parry's "At the hour the long day ends" (the second-best song on the programme, this), or Walter Whittaker's "Diaphenia." There were, on the other hand, a few songs that only Mr. Coates may sing and yet live: Coleridge-Taylor's "Eleanore," the warm slush of which was monstrously well obscured by the singer, or Cyril Scott's "And so I made a villanelle," a pretty but meaningless pattern in sounds, or Havergal Brian's "Love is a merry game." Why Mr. Coates sings these songs only he himself and his consummate conspirator, Mr. Berkeley Mason, know: we can only change the while our admiration into wonder. And by the end of the first verse of the next song this of course is all melted into forgiveness!

ANDANTE.

RUSSIAN SELF-TAUGHT

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

AN ENCYCLOPEDIA OF RELIGIONS.

"An Encyclopaedia of Religions." By Maurice A. Canney. (London: Routledge and Sons, 25s.)

The writer of this Encyclopedia in his Preface explains his purpose as being "to present in a volume of moderate size information about most of the ancient and modern religions, ethnic and historical." The difficulty of compression must have been enormous. Some articles (those on 'Islam' and 'Muhammedanism') will strike many as inadequate when compared with those devoted to some obscure sects. The author however explains that he—with very sound reason—has concentrated on information which is not easily obtainable and is brief on subjects when the ordinary encyclopedias provide long articles. Many headings here will not be found at all in other general encyclopedias. How many of the readers of THE NEAR EAST know anything of the Rogerians, the Rheinbergers, the Theophilanthropists, the Fufufuze Sects and the Hysistarians? When we come to the 'gods,' there must be hundreds of them about whom most of us are ignorant. We can find all about them here—the god E and the God M., and the god Ea and the god Ma, Parmeshwar and Parjanya, Eevil and Eir. A handy volume which explains these mysteries will be useful to many.

More certainly of use are many of the articles on Biblical subjects. There is a short and up-to-date account of each of the books of the Bible, its authorship, date, and its contents, which will prove useful to those who have neither time nor opportunity for further study. Articles on such subjects as the "Higher Criticism" and "Inspiration" are written in no narrow or party spirit and should be useful to any inquiring layman. As might be expected in a dictionary emanating from the University of Manchester, considerable prominence is given to the views of Professor Elliot Smith upon Egyptian subjects. The writings of Professor J. A. Frazer are also freely drawn on for folklore studies.

When we come to the ramification of the Sects of Protestantism some of the Articles seem a little inadequate. Perhaps it is because the Encyclopedia is written with an eye to America—where such works are loved—that so much attention is given to Quimbyism and its off-shoot 'Christian Science.' Quimby and Mrs. Eddy themselves receive an amount of notice here out of all proportion to their importance. Compare for example the articles upon them with those on such well known Christian bodies as the Baptists, Plymouth Brethren, and the Salvation Army. In the same way a comparatively long article, nearly three columns, is devoted to the teaching of William Whiston (1667-1752), who here appears as an eccentric clergyman interested in many things from "Promoting Primitive Christianity" to the finding of latitude and longitude "by the dipping needle." He is chiefly—and worthily—remembered to-day as the translator of the 'Works of Josephus.' But many men have greater claims for notice here as religious leaders.

With respect to the religions of the Near East there are many articles of interest. Those on Babism and Bahaism, which might have been with advantage made one continuous story, give an adequate account of the rise of that increasingly influential sect, the leader of which, Abdul Baha died recently in Akka, Palestine, in universal respect and honour. The Bahais claim a very much larger following than the 'one million' mentioned here. The Isma'iliyyeh and the Nuseiriyeh sects of Syria here receive more adequate treatment than that given to the more important, though equally interesting, Druzes. Indeed the present existence of those interesting people is here ignored altogether! The same may be said of the little sect of the Hoffmannites, who founded the 'Temple' colonies in Palestine.

Taken as a whole this volume of nearly 400 closely printed pages provides a veritable mine of carefully selected, useful, and often almost inaccessible, information on all kinds of religions and religious customs. The

writer is absolutely fair and unbiassed in his views; he seeks no kind of propaganda and his words will be equally appreciated by people of all schools of thought

EARLY MOGUL ART.

INDIAN DRAWINGS: Twelve Mogul Paintings of the School of Hum-ayun (16th century) illustrating the Romance of Amir Hamzan. Text by C. Stanley Clarke. (London: H.M. Stationery Office, 5s.)

Like King Arthur and Charlemagne, Amir Hamzah, the warrior uncle and contemporary of Mohammed, has passed in to a hero of romance with many adventures ascribed to him which have no historical basis. We have it on the authority of Mr. Stanley Clarke that the book in which these tales were set down by a hitherto unidentified author is "devoid of genius" and that it "compares unfavourably with other surviving specimens of Arabian and Persian literature." This did not, however, prevent it from being much read in the 16th century and later. In the early years of Akbar's reign, about 1556, it was lavishly illustrated by an artist or group of artists at that monarch's court. This was a particularly interesting period of Mogul art. The artists of the time had not yet freed themselves from Chinese traditions and the naturalistic treatment which distinguished their successors when once the art of painting had become an Indian art was still wanting. Rocks, water and clouds, specially the last, were still treated largely in the Chinese conventional style and the colours used were strictly confined to "a few extraordinarily good body-colours of remarkable quality and durability." It is to this and to lucky chance that we owe the existence of part of this great work at the present day, for some 200 out of the original 1,400 drawings still survive, though mostly sadly mutilated. Some were actually found pasted on the lattices of Kashmir windows to keep out the cold and wet of winter, while others had been mutilated by pious owners who were shocked to find representations of the human face in them and had piously smudged out these unlawful impieties. But what is left, after all these vicissitudes, is most precious. Not only are these drawings valuable as representing early Mogul art, but they contain details of great beauty. It is not surprising to learn that the lovely designs of trees and flowering plants which many of them show fascinated William Morris, and indeed the result of his study of them is evident to any one having the slightest acquaintance with his designs. We wish that it had been possible to reproduce some, at least, in colour. But good colour reproduction is still very expensive. For the small sum of five shillings we are presented with twelve large plates worthily produced by photography and accompanied by a well-printed text by Mr. Stanley Clarke which gives all the explanation necessary without obtruding the learning which has made the writing of it possible. We are grateful and hope for more.

The Portfolio is published by H.M. Stationery Office, and is to be had at Imperial House, Kingsway.

C.S.—W.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- "Report on the Motor Traction Trials Organised by the Ministry of Agriculture (Cairo Government Press, P.T.15)
- "The Green Moth," by G. E. Mitton and J. G. Scott. (London: John Murray. 7s. 6d. net.)
- "Recent Happenings in Persia," by Hon. J. M. Balfour. With illustrations. (London: Wm. Blackwood & Sons, 21s. net.)
- "The Agricultural and Forest Products of British West Africa." By Gerald C. Dudgeon. 2nd Edition. (London: John Murray. 7s. 6d. net.)
- "The Life and Adventures of Joseph Emin, an Armenian 1726-1809." Written by Himself. 2nd Edition. Edited by his great-great granddaughter, Amy Aparcar. (London: Luzac & Co.)
- "Musical Portraits: Interpretations of Twenty Modern Composers." By Paul Rosenfeld. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner & Co., Ltd. 10s. 6d. net.)
- "Creative Truth." By Rabindranath Tagore. (London: Macmillan & Co., Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)
- "The Government of India: A brief Historical Survey of Parliamentary Legislation Relating to India." By Sir Courtenay Ilbert, G.C.B., K.C.S.I. (Oxford: The Clarendon Press, 10s. 6d. net.)

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.**To-Day.**

March 23, (New Style).

March 10 (Old Style).

Ragab 24, 1340 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.

Adar 23, 5681 of the Jewish Calendar.

Mr. Edwin Freshfield left London last week for Smyrna

M. Maskens, the newly-appointed Belgian Minister at Sofia, has arrived in Brussels from London.

Lord and Lady Milner arrived in Port Said on March 15 on their way to Palestine.

M. Boeresco, Roumanian Minister-Plenipotentiary, left London on Monday for Paris.

A recent Cairo telegram states that there is a great improvement in the condition of Sir Herbert Samuel, the High Commissioner for Palestine.

Viscount Gough, M.C., Irish Guards, has left London for Mesopotamia on military duty, and will be absent for some time.

M. Jan Masaryk, Counsellor of the Czecho-Slovak Legation, returned to London last week from Prague, where he has been on a visit to his father, the President of the Republic.

The engagement is announced between Dudley Cautley, eldest son of the late Sir Dudley Stewart-Smith, K.C., Vice-Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and Lady Stewart-Smith, of 37, Holland Villas Road, London, and Phillis Hewling, eldest daughter of the late Mr. Hewling Luson, C.S.I., I.C.S., and Mrs. Luson, of Endcliffe, Weston-super-Mare.

It is stated by the Alexandria Correspondent of the *Morning Post* that General Haddad Pasha arrived there last week *en route* for London on a special mission from King Faisal.

Whatever their politics, all his old friends in Egypt and the Sudan will congratulate Sir Murdoch MacDonald on his election, in the Coalition-Liberal interest, as Member of Parliament for Inverness.

To celebrate the Persian New Year, M. Davood Khan, the Persian Minister, was at home to his friends and the Persian colony in London on Tuesday, March 21, at the Persian Legation, 47, Bramham Gardens, S.W.5.

A marriage has been arranged between Captain M. H. Cox, M.C., R.A.S.C., and Phyllis Mary, only daughter of Brigadier-General C. W. Compton, C.B., C.M.G. (late Somerset Light Infantry), and Mrs. Compton of Somerset House, Zeitoun, Egypt.

The Greek Chargé d'Affaires and Mme. Rangabé entertained at dinner on March 16, in the Legation the Czecho-Slovak Minister and Mme. Mastny, the Belgian Military Attaché and Mme. Maton, Mr. and Mrs. Yony, M. Yannopoulos, and the personnel of the Legation.

Under the auspices of the Anglo-Hellenic League a public lecture will be given at University College, Gower Street, on March 28, 5.30 p.m., by Mr. R. Carline. The lecture, which is to be illustrated by lantern slides, is on "Byzantine Art in Italy and the East," and the chair will be taken by the Hon. W. Pember Reeves.

M. Jarvoslav Cisar, of the Czecho-Slovak Legation, will deliver a lecture to-day, at 5.45 p.m., at the City of London College, White Street, Moorfields, E.C.2. His subject, "The Economic Conditions of Czecho-Slovakia," will be given with lantern illustrations, and the chair will be taken by Sir Charles Wakefield, Bart., C.B.E.

The engagement is announced between Rex Trevor Jones, M.C., P.W.D., India, captain, I.A.R.O., elder son of Mr. and Mrs. Trevor Jones, Chatsworth Square, Carlisle, and Edith Aileen, youngest daughter of Mr. W. Theodore Carr, C.B.E., M.P., and Mrs. Carr, Greystead, Carlisle.

Sir William Veno, who left England six weeks ago for a tour around the Mediterranean, has during the last three weeks been confined to his room at an hotel in Cairo by a serious illness. His doctor will not allow him to make the homeward journey until the end of the present month.

Marshal Izzet Pasha, accompanied by Edhem Bey, Haidar Bey, and Madri Bey, has left London for Paris. They were seen off by Reshid Pasha, Chefik Bey, Chevky Pasha, Oskan Effendi, Captain Dixon Johnson, and Captain Griffin. Marshal Izzet Pasha paid a visit to the Marquis Curzon on Saturday.

The Shah of Persia, accompanied by Prince Sare-ek-Ahmed and M. Moissolmolk, the staff secretary, arrived in Paris on March 18. He was welcomed at the Gare de Lyons by M. De Fouquieres, representing the President and by the Persian Minister in Paris. The Shah's visit is said to be purely private, and to have no political significance.

Our Port Said Correspondent writes:—Mr. A. J. Tweedie, the late Manager of the Port Said and Suez Coal Company has retired after nearly forty years' connection with the place. He and Mrs. Tweedie were deservedly popular in the town, Mr. Tweedie being a founder and prominent member of the Sporting Club, which owes much to his untiring work in connection with it. They will be much missed by a large circle of friends.

KING FUAD.

The Sultan of Egypt was informed on March 15 of the Imperial Government's proclamation of Egypt's independence. On the following day Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby called at the Abdin Palace, and addressed King Fuad as "Your Majesty." The new Kingdom was saluted afterwards by 101 guns at Cairo, Alexandria, Port Said, Assuan, and Khartoum, where a Royal rescript was read by the authorities. The following telegrams have been exchanged between King George and the King of Egypt:—

King George to King Fuad:—

"I offer to your Majesty my sincere congratulations on this auspicious occasion and my earnest hope that your country will long continue to enjoy the fruits of independence under your Majesty's rule."

King Fuad to King George:—

"I am very touched by your Majesty's congratulations and wishes. I have the firm conviction that the new era will see the consolidation of the friendly relations and perfect entente which have always been my heart's desire to see established between Great Britain and Egypt. I assure your Majesty of my indefectible friendship, to which I join my warmest wishes for your happiness and prosperity."

Lord Curzon and Abdel Khalek Pasha Sarwat, the Egyptian Minister, who is also Minister for Foreign Affairs, likewise exchanged congratulatory messages.

IN HONOUR OF IZZET PASHA.**A Brilliant Reception.**

By an Occasional Correspondent.

The reception given on the evening of March 15 by Reshid Pasha (the unofficial Representative of the Constantinople Government in England and the Ottoman Delegate to the Peace Conference) and Madame Reshid Pasha, in honour of His Highness Izzet Pasha

and his Delegation who came to London to explain the Turkish cause to the British Government, was one of the most brilliant social and political functions of the present year. Moreover, in spite of the necessity for an arrangement at very short notice, it constituted an opening of the doors of the Turkish Headquarters and an informal reception of the West by the East in a style not only unknown during and since the war, but also for many years prior to the outbreak of the world conflagration.

Reshid Pasha and his distinguished looking and elegant Italian wife, the latter attired in black satin and jet, received some hundred friends at the head of the grand staircase which forms a marked feature of 69, Portland Place. Thence the guests passed into the suite of reception rooms, magnificently furnished in the style of the Louis Seize period, and exquisitely decorated for the occasion with scarlet tulips. Here were assembled representatives of British diplomacy, of politics and of literature; here were to be seen Moslem ladies; and here were collected little clusters of distinguished men and women, met together apparently to support a cause which has now become vital to the interests of the British Empire. Thus, indeed, the nature of the company was so comprehensive that one noticed such well-known personages as the Rt. Hon. Ameer Ali and Mrs. Ameer Ali, the latter wearing her dazzling diamond necklace and corsage, Mrs. Rosita Forbes in a wonderful dress of black and yellow, M. and Mme. Ispahani, and the Rt. Hon. Alexander Carlisle, who rose from the very bottom of Messrs. Harland & Wolff's shipping yard to the position of General Manager and Chairman of the Managing Directors of the firm.

Later in the evening the company proceeded to the State dining room, where refreshments were served by countless gorgeous retainers, whose powdered heads, red and gold liveries and silk stockings added splendour to the scene. Here, too, the party was joined by further distinguished guests, whose many engagements had prevented their earlier arrival. Thus one saw the Earl of Hardwicke, Lord Lamington, Major-General Lord Edward Gleichen, Sir Henry and Lady Bax-Ironside, Sir Edward Denison Ross, and last but far from least, Major-General Sir Charles Townshend and Commander the Hon. J. M. Kenworthy, who had managed to tear themselves away from the House of Commons in spite of the important debate there in progress upon the subject of the now famous Montagu incident.

The success of such a reception, which was entirely unofficial and which was attended almost exclusively by British and Turkish people, would in any case have been assured by the kindly informality of the venerable host and by the charms of his consort and her British daughter-in-law, Madame Chefik Bey, who wore a handsome gown of tulle and silver. But there was something more than this, for whilst Izzet Pasha himself chatted first with one person and then with another, Reshid Pasha and Madame Reshid Pasha, assisted by Chefky Pasha and by Chefik Bey Muftyzadé, and many of the guests, moved here and there in such a manner that all and sundry had soon become acquainted. And then, whereas some of the British guests wore decorations, thereby apparently mistaking the unofficial nature of the entertainment, others, notably the gallant defender of Kut and Lord Edward Gleichen, besides all the Turks, demonstrated their tact and nicety of feeling by the non-display of any outward signs of distinction—signs distinctly incorrect considering the delicate situation still existing between the British Empire and Turkey.

Among those who accepted invitations were, besides those mentioned above:—The Earl and Countess of Bessborough, Lord Oranmore and Browne, Lady Lamington, the Hon. Ronald C. Lindsay, Sir George Armstrong, Sir John Rees, Dr. Nihad Reshad, and Rechid Sadi Bey, M. and Mme. Ispahani, Edhem Bey, Haider Bey, Kadri Bey, and Captain Robbins, Captain Dixon Johnson, Mr. H. H. Slade, Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Vansittart, and Mr. Leland Buxton.

OBITUARY.

Lady Block, wife of Sir Adam Block, British representative on the Financial Commission of Control in Turkey, died in Constantinople on March 11. She was Louisa Constance, eldest daughter of the late Robert Cumberbatch, British Consul at Smyrna, and she married Sir Adam in 1885. She leaves a son and a daughter.

A Reuter's Cairo telegram says that the death is announced there of Ali Pasha Charwi, who had played an active part in Egyptian politics in recent years. He was a member of the original delegation which waited on Sir Reginald Wingate, the then High Commissioner, after the Armistice. He seceded from the "Wafd"—the Zaghloulist organisation—when Adly Pasha became Premier, and subsequently held aloof from political discussion.

Our Port Said correspondent writes:—The death is announced of Watson Bey, who was Superintendent of the Port Said section of the Egyptian State Railways. He has filled the post since the Egyptian Government took over the Canal Company's steam tramway, and altered the gauge to coincide with that in the rest of Egypt. He will be much missed as he was very popular among all classes of the community.

We much regret to announce the death of M. Kristo Stamatoff, which took place on March 12 at Sofia. M. Stamatoff was a journalist and besides assisting Mr. J. D. Bouchier, the former correspondent of *The Times*, he had previously acted as correspondent for that journal; and he was for some time the Sofia correspondent of *The Near East*. He was born at Kalofer, and was 56 years old. He had been an invalid for many years and his death followed after a long and severe illness.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 1922.

EGYPT IN THE COMMONS.

In the House of Commons last week, a vote on account of the Civil Services and Revenue Departments afforded opportunity to Captain Wedgwood Benn to initiate a discussion on the Government's policy in Egypt and the position there to-day. The debate thus begun lasted several hours, and many members on both sides of the House contributed to it; but upon the whole, it must be acknowledged, it was rather a disappointment for those who hoped to see this important question adequately discussed. A few speakers made useful contributions, in the form of helpful suggestion or of constructive criticism, but others seemed to be inspired chiefly, if not only, by the desire to score off their political opponents. The Leader of the House was, in fact, justified in saying at the beginning of his reply on behalf of the Government, that their policy as set forth in their Declaration had not been seriously called in question by any of the speakers: there had been criticism, but no challenge of the kind the Government had expected. Indeed, a perusal of the Official Report may almost make the reader wonder whether such a debate was worth while, and whether the House of Commons, like so many other institutions and individuals is still suffering from a state of "nerviness" brought on by the War. One of the speakers reminded his audience of a saying of General Gordon's, that "the British Empire has been built up by its soldiers and sailors, and may be mined by its politicians." We do not make the mistake of including Egypt within the British Empire, but Great Britain still has extremely important interests in Egypt, and it is not to be doubted that those interests will be harmed to a certain extent by some of the things that were said on this occasion at Westminster. The Egyptian may be not very quick at grasping an abstract idea, but he understands personalities, and personalities were indulged in by some of the speakers in a way to rejoice the heart of the Zaghoulouist propagandists if of nobody else. Moreover, a good many things more serious by far than any personalities were said which would better have been left unsaid—things which may or may not be viewed in their proper perspective on the banks of the Thames, but will almost certainly be viewed quite out of perspective on the banks of the Nile, where the art of political chiaroscuro is less advanced.

Our admiration of the Egyptian policy followed since the Armistice by His Majesty's Government is by no means unqualified, as our readers are well aware. We recognise that blunders—and bad blunders—have been made, some of which might easily have been avoided; and we agree with Mr. Austen Chamberlain that it is doubtless good that he and his colleagues should receive "kindly chastisement from friends" upon occasion for their mistakes; for it is by seeing our past errors clearly, and keeping them before us, that we may best avoid repeating them. But we feel also that when Mr. Chamberlain indicated politely that on this occasion there "had been a good deal of criticism" he did not overstate the case. There was, in fact, a marked disposition to saddle the Government not only with its own faults and shortcomings but with those of others; and to this must, unfortunately, be added a readiness in certain quarters "to assume"—to quote the Leader of the House again—"that anyone who differed from the British Government or British representatives abroad must necessarily be in the right, and

that their own country must equally necessarily be in the wrong." The pose is an old one of course, but at the present time and in connection with Egypt it is deplorable. Some of the loose talk about our past relations with the Egyptians was so obviously foolish that it could do little harm here, but it may, and probably will, do harm in Alexandria, Tanta and elsewhere in Egypt. Thus, one speaker showed his ignorance of recent history by speaking of the Egyptians being "supposed to have been protected" by us, and of the "misgovernment by Britain for the last 40 years"; and though another member of the same party declared that "it is quite true that we have done well by Egypt during the last 40 years," it is to be feared that the words of the former, not of the latter, speaker will be most quoted in Egypt. Indeed, must not a Member who, after a three weeks' visit to Egypt, declares that the children of the fellahen "have by nature wonderful artistic and scientific powers" be better worth quoting than one who has not the genius requisite to make such a discovery? Unfortunately, this type of orator forgets or is unaware that Great Britain rescued Egypt from bankruptcy—to say nothing of Turkish oppression—and that she has vastly improved the lot of the Fellah in many ways besides giving him greatly improved irrigation.

Happily the discussion, if it did rather frequently sink to a very low level, was enlivened by some excellent speeches, and undoubtedly served a useful purpose in clearing the air to some extent. The Government may have left certain points still to be explained, but at least it has been made clear that a new era of goodwill on both sides has begun; and it is to the good to have had it stated once again that there is now complete agreement in regard to future action on the part of H. M. Government on the one hand and of Lord Allenby and the principal British Advisers on the other hand. The Egyptian Government also and Lord Allenby are working in harmony, and the outlook to-day, if not perfectly clear, is at all events much brighter than it has been for many a long day past. We hope and believe that all the parties concerned are in real earnest about bringing the present plan to a successful issue. Crying over spilt milk will do no more good in this case than in any other; and it is to be hoped that in the next debate upon Egyptian policy and affairs the criticism offered will be constructive rather than destructive. After all, the British Government has a duty towards the Empire and the Sudan as well as towards the Egyptians and the foreign communities in Egypt; and it is remarkable that a few Members of Parliament seem constantly to forget the fact, and to be inclined to regard themselves almost as members of a particular Egyptian party. That attitude was deprecated by Lord E. Percy, whose view we share. We share also his opinion that the only possible line that the House can take in regard to the Egyptian Government is to accept it as for the time being representing the Egyptian people and as entitled to our help in the very difficult task that lies before them. Finally, we regret extremely the appeals and demands scattered so thickly through the debate for the release of Zaghoulou Pasha and his return to Egypt. The outline of the Pasha's career given by Mr. Chamberlain, though far from complete, should have sufficed to silence criticism of his deportation. If any genuine doubt remained after that, it must have been removed by Mr. Loyd's declaration that Zaghoulou's "return at the moment would be the signal for an outburst of the greatest and most ghastly nature," and that it would "wreck Egyptian independence." That is the opinion not of a three-weeks' visitor to Egypt, but of one who has served in the country for some time and has real knowledge of its people and of the man of whom he spoke. If and when it is safe to allow Zaghoulou to return, he will doubtless be allowed to do so. Till then let him stay where he is. In this matter the British people and the British Government trust Lord Allenby, and Members of the House of Commons will be well advised to do so too.

THE "ZADRUGA" THE FAMILY COMMUNE OF THE SERBS.

By Malcolm Burr, M.A., D.Sc., Formerly Our Belgrade Correspondent.

One of the most striking characteristics of the Slavs in general, and of the Serbs in particular, is their aptitude for cooperation. The *mir*, or village commune, the *artels* or workmen's guilds, and the co-operative societies of Russia are familiar instances, but the development of the same spirit among the Serbs has attracted less attention. An English writer (G. M. Trevelyan, "Serbia Revisited," *The Contemporary Review*, March 1915) has truly said that the Serbian peasant understands the principle of mutual aid better perhaps than the inhabitants of Central and Western Europe who, knowing nothing about him, affect to think themselves so much his superior.

This spirit of mutual aid is best seen in the *zadruga*, that is, the perfect organisation of the family as the social unit. It is dying under the contact of modern conditions, but there are still districts in the remoter parts of the western Balkans where it still lingers on, the last survivor of the ancient social organisation which their ancestors brought from the Carpathians when they overran the Balkan Peninsula towards the end of the VIth Century. The development of the empire of the Nemanichi from the XIIth to the XIVth Centuries, with its fiscal system based upon the Byzantine model, discouraged the *zadruga*, and the Ottoman invasion gave it its death blow in the greater part of their dominions. For the Turk introduced the exact opposite of the *zadruga*, the *chiflik*, a purely feudal organisation, where the Christian peasants became *rayas* and *kmets*, that is, serfs and villeins, the chattels of the *bey* or *spahi* that is, of the Mohammedan overlord, condemned to a life of virtual slavery. The one-roomed hovels of the *chifji*, with no trace of adornment or cleanliness, to be seen to-day so plentifully in Macedonia, are the best evidence of the toilsome and miserable life of these wretched *rayas*, whose strength and energy were entirely exhausted by working for a bare animal existence under the lash of their landowner. With the departure of the Turk, this degrading system is fast disappearing from the Balkans, but the farm-buildings, with the observation tower or *chardak*, where the Bey watched over the work of his labourers, are still a familiar sight in the greater part of Serbian and Greek Macedonia, in the valley of the Maritsa, and in Thessaly.

But the system of *chiflik*, dependent upon a vigorous military occupation, did not reach the north-west. A line drawn roughly in a north-eastern direction from Ljesh (Alessio) in northern Albania past Nish to the Danube marks the boundary. Beyond this, the difficult nature of the densely wooded and mountainous country and the less docile disposition of the more turbulent Dinaric Serbs made a complete subjugation more difficult, and the natives reverted to their ancient system of *zadruga*, which was for them the ideal organisation for mutual defence and aid among a primitive and democratic people. They extended across this boundary line to the south and east in the more difficult country, and their southernmost boundary runs from Valona, east of Bitolj (Monastir), northwards to the east of Sofia and to the Danube.

The weakness of the central administration was content to leave the population of these remote and inaccessible regions in a state of relative autonomy, so that they reverted instinctively to the system of their ancestors. As S. Cvijich points out, marriage by capture became common, the fount of folklore was renewed, the blood feud reappeared, and the system of the *zadruga* was revived and developed.

The land, being free, was held in common, in the neighbourhood of the house. This was generally situated on a slope, surrounded by a large courtyard, with a vegetable garden, the whole encircled by a *plot* or stockade. Outside this, for purposes of defence and seclusion, was a portion of the primeval forest, the *gaj*

or *zabran*; in front, the inevitable plum orchard; while farther away, and usually lower down the valleys, were the other meadows and fields of the community. Here lived the members of the *zadruga*, all blood relations, brothers and cousins with their wives. The oldest or wisest would be elected head of the family, or *stareshina*, who was selected not for military prowess, but for experience and wisdom, and his word was implicitly obeyed. The land and property did not belong to any individual, but collectively to the unit, though any member who wished to detach himself and emigrate, as was frequently the case, always knew what was his fair share, and took it with him. The *zadruga* formed a complete social unit. As a unit it paid taxes, bore the costs of marriage, baptism, burial and education of the children, and was responsible for the delinquencies of any of its members. Often enough, one individual would learn a special craft, such as blacksmith, carpenter or cooper, but his earnings or products did not become his personal property, but that of the *zadruga*. Others would specialise in branches of the local industries as pig-breeding, fruit-farming or agriculture.

Division of labour was directed by the *stareshina*, according to the capacity of each member, subject to general consent. The men would attend to the heavy work in the fields, while the aged and children would be given lighter tasks: the women would devote themselves to weaving and embroidery, while the young girls would spend years in preparing their trousseaux. The members of a prosperous *zadruga* lived well, in considerable comfort, with plenty of leisure, in an almost self-supporting community. It could scarcely be regarded as a primitive organisation: it was a highly developed patriarchal system, ideally adapted for the circumstances of the times and country. It was only rendered possible by the high moral sense of its members. The unwritten code of ethics was known to all, and implicitly obeyed. Members were strongly bound together by the bonds of common interest and affection; the sense of solidarity was extremely warm; chastity was absolute. Women were revered and respected. The innumerable songs, which were the solace of their evenings, speak delicately of love and never of passion; maternal affection was the only love that the women would sing of, and the bond of brotherhood was sacred. It was in the *zadrugas* of the Dinaric country that there grew up the system of *pobratimstvo* or blood-brotherhood, and it was the *zadrugas* that gave the strength and respect to the relationship of *kumstvo*, or god-parentage.

The practice of mutual aid was invariable, in all circumstances. A widow left with children would be helped in every way by the male members, especially in the heavy work in the fields: it was customary to combine resources, especially during ploughing and in harvest time.

Some *zadrugas* were very numerous and powerful, with fifty, sixty, a hundred or even more members. This was a benefit, since the Turks taxed houses and regarded the *zadruga* as a single family, with one house, and, moreover, a household with twenty or more stalwart male members was very capable of making itself respected, even by Turkish tax-collectors. The system also favoured military organisation, and the constant rising in the Dinaric countries against the Turkish régime, and the Wars of Liberation (1804-1815) were certainly facilitated by the existence of the *zadrugas*.

A large *zadruga* would contain a dozen or more buildings inside its palisade. The chief is the *kuca* or house, usually of wood, with common hall, and a *vajat* or bedroom for each married couple: there would be one or more *mlekari*, or dairy-houses, a big barn (*ambar*) for the corn, and one or more *kosh* or drying-sheds for maize, two or three stills for making *shlivovitsa*, the inevitable plum-brandy of the Serbs, a *kachara* or brandy cellar, a *pushnitsa* or drying-chamber for the plums, a *suvotnik* or cart-shed, *naslonitse*, or stables for the oxen and possibly horses, and a bakehouse. In the centre of the yard, under the shade of a large tree, usually a lime, there would be a huge table, where the entire com-

munity would take its meals in fine weather. Often enough there would be a *gostinska kuca*, or guest-room; for the sense of hospitality was very highly developed among the Serbs. When a young couple were married, they would construct a new *vajat* or bedchamber, either attached to the main house, or separately, usually a single room, with no provision for a fire.

When a *zadruga* became unwieldy from its size, it would often split into two, and the younger members would find a second *zadruga* in the neighbourhood. In this case it was customary to leave one piece of land indivisible, called the *stozher*. The further dissolution of a *zadruga* led to the formation of *djemats* or hamlets, each with its piece of common land or *zajednitsa*, which was probably a former *stozher*.

It is in the Dinaric country, that is the north-western part of the Balkan Peninsula that the system was most highly developed, but similarity of conditions or the extensive emigrations of families led to the spread of the *zadruga* outside the Dinaric area. They survive to-day in parts of northern Albania, and extend even into the Yugoslav districts north of the Danube and Save; they are scarcely extinct in western Bulgaria, and still flourish in the Kossovo and Metohia districts. Among the real Bulgarians, however, the system is unknown, as it is among the Greeks, Vlahs, and Turks, to whom the system is utterly foreign. *Zadrugas* can hardly exist where the influence of the Byzantine civilisation still lingers.

But the *zadruga* is disappearing in contact with the conditions of modern civilisation; its *raison d'être* has vanished, but the tradition survives among the Serbs and affects their character even in the modern towns. The spirit of mutual aid is still strong and appears in the numerous co-operative trading and mutual benefit societies which are so characteristic in Yugoslavia to-day to which the term *zadruga* is almost exclusively applied in modern parlance. The system has played its part: it has kept alive the seed of nationality and of patriotism, the lively tradition of the prowess of the ancient heroes of the race; it has constantly fostered hatred of the Turkish oppressors and prepared the day for liberation; and it played an important part in that unequalled conflict a century ago which led to the first step in the liberation of the people, and achievement of the national ideal, unity.

NEW ARCHDEACON IN PALESTINE.

The Rev. Percival Stacy Waddy, Canon Residentiary of St. George's Collegiate Church, Jerusalem, has just been appointed Archdeacon of the Church of England in Palestine by the Bishop in Jerusalem. The new Archdeacon took his degree at Balliol, Oxford, and, after holding a curacy for three years in Bethnal Green, went to Australia, being successively at Newcastle Cathedral, incumbent of Stockton, Chaplain to the Bishop of Newcastle, and Headmaster of King's School, Paramatta, Sydney (1907-16). In 1916 he went to Egypt with the A.I.F. and became Senior Chaplain to the Australian Forces operating in Palestine. In 1918 he accepted Bishop MacInnes' invitation to be a Canon of St. George's, with special oversight of the educational work of the Bishop's Mission, acting as Principal at the English College for native men in Jerusalem, the only institution of college standing in the City. The Archdeacon belongs to the family of famous cricketers and has made and kept a host of friends. Archdeacon Waddy will be on furlough in England during April and May, and it has been arranged that he should speak in various centres on the Holy Land. He is speaking at various schools, including Eton, Rugby and Cheltenham, and will spend several days at Oxford and Cambridge early in May, when he hopes to put before men a short service scheme, by which those who have just taken their degrees can spend two or three years in Jerusalem before settling to their life work. The men who go out on this system are asked to teach in the

boys' schools and Men's College and especially to throw themselves into the games and out of school life of those institutions.

THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

On Wednesday was concluded the series of three Rhodes lectures on the new constitution of India which have been given at University College, London. As on the previous occasion, Sir Courtenay Ilbert was not himself able to attend, and the lecture was read for him by his daughter, Mrs. Fisher. It dealt with the changes made by the Act of 1919 in the Central Government of India, by enlarging legislative bodies and setting up new ones, putting such authorities on a mainly electoral basis, while greatly extending their powers, especially in fiscal matters, and relaxing the control of the Home Government over them.

Speaking of the effect on English members of the Indian Civil Service, Sir Courtenay Ilbert said it had been his fortune to hover on the borders of two great services, the English Civil Service, and the Indian Civil Service. He was old enough to remember the introduction of the competitive system for admission into the Indian Civil Service and the plentiful crop of gloomy predictions and prognostications which it had brought forward. Afterwards, when in India, among his colleagues and intimate friends had been some men who had been brought out by John Company, and others who had come later as "competition wallahs." He had been inspired with feelings of affection and admiration by members of both classes. At the present moment he took a more hopeful view of the position of English officials in India than prevailed in some quarters. A period of transition from one system of Government to another was always difficult, but the present difficulties were such as his countrymen had usually had the courage and capacity to surmount. The old régime was doomed; the element of force would remain but would, it was to be hoped, be kept as much as possible in the background. There would be more scope for Government by personal influence and persuasion. But had Englishmen as a rule shown themselves wanting in the qualities required for that form of Government? Might not its exercise be more attractive to them than the life of a bureaucrat?

THE MOUNT EVEREST EXPEDITION.

The preparations for this year's Mount Everest Expedition are now complete. The nine members who have left England for India are:—

Brigadier-General the Hon. C. G. Bruce, C.B., chief of the expedition.

Lieutenant-Colonel E. L. Strutt, C.B.E., D.S.O., second in command.

Mr. G. L. Mallory, who led the climbing party in 1921.

Mr. George Finch, of the Imperial College of Science.

Major E. F. Norton, D.S.O., R.F.A.

Mr. T. Howard Somervell, F.R.C.S., of University College Hospital.

Dr. A. M. Wakefield, of Megantic, Quebec Province.

Dr. T. G. Longstaff, surgeon and naturalist.

Captain J. B. L. Noel, M.G.C., photographer officer.

The party will be joined in India, the *Geographical Journal* published by the Royal Geographical Society states, by Captain Geoffrey Bruce, 5th Gurkhas, and by Captain C. J. Mossir, 3rd Q.A.O. Gurkhas. The 12th place was to have been filled by an artist, but to the great disappointment of the committee it was not possible to find one, among those whose methods seemed appropriate, who could undertake the journey. Of the 11 members of the expedition named above six are soldiers—three of the Gurkhas, one of the Royal Scots, one Royal Field Artillery, and one Machine Gun Corps, formerly of the East Yorkshire Regiment. Three members of the party are of Cambridge University—Mr. Mallory, of Magdalene, Sr. Somervell, of Caius, and Dr. Wakefield, of Trinity; two are of Oxford University—Colonel Strutt and Dr. Longstaff, both of Christ Church; three are surgeons, two are naturalists, several are expert photographers, one at least is a painter, and all are distinguished mountaineers. It is, in fact, a very strong party, of which much is expected.

The climbing equipment includes an oxygen apparatus specially devised for the occasion. The photographic outfit is very complete, including three cinematograph cameras, of which one is equipped with a battery of lenses up to 20in. focal length; two panoramic cameras, of which one rotates through the complete circle; four cameras for glass plates, including one 7½in. by 5in., all fitted with telephoto lenses; one stereoscopic camera, and five Kodaks, besides a variety of private cameras belonging to different members of the party. The dark-room equipment includes all that is required for developing cinematograph films in the field.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

In consequence of queries, the Editor thinks it advisable to state that the quotation from any article does not necessarily imply that the views expressed are shared by "The Near East." On the contrary, an attempt is made to include as far as is possible in the available space all sides of the various questions discussed.

The Near East.

The *Round Table* contains in an article entitled "The Near East" a very useful history of the more recent events in the Near East. It traces the steps by which the Nationalists of Turkey "have secured support, not only from enemies of the Allies, but from among the Allies themselves who framed the Treaty of Sèvres." After sketching the growth of French jealousy at Britain's influence in the East, it comes back to the policy adopted by the Allies in creating a Greater Greece, incidentally discussing the situation of Bulgaria:—

The German-Turko Alliance which so greatly prolonged the war, and by cutting off Allied access to the Black Sea had such disastrous consequences for Russia and Roumania, was only made possible by the German-Bulgarian Alliance. By her position across all land routes between Central Europe and Constantinople Bulgaria exercised an influence upon the course of the war altogether disproportionate to her importance and military strength. She entered the war deliberately, urged by hope of military revenge upon her neighbours and the prospect of great territorial aggrandisement at their expense. The intense nationalism of the Bulgarian people, their ambition, their steadfastness in pursuit of national aims, their patience and industry, their sober intelligence, their aptitude in military organisation, their stoutness in arms, their high birth rate, all mark them out as a race with a future either of much good or of much evil. Bulgaria had proved a most dangerous enemy to her neighbours as well as to the Entente. It was necessary to impose some curb upon her, to reduce her relative power in the Balkans without penalising her vindictively. In view of what had happened, of what might happen again, it was out of the question that an enemy so virile and dangerous should be left with easy opportunities for future territorial expansion, in areas to which she had no predominating ethnical claims. As a result of the war it was clear that both Roumania and Serbia would be greatly increased in area and population. They, then, could look after themselves. For Greece, the question of expansion was not so simple. Territory in Asia Minor and in Eastern Thrace were the only main possibilities. It was deemed essential to end Turkish rule in Europe, and to secure the Dardanelles against the possibility of again being closed in war. Some warden, therefore, had to be found for Turkish or Eastern Thrace, and ethnical and political considerations indicated Greece. But Greece could not hope to maintain herself in Eastern Thrace if it were separated from Greece itself by Bulgarian Thrace. A Greater Greece being regarded as a necessity on various grounds it could only be obtained by giving her Eastern and Western Thrace, the latter at the expense of Bulgaria, and by adding territory in Asia. By this apportionment Greece, like Roumania and Serbia, would more than double her pre-war population, a rough balance between these countries would thus be maintained; and Bulgaria, from being the most powerful Balkan State would, though only slightly diminished in population, become by much the weakest. To these considerations, as much as anything else, M. Venizelos owed his success in obtaining territory for Greece at the hands of the Supreme Council.

Dropping a few outspoken words on the Greek occupation of Smyrna, it chronicles the development of the Nationalist movement in Turkey, the Greek Offensive,

and the causes that led up to the Treaty of Angora. Of this Treaty it says:—

But the conclusion of the Agreement between France and the Nationalists involves that the use of Allied force will not be behind the negotiations. Nationalists know well enough that unless the Allies act together compulsion cannot be applied in Asia Minor; they know that the Agreement of Angora means that the Allies cannot apply force; they will therefore be able to stand out for the widest revision of the Treaty of Sèvres. Nationalist Turkey is, for all practical purposes, already the Turkish State, and sooner or later, will be in Governmental control in Constantinople. France, by securing Nationalist friendship, thus fortifies her influence on the Straits and in the capital in opposition to British influence which at present is dominant there. France has, also, a strong internal reason for gaining and retaining Nationalist and Islamic support. Northern Africa—Tunis, Algeria, Morocco—she regards, not as territorial possessions but as an integral part of France, as a southward extension of France itself. To the Moslem population of these regions she looks to make good the numerical inadequacy of her population in Europe. In the new French army now being created one-third of its total strength in war and peace is to be drawn from the Moslems of North Africa; and of the strength in garrison in European France again one-third is to be formed of these Moslem troops. France cannot afford in these circumstances, it is said, to estrange the Moslem one-third of her population which provides a corresponding proportion of her armed strength.

Still further, France has ever regarded with disfavour the creation of the Greater Greece formed by the addition of territory in Asia Minor and in Eastern Thrace. By the conclusion of the Treaty of Angora she has in fact been able to deal a fatal blow at Greater Greece. There are, however, certain possibilities not altogether favourable to the realisation of Nationalist ambitions in Thrace. Military operations against Greece in Thrace by the Nationalists would not be easy; it would be a different matter from the defence of their Anatolian highlands; it would require long preparation and large accumulations of munitions and stores. It is doubtful if the Nationalists could turn the Greeks out of Thrace by force of arms, except in the course of years. And, further, a Turko-Greek struggle in Thrace might well involve the intervention of other Balkan States, to the great advantage of Greece. An Allied or European agreement with Russia, too, would speedily change the outlook of the Turkish State and provide it with some of the preoccupations which existed before the war.

But whatever the situation may be in the future, the fact remains that at the present time, by supporting the Nationalists as she has done, and gaining their good will, France has secured for herself a position in Turkey comparable only with that held by Germany in 1914.

From this it proceeds to a statesmanlike conclusion:— "Notwithstanding changing circumstances, there are certain root principles which still hold good. It is true that our aims are necessarily limited by our capacity and facts cannot be ignored, but for all that no mere opportunist policy will permanently restore peace. It is not to-day and it never was merely a matter, to use the words of a famous British statesman, of putting our money on the right horse." It produces as instances which we must disinterestedly consider, the question of Christian minorities in the Near East, equity in deciding the future of the Greek inhabitants of Smyrna, and, the question of Europe.

An attempt at this time of day to re-open boundary questions would be tantamount to sending the fiery cross round the Balkans. After all, too, the Greeks were our Allies in the Great War. But, apart from this, it long ago became an ac-

cepted rule of European policy that gound lost by the Turk on this continent was lost to him for ever. In such matters as these we should be slow, indeed to depart from the wisdom of our fathers.

INDIA AND TURKEY.

In the *Manchester Guardian* of March 11, Professor A. J. Toynbee discusses the telegram recently sent by the Viceroy of India setting out the claims of Indian Moslems. He points out the differences between the Turkish and Indian points of view, characterising the first as political, the second as religious:—

It is worth comparing the Turkish with the Indian point of view. The Turkish National Pact, which represents the demand not of a few extremists or adventurers but of the solid mass of the Turkish nation, also claims Thrace and Asia Minor on the ground mentioned by Mr. Lloyd George himself—namely, that they are predominantly Turkish in race and ought therefore, presumably, to be left to Turkey on the principle of self-determination. Had they read Mr. Lloyd George's words like the Indians and framed their programme in accordance with them? This is perhaps an open question, for the principle of nationality is at the base of the whole present Turkish programme, and its application in these two provinces was a fact which must have struck more people than the British Prime Minister. Also the Turks had recovered possession of both provinces for themselves—of Thrace in 1913 during the second Balkan war, and of North Eastern Anatolia (the Armenian provinces temporarily occupied by the Russians) when the Russian front broke down in 1918. On the other hand, the Turks in the text of their National Pact, formally agree to the separation from Turkey of the provinces inhabited by Arab majorities as far north as the Armistice line agreed upon at the end of the European war. This is a real point of difference between the Turkish and the Indian Moslem view, and the difference is shown most clearly in regard to the Holy Places. It is true that both parties demand the restoration of Adrianople, but while the Indian Moslems value Adrianople as a Moslem holy city, the Turks want it because they consider that it is the chief fortress the possession of which is essential for the protection of Constantinople on the European side. With regard to the Arab countries, the Turks are frankly indifferent, especially with regard to Hijaz, which contains Mecca and Medina, the holiest cities of all. Their former suzerainty over the Hijaz cost them money in the shape of subsidies (now paid by the British Government) to the Sherif Hussein, and much anxiety owing to their responsibility for the pilgrim traffic. They are not particularly keen to shoulder these burdens again for the empty honour of suzerainty.

In fact, the Turks have no use for nominal suzerainty over provinces which other people really control and exploit. They have had disillusioning experience of this system already, and the solution suggested by the Indian Moslems for the Arab provinces therefore does not appeal to them. In fact, Arab and other Moslem countries formerly subject to Turkey are more useful to her now that they are separated from her than when they were under her rule. The Turks spent much blood and treasure in trying to hold the Hijaz, the Yemen, Tripoli, and Albania. Now the blood and treasure is spent by the British, Italians, Greeks, Jugoslavs, and others, while the sympathies of the Moslem Indians have turned towards Turkey now that they no longer suffer from her. The case of Egypt is even more striking. When Egypt was independent, in the earlier part of the nineteenth century, she was Turkey's most formidable rival and invaded Asia Minor to within a hundred miles or so of Constantinople. But after the Armistice, when Turkey was being compelled at the Peace Conference to renounce the last vestiges of nominal

suzerainty over Egypt, the Egyptians were rising against the British and destroying the Turkish pledge.

He touches on one other matter in the telegram:—

And there is another aspect of the Viceroy's proposal about the Holy Places. He speaks not of the suzerainty of Turkey but of the suzerainty of the Sultan, and this has a serious bearing upon burning questions of Turkish internal politics. The Sultan's wish for autocratic authority and the National Assembly's determination to establish Constitutional Government, on however oligarchic a franchise cannot easily be reconciled, and in this struggle for power the religious authority possessed by the Sultan as Caliph of other Moslems besides his own nation is a formidable addition to his power. This proposal, therefore, cannot be very palatable to the Turkish national leaders, however difficult it may be for them to say so openly.

Finally, he sums up thus:—

In the National Pact, a purely Turkish settlement of the Turkish case, the Holy Places did not figure, still less the suzerainty of the Sultan over the "Island of Arabia." On the other hand, the Capitulations, which neither the Viceroy nor the Khalifate Committee mention, take a very important place. The Capitulations may not affect the religious prestige of the Sultan and may be of very little political inconvenience to him, but they are humiliating as well as inconvenient to the Turkish public. With this exception, however, the Viceroy's terms certainly represent the substance of the Turkish claims; and the reservations he makes about the minorities and the Straits are both questions on which the Turks are open to discussion and compromise.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

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The B.I.F.

Further information fully justifies the view that this year's fair, considering the attendant circumstances, has been a great success. There was a very marked increase in the volume of business as compared with the previous year, and the fact that over 50,000 buyers were present shows plainly how firmly this institution has become established. As I anticipated the foreign contingent did not include many Near Eastern representatives among its ranks on account of the adverse exchanges, but next time it may be expected that there will be a change in this respect. A feature of the fair of special interest was the number of orders obtained by exhibitors from firms with whom they got in touch at the 1921 fair without business resulting. That should encourage the business community, if anything will, and bring to the next fair a host of firms who hitherto have held aloof.

The Genoa Conference.

The position with regard to Genoa tends to become more and more obscure. There is no certainty that the conference will now take place, though on this point we have the usual official assurances that matters are too far advanced for its abandonment to be practicable, but if it is held it is far from clear that it can serve any useful purpose. The idea of the conference was excellent provided its aims were to be limited, but when it came about that its main *raison d'être* was to be the re-establishment of commercial relations with Russia it was doomed to failure even if that pair of comedians, Messrs. Lenin and Trotsky, had managed to keep quiet instead of every other week or so, explaining to the world in general the precise use that Soviet Russia meant to make of the opportunity afforded by the conference.

The Future.

Outside Russia once the real meaning of the conference was understood there has been no enthusiasm at all for Genoa. America would not hear of participating, France's attitude towards it has been one of hostility throughout, and as a result of developments here during the past few weeks it is difficult to see how Mr. Lloyd George could go to the conference with any confidence. The fact is, as (if I may be allowed to recall it) I pointed out some weeks ago, the Powers have been trying to deal with the economic crisis and the collapsed exchanges in entirely the wrong way. The restoration of relations with Russia is emphatically the question for separate negotiations. The first and most essential step towards world recovery is to deal with the position in Europe and the Near East. A settlement of the Turco-Greek problem and the improvisation of measures calculated to overcome the obstacle to trade with South Eastern and Central Europe is the greatest and best contribution that the Powers can make at the moment to the development of stabilisation. Once conditions in Europe are definitely on the up grade a settlement with Russia would follow as a matter of course.

North Persia Oil Deal.

I dealt recently with the difficult position that arose in regard to the North Persian oilfields as a result of the attitude taken up by the Persian Government in regard to concessions acquired by the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, and pointed out that that concern was in touch with the Standard Oil Company on the question at issue. An agreement between these companies in regard to the development of these important oilfields would obviously be fraught with immense consequences, and this, it appears, has now been brought about as a result of the negotiations between Sir John Cadman, representing the Anglo-Persian Company, and Mr. A. C. Bedford, on behalf of the American concern, as a message from the Teheran Correspondent of the *Pioneer* states that the Persian Government has received £200,000 from Washington against future oil royalties voted by the Mejliss at the beginning of January. The fact that the Persian Government, as indicated by a later message, has since been trying to cancel the agreement in no way affects the issue.

New Egyptian Company.

Taking into consideration the extremely disturbed conditions in Egypt during the past year the results obtained by the New Egyptian Company can only be regarded as fairly satisfactory. The net profits have fallen from £182,000 to £67,711, the reduction being accounted for by the decreased profits on sales of lands, which only totalled £39,100 as compared with £171,200. The dividend proposed is 16.2-3 per cent. tax free as against 20 per cent. tax free.

Eastern Bank's Continued Progress.

The very satisfactory report that has been forthcoming from the Eastern Bank for the past year shows that the progress of this institution has been more than maintained. The net profits which amounted to £102,600 for 1919, and £121,400 for 1920 now stand at £144,200, or an increase of £22,800, while the dividend is raised from 8s. per share to 9s.

Commentator.

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Commerce and Industry.

REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, March 6.

Internal Loan for the State Railways.

It is now announced in regard to the Government's scheme of commercialising the Railways, Post Office, and the State Navigation Service, that the first step towards an autonomous administration of the railways will be the contracting of a loan of 600 million lei with the local banks. This amount is desired to cover only the most urgent needs of this administration, for, in order to cover the whole amount of the debts in the country and abroad, more than one milliard lei would be required. Out of the proceeds of this loan it is intended to pay in the first place for the 176 locomotives ordered in Germany, which are now ready for delivery pending payment. The wish to pay off this account immediately is due to the desire to take advantage of the present rate of the mark. In this order the price of a locomotive is fixed at 2½ millions marks, representing to-day about 1½ million lei, whereas the present value of a locomotive is about four million lei. With the remainder of the loan it is intended to pay the patient home suppliers of coal, oil, sleepers, etc., and to purchase the necessary material for the railway workshops.

Miscellaneous.

M. L. Wenger, the delegate of the French Government, who at the same time is acting also on behalf of the British Government, has arrived in Bucharest to discuss with a Roumanian Committee, headed by Dr. Mrazec, the General Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the question of establishing the damages due to Roumania by the Allies for the damage done to the oil industry during the retreat of 1916.

A few days ago, Mr. Owen, a member of the American Senate, arrived in Bucharest. The purpose of his visit is to enquire into the financial situation of this country. For this purpose he is now in touch with the big banks of Bucharest, who have pointed out to him the necessity of an external loan to enable the Roumanian State to consolidate its floating debt abroad.

Beginning from February 25 the railway traffic with Bulgaria has been resumed, and for this purpose a special train for passengers and goods has been organised to run daily from Constantza to Novo Batievo via Bazargic.

With reference to the prohibition of the import of luxury goods, orders have now been given to the various frontier custom-houses not to allow the importation of luxury goods even for personal use, however small the quantity might be.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, March 2.

Bulgarian money sequestrated in England.

It is announced that any Bulgarian who has lived in England and whose sequestrated money or property does not exceed the value of £5,000 is now free to receive this amount. Those persons who have not lived in England and whose sequestrated money or property does not exceed £200 are also free to receive it.

Sofia, March 11.

Unsuccessful Loan Negotiations.

It is reported that the negotiations which were being conducted for the conclusion of a £5,000,000 external loan, have been temporarily broken off. The difficulty of obtaining adequate guarantees is understood to be the main drawback to the granting of the loan. This is much to be regretted as a foreign loan would have gone a long way to raise the somewhat depressed financial atmosphere of Bulgaria.

Reparations.

Both the Foreign and local Press have stated that Bulgaria will be called upon to pay a substantial amount in reparations during 1922. The exact amount varies according to the newspaper, but the sum of ten million gold francs, equal to approximately three hundred million levas at the present rate of exchange, is freely mentioned.

It is known that the sum of thirty million levas is due to be paid by the Government to the Inter-Allied Commission in the event of the former concluding a contract for the printing of new bank notes with a foreign firm whose offer was thirty million levas higher than other competitors but whose superior quality of notes was considered to be worth the difference in price.

The report that France and Bulgaria will shortly conclude a commercial treaty is denied.

TURKEY.

Constantinople, March 14.

The Commercial Situation.

So far as legitimate business is concerned the commercial situation in Turkey may be described as utterly stagnant. During the month of January the value of the imports for Constantinople alone amounted to £T.5,202,714, and of the exports to £T.2,317,318, leaving an adverse balance of nearly £T.3,000,000. The United States headed the list of imports chiefly owing to the large proportion of flour and other foodstuffs, which have always been regularly supplied by that country, but Great Britain came next with 15 per cent. Italy third with 10 per cent., and France fourth with 9 per cent. of the total value. Exports consisted chiefly of fruits, tobacco, vegetables and silk, of which the principal purchasers were France, £T.317,000; Holland, £T.315,000; Great Britain, £T.239,000; the Caucasus, £T.212,000; Syria, £T.191,000; Austria, £T.145,000; Egypt, £T.138,000; Italy, £T.136,000; and America, £T.131,000.

The Black Sea Trade.

Commerce between the capital and the Turkish ports of the Black Sea is practically at a standstill, with the sole exception of the coal trade with the Heraklea area. With the exception of the big shipping companies such as the Lloyd Triestino, Paquet, Servizi Maritimi, the steamship services between Constantinople and the Turkish Black Sea ports have been either very much cut down or altogether suppressed, and very few ships that do touch the Black Sea ports return with cargoes. This is due to the sufficient reason that there is practically nothing to export, for although there are certain stocks available in the interior all the means of transport have been requisitioned for the army, and it is consequently

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very difficult to bring the materials to the coast. Most of the exports from the Anatolian ports of the Black Sea consist of foodstuffs purchased for the account of the Soviet Government of Moscow in accordance with special arrangements concluded with the Angora Government.

With Batoum, on the other hand, a certain resumption of business is reported, and goods are being sent to Persia through that port. Unfortunately, the despatch of goods from Batoum to the interior of the Caucasus is slow and difficult, with the result that the depots are stated to be gorged with all kinds of merchandise. There is naturally a slump in prices.

Americans in Anatolia.

The local press has recently been displaying considerable interest in the doings of certain American commercial agents in Anatolia, and rumour credits the Standard Oil Company, and other important American concerns with extensive designs upon the natural wealth of Anatolia. Mr. Gillespie, the Commercial Representative of the United States Government, recently made a journey to Angora for the purpose of ascertaining the possibilities of the situation, and the Angora Government is considering a scheme of railway development submitted by Mr. MacDowell, a representative of the Foundation Company of New York. This project is said to be also supported by the National City Bank of New York, one of the directors of which, Mr. Vanderlip, was in Constantinople last year. The following is a translation of an article on the subject from the Turkish newspaper, *Tefhid-Efkiar* :—

"The representative of the American Foundation Company, Mr. MacDowell, proposes to undertake the construction of railways without requiring kilometric guarantees. . . . Such a proposal would never be made to a feeble government with an uncertain future. The Angora Government is following with the closest attention foreign rivalries concerning railway construction and the exploitation of mines connected therewith. The line which will connect Samsoun with the Persian frontier is of the utmost importance, whilst the line which will link up the port of Yemourtalik, with the Persian frontier will successfully rival the Baghdad Railway, and in a very short space of time will adversely affect the railways of Mesopotamia. It is known that the one object of European peace is the partition of oil fields. The proposals of the American Company concerning the exploitation of the mines (oil) situated on either side of the railway from Yemurtalik to the Persian frontier, clearly indicates that America intends to compete with another country which holds 75 per cent of the titles to the world's oil fields. The objective of the railways from Samsoun to the Persian frontier is the virgin oil fields of Erzeroum, which are sufficiently rich to supply the entire world. In addition to America, Russia is also displaying considerable interest in the matter of railways. The new Russian Embassy in Angora includes amongst its personnel a number of

geologists and economists, who are studying the resources of the country with a view to the participation of Russian capital in Anatolian enterprises and to compete with Americans and Europeans."

For those who have time to read between the lines, the above paragraph will be of considerable interest.

GREECE.

Athens, March 10.

Production of Cotton.

It is estimated that the production of Greek cotton during the current agricultural year will attain the following figures :—Province of Salonika :—1,950,000 okes ; Province of Phthiotis and Phokis :—1,300,000 okes ; Province of Attica and Boeotia :—2,300,000 okes ; Province of Larissa :—12,000 okes ; Cyclades Islands :—12,350 okes.

MESOPOTAMIA.

Baghdad, March 2.

Prices and Wages Falling.

Prices have fallen very heavily during the past few months, and wages are now beginning to follow the fall of commodity prices though skilled labour, especially in the building trade is still able to demand very high wages owing to the lack of skilled workmen to do the work now being put in hand. In all the towns of the country new buildings are being erected in the place of the old ramshackle buildings which have served as dwellings hitherto. Trade, however, is at a standstill, and money is very scarce.

The Port of Busreh.

It has now been decided that the port of Busreh is to remain in government hands for the present at any rate.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting	Parity of Exchange	Latest. Quotations.
Alexandria ..	Piastres to £...	97½	97, 7-16
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	101.00-104.00
†Belgrade ..	Dinars to £...	25.22½	310-325
Berlin	Marks to £...	20.43	1,280-1,340
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1,3½-1,3,5-16
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1,3½-1,3,5-16
Brussels.....	Francs to £...	25.22½	51.60-52.95
*Bucharest ..	Lei to £...	25.22½	565 580
Constantinople	Piastres to £...	110	650 670
New York....	Dollars to £...	4.46 2-3	4.37 4.39½
Paris	Francs to £...	25.22½	48 55 48.95
Prague	Kronen to £...	24.02	24½-257
Rome	Lire to £...	25 2½	85.75 86.50
†Sofia	Leva to £...	25.22½	635
Teheran	Krans to £...	50	51
Vienna	Kronen to £...	24.02	29,000-32,000
Warsaw	Marks to £...	20.43	17,000-19 000

*Nominal. † Sellers.

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THE COLONISATION OF PALESTINE.

Sentiment v. Sense.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—It would appear that while a variety of suggestions as to the ultimate fate of Palestine have been made there is one which has not until now received proper consideration, namely the selection of the type of colonist best suited to the country.

The unsuitability of the Jewish emigrants now pouring into Palestine is being brought home to us very forcibly, and it would not militate against the necessity of economy now being advocated if the country could be peopled by the British settler. It could be done without any expense from the British Government beyond perhaps a small settlement grant to approved applicants.

The Jewish colonists in Palestine before the war had reached a very fair standard of efficiency in agriculture, and were not prone to concern themselves in affairs outside their own boundaries. A lot could be learned from them in running a model village; they wanted no interference from the outside world, and although they suffered greatly from periodical attacks by nomadic Arab tribes they always managed to hold their own. Moreover the country, although under Turkish rule, was on the whole peaceful, for the Turk was placid in his administration, and, provided the taxes were paid, did not unduly interfere in their private pursuits. Their neighbours in the German colonies scattered over the country were if anything even more steady and industrious, and it is to them also that we owed the large volume of trade in fruit. Two cases in point may be mentioned—the German colony of Wilhelma and the Jewish colony of Mulebbis, or Petah Tikwah.

The type of Jewish emigrant or "Haluzin" as he calls himself, at the present time, I venture to say, is totally unsuitable as a colonist in the fair land of Palestine; for it is a wonderful country and immensely rich agriculturally. Figs, oranges, melons, dates, and grapes grow in abundance. The applicants who have passed through my hands are in nine cases out of ten totally ignorant of agriculture, their occupations vary from rag pickers to pedlars, they have not the elements of cleanliness or self-respect, and although they are similar to the pre-war colonists in that they wear their hair long, that feature constitutes their sole resemblance. I protested at the type of candidate at the time and was assured that they were eminently suitable. Few, however, in proportion were sped on their way by my office rejoicing. Undoubtedly it will be a bad day for Palestine when the country is completely colonised by such as these. The supervision of these people was efficiently carried out at first, for no intending settler was allowed even to apply for facilities until he had first obtained the sanction of the local Zionist organisation. This wise precaution, however, seems now to have been relaxed with the inevitable result. The Arab is another important element and can only be managed by firmness allied to justice. Until co-ordination between Jew, Arab, Turk and German is achieved there will be no improvement.

The Arab can be managed. In his heart he would prefer to be governed by the British or at least to have the country colonised by the British rather than the Jews. It has been said that the Arab is untrustworthy and that he is unfit to have any say in the Government of Palestine. These statements are quite inaccurate. The Arab has a great respect, even reverence, for firmness and strength. He may face both ways on occasions but he knows when it would be unwise to do so. He should work well with the British settler whom he has met before in uniform.

One has only to recall the achievements of Colonel Lawrence's Arab brigades during the war to realise what can be done with a fearless policy, fairness, and complete frankness. True, the Arab takes to fighting

as a duck to water, for like the Turk he is a fighter from the cradle to the grave; all that is needed is to direct his activities in the right direction. As a policeman he would be decidedly effective and of infinitely more use than a few Jews armed with borrowed rifles.

Another point to remember when allotting Palestine is that whatever happens the Turkish element cannot be eliminated. The Turk is a much maligned gentleman. I use the word "gentleman" advisedly, for it will be found sooner or later that we have taken Palestine from him merely to import the backwash of the Jewish race. If any preference were given it should be to the Turk; he at least is not a hypocrite, and has more sense of the sanctity of the given word than any Jewish "haluzin."

When it is realised that the Moslems outnumber the Jews by some ten to one, and the former hate the latter, it may safely be assumed that the more the ratios approach each other the more the Moslems will hate the Jews. The fact of the matter is that we have to choose between ruining the country on a sentimental idiosyncrasy, or running it so as to become one of our greatest triumphs of colonisation, and to show some result for the many British bones scattered over the land.

The Government seem to have been very cleverly hoodwinked by Jews in high places and to have consequently ignored the only practical view, and if their sentimental view is persisted in, so far from the country justifying in any way the hopes it inspired when our troops "freed" it, Palestine will degenerate into a glorified Salonika, and no amount of gendarmerie or bribery of Arab Chiefs will in any way leave it invulnerable against dissension from within or molestation from without. The Arab emphatically is a bigger factor in the destiny of Palestine than the Jew is or ever will be.

Yours, etc.,
W. ROSEN

(formerly Clerk and A. V.-C. to H.B.M.
Consulate-General, Frankfurt-am-Main).

INDIAN LAC, TURPENTINE AND ROSIN.

A new volume in the series of Reports of the Indian Trade Enquiry conducted at the Imperial Institute has just been published by Mr. John Murray. This contains the reports on lac, turpentine and rosin made by the Special Committee on Gums, Resins and Essential Oils, of which Sir Harvey Adamson, K.C.S.I., was Chairman.

About 94 per cent. of the world's supplies of lac (shellac, etc.) comes from India, the rest from Indo-China and Siam. Although India thus has a practical monopoly of the trade the state of the industry in India is not altogether satisfactory. The Special Committee make various recommendations for improving the present conditions of the industry, for placing the manufacture on a thoroughly efficient basis, and safeguarding the interests of India and the Empire.

Although India possesses large areas of pine forests from which turpentine and rosin could be obtained, the country has not hitherto figured among the large producers of these materials, and is still dependent to some extent on foreign countries for its own requirements. The Special Committee consider that every effort should be made to increase the Indian output and recommendations are made with this end in view. The last section of the publication gives interesting particulars relating to the production of turpentine oil and rosin in India and the characters of the products obtained from the different Indian pines.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended March 4 amounted to £6,060.

The transfer books of the Mercantile Bank of India are closed until April 5.

It is reported authoritatively in London that the Czechoslovakian Government has agreed to the Bill in connection with the £10,000,000 British loan to Czechoslovakia.

The Bondholders' Report.

The report of the Corporation of Foreign Bondholders for 1921, which has just been issued, begins with a reference to the world-wide depression during the past year, and it is pointed out that "in view of the remarkable falling off in trade, which followed the revival of 1919-20, and the extraordinary fluctuations in exchange, it is perhaps a matter for congratulation that the catalogue of States in default has not been materially increased." We give the following extracts from the report dealing with the Near East countries:—

Bulgaria.

Amongst the countries which supported the Central Powers in the late War, Bulgaria, after protracted negotiations, has made arrangements for the resumption of payments on its external debt, which, while they entail considerable sacrifices on the bondholders, especially in the case of drawn bonds, may probably be regarded as the best possible under the difficult circumstances in which Bulgaria is placed in consequence of the heavy depreciation in the national currency. It is only fair to the Bulgarian representatives to say that they appeared sincerely desirous to maintain the honour and credit of their country.

Turkey.

In 1919-20 the gross receipts from the revenues assigned to the service of the Unified Debt and Lots Turcs amounted to £T.11,782,953 (paper), against £T.6,830,303 in 1918-19, the increase being due principally to the temporary revival of trade after the Armistice and to the rise in the value of articles subject to taxation. After deducting from this £T.11,782,953 expenditure to the amount of £T.4,016,114 and the annuity for the Unified and the Lots Turcs (£T.2,157,375) the balance of £T. 5,609,463 was carried to a special reserve account with the Treasury, to cover loss of exchange on coupons in arrear payable in foreign countries. For 1920-21 the gross receipts are estimated at £T.10,930,379, and for the first six months of the current year (March to August, 1921) at £T.3,376,931. The decrease is due to political troubles in Anatolia and to the war between Greece and Turkey. Sir Adam Block in his recently published Special Report, draws attention to the urgent necessity of increasing the duties on spirits. Owing to the opposition of the United States Government, the proposals of the Turkish Government, which, if carried into effect, would probably increase the spirits revenue by some £T.3,000,000 per annum, have not been acted upon.

During the past year the coupons of the Unified Debt due March, 1915, to March, 1920, inclusive, have been deposited with the Syndicates representing nationals of the Allied Powers, and a payment of 1s. 3d. per unitary coupon of 8s. has been made by the Debt Council out of funds in their hands outside Turkey. Certificates have been issued to the holders of these coupons in respect of their claim to repayment at pre-war rates of the funds collected on the bondholders' behalf during the war and deposited in German banks. The deposit of coupons made with this object was closed on 30th September, 1921, and the bondholders' claims are now in the hands of the Clearing Offices established under the provisions of the Treaty of Versailles, and should in due course come before the Mixed Arbitrators Tribunals constituted under the Treaty.

In the present state of Turkey, and until the Treaty of Sèvres or some other arrangement has been put into force, there can be little or no improvement in the situation. Bondholders should always bear in mind that a considerable portion of the Turkish Empire as it stood before the war has been dismembered from Turkey, and the Powers who have taken over these parts are responsible for their proportionate share of the Turkish Debt. Up to the present, so far as the Council are aware no payment has been made by these Powers on account

of the revenues assigned to the Debt and collected by them in the territories they have taken over.

After prolonged negotiations an arrangement has been made between the Debt Council and the Tobacco Régie Company with regard to the bondholders' share of the profits. The new arrangement is regarded as far superior to the provisional agreement in force during the war, and should result in a large increase of revenue for the bondholders. For the current year the bondholders' share of the receipts is estimated at nearly £T.3,000,000, as against about £T.2,000,000 which would have been obtained on the old basis. It is understood that an arrangement has been entered into between the Turkish Government and the representatives of the French holders of the loans outside the Decree of Mouharrem for the transfer to France of the funds in hand for the service of these loans, and for the distribution of the proceeds by way of a payment in French francs on account of the coupons due December, 1914, to May, 1920, a certificate of claim being given for payment of the balance on the same basis.

Greece.

The total gross receipts in 1920 applicable to the service of the old gold loans, amounted to 123,662,708 dr., against 100,844,948 dr. in 1919, and out of these the receipts from the Monopolies and the Stamp and Tobacco Duties, from which the plus-values are derived, were 65,630,414 dr. and 50,468,063 dr. respectively. With the addition of the portions of the receipts from the Monopolies, etc., which are not applicable to the plus-values (viz., 37,809,743 dr.), together with the customs receipts of the ports of Corfu, Patras, Laurium and Volo (viz., 15,805,445 dr.), which are an additional contingent security of the old gold loans, and those of the ports of Salonika and Kavala (viz., 32,533,200 dr.), on which the five per cent. loan of 1914 has a first charge, the total gross receipts of the year amounted to 209,811,097 dr., against 158,039,887 dr. in 1919. Including balances from the previous year the net amount available for increase of interest and sinking fund in 1921 was 24,497,688 fr., against 20,792,020 fr. in the previous year, and out of this sum, as stated in the Council's last report, the full interest on all the old gold loans was paid for the second year in succession, and the ordinary sinking funds on the three groups of loans were increased by 28, 28 and 26 per cent. of the original interest respectively.

In 1921 the gross receipts for the service of the old gold loans were 149,185,640 dr. and the proportion applicable to the plus-values was 73,493,141 dr. With the additional receipts from the Monopolies and other sources mentioned above, the total gross receipts in 1921 were 259,192,277 dr. The sums available in 1921 should permit of the payment in 1922 of 42, 40 and 40 per cent. respectively to the three groups by way of additional interest, and of 24, 24 and 26 per cent. by way of additional sinking fund.

In view of the uncertain political outlook, any forecast as to the future is difficult. It is, however, satisfactory to note that in 1921 the receipts assigned to the plus-values showed an increase of 7,862,727 dr. as compared with the corresponding period of the previous year; receipts from Customs were also satisfactory, and in spite of the increased tariff duties, the depreciation of the drachma, the lack of exchange and other difficulties, the actual imports have not diminished.

'BALKAN' NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY

FOUNDED 1895

Capital paid up	5,000,000
Total reserves as per December 31st, 1920	53,200,000
Premium Income during 1920	28,300,000
Amounts insured of Life branch exceed	150,000,000
Branches maintained: Fire, Life, Marine, Casualty and Re-insurance of all branches.	

HEAD OFFICE: SOFIA, BULGARIA.

THE BIRMINGHAM FAIR.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)
(Conclusion).

Miscellaneous Exhibits.

In what might be called the miscellaneous section, a very interesting range of exhibits was on view. The most notable firm exhibiting was the B.S.A. Company who had an extensive stand showing their well-known cycles, motor-cycles and accessories, also equipment for aero engines. A section of this stand was devoted to hammerless shot guns, sporting guns and rifles, targets and target-holders, and equipment connected with firearms. Before passing from this class of exhibits I must not forget to mention those well known gun and cartridge manufacturers, Messrs. Webley and Scott, Ltd., and Nobel Industries, Ltd. The first mentioned showed an excellent range of double-barrelled guns and rifles, and revolvers of all descriptions, while the last named were showing a large selection of their well-known "Eley" "Kynoch" and "Nobel" brands of sporting ammunition and miscellaneous goods such as clay "pigeons," air gun slugs, wadding and percussion caps.

Two stands which seemed to me of particular interest were those of Messrs. Craven and Speeding Bros., and Messrs. J. & E. Wright, Ltd., containing exhibits of hemp, manilla, and cotton ropes, all classes of ropes for engineering, shipping and mining, and various grades of hemp, cotton and jute twines. The exhibits of Messrs. J. H. Tucker & Co., Ltd., were nothing if not interesting. One could spend hours admiring the excellent examples of the firm's products. An extensive range of electric lighting and power accessories, fusegear, and switchboards were on view, including their latest moderate priced switchboards, which are specially designed for use with modern small private plants, using low voltage metal filament lamps on the latest wiring systems. Other new features are their ironclad switches and switches with fuses combined. Improvements have been made in the contacts which are now far superior to the contacts usually fitted. In the combined switches and fuses interchangeable and removable adapters are provided to facilitate wiring, which may either have one central hole for bunched cables, or separate holes for each pole, tapped for conduit or bushed for paper insulated cable, with recessed bodies for sealing the cable ends.

A very excellent selection of tumbler switches were exhibited, together with coupled switches, blocks and baseboards. The artistic design of the switches was all that could be desired, and the enterprise of Messrs. Tucker was very much in evidence.

The Chatwood Safe Co., Ltd. showed various sizes of their safes from a mammoth to a small office safe. Another specially interesting stand was that of Messrs. The Austin Motor Co., Ltd., who were showing a self-contained automatic house lighting plant, and two automatic dynamos with self-contained switchgear.

Messrs. May and Padmore Ltd. were exhibiting all kinds of brassfoundry for cabinet makers, builders, etc., and motor car accessories, hot brass pressings for engineering trades, also electrical cooking appliances.

Messrs. J. Nichols & Son, Ltd., had on view all kinds of wire articles from wire bird-cages to wire mattresses, firescreens, etc., while metallic bedsteads in brass and iron, electric light pendants and brackets, brass hearth furniture and a wide range of furnishing brassfoundry were to be seen at the stand of Messrs. Evered & Co., Ltd. Messrs. A. Edmonds & Co., Ltd., were exhibiting a large display of shop fittings and equipment including counters, display stands, wood and metal stands, typists desks and show cases, etc.; while the exhibits of the Chad Valley Co., Ltd., included featherweight telescopic motorized luggage trunks made in waterproof fibre, and attaché cases, luncheon and picnic cases, rugs and driving gauntlets, and various articles for domestic use.

TENDERS INVITED.

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

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

Bulgaria.

Suction Dredger, etc.—The Ministry of Railways, Posts and Telegraphs of the Bulgarian Government is calling for tenders for:—(a) one suction dredger, (b) one salvage tug, (c) two barges. June 1 (D.O.T.)

Egypt.

52,000 yards Tarlatan White.—The Egyptian War Department invite tenders for 52,000 yards Tarlatan white. Particulars can be obtained from the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1. April 4.

Twill.—The Egyptian War Department invite tenders for the supply of twill for cavalry shirts. Tenders must be sent to the office of the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1, by April 3.

Woolen Cloth, Light Blue for Uniforms, about 28 oz.—The Egyptian War Department invite tenders for the supply of woolen cloth, light blue, for uniforms, about 28 oz.

Particulars can be obtained from the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1. April 4.

Canvas, Cotton, Waterproofed, Chocolate Colour.—The Egyptian War Department invite tenders for the supply of canvas cotton, waterproofed, chocolate colour. Tenders must be sent to the office of the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1, by April 3.

Canvas, Cotton, White.—The Egyptian War Department invite tenders for the supply of canvas, cotton, white. Tenders must be sent to the office of the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1, by April 4.

Webbing.—The Egyptian War Department invite tenders for the supply of webbing. Tenders must be sent to the office of the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1, by March 30.

Canvas (Various).—The Egyptian War Department invite tenders for the supply of canvas (various). Tenders must be sent to the office of the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1, by April 4.

Calico.—The Egyptian War Department invite tenders for the supply of calico cotton. Tenders must be sent to the office of the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1, by April 5.

Malta.

Conveyance of Mails.—Sealed tenders will be received at the Treasury, Valetta, Malta, up to 10.30 a.m. Thursday, April 27, 1922, for the conveyance of mails between Malta and Syracuse or between Malta and Reggio, at the option of the tenderer, for a period of three years, three times weekly.

Tenderers will give the following particulars:—(a) Days of the week and hours of proposed arrivals and departures at Malta and at the above mentioned ports; (b) Gross and net tonnage of steamers, which should be classed A.1 at Lloyd's, or have a certificate of the Bureau Veritas and should not be of a lower tonnage than 600 tons net; (c) Speed of the steamer, which should be of a minimum of 12 knots; (d) Passenger and other accommodation. Accommodation for not less than forty first-class and for thirty second-class passengers should be provided; (e) Amount of annual subsidy required; (f) date of commencement of service.

Copies of conditions of contract and forms of tender may be obtained on application at the Treasury, Valetta, Malta, or to the Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, Westminster, London, S.W.1.

The Sudan.

General Stationery.—The Sudan Government, Khartoum, Sudan, invite tenders from well-established firms of general stationers for the supply of stationery required by the Government. Samples and specifications can be seen and conditions and form of tender obtained on application to the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1.

Paper and Envelopes.—The Sudan Government, Khartoum, Sudan, invite tenders from well-established firms of paper-makers and envelope manufacturers for the supply of paper and envelopes required by the Government. Specifications, conditions and forms of tender can be obtained on application to the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1.

Yugoslavia.

Oil.—Tenders are invited by the Serbian Minister of Communications, for the supply of:—390,750 kgs. oil for greasing locomotives and railway wagons for summer use; 465,750 kgs. oil for greasing locomotives and railway wagons for winter use; 400,000 kgs. oil for cylinders worked by steam (surfeited); 200,000 kgs. oil for cylinders worked by steam (over-heated); 120,000 kgs. colza; 150,000 kgs. naphtha; 5,000 kgs. oil for cylinders of Diesel motors; 300,000 kgs. refined petroleum. Tenders must be in Belgrade by 10 o'clock on April 11, bearing the inscription "Offre de par l'adjudicataire X Y." Further details can be obtained from the Banque Franco-Serbe 30, Coleman Street, E.C.2.

Engineering Topics.

By Our Engineering Representative.

The Light Car Vogue.

The question as to whether this is or is not transient is discussed at some length by Capt. de Normanville, in the *Motor Owner*, and I am not at all sure that I agree with the conclusions at which he arrives. He considers that the pre-eminence of the light car is a vogue actuated not by desire or taste but impelled by circumstance.

He asks: Why does one spend money on the purchase of a motor-car? It may be as a business asset or as a health-giving amusement. More generally it is a combination of the two. Having got that motor car, what does it do? In bald finality, it moves you from one place to another. It renders a species of service for personal locomotion at a speed which is not remarkably variant on an average and at a cost which is variant. Those are the essential characteristics of the proposition. You may be moved from place to place in one of several different detail methods; but the result is the same—you can get from one place to another in a roughly equal time irrespective of the type of car used.

It is not, therefore, our desires which have changed in regard to motoring. The apparent similarity of choice in purchase is not natural—it is forced. Large numbers of the people who are now buying small cars would under more normal circumstances, buy large cars. It is the force of financial stringency which is responsible for a considerable section of the army of small car purchasers which is so pronounced a vogue at the present.

But after all, what else could it be? One naturally buys the best article one can get for the money one has to spend. One does not buy a more expensive article than one wants unless its advantages are pronounced enough to warrant the additional expenditure. If one buys a fountain pen one buys a good quality article that will write well and do all that is required. No one goes of his own initiative to buy one that is gold cased and jewelled in eight holes unless as a present or a bribe to a rich aunt. One wants a good pen, just as one wants a good car. And if the light car, at a lower price than the big model, will take you as quickly anywhere you want to go, and at a lower fuel cost and will give you during the ride all the comfort you require, you will buy that car, just as Kipling's sailor bought a ham, and see life! If on the other hand you want quality and refinement and luxury you will very properly buy a Napier or a Rolls-Royce or a Sheffield Simplicox or a Vauxhall or a Lanchester. And you'll feel all the better for having bought it, but you won't travel any faster and you won't travel any cheaper and so far as the car is concerned you won't travel much further. Most people buy light cars because they are just the kind of car they want.

A Tyre Plaster.

Incidentally I do not think I have ever really wished for a burst tyre, but I have been tempted since I received a specimen of a new plaster which Brown Bros. are offering at a remarkably low price. As far as I can see the thing is an admirable production; at any rate I always intend to carry one and should recommend all readers to do the same. It is ready for immediate application and all that has to be done is to wash the inner surface of the burst cover with petrol and allow it to dry. The prepared coating of the plaster, which is covered with a removable protection of linen, is also damped with petrol or benzol and pressed in place so as well to overlap the burst and the tyre is then ready for pumping up. There is no waiting for it to dry or vulcanising required and the flaps which stick out over the edge need not be tucked in or folded down; they just want cutting away, or trimming off. If one likes, the patch can be vulcanised at a later date but it is really not necessary. This plaster is peculiarly suitable for the repair of burst cord tyres as the thick coating of semi-cured rubber works its way into the worn cords and builds up the damaged portion in a most satisfactory manner. There is a further point which may be men-

tioned and that is that the heat generated during running tends to make the plaster adhere more firmly to the cover, actually tending to vulcanise plaster and cover together. The plaster is thus admirably suited for use in warm or hot climates.

Open-Hearth Furnace Efficiency.

One of the most important improvements in connection with open-hearth furnace design has been in connection with water ports. Hitherto there has been considerable difficulty in keeping both the dry and the water ports of open-hearth furnaces in proper condition and original shape. With dry ports the bricks are unable to withstand the heat for long, and eventually they melt and drop out of the port arches on the floor of the flue obstructing the port and deflecting the gas on to the roof which naturally becomes badly burned. To an extent these troubles are overcome by the use of water-cooled ports, but so far these have not proved all that has been desirable, the chief defect being that a deposit forms inside the port where the greatest variation of temperature occurs and rapidly builds itself into a solid mass of scale which is difficult to remove.

The improved design of port has been in experimental use for upwards of two years, and has been successful in every way. In a furnace charging 160,000 lb. of metal with a 14 per cent. limestone burden, ports of the new type, 29 inches only in length are making the heats in anything from 8 to 10 hours and in view of this success ports of the improved design are to be fitted to even larger furnaces.

The port is a hollow, water-cooled flue, tubular in shape and is 60 per cent. lighter in construction than any other water-cooled design of port yet introduced. It is to be made in two types, the one being designed for suspension, independently of the brickwork, by means of water-cooled pipes, and the other being made for building in the brickwork which thus serves as a support. The port extends from the gas uptake into the air port, but does not pass straight across the air uptakes. As a result of this arrangement the rising and pre-heated air passes directly in front of the gas port and mixes at once with the issuing gas. This has the effect of increasing efficiency to a marked degree as the mixture is ready for immediate ignition, which naturally causes the flame to be at its maximum intensity when it reaches the charge. The gas port itself is of small dimensions and has a minimum of exposed surface. It consequently has little effect on the temperatures of either the incoming or outgoing waste gas. As a matter of fact the incoming flame from this type of port is even hotter than that from a dry port.

Fine Light Car Performances.

Quite a number of records went by the board recently at Brooklands. The "A.C." started its competition season in good style in the Essex Motor Club's One-day Winter Trial when, for engines not exceeding 1,500 cc., the four-cylinder 11.8 h.p. A.C., owned and driven by Mr. Kaye Don, was first in Class 11. In Class 12 the A.C., this time a 15.7-h.p. model, driven by Mr. Brown-sort, was second. The trial was of a competitive nature, four tests in all being incorporated. These were re-starting, acceleration on a hill, general reliability and ease of starting and flexibility, which are all very important things from a user's point of view. This success was followed up by a 4-cylinder A.C. running round Brooklands under the driving of Kaye Don and gathering in the 10 laps, 50 miles, 100 miles and one-hour records, all in class A. Just over a week later a 4-cylinder A.C. sports model with a practically standard pattern of engine, was entered in Class A. and six more records were taken. These were the half-mile standing start, in the amazing speed of over 55 mph., the one kilometre standing start, at 59½ mph., and the one mile standing start, at 65.4 mph. The same distances were then run off with a flying start, and the speeds were respectively 87.2, 87.57 and 84.61 mph., these speeds setting up records also.

Stock and Share Markets.

GILT-EDGED DULL.

Phoenix Oil Strong.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Tuesday morning

Generally speaking the week has been rather a dull one for the markets. Political developments have naturally had a cramping effect on business, while the industrial position is not such as to inspire cheerfulness with regard to the trade outlook. The prompt success of General Smuts' measures on the Rand and the improved outlook in India were bull factors but they naturally failed to counterbalance the effect of the situation at home. Ireland seems to be going from bad to worse, but we have become so accustomed to disturbances in that country that whatever happens there has scarcely any effect.

New Issues.

Like its predecessor the Midi and Orleans Loan proved a great success, and dealings opened yesterday at $\frac{3}{4}$ premium which was good enough to induce some of the temporary holders to unload. There is no news of any further issues of outstanding interest. A Greek loan is definitely out of court for the present, while it would appear that the negotiations for a Bulgarian loan have also failed to result in a settlement. It is to be hoped that the pourparlers will continue for a Bulgarian loan would do much to promote British trade interests in that country. I am inclined to think that it will probably materialise as soon as the exchange shows definite signs of improvement.

Gilt-Edged.

Gilt-edged have been rather a dull spot with the exception of Indian securities which have firmed up somewhat. Consols at 54.5-8 are 1-8 down, War Loan Fives are 96.5-32 a decline of 7-32, while the Conversion Loan at 72.5-16 is 3-16 up. In Indian stocks the Seven per Cent. Loan at 105 $\frac{1}{2}$ is 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ up, the 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Loan at 60 is 1 up, while the three per cent. Loan is 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ up at 52 $\frac{1}{2}$.

The foreign market has been uninteresting. French War Loan Fives are $\frac{1}{2}$ down at 45, while German three per cent. are 1-8 down at 2.3-8 on the depreciation in the exchange. Italian Rentes are 1 down at 23 $\frac{1}{2}$. Russians are featureless. China bonds have been offered, with the Five per cents. of 1896 down to 90 $\frac{1}{2}$, while the 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cents. of 1898 are 74. Brazilians have been rather a bright spot, the 4 per cent. 1889 Loan being 55 $\frac{1}{2}$, while the 1914 Funding Loan is 72. In Greek securities Monopolies are a point up at 32 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Industrial Featureless.

The labour position to say nothing of other features has had the effect of bringing about a dull tone in many sections of the Industrial group. Business has been on a very restricted scale, and in the majority of cases price changes have been in the downward direction. Tobaccos have been steady. Bats are 3d. up at 67s. 3d., while Imperial Tobaccos have gained 3d. at 54s. Dunlops are unchanged at 6s. 3d.

The Textile group has been fairly firm. Coats are 2.25-32xd., while Courtaulds are 36s. 6d.xd. Iron, Coal, and Steel securities have been on the dull side. Vickers are unchanged at 8s. 6d., Armstrongs are 13s. 6d., Guest Keens are 30s., while Lamberts are 1.3-8 xd.

In shipping securities P. and O. Deferred are 298, a decline of 13. Cunards are 9d. down at 18s., while Furness Withys are 1s. up at 27s. 6d.

Oils Variable.

Oils have varied a good deal during the week, and in general the tendency has been towards dullness, though here and there firm spots have been in evidence. For the present it would appear that investors are avoiding this market, but it is as certain as anything can be that the set-back is purely a temporary one. Burmahs are 5 $\frac{1}{2}$, a rise of 1-8, while Mexican Eagles are 3 $\frac{1}{2}$, a decline

of 1-8. In Trinidad issues Centrals are 3.1-8, a decline of 1-16, while Leaseholds are 1.1-8, also a decline of 1-16.

Among Egyptians Anglo-Egyptian B are 1.9-16, the same as last week, while Oilfields of Egypt are 6d. down at 5s. In the Roumanian group Roumanian Consolidated are 9d. up at 11s., while Phoenix, continuing their rise are 18s. 9d., at which they show a gain of 1s. 3d. on the week. As I pointed out last week they are expected to go still higher, but of the two above mentioned Roumanian Consolidated in my opinion now represent the best value, and should be good for a considerable rise during the year. Dacia Romanos are unchanged at 11-16, while Steaua Romanas are 6d. down at 11s. 9d.

GERMANY AND THE GREEK MARKET

Position of Workers in Greece.

An occasional correspondent sends us the following notes on economic conditions in Greece at the present time.

Very strict laws have been made in Greece to prevent money leaving the country and no bank can or will give a cheque for sterling or gold, for however small the amount, and for drachmae only up to 2,000 at a time with all kinds of formalities to go through. At Xmas I wanted to send my son in England £15. It was utterly impossible to get a cheque from any bank, and eventually it had to be sent in an indirect way by giving the equivalent in drachmae to a traveller who wrote his banker in England to send over the £15. Of course all commerce is handicapped. But here is where Germany comes in. For 2,000 drachmae in that country at the present rate of exchange many things can be obtained, and besides the German firms are eager for trade and easily give credit. The result is that the market is flooded with German and Austrian wares. And so Germany is laying the foundation in the Near East for future trade. Of course for the moment they export very inferior articles, but they have a finish which makes them look good, and for the hundreds who want solid British goods, the thousands are content with the cheaper article.

A Fallacy.

It is a mistake to think a country with a depreciated rate of exchange is poor; the nation is, but the country and individuals are rich, for all work. Germany, being so to say a self-productive country, has enough for her wants and to spare, and exports at very low prices. Greece having almost everything to import, naturally at this difficult moment turns to the cheapest seller. For instance an article costing 4 marks in Germany is sold for 8 marks to Greece; by the time the shopman receives it, it will cost him 16 drachmae and he sells it again at 40 drachmae. See what a profit all round! If the shopman is honest he will say it is German, but how much deception goes on especially in the drapery line, where many stuffs are passed off as British to the uninstructed buyer!! Of course in time the bad wear of the article appears, but by then Germany will be able to put better goods on the market and so retain all the trade in her hands.

This is an age of levelling of classes, a socialistic movement. The sufferers are the upper classes whose incomes do not increase with the rise of exchange. The workers get fourfold and more pay. A labourer in Greece used to get five drachmae a day, was able to live on three and put by two; now he gets 25 drachmae, spends 10 and puts by 15. He feels a millionaire; his wants are few, for the Greeks are a very sober living people, content with bread, olives, cheese, oil and wine, for they say bread, oil and wine is the strength of man.

ROUMANIA'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY.

The Transport Problem.

In the course of a recent lecture at Cambridge on Roumania, M. Grégoire Michaelescu, Commercial Attaché to the Roumanian Legation in London, discussed the economic situation of the country.

In order to give an idea of the country's wealth a few facts, he said, were necessary. Before her political position in Europe was established, Roumania supplied with cereals, timber, sheep and skins, the Turks, Genovezians, Venetians, Spaniards, and even English. Through the war of independence in 1877 Roumania began her political existence. Her independence was recognised by the Treaty of Berlin, and it was the Germans who first realised and appreciated the wealth of the country. Their sentiments, however, were not on the side of Germany so much as that of France where they sent their youth to be educated, but Germany succeeded in establishing an important *débouché* of exchange of products between the capitals. To illustrate better one of the effects of German influence they might compare the commercial results between 1880 and 1910. In 1880 the total sum of goods imported into Roumania from Germany amounted to seven million lei while that from France came to 35 million lei. In 1910 the amount from Germany had risen to 138 million lei, while that from France had fallen to 25 million lei.

From the earliest times Germany's policy was to master Roumania both politically and economically, firstly because she considered Roumania as a link between Western Europe and other Continents; and secondly it was an important economic centre. The Danube was highly appreciated by Germany as a most important, and the shortest, way to Baghdad and India—her dream.

As regards further developments certain facts might be interesting. In 1920, when they had a mobilised army of about a million men, and an area of about 14½ million hectares or nearly 36 million acres (44 per cent. of the workable surface of the country) had been cultivated and they obtained a medium harvest out of which they exported 100,000 truck loads of cereals and flour. In 1921 practically double this area was cultivated, and the harvest was satisfactory, and they hoped that in normal times they would be in a position to export more than 600,000 truck loads of cereals alone. In 1921 the export of cereals amounted to 1,500,000 tons.

In 1914 Roumania was classified as the fourth among the oil producing countries with 1,800,000 tons out of the 54,000,000 tons produced in the whole world. The most important oil products exported by Roumania were benzine, lamp oil, and lubricating oil, of which 233,000 tons were sent to the United Kingdom alone. The quantity exported in 1921 was 300,000 tons. In old Roumania and the annexed territories the amount of coal (lignite) produced last year was 2½ million tons, a sufficiently large quantity in comparison with the needs of the country, but they would still need large quantities of coal and especially of furnace coke for their factories.

Roumania had another very important source of wealth, and that was the "natural gas" called "gas methane." In 1912 four factories only used 210,000,000 cubic metres of that gas, the equivalent of caloric horse power of 5,200 tons of fuel oil. Large quantities of fish could be obtained from the lakes in Southern Bessarabia from the Delta and various places scattered all over the country. Roumania possessed enormous quantities of purest salt: the Government had the monopoly of its exploitation and 40 per cent. was exported in 1920, especially in the Balkan countries. They also had veins of gold and silver as a telluric ore out of which 30 to 60 grains of gold was extracted per ton. They possessed exploitations of zinc, lead, copper, but not in very large quantities, because of the old-fashioned system of exploitation. The reserve of pyrites they had was estimated at an average of 5 million tons. Manganese, chromate, aluminium and quicksilver were also exploited.

Roumania being an agricultural country had bred from the earliest time cattle, horses, pigs, sheep, goats, and poultry in great number. The area covered by forests in Roumania was a little over 7,000,000 hectares, classified as follows:—

	Hectares.	Acres.	Per cent.
Resinous	2,106,000 ..	5,203,926 ..	30
Beech	3,500,000 ..	8,648,500 ..	50
Oak and others .. .	1,400,000 ..	3,459,400 ..	20

The timber obtained was as a rule of very good quality. The wood industry was classified as the third source of Roumania's wealth.

Inadequate means of transport had impeded the progress of industrial and commercial activities. The Government, however, was endeavouring to improve the railways, and was still buying engines, while passenger carriages and locomotives had been sent for repair where guarantees for their speedy return could be obtained. The repairing workshops were working at full pressure in order to execute necessary work. The Government had not hesitated to do all in its power to restore normal conditions, but the work could not be done as quickly as desired because not only was the length of the necessary railway line greater than it was, but there was shortage of material and the workshops were not equipped with rolling stock and up-to-date machinery.

Before the war in 1914 Roumania had 3,700 kilometres (about 2,000 miles) of railway lines on which 932 locomotives, moving 1,652 passenger and 24,138 goods carriages, were running. In 1922 she had 11,768 kilometres (over 7,000 miles) of railway lines, 1,376 locomotives, and 6,433 passenger and 104,000 goods carriages. Unfortunately only half these vehicles were working as the remainder required immediate attention.

When the German army was finally forced to retire from the country they left it completely devastated. There were no cattle and no horses. Vans, engines, railway carriages, and even printing machinery, which had been supplied by German manufacturers, had been taken away. In a word, all the Germans could get hold of, including works of art and valuable household appointments, were carried away and anything of value that was not portable was destroyed. That was why only half the number of railway locomotives and carriages were in use to-day and why bad conditions of transport still existed.

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LARGE SPRING SOWINGS IN ROUMANIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, March 6.

Thanks to the propitious weather which has lately set in the spring sowing is in full swing throughout the country. A very large area will be sown with spring wheat, rye, barley, oats, and maize, and the farmers as well as the authorities are vigorously engaged in making up for the deficiency in the autumn sowings, which owing to the protracted drought last autumn, could not be carried out to the normal extent.

PROMISING EGYPTIAN CROP OUTLOOK.

The following particulars of crop conditions in Egypt in February are given in the current Bulletin of the Ministry of Agriculture:—

Wheat.—The weather was on the whole favourable and the water supply was ample, except in some localities in Giza Province. Ears have formed in early-sown fields, while the late-sown crop is in flower. Watering and manuring were carried out during the month. Smut, rust, eel-worm, and aphid were reported from several provinces, but the damage caused was very slight.

Barley.—The crop is growing well and the early-sown crop is approaching maturity. Aphid was reported from Girga Province and rust was seen in Beheira and Daqahliya, but the attack was slight. The condition of the crop is very little below the average.

Beans.—The weather was, on the whole, favourable during February, except in Sharqiya and Qalyubiya, where winds destroyed many of the flowers, and in Beheira Province where rain caused slight damage. Pods have formed in early-sown fields. Attacks of broom-rage ("Halook") and rust have caused no serious damage. The crop is slightly below the average.

Helba.—The crop was still being cut green and pod-formation was general in early-sown fields. In the basins, the plants were in flower. The condition of the crop is normal.

Onions.—Owing to the high prices now prevailing part of the crop was harvested before it had time to ripen. The plants were being transplanted in some provinces and fassing and watering were going on. Areas under this crop seem to be larger than last year. Its condition is fairly satisfactory.

Lentils.—The crop was in flower and pods were forming in early-sown fields. The growth of the crop is satisfactory and its condition is normal.

Bersim.—The growth of the crop was slightly retarded by the cold weather which prevailed in January and February. The second cut was general and the third was being taken in several provinces. Most of the areas under temporary bersim were ploughed up for cotton. The condition of the crop on the whole is a little below the average.

Cotton.—The preparation of land, though retarded by rain in some localities, is well in advance of last year. Ploughing and ridging were in full swing and sowing has commenced.

Sugar Cane.—Cutting for factories was continued. It is expected that the factories will continue to work later than usual owing to the large quantity of cane they have to deal with. The attack of mealy-bug was particularly marked in Minya, Assut, and Girga Provinces. In last month's Bulletin, the crop was expected to be above the average, but the prospects have now been modified by the attack of mealy-bug, and the crop will in all probability turn out to be normal.

ASIA MINOR FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended March 4:—

Sultanas.—The total estimated arrivals to date amount to 168,890 bags, the sales are 163,390 bags, and the estimated stock unsold is about 5,500 bags.

Markets.—The sultana market is steady with a firm undertone. Prices show no change. There was renewed demand for black raisins for New York and about 120 tons have been bought for prompt shipment against sales effected at 7½c and 8c per lb. C. I. F. New York. The stock has been almost exhausted, but

some fresh arrivals are expected towards the end of the month from Cyprus. The exchanges are steadier at 659 to 665.

CURRENT PRICES.

General Produce.—Bacon: (Continental), 111s. 6d. cwt.; (Canadian, 110s. cwt.; (American), 107s. 6d. cwt.; butter (Danish), 169s. cwt.; (Australian), 121s. cwt. (New Zealand), 132s. cwt.; cheese (Canadian), 96s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 88s. cwt.; lard 76s. 6d. cwt.; eggs (Danish), 18s. per 120; Styrian, 14s. per 120; chillies, 162s. 6d. cwt.; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 4d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon good to fine), 97s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 127s. 6d. cwt.; (East Indian), 133s. 6d. cwt.; (Central American), 104s. cwt.; (Jamaica), 68s. 9d. cwt.; (Mocha longberry), 106s. 6d. cwt.; (Santos, superior), 65s. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochin), 55s. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 11½d. lb.; pepper (Singapore Black), 4d. lb.; (Muntok white), 8d. lb.; pimento, 2½d. lb.; raisins (Valencias), 83s. cwt.; sultanas (Smyrna), 121s. cwt.; currants (Vostizza) 70s. cwt.; (Amalias), 57s. cwt.; sugar (Tate's cubes), 52s. 3d. cwt.; (Lyle's granulated), 47s. 7½d. cwt.; (Mauritius crystals), 43s. 10½d. cwt.; (West Indian crystallised), 42s. 6d. cwt.; (centrifugal), 14s. 5d. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 1½d. lb.; rice (Rangoon) No. 2, 14s. 1½d. cwt.; (bran Rangoon), 66 8s. 9d. ton; cinnamon firsts, 11½d. lb.; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 3½d. lb.; tea (common to good common), 1s. 2½d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 6½d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 7½d. lb.; Ceylon (common to good common), 1s. 2½d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 6d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 7½d. lb.; (Java common to good common), 10½d. lb.; wheat (English white), 56s. 6d. qr.; wheat (Australian), 63s. 7½d. qr.; barley (malting), 56s. qr.; barley (feeding), 39s. qr.; oats (English), 33s. qr.; oats (La Plata), ex-ship, 27s. 6d. qr.; maize (La Plata), 44s. 6d. qr.; flour, 50s.

Metals.—Aluminium, £122 10s. ton; antimony (English Regulus), £35 ton; bismuth, 9s. lb.; copper (standard) £60 6s. 3d. Regulus), £35 ton; bismuth, 9s. lb.; copper (standard) £60 6s. 3d. ton; copper (electro), £67 10s. ton; gold bars, 95s. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 90s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 92s. 6d. ton; galvanised sheets (24 G), £16 5s. ton; lead (soft foreign), £20 13s. 9d. ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 1½d. unit; molybdenite, 27s. 6d. unit; nickel, £175 ton; platinum, 360s. oz.; plumbago, £20 ton; quicksilver, £11 3s. 9d. ton; spelter (G.O.B.), £25 10s.; tin (standard), £145 2s. 6d. ton; wolfram, 10s. 6d. unit; zinc sheets, £35 10s. ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 18s. 7½d. box; silver bars, 33½d. oz.

Chemicals.—Acids: Boric, 61s. cwt.; oxalic, 7½d. lb.; citric, 1s. 10½d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 3½d. lb.; ammonia (sulphate), £16 11s. 6d. ton; arsenic (white powdered), £36 ton; benzole (standard), 2s. 5d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £13 ton; borax crystals, 30s.; cream of tartar, 118s. 9d. cwt.; Potassium: Bichromate, 7½d. lb.; chlorate 4½d. lb.; caustic, £33 10s. ton, nitrate £41 10s. ton; permanganate, 8d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 1½d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £15 5s. ton; Sodium: Crystals, 130s. ton; bi-carbonate, £11 5s. ton; bi-chromate, 5½d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £8 13s. 9d. ton; chlorate 3½d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £23 ton; hypo-sulphite, £15 10s. ton; prussiate, 9½d. lb.; nitrate, £14 13s. 9d. ton, glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £80 ton; glycerine (industrial) (1260 per cent.), £110 ton; lemon oil, 3s. 8½d. lb.; quinine, 2s. 11d. oz.; red lead, £34 ton; white lead, £37 15s. ton; white ground lead, £48 7s. 6d. ton; sulphate of copper, £27 5s. ton; sulphate of iron, 75s. ton.

Hides and Skins.—Ox and Heifer (first) 90 lbs. and up, 7½d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs. 7½d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 7½d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 6½d. lb.; 50 lbs. and under 6½d. lb.; (second) 90 lbs. and up, 6½d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs. 6½d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 6½d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 5½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 4½d. lb.; Cows (first), 60 lbs. and up, 6½d. lb.; (second), 60 lbs. and up, 4½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 4½d. lb.; Bulls (first), 4½d. lb.; Kips (first), 5d. lb.; (second), 4½d. lb.; Calcutta Market. Prices in rupees per 20 lb. Arsenic hides (cows) Agras, 9 to 14.8; Durbhangas, 8 to 10.8; Patnas, 6 to 7.8; Salted cows: 4.8 to 8. Arsenic hides (buffalo) 3.8 to 6 to 7.8. Skins: Calf, 8 to 10 per 20 lb.; goat, 230 to 265 per 100 pieces.

Miscellaneous.—Cotton: (American), 10.81d. lb.; (Egyptian Sakel), 16.95d. lb.; Oilseeds: Linseed (La Plata), £19 15s. ton; palm kernels, £18 13s. 9d. ton; castor seed (Bombay), £15 7s. 6d. ton; Oils: Linseed, £37 7s. 6d. ton; olive (Levant), £77 10s. ton; rape (crude), £51 ton; soya, £37 5s. ton; petroleum, 1s 4½d. gallon; petrol, 2s. 1d. gallon; fuel oil (ex-tank), £3 10s. ton; coconut (Ceylon), £41 5s. ton; cotton (crude), £39 10s. ton; ground nut, £43 ton; Rubber: Plantation (No. 1 crepe), 8d. lb.; smoked sheet, 8d. lb.; fine hard para, 11d. lb.

This year's nut crop of Asia Minor (says Reuter's Trebizond Correspondent in a message dated March 3), which consists principally of filberts, has just been harvested and shipped from this port. The crop is the best for eight years, and exports to America will approach very nearly to the pre-war standard.

Owing to pressure on our space the London Produce Report is unavoidably held over this week.

CZECHO-SLOVAK TREATIES.

The preliminary negotiations concerning the revision of the Czecho-Slovak commercial treaty with France resulted in an agreement on all the outstanding questions, and the draft will now be submitted, both in Czecho-Slovakia and France, to the respective official and industrial bodies who will draw up the wording of the final amendments.

On their return journey from Paris, the Czecho-Slovak delegates discussed with M. Jaspar, the Belgian Foreign Secretary, the question of a commercial agreement between the two countries, and it is hoped that a satisfactory arrangement will be reached in about a month's time. In addition to this, it is stated that the treaty with Greece will be signed in the near future. In this connection it is not without interest to note how the trade between the countries concerned has developed. Thus, in 1920, the Czecho-Slovak exports to France attained a value of 2,373 million crowns (sugar, timber, glass, paper, machinery, etc.); to Belgium 134 crowns; to Greece 22 million crowns.

NEW EGYPTIAN COMPANY.

For the year 1921 the profits amounted to £67,711, and the carry forward was £101,328, making the total, £169,039. A dividend is proposed of 16 2.3 per cent. The net income from the estates amounts to £19,712 as compared with £18,362 in the previous year. The area sold aggregates 457 feddans, against 2,015 feddans sold in 1920. In Upper Egypt 69 feddans of land sold reached an average price of £103 7s. 3d. per feddan, compared with £143 4s. in the previous year. In Lower Egypt 219 feddans of land were sold at an average price of £163 3s. 2d. per feddan compared with £218 16s. per feddan. Meeting, Alexandria, Egypt, April 5, at 4.

THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN BANK.

The Commission dealing with the liquidation of the Austro-Hungarian Bank has just completed its work. Agreements have been reached on the fundamental principles involved, but their application will occupy until the autumn. The amount allotted to Czecho-Slovakia from the gold exchequer is about 50 million crowns in gold, and of this share, after deducting an allowance for the premises of the Austro-Hungarian Bank taken over on Czecho-Slovak territory, 40 million crowns in gold (not 30 millions, as was reported in several papers) will be paid in cash.

Immediately before the war the gold exchequer of the Austro-Hungarian Bank represented a sum of 2,290,007,000 crowns in gold, 90 per cent. of which, however, was absorbed by the war. When in accordance with the terms of the St. Germain Peace Treaty, steps were taken to distribute the remainder of the gold exchequer among the Succession States, it amounted to only 243 million crowns in gold. Of this sum, the obligations of the Austro-Hungarian Bank to Switzerland and Holland, 23 millions in all, had to be paid, so that the actual amount left for distribution was only 220 million crowns in gold.

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PORT SAID NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Port Said, March 7.

Shipping has been fairly constant here, and several new ships have passed through on their maiden voyage. The Swedish man-o'-war Fylgia has been in port for a few days on her way home from the Far East. The Italian cruiser San Giusto with troops for Eritrea has passed through lately. The fine large suction dredger, Sir George Lloyd, which was built in Glasgow for the Bombay Port Trust, left here two days ago, and her unusual appearance excited much interest.

RIVER CRAFT FOR BELGRADE.

An important Belgrade bank is considering the purchase of certain additional river craft required for the transportation of timber, and is anxious to know at what price the following could be obtained, payment being made in three years time:—Tug boats of 180 to 100 h.p. to burn coal, draught 1.20 metres. Motor barges 400 to 500 tons to use crude oil, draught 1.20 metres. Dumb barges 500 to 700 tons, draught 1.20 metres. Several of each type of vessel would be ordered if the terms of payment were satisfactory. Further particulars can be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade.

DANUBE NO LONGER ICE-BOUND.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, March 6.

The recent sudden change to warm weather is fast breaking up the ice on the Danube, and the loosened ice-floes are running down the river with great violence, thereby endangering some of the vessels which were ice-bound on the river. It is expected that by March 15 the Danube will be free of ice and navigation resumed.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

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

Anchor Line.—S.s. Scindia for Bombay (Liverpool, April 4).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mahsud for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, April 8); s.s. Imani for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, April 25).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Herefordshire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, March 29); s.s. Gloucestershire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, April 12).

Byron Steamship Line.—S.s. Maid of Spetsai for Patras, Piraeus, Constantinople, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, Braila, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, March 28).

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PASSENGER SAILING DATES—

SCINDIA, APRIL 6.

CASTALIA, APRIL 21.

MASSALIA, MAY 5

ELYSIA, MAY 19.

CIRCASSIA, JUNE 22.

OLYMPIA, JULY 5

Anchor Line (Henderson Brothers), Ltd.

16, Gracechurch Street London, E.C.3.

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Macvicar for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, March 27); s.s. Clan Malcolm for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (Birkenhead, March 31).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Pavia for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Odessa, Novorossisk, Poti, and Batoum (Glasgow, March 28; Swansea, March 30; and Liverpool, April 1).

Ellerman's "City" Line.—S.s. City of Christiania for Calcutta (Birkenhead, March 27); s.s. City of Poona for Calcutta (Birkenhead, April 10).

Ellerman's "Hall" Line.—S.s. City of Brisbane for Bombay, Karachi and the Punjab (Liverpool, March 31).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—Steamers sail fortnightly for Malta, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz, and Braila.

Glen Line.—S.s. Radnorshire for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore etc. (London, April 13).

Harrison Line.—S.s. Benefactor for Calcutta (Liverpool, March 25); s.s. Candidate for Port Said, Port Sudan, Aden, Mombasa, etc. (Birkenhead, April 20).

Henderson Line.—S.s. Jalavihar for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, April 5).

Holt Line.—S.s. Achilles for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, April 6).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Peruvian for Piraeus, Syra, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, March 25); s.s. Diomore for Piraeus, Syra, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, April 15); s.s. Aviemore for Piraeus, Syra, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, April 29).

Moss Line.—S.s. Karnak for Gibraltar, Malta, Piraeus, Syra, Smyrna, Salonika and Constantinople (Liverpool, April 8).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Nankin for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, March 24); s.s. Macedonia for Bombay (London, March 24); s.s. Morea for Bombay (London, March 31); s.s. Padua for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, April 7); s.s. Delta for Bombay (London, April 7).

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. Mashobra for Bombay and Karachi (London, March 24); s.s. Margha for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, March 31); s.s. Manela for Bombay and Karachi (London, April 7); s.s. Nuddea for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, April 15); s.s. Madura for Bombay and Karachi (London, April 21).

Prince Line.—S.s. Scottish Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria and Syria (Manchester, March 25).

PHOENIX OIL AND TRANSPORT.

The progress report for February states that the crude oil production amounts to 928 tons and throughput of refinery, 2,864 tons. For several days operations were suspended owing to the introduction of improvements, which now allow the refinery to treat large quantities of crude oil. Position of the 12 new wells in drilling:—No. 5 at Moreni Stavro struck oil, sand, and has made several hard flows. Dams are being prepared for regular production, and plugs are being cleaned; No. 4, Moreni Bana, inserting casing; No. 1, Moreni Tuicani, erecting boilers; No. 2 preparing site; No. 5, Baicoi, down to 1,601 ft. No. 1, at Chiciura down 1,618 ft.; No. 2, in the same field, is being changed to the rotary system; and No. 3 is 764 ft. down. In the Runcu field Nos. 1 and 2 are down 1,820 ft. and 368 ft. respectively, while another well is being rigged up. No. 10, Arbanasi, is down to 1,379 ft.

The Czecho-Slovak Banking Union, Berlin, is raising its capital from 50 to 75 million marks. A considerable portion of the new shares will be taken over by the Deutsche Orientbank. The Czecho-Slovak Banking Union was founded in 1920 by three Prague banks, for the purpose of facilitating business transactions between Germany and Czecho-Slovakia.

The Bohemia Bank, Prague, is increasing its capital from 25 to 35 million crowns.

Cotton & Cotton Goods.

"FOREIGN MATTER" IN EGYPTIAN COTTON.

(By Our Manchester Correspondent.)

From time to time Lancashire cotton mills using cotton have had occasion to complain of "foreign matter" such as jute, string, canvas, etc., being found in bales of Egyptian cotton and the serious trouble that this has occasioned at the mill to managers and operatives. This malpractice seems to have been indulged in on a fairly liberal scale within recent months, for a number of Lancashire mills have made complaints to the Manchester Cotton Association in regard to the finding of "foreign matter" in the bales and have also sent samples on to the Association. As a result the President of the Manchester Cotton Association Mr. F. A. Tomlinson, has again addressed a letter on this subject to the Alexandria General Produce Association, strongly deprecating this practice and urging that most drastic steps be taken by the authorities to prevent "foreign matter" getting into the bales. The President also emphasised the damaging effect that this has upon the yarn and the dissatisfaction caused to the workpeople. A reply has now been received from Mr. C. J. Choremi, the President of the Alexandria General Produce Association, dated February 9, which reads as follows:—

"We have received several parcels from you containing foreign matter, found in the bales of Egyptian cotton. We have not failed to draw the attention of our members to the trouble caused by this, and have asked them to take every precaution to avoid same occurring again. We have also drawn the attention of the Baling Companies to this, asking them to take the necessary care. It appears from inquiries made, that the foreign matter in question was in the cotton when it arrived at Alexandria, from the time of gathering and after storage in the ginneries in the interior. The trade exporters are doing everything possible to make a search, and to avoid this strange matter here, where they are able to exercise more control than in the ginneries. Unfortunately in a great number of ginneries, the trading members of our Association are unable to exercise any control. Nevertheless, we often send circulars to the proprietors of all the Egyptian mills to take up the grievances of the spinners, and to ask them in their own interest and in the interest of the country in general to do their utmost to avoid a repetition of these faults."

MANCHESTER MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Friday.

It is pleasing to be able to record that the market during the past week has shown improvement, and the general opinion amongst traders is that it should not be very long before we witness a period of greater activity. The cloth enquiry tends to broaden, and more business all round has been done. No special news has come through with reference to the next American cotton crop. There is a big movement on foot in the States to keep the acreage down to that of last year, and if the farmers do as they are told by the American Cotton Association then there will probably be a shortage of the staple next year. A favourable feature has been the proclamation of a Sovereign State in Egypt, and it is to be hoped that the conditions prevailing in that outlet will now become more settled. It cannot be said that any big cloth business has been done with the outlets of the Near East. Most traders are afraid to commit themselves to any lines of weight for the Levant and Constantinople on account of the financial position out there. A variety of fabrics have been sold in small lots for Egypt. Quotations for Egyptian yarns have ruled steady but the turnover has not been anything to boast about. Messrs. Coats of Paisley have been in the market for their special qualities. The best of the outlets with regard to cloth has certainly been India, and some substantial transactions in light cloths and shirtings have been registered. The drop in the value of silver has adversely affected demand for China, but some steady buying has been recorded. Shippers to South America have operated rather more freely. Spinners of American counts have reported rather a better week, but business is still far from satisfactory. The effect of the larger cloth demand has not yet been felt to any great extent in the yarn section.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows under date March 15:—

The market during the past week has displayed more steadiness than we have witnessed for a considerable period. The enquiry during the first three days was brisk and sales were good, although we believe that the very low qualities were again responsible for the major portion. There has been some competition for this low cotton, but after the initial rise referred to in our last report buyers have not been disposed to bid up, and, as we write, the demand appears to have fallen off temporarily and the basis, if anything, is losing ground again.

Apart from the above, the enquiry has shown little change; that is to say, Sakellaridis, "pass" to 100 points on, has been chiefly in request, with Uppers, Good Fair to Good, as a poor second. Brown pillion and white have again been comparatively neglected. The usual steady off-take in Sudan cotton has continued, and with regard to the last-named there are indications that the Tokar crop this season is going to be of a higher standard, generally speaking, than that to which we have been accustomed in the last few years. If these indications bear fruit, the value of the large stock of indifferent Tokar which is held here would be seriously impaired. There is no apparent change in the volume of c.i.f. business transacted. Spinners have not yet recovered sufficient confidence to induce them to fill up their requirements for any distance ahead, and apart from this the discount at which Liverpool still stands, as compared with Alexandria, is not conducive to this class of business. However, if trade continues to improve, and there is no doubt that an improvement really has taken place, a change for the better is bound to spread to the c.i.f. department in time.

The special Manchester reports have really been quite exhilarating of late, but reports received from private sources have not always backed them up; in other words, the business going through is still of a very patchy description. Nevertheless, the improvement is coming from the right quarter, and has not been brought about fictitiously by some unhealthy paroxysm in the futures market. At the moment political news, and the uncertainty attendant upon the various labour disputes, which are at present taking place both at home and abroad, are having a somewhat depressing influence here, but taking a broad view, we are of the opinion that the prospects of more trade are still quite hopeful. On the 10th inst., the stock of Egyptian cotton in Liverpool showed a welcome decrease of some 6,000 bales. Spinners' takings show a slow but steady increase. Estimated sales 3,200 bales (including 300 bales Sudan).

EGYPTIAN MARKET POSITION.

The Commercial Co. of Egypt in its report dated March 10 states:—The improved tone of the market may be attributed principally to the steadiness of the New York market, to the increased daily spot sales of Egyptian cotton in Liverpool and to the better feeling prevailing on our market in consequence of the new Ministry's promises to keep up cotton prices. The actual business put through abroad has probably not been larger than in previous weeks but more enquiries have come in, which have impressed the market favourably. It is supposed that the greater part of the bearish position which was created early in February has now been liquidated and the market, therefore, is now in a much sounder situation. The statistical position is slightly better although arrivals from up-country continue rather large; but the accumulation of stocks here and in Liverpool and America is very heavy, and there is no doubt that for the time being the weight of these stocks will act as a check to any exaggerated bullish movement. In consequence of information acquired by visits to the ginning centres and to most of the villages in the interior, we feel compelled to raise our estimate of 4,600,000 kantars as the total arrivals from the Interior, to something very little short of 5,000,000 kantars, although our previous estimate of 4,600,000 kantars surpassed all other published estimates.

The Coburg Mining and Smelting Works, one of the principal Czecho-Slovak iron concerns is increasing its capital from 50 to 75 million crowns, by issuing 90,000 shares at 200 crowns each.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 568—Vol XXI.

THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 1922.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Near East Conference.

On March 22 the long due meeting of the Allied Foreign Ministers took place at Paris, and, though it must be admitted that probably no Conference was ever held which contained more inherent difficulties, progress has undoubtedly been made. A real desire to see all sides of the various questions involved and a determination to sacrifice something for the sake of interests larger than those purely national, have very gratifyingly been made manifest. Speaking broadly, and therefore loosely, it would have seemed that the respective interests of Great Britain, of France, and of Italy clashed almost hopelessly in the Near East; it is with genuine relief, therefore, that we see Lord Curzon, M. Poincaré, and Signor Schanzer each willing to yield something in the cause of final peace, and we cannot but deplore the petty and futile attacks that sections of the Press of all three countries are making on their partners. First it is Great Britain who alone desires and who alone will benefit by this Conference; then it is Italy who, by selfish insistence on economic advantages, will block all attempts at reconciliation; and sometimes it is France who with her unyielding Turcophilism makes any compromise impossible! All this, we repeat, is idle journalists' talk, and is quite inconsiderable.

Lord Curzon's Proposal.

The proposal made by Lord Curzon for a three months' armistice between the Greeks and Turks was an excellent step. In any case, it opens up a practicable avenue for discussion of the terms of the Greeks' evacuation of Asia Minor, though up to the present Angora has not agreed to it. In fact it was an essential preliminary to negotiation, and we cannot imagine that either section of the Turks will prove themselves so bankrupt in statesmanship as to refuse it. They must now recognise, from the very fact of the sending of the proposal, that the Allies are finally discountenancing the Anatolian War, and that the issue of a prolonged Turk *versus* Greek struggle could scarcely be to their lasting gain. Greece is to be congratulated on her prompt acceptance of the proposal: she has achieved a notable victory of sense over sentiment.

An Armenian Diaspora.

Although nothing has been definitely decided by this Conference, there is at least one thing which is tolerably certain, and that is the abandonment of the dream of an

Armenian Republic. This disappointment of hopes tenaciously and courageously held will be very widely regretted. It may be that all guarantees that the Turks care to make for the protection of Christians within Anatolia are useless,—the Conference at any rate seems to have held that view—but to suppose that a proud nation like the Armenians will be content with no material home and but a nominal protection of their existence by the League of Nations imputes to them either a child-like faith in unrealities or a surprising faith in an institution which has yet to demonstrate its full power. A curiously sad history, these last few years of the Armenian people. It was Russia who first protected them and perhaps fired them with ambition; it is through Bolshevik Russia that their dreams are now so rudely dispelled; and yet it may well be that restored Russia will once more restore the remnant of Armenians.

The Conference Proposals.

Up to the time of writing nothing but unofficial summaries of the Conference proposals are available. We shall therefore be unable to deal fully with the matter until next week. In brief, however, it is possible to state that the Allied Ministers have made a really serious and whole-hearted effort to secure justice and stability in the Near East. They have determined "to re-establish the Turkish nation and the Turkish power in conditions allowing them to resume an independent existence while preserving Constantinople as their capital. They also desire to assure the Musulmans the most just régime and to maintain the secular and religious authority of the Sultan of Turkey." This restoration of Turkish sovereignty was of course an inevitable step; but equally inevitable was the Conference's decision to compensate the Greeks; and to ensure a mutual confidence between the two warring nations "the Allied Ministers have considered measures of protection and security for Musulman and Christian minorities in Europe in Asia." Into the details of this arrangement we do not propose now to enter, because obviously the whole thing depends on whether Angora accepts the armistice proposals. If Mustapha Kemal is wise he will accept, for the Allies are not likely to offer him more generous terms than those now adumbrated.

Yugoslavia and Austria.

The Belgrade correspondent of the *Journal des Débats* recently wrote an instructive article on the policy of

rapprochement between Yugoslavia and Austria now tentatively being pursued in Serbia. To us this policy seems not only inevitable but sensible and generally desirable. The black relations which now exist between Yugoslavia and Italy, Bulgaria, and Hungary, make it almost certain that Yugoslavia will make absolutely safe her position to the North. With Italy her friendship is far from being increased by the recent events in Dalmatia and particularly in Fiume, though we sincerely believe that the new Italian Cabinet intends to cultivate better relations with S.H.S.; in Bulgaria the party of M. Stambolisky is the only one which seems to be genuinely bent upon a *rapprochement* with Serbia; and as for Hungary, who will apparently never become reconciled to her lot, she is a constant source of anxiety to Yugoslavia. But it is not only on political grounds that a policy of good-will towards Austria can be justified: Yugoslavia's economic position, precarious enough in all conscience, really demands it. Almost all her exports are transported *via* Austria; general trade facilities and a stabilisation of the exchanges in the two countries are therefore essential. No doubt there will be opposition to this policy, particularly from the Croat Separatists, who are now more than ever busy against Belgrade; but we little fear that the common-sense view of the affair will soon prevail. It was, we believe, part of M. Také Jonescu's policy to include Austria in his *bloc* of Central European States; and if the time is perhaps not ripe for the public announcement of the fulfilment of his scheme, we anticipate that it will shortly become an actual, if not also a nominal, fact.

The Anglo-Egyptian C.S.

When dealing last week with the House of Commons' debate on Egyptian affairs we were unable to touch on one point of considerable interest. In the course of an admirable maiden speech, Mr. Loyd mentioned his old comrades in the Anglo-Egyptian Civil Service, who, he declared, would be grateful for the kind references made in the course of the debate to the work they are doing. He spoke of the loneliness of some of these officials and of their sensitiveness to criticism that cannot be called fair; and in view of a great deal that has been said and written of late, it is certainly refreshing to find this point of view put forward by an authority. In many of the desperate attempts that have been made to represent that whatever is wrong with Egypt is due solely and wholly to Great Britain, the British official has come in for a great deal of ill-informed criticism and has been represented as seeking nothing in Egypt but his own profit. That there may be here and there officials of that type we would not deny, but to suggest that they are representative of the Service as a whole is a gross perversion of facts. The overwhelming majority of them deserve well of Egypt and they are entitled to expect at least fair play from their countrymen at home. We believe, with Mr. Loyd, that those among them who, in view of the changes now being made, feel that they must now retire, will be treated in a right and proper way by the Egyptian Government, and we believe that they will carry with them the gratitude of the Egyptian people.

A Broken Reed.

Reports received after we had gone to press last week show that not only was the rioting in Cairo and in Alexandria on March 20 serious enough in itself to cause uneasiness but that it proved that the Egyptian troops cannot be trusted to deal with such manifestations.

Instead of endeavouring to check the rioters, the soldiers in Cairo cheered them, and in other ways showed their sympathies to be with the mob rather than with its victims; and finally they had to be withdrawn and replaced by native police. The latter once more behaved admirably, and a handful of them, according to *The Times* Cairo correspondent, sufficed "in every case to disperse the crowds which some scores of Egyptian infantry were powerless or unwilling to attack." A similar state of things, it will be remembered, occurred in the rioting at Alexandria last May; and it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the extremist propaganda has been highly successful among King Fuad's troops. How far the officers have encouraged the spirit shown we are unable to say; but a Board of Enquiry has been appointed to investigate the incidents of the 20th inst., and it may be able to throw some light on the general tone of the Army. In the meantime we may note that the situation on the occasion referred to was saved by prompt action on the part of the Police Commandant, Russell Pasha, who happens fortunately to be British.

The Bombers' Ambitions.

The trial of the five Egyptians accused of conspiring together to kill Sarwat Pasha by means of bombs and firearms was concluded last week. The case against one of the students had been withdrawn, and the Court acquitted another, but the three remaining prisoners were found guilty. It is to be hoped that the sentence awarded will be sufficiently severe to act as a real deterrent to this class of crime; for now more than ever must Egypt be freed from the terror of political assassination. The trial revealed that there is in existence an Egyptian "Society for National Defence," which demands amongst other things, the repatriation of Zaghoul Pasha, the release of certain convicted conspirators, and an inquiry by a court composed of foreigners and Egyptians into the case of prisoners sentenced in connexion with the Alexandria riots of last year. In a word this precious "Society," the members of which believe in spreading their views by means of bombs and revolvers, wishes for an 'inquiry' into every decision which does not meet with its own august approval; and we may conclude that the 'inquiries' would continue until the Society did get its own way. But that is not its only aim. It demands, first and foremost, "the complete independence of the entire valley of the Nile from the source to the mouth of that river." Whether the 'entire valley' would thereafter be placed under the administration of the Society for National Defence the cables do not, unfortunately, inform us. Ambitions such as these will hardly help Egypt's cause in the sight of the world.

King Faisal's Envoy.

General Haddad Pasha, who won such golden opinions in London last year, is returning here on a special mission from King Faisal to the British Government. The nature of that mission is not stated. It may be concerned with what may be called a question of border policy, but it would not be surprising if he comes to ask that rather more freedom of action in internal affairs be accorded to King Faisal. The latter is said to feel that his authority is too shadowy and his power of making, or terminating, appointments too restricted to enable him to cope with the known difficulties of his position. So far he has had few opportunities of impressing upon his subjects outside Baghdad and Basrah that he is a king, with kingly powers as understood by

the Arabs. The men of the desert, and, especially, the sheikhs of some of the larger tribes, are said to be strongly suspicious of British policy; and it becomes clearer every week that while the idea of a Treaty is not unpopular, the same certainly cannot be said regarding the idea of the Mandate.

'Iraqian Problems.

It is easy for us to say that 'Iraq cannot have it both ways: that if she looks to Great Britain for financial assistance and for protection against the Turk, or other outside influences, she must be content to accept British guidance for a while. Looking at the problem from a distance, we are able to see clearly very that with such a small population, and such a small proportion of it available for forming an army, the country cannot expect to stand alone yet; and that the attempt to do so would surely prove disastrous. But the Arab of 'Iraq does not see things that way, and it simply is not in his nature to do so. Moreover the citizens of, say Baghdad and Mosul, take a very different view of the situation from the desert Arab; while the citizens of Basrah are believed to have a view entirely their own. The task of getting the machine to run quite smoothly is likely to prove both delicate and difficult, and to call for extreme tact and firmness in London as well as in Baghdad. The danger appears to be that all the tact may be found at one end of the wire, so to say, and all the firmness at the other.

The Indian Budget.

The Indian Legislative Assembly has at any rate set a good example to the Mother of Parliaments, for the infant has disposed of its Budget before the parent has begun to think seriously about hers. The modifications which have been made are less than some critics had expected; some votes have been reduced, some increases in taxation have been refused, and the anticipated deficit is substantially larger than was originally proposed. In its final form the Budget would appal the great Anglo-Indian financiers of the past, but for almost the first serious effort of a new legislature, it strikes us as not altogether bad. The effect of criticism is apparent in the change of official front on the question of economy. The Retrenchment Committee, refused a few weeks ago, is now to be appointed, and it may assist the departments to live down to the reduced grants, or even effect further economies, but in order to do so it will have to work with a scalpel rather than an axe, and we do not expect any sensational results from its efforts, unless it should be successful in demonstrating that a change in military policy is both feasible and desirable.

Parties in India.

The most striking feature of the Budget discussions has been the marked advance made towards sorting out individual legislators into parties, or at least groups. Correspondents in India, influenced no doubt by memories of the old Council, speak of the Democrats confronting the Government, with the Nationals holding the balance, but it is inevitable that as time goes on Nationals and Democrats will come to stand face to face. It is the fashion in some circles to abuse the party-system, but in practice the abuse is usually directed to the other party's address, and experience has amply demonstrated the need for men to agree to work together if they want to get anything done. In India the most immediate advantage will probably be some curtailment of debates. At present the detailed reports are quite unreadable, because so many individuals feel impelled

to say just what has been said several times before: it should now be possible for half-a-dozen speakers to handle a topic which would otherwise attract a score, and the economy, once realised, is almost certain to perpetuate itself. A few bores there must be, for bores are the salt of legislatures, but, to speak frankly, the proportion at Delhi is at present unduly high.

A New Angle of Vision?

In the circumstances we are inclined to regret the vigour of the castigation administered last Friday by *The Times* to the whole political world of India, while its threat of a re-examination of the problem from a new angle of vision strikes us as particularly unfortunate at a time when steadiness of purpose is the thing most needed. It is perfectly true that the Legislative Assembly falls far below the standard of the House of Commons and that some of the provincial Councils, particularly Bengal and Bihar, have been making eccentric displays of a kind to which parallels can be found only in the worst of the American state legislatures; but it is only fair to remember that the duration of these bodies must still be counted in months rather than years, and the question is of the progress made rather than the distance from the ultimate goal. In our view the duty of critics just now is not to seek out a new angle of vision, a phrase which we hoped had been decently buried long ago, but rather to urge the need for maintaining a just perspective in attempting to estimate the initial results of an unexampled experiment.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Monday Evening.

The Return of the Prodigal.

Mr. Lloyd George has decided not to resign. A week ago it seemed quite possible that he would go, and that a purely Conservative Government would be formed to carry on until a General Election, after which anything might happen. But Criccieth is said to have done wonders for the Prime Minister's health, and he will return in a few days like a giant refreshed, and ready for the fray once more. He has great hopes of the Genoa Conference, but before he goes he intends to assert his position in Parliament.

The Government is to move what amounts to a vote of confidence in itself in the Commons, to test the strength of the Conservative revolt. The Die-Hards will of course be against it, as well as a certain number of Conservatives

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who do not like what Lord Northcliffe calls "shaking hands with murder," whether of the Irish or the Russian variety. But the bulk of the party will probably vote in the "aye" lobby, and the Government will carry on, and Mr. Lloyd George will pack his portmanteau for Genoa.

The Issue Postponed.

The differences in the Coalition have therefore been patched up for the present, and superficially at least all is well. But in actual fact nothing is changed. The mutineers have failed this time; there is no doubt whatever that they will try again at the first auspicious moment. Peace may last for three months, or even longer, but there will be a quiet attempt to get the Liberals out of the Government, and to give the Cabinet a still more Conservative cast.

The Tories still cherish the delusion that they can hold Mr. Lloyd George as a sort of figure-head who will do their bidding, or that alternatively, as the lawyers say, they could get a majority at a general election; and they are pointing to the result of the Chertsey by-election, where a Conservative beat the Liberal, General Gough (of Fifth Army fame) in confirmation of this diagnosis.

I believe this to be a profound delusion. Chertsey is a villa constituency, of the "vineries and pineries" type, which is naturally Conservative; it certainly does not represent the general opinion of the country. But the chief thing the country wants at the moment is to avoid a General Election altogether. It is suggested that one may come in May, after the Budget and Genoa. That may suit the politicians, who can appeal to business men with a shilling off the income-tax and to Labour with a "friend-with-Bolshevism" cry; but it would be far better for the present Parliament to continue till the end of the year. There may be dissatisfaction with the Coalition at Westminster, but it is not generally unpopular among the people.

Ireland.

The situation in Ireland seems to be getting worse. There have been several diabolical murders during the week, and these not in one spot but in many places—Belfast, as usual, having the bad pre-eminence. The condition of the whole island is not far removed from anarchy, and neither of its Governments seems to have the power of protecting life and property. There is more talk of a civil war between North and South, and the difficulties between the Provisional Sinn Féin Government and the out-and-out Republicans under De Valera do not decrease. It is a bleak and unhappy prospect.

Prosecutions.

The courts are very busy just now: the Hooley trial lasted all last week, and is not yet over; and Mr. Bottomley is again in the police courts and the papers. Fresh charges are being preferred against him in the matter of the Victory Bond Club; the evidence is of course mainly financial, and largely consists of details of payments into and withdrawals of large sums from various banks. The case will occupy considerable time, and it is evidently only just beginning.

I hear, too, that an attempt is being made to reopen the case of Archdeacon Wakeford, which made a considerable noise a year ago, on the plea of fresh evidence, but I do not know with what success.

Sport.

The Football Cup contests are now in full swing, and London is disappointed that Tottenham Hotspur, its favourite team, is out of the final. Popular enthusiasm seems greater than ever, and even the more aristocratic Rugger has attracted bigger crowds than usual this last winter. But it has struck me that we have heard rather less than usual about the Boatrace, which is to be rowed next Saturday. The prospects for the coming cricket season are good; it will be entirely a domestic year, with interest centred in the county matches, and no Australian or other team visiting us. The programme will therefore be less crowded, and this is not wholly a bad thing.

Posts and Telephones.

A committee reported last week in favour of cheaper telephones, and Mr. Kellaway, the Postmaster-General stated that he hopes to restore the Sunday collection at the earliest possible moment. This last will be a great benefit both to the country districts and to the traders who do a mail order business. The abolition of the Sunday post a year ago has not been a success. It has meant that practically no correspondence has been received by business houses on a Monday until too late to attend to it, and also that Tuesday has been hopelessly congested with letters and orders. Cheaper postage would also be a boon—particularly a reduction of the absurd three-halfpenny postcard rate—but that seems likely to be deferred.

It would be a good thing, too, if the Post Office would arrange to simplify its foreign regulations, and reduce its charges. Quite recently I had occasion to send a book to Rome: I had to fill up two forms in French and English, with two declarations that it was a book, a whole book, and nothing but a book. I had to pay half-a-crown for its carriage. It took a month to get to Italy! And the recipient wrote me that he too had to make a declaration that it was a book—which was obvious from the shape of the parcel—and to pay duty on it. He remarked that the duty was levied on a scale that might have been suitable for a rare champagne, but seemed rather excessive for mere printed matter. This kind of thing must kill trade.

The Week's Books.

"After the War" (Constable), by Colonel Repington, is a second series of the famous diaries. It does not contain so much personal gossip as its predecessors, but is an account of travels on the Continent, through almost every country of Europe, and interviews with leading statesmen and politicians, from M. Berthelet to King Constantine. It strikes me as being particularly full and valuable for the Succession States.

"The Second Year of the League" (Hutchinson), by H. W. V. Temperley, is an account of the work done by the League of Nations by a discriminating admirer. Mr. Temperley on the whole maps out a better case for the League than some of its wilder propagandists, whose claims are obviously excessive.

The third and fourth volumes of "Mr. Punch's History of Modern England" (Cassell) are, to use the old phrase, "amusing as well as instructive." They cover the aesthetic craze of the eighties, the new woman period, and the transformation of Mr. Punch himself from an extreme Radical into a benevolent Tory.

"The History of Education" (Constable), by Edwood P. Cubberley, strikes me as being an education in itself; it is, in fact, an American cyclopaedia on evolution from ancient Greece to Mr. Fisher. I know so little of the subject that it is not for me to criticise, but it is unfortunate that the first reference which I attempted to make discovered an omission. Mr. Cubberley has nothing to say concerning that most celebrated of all schoolmasters, Mr. Squeers, and Dotheboys Hall.

OCELLUS.

The following battalions have left the United Kingdom to relieve troops who have completed their tour of service in—
• India:—1st Batt. Royal Fusiliers; 1st Batt. Cheshire Regiment; 2nd Batt. Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry; 2nd Batt. King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry; 1st Batt. Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

From Our Own Correspondents.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, March 14.

Political.

The elections for the Chamber are now practically over, with the exception of a few second pollings in Transylvania, the latter fact proving that the contest was especially keen in that province. The results of the elections show that the Government has had a bigger victory than it actually needed, having secured more than two-thirds of the seats in the Chamber and almost all those in the Senate. The Opposition, however, is raising a hue and cry about the way the elections were carried out, and accusing the Government of illegal proceedings at the poll. The two stongest Opposition parties, the Tzaranists and the Transylvanian National Party, are even threatening non-attendance at the Parliamentary sittings. M. Maniu, the Transylvanian Leader, has already addressed to the King a protest in the name of his party. He complains about the alleged abuses committed at the poll, and declares that his party will not recognize the legality or moral authority of the new Parliament, especially as it has the very important task of modifying the Constitution of the country, in consequence of and in accordance with its aggrandisement.

Leaving aside any question of the way in which the elections were carried out, it may be interesting to see what can be deduced from the present polling. In the first place, the Tzaranists have proved to be the strongest party in the Opposition, their vote having increased considerably since the last elections; and provided the party is well led and can attract into its ranks a larger number of urban voters, it promises to be one of the leading factors in the very near future.

Gen. Averescu's party has still a certain number of supporters in the rural districts, but in the towns and especially in Bucharest it has lost ground very seriously if we compare its present position with the overwhelming majority of votes it obtained at the last elections two years ago. The "one-man" parties like those of MM. Marghiloman, Také Jonescu and Jorga are on the wane, and if it were not for the personalities of their leaders, these parties would be very near extinction.

As to the Socialists, who two years ago by their fairly large number in Parliament represented a growing force, they can this time boast only a single representative in the Chamber, namely a Social-Democrat from Bukovina. This is due partly to the blow dealt them by the last Government in imprisoning their leaders and implicating them in the Communists' trial now in progress, and partly to the splitting up of the party into various groups. Judging by the number of votes they obtained in the Old Kingdom, it is surprising that the Communist Section is three times stronger than the Social-Democrat group. In general, the Socialist element has suffered a great diminution, losing a good deal of its influence even among the lower classes.

In Transylvania, the National Party still represents the bulk of the population of this particular province. While the Bukovinians have given their unanimous vote to the Government, the Bessarabians have shown a more fighting spirit by returning a comparatively large number of the Opposition candidates.

The main lesson of the present general elections is, however, that the people of this country are still very inclined to support "the powers that be," having so willingly voted for the party that was called to power by the King. It may be added that despite the discontent of the Opposition and the imputations cast upon the Liberals, public opinion will nevertheless support the present Government, provided it carries out the promised energetic measure so urgently needed for the country's return to more normal conditions in all branches of activity.

Little Entente at Belgrade.

In connection with the pourparlers which have recently taken place, the Roumanian Government issued the following *communiqué*: "The Governments of Poland, Czecho-Slovakia, Yugoslavia and Roumania are in full agreement with regard to the united attitude to be adopted at the Genoa Conference. Desirous of securing in Europe a normal political and economic life, the above-named Governments have recognized the necessity of the following achievements: (1) To abide by the programme established at Cannes by the representatives of the Allied Powers for the Genoa Conference at the debates of which must be excluded the same points that were discarded at the Cannes Conference. (2) The urgency of a meeting of experts at Belgrade to determine the mutual economic standpoint to be upheld at the Conference. (3) The obligation to reconcile the facilities accorded to transport and international exchanges, avoiding any difference of treatment among themselves. (4) The right of all Allied States to participate at the discussions and decisions on the questions concerning their interests."

The Roumanian Delegates at the Belgrade pourparlers consisted of MM. Oscar Kiriacescu, Papiniu, Caracostea, and Colonel Dimitrescu, who will also figure among the Delegation appointed for Genoa.

General News.

M. and Mme. Také Jonescu left Bucharest last week for abroad. They will go first to Italy, and will be absent from this country for several months.

M. Carl Einer de Wirsén, the new Swedish Minister at Bucharest, presented his letters of Credence to King Ferdinand in the presence of M. Duca, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, on Sunday, March 12.

In view of the heavy losses sustained by Roumania owing to the war, the Government has approached the Reparations Commission in Paris to allot to Roumania as early as possible her pro-rata of gold from the 300 million marks paid recently by Germany.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Belgrade, March 23.

Coalition Hardship.

Coalition Governments seem to be having a very hard time in every country, and the prestige of the Yugoslav Coalition now in power is badly shaken, and sinking more than fast. The present Government is going through a series of crises and is being kept together only by all sorts of political manoeuvres and concessions—which the Premier, M. Pashitch, is distributing freely. The Premier is hopeful of keeping the coalition boat afloat until after the Royal wedding, but after that it looks as if nothing on earth could help it to escape its natural death.

Two days ago the situation was so tight that a fall of the Cabinet was considered a matter of hours. The difference of opinions was created and became more pointed on the questions of a settlement of the Yugoslav liabilities abroad and of the new electoral law. The Democrats are of opinion that all, even post-war payments should be deferred for a long period and that the State should guarantee them; while the Radicals, who seem to be better aware of the not very easy financial situation of the State, are not at all inclined to strain it more, and hold the view that the merchants—who by the way made incredible profits before the slump in the exchange—should be left to themselves to fix up their liabilities in the best possible way. If the Coalition resigns, it means the forming of a Government *ad interim* and going straight to the elections. The Radicals profess to be more than willing to go to the elections, but their leader, M. Pashitch, does not want to plunge

the country into political fever and agitation, just at the time of the Royal wedding.

The latest report is that the differences have been smoothed over by suspending both discussions, *i.e.* regarding the settlement of mercantile liabilities abroad and the new electoral law.

Raditch in Croatia is continuing his insane propaganda in favour of sending Croatian *bloc* delegates to the Genoa Conference independently of the official Yugoslav delegation. His agents are making a collection to raise funds to cover the expenses of this latest adventure, and are reported to be taking from peasants poultry, grain etc., where they fail to obtain ready cash.

Royal Wedding Preparations.

The date of the marriage ceremony is now definitely fixed for June 1. The future Queen's mother, Queen Marie, is coming to Belgrade early in May to arrange various ceremonial affairs connected with her daughter's marriage.

The preparations are already in full swing and a special committee composed of some 42 ladies and gentlemen has taken charge of it. Belgrade will assume a quite unwonted appearance. The main streets especially will be transformed and decorated with triumphal arches and a floral tower and archway. Some points in the town are so sadly lacking in beauty—to put it mildly—that it will most certainly require all the skill and wit of the Russian artists who have been specially engaged to do the work of a badly-needed camouflage. The bridal pair will spend their honeymoon in Dubrovnik (Ragusa), in a very ancient palace of the mediaeval rulers of Dalmatia. For all these expenses a temporary credit of one and half million dinars has been granted by the Ministry of Finance. The old and the new Royal Palace, both of which have been sadly looted and damaged, have again been restored, but of this I shall speak in my next letter.

GREECE.

Athens, March 18.

The Government's Collapse.

My prediction last week to the effect that the Gounaris Cabinet would fail to obtain a majority in the House, and would therefore be obliged to resign, proved true. I shall not attempt to give THE NEAR EAST readers a translation or even a *résumé* of the Premier's declarations in Parliament last Saturday. His long speech, which was more than once interrupted by difficult questions and uncomplimentary remarks made by his political opponents, threw absolutely no light on the situation. He spoke of M. Briand and the convention of Angora; he mentioned once or twice Lord Curzon and the British Government; and after announcing that Great Britain had authorised the conclusion of a loan of £15,000,000 and that negotiations therewith were progressing satisfactorily, he concluded by saying that although the Government's task was a very difficult one and certain mistakes had unavoidably been made, it had done its best to solve the national problems, and he therefore felt convinced that the National Assembly would bestow its confidence upon himself and his Ministers, thus enabling them to continue the struggle.

Addressing the House immediately afterwards, M. Stratos accused M. Gounaris of unconditionally accepting Allied mediation; and then the leader of the Macedonian deputies, M. Boussios, spoke in extremely bitter terms against the manner in which the interior administration of the country had been conducted since M. Gounaris had come to power. M. Boussios added that even the Prime Minister himself had told him in private that the country was in a state of decomposition. Finally General Danglis, on behalf of the Liberal party, stated that the recent record of M. Gounaris and his colleagues did not inspire any confidence for the future, and that the Liberal Party had decided to vote against the Government.

It was after 1 o'clock a.m. when the result of the balloting was announced. Out of 331 deputies present

(including the 13 Ministers, who were not entitled to vote), 155 voted in favour of and 162 against the Government. One Member abstained. M. Gounaris then addressing the President of the Chamber requested him to adjourn the meetings of the National Assembly pending the solution of the ministerial crisis.

The Ministerial Crisis.

On the following morning the President of the Council tendered the resignation of the Cabinet to the King. M. Gounaris pointed out to His Majesty that in order to arrive at a quick solution of the crisis, it would be necessary to consult the President of the National Assembly, who was the only person qualified to give him information as to the exact strength of each of the various parties, and to enlighten him on the parliamentary situation in general. M. Lomverdos was received in audience by the King in the same afternoon, and after a second call of M. Gounaris at the Palace, His Majesty received at his (M. Gounaris') suggestion, the Party leaders, M. Stratos, M. Boussios, and M. Calogero-poulos. Despite the fact that the Liberals constitute the second strongest Party in the Chamber, their leader General Danglis was not asked to the Palace along with the others. In a letter sent by him on the following morning, M. Gounaris attempted to explain to General Danglis the reasons for which he had not suggested to the King that he too should be asked to give his opinion; this deliberate omission, however, which is strictly against parliamentary rules and customs was much commented upon and caused a very bad impression.

The three leaders informed the King that they would in no circumstances tolerate the re-constitution of a Government which they had only just forced to resign, and added that they would be willing to form a Coalition Cabinet, which, they thought, would be supported by many of the deputies who had on the previous day voted in favour of M. Gounaris. On Sunday afternoon the leader of the Reformists, M. Stratos, was entrusted with the formation of the new Government; upon hearing, however, a few hours later that M. Gounaris' Party would not support him, he declined the mandate. The Premiership was then offered to M. Boussios, but he too, after a long consultation with his political friends, and after being told by M. Gounaris that he (M. Gounaris) did not intend to support any other Government, declined the offer.

Everything came off exactly as M. Gounaris had planned that it should, and as there was nobody else left, M. Gounaris has once again become the Prime Minister of Greece. His first idea was to form a Coalition Government, from which the Liberals would be excluded; having failed, however, in this, owing to the refusal of the Stratist and the Macedonian deputies to co-operate with him, the Premier formed his new Cabinet from exclusively Gounarist elements as follows:

Prime Minister and Minister of Justice	M. D. Gounaris.
Foreign Affairs & Marine	M. G. Baltazzis.
Minister of War	M. N. Theotokis.
Minister for Home Affairs	Admiral Goudas.
Minister of Finance and Food Supplies	M. P. Protopapadakis.
Minister of Education	M. C. Polygenis.
Minister of Agriculture	M. A. Argyros.
Minister of National Economy	M. Luke K. Roufos.
Minister of Ways and Communications	General X. Stratigos.
Minister of Public Assistance	M. Mark Theodoridis.

The question now is: will the new Government be able to stand on its two legs, and if so for how long? The answer to this will be given at to-night's sitting of the National Assembly when a vote of confidence will again be asked for. It is almost certain that the Liberals and Stratists will again vote against the Government, and if their example is followed by the Macedonians and the Independents, to whom would be added a number of dissatisfied Gounarist deputies whose dreams of being

included in the list of Ministers were dashed to the ground, a new ministerial crisis will unavoidably follow, the only remedy being the dissolution of the Chamber and the holding of new elections.

An Arrest.

An individual called Mastrantoni has been arrested and charged with the murder of Andrew Kavafakis, the Editor of the *Eleftheros Typos*. The accused has confessed his guilt and added that he had no accomplices. This, however, entirely contradicts the statements made by the cabman and other witnesses, who maintain that the murderers were three and not one. Mastrantoni, who, according to the police, is a drunkard and an opium smoker, said that he had greatly suffered under the Venizelist régime, and, being under the impression that the articles published in the *Eleftheros Typos* aimed at the re-establishment of that régime, killed Kavafakis.

Miscellaneous News.

The transatlantic steamer 'Empire de France' has arrived from New York with 779 American tourists on board.

The Greek Legation at Berlin reports that a number of German professors have formed a Greco-German league with a view to developing the commercial and scientific relations between the two countries. The league has its headquarters at Hamburg and branches in Munich, Frankfurt, Leipzig and other towns.

Another boat, Italian this time, has been captured and escorted to the naval arsenal. The Italian Minister in Athens has made energetic protests to the Greek Government and demanded the immediate release of the ship.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, March 21.

The Bomb Outrage.

A brief reference was made in my last week's letter to the bomb that was thrown at the American Legation. The bomb, which was small and egg-shaped, was thrown from the street into the Chancery on Saturday evening, the 11th. The damage done was immaterial, but the identity of the thrower remains a mystery. Opinions are divided as to the reasons actuating the outrage: first, there is the view that the Communist party in Bulgaria resented the fact that Mr. Wilson, the Minister, distributed money to loyalist Russian refugees; secondly, that the Communists were copying their French and Portuguese brethren, who committed similar outrages against American diplomatists on account of the two Italian Socialists who had been condemned to death in the United States; while the third opinion is that the bomb was thrown by a foreign agent provocateur. In connection with the last opinion, the American Minister has issued a *communiqué* denying that he personally thought it was a foreigner who threw the bomb, whilst in any case there is absolutely no evidence to prove the truth of this assertion. The first theory rests only on suspicion, but the second is backed by the fact that two days ago Mr. Wilson received an anonymous letter informing him that if the two Italian Socialists were put to death, another attempt would be made against his life. In the meantime the Bulgarian Government has taken steps to repair the damage, and has provided Mr. Wilson with a guard for the Legation.

Russians in Bulgaria.

Many thousand Russians—exactly how many no one knows—are now in Bulgaria. Although their lot is not to be compared with that of the starving thousands in Constantinople, there are in Sofia a considerable number without work, who roam the streets, and who constitute an element of danger. Owing to the activity of the League of Nations, Russian children have also been able to find a temporary home in Bulgaria, the better class peasants having offered to receive them into their families. If it were not for the natural reluctance of the parents to part with their children, many more in addition to those already here, would have come. The Bulgarian Government has shown itself exceedingly generous in its treatment of Russian refugees; barracks, schools and other buildings having been given over for their accommodation, whilst a sum of two million levas

was recently voted by the Sobranie for the maintenance of the children. When one considers the heavy financial calls on Bulgaria, this generosity is all the more worthy of praise.

The Military "Organ" of Liquidation.

The news is now confirmed that the chief of the Allied Organ of Liquidation, has applied for more officers to assist him in the carrying out of his task. Furthermore it appears that the "Organ" is insisting that the Government shall draft several new laws relative to the disbandment of the Army. One of these provides for the abolition of all military training in Schools. If this law is passed, one is tempted to ask who will ensure its execution.

The aim of the "Organ" appears to be to start on a new revision of the military clauses of the Treaty of Neuilly. Its name, however, signifies that it is here to finish off certain matters of routine that had not been completed when the Commission closed down. If the "Organ" is to begin the work of the Commission, only under a different name and with a different chief, it implies that the Allies were not satisfied with the work of the Commission. This being so, the sooner the facts are known, the better for all concerned, as the spectacle of a group of Allied officers, starting out on a work that is likely to last for several years, is not consistent with the declarations of the former Chiefs of the Military Commission, who said that the military clauses of the Treaty of Neuilly has been fulfilled.

Lord Newton and the Inter-Allied Commission.

The speech made by Lord Newton in the House of Lords, in which *inter alia* he referred to the I.A. Commission at Sofia, calls for remark. No one will disagree with Lord Newton when he says that Missions are costly, and should be reduced as far as possible. The Inter-Allied Commission in Bulgaria, is, however, entrusted with the definite task of extracting the war indemnity. This task can only be performed by a Commission, or by the respective Legations of countries concerned. Assuming that the Allies decided to confide the work to the Legations, the Legation staffs would have to be considerably increased, whilst diplomatic relations would surely clash with the work of extracting money from a country with whom one is on friendly terms.

As regards the specific charges which Lord Newton levels against the Commission, it is possible to contradict some of them flatly. For example, the Commission, numbering forty persons, did arrive in a special train, but the cost of this train did not work out above the cost of forty tickets on the Simplon express, *plus* the heavy luggage charges which office material and personal baggage would have come to.

Government v. University.

The Government's proposal to dismiss twenty University professors has led to a conflict which may easily have quite serious consequences. Starting with the question of the alphabet, and continuing on through other stages, the present situation is that the University has become the point round which the Opposition parties are attacking the Government.

Politics have taken the place of education, and the Opposition are exploiting the situation. The University students have held several meetings of protest, culminating in a well organised and largely attended demonstration which took place on Friday, the 17th. The Police tried to break up this demonstration, but M. Daskaloff, the Minister of the Interior, appeared on the scene, and judged it wiser to allow the students to hold their meeting.

Some time ago a group of leading citizens formed themselves into a society which goes by the name of "Narodin Zgovor." This society is also holding a series of meetings with the object of arousing public opinion regarding the action of the Government *vis-à-vis* the University and similar bodies. The "Narodin Zgovor" has as its aim the bringing together of the Opposition parties and has itself no political ambitions. The feeling in Sofia is all for the University, and it is thought that in the long run the Government will be forced to yield.

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

GREAT BRITAIN AND THE NEAR EAST

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—As one who has just returned from the Near and Middle East, after spending over nine years in those regions and coming into contact with most of the nationalities inhabiting them, I can only be amazed at the ill-informed and biased views which are pressed upon our Government as reasons for the modification of the Sèvres Treaty.

Instead of urging what is based upon correct principle, regardless of momentary expediency and ancient prejudices and rivalries, special pleading based upon wrong data seems perhaps more apparent in dealing with these Moslem-Turk-Armenian-Greek arguments than with most other current political problems of the day. In the first place, one well known speaker recently alluded to the blind partisanship of persons in England for the Christian as against the Mohammedan. It seems to me, however, that on the contrary, there is in England and there always has been some extraordinary tender feeling invariably displayed for the Turk as opposed to the Eastern Christian Nationalities generally. Many English people appear to take it as a matter of course that you will at once agree with them as to the Turk being a manly, honest fellow and that the Eastern Christian is a miserable creature who thoroughly deserves to be massacred.

Few will deny that the simple Turk is in the main a very honest and good fellow, though not "enlightened" as one member of Parliament ludicrously described him. But on the other hand no one can pretend that the rule of the Turk has been anything but incompetent and incapable, and certainly no one ought to pretend that the Ottoman Christian subjects have not every ground for wishing at any rate to be freed from this rule. And the British Empire is, after all, mainly a Christian Empire, and may it not be expected at least to show sympathy with fellow Christians?

Apart from the question of the undoubted appalling massacres from time to time, the Turks and some other Moslems as well have been certainly noted for their contemptuous treatment of their subject Christians. Now that the latter, after years of struggling have some chance of getting their own back, why not uphold our co-religionists in their wish for freedom and to be able to live in conformity with civilised and rational ideas of Government? The Greeks have proved that they are capable of governing in accordance with modern ideas and the Armenian community are equally capable if given a chance.

Reverse the position and who is it that the Moslems would uphold if they had the world's destiny in their hands? Would they uphold their own co-religionists or those whom they are pleased to term 'dogs' and 'rayahs'? I have even heard the massacres of Armenians described as legitimate because the latter took up arms against their lawful rulers the Turks, and either joined the Russians or served the French in Cilicia. Is, then, joining the Entente deserving of massacre to wives

and families and is it people of the Entente who should formulate such a proposition?

Now as regards the more vital political aspect and the matter of upholding the Khalifat and the so-called susceptibilities of our Indian fellow subjects. It seems to me that our Indian Moslems (if this agitation can be really said to be genuine) nevertheless need educating in this matter. Apart from the fact that our Indian Moslems generally have not the faintest idea of what life under the Turkish régime actually means, what is said to be put forward on their behalf shows incorrect guidance from a spiritual point of view. First, who is it who is upholding the Khalifat at Constantinople? Why, the British and their Allies and not Kemal and his Nationalists, who from a proper Moslem standpoint must be regarded as infidels. The British Government has supported the Khalifat in every way whilst Kemal and his men are busy undermining it. He has already classed the Sultan of Turkey as a "heretic," and has said that he is out to destroy the Sultanate.

The British Government throughout every portion of the Empire is extraordinarily solicitous in its consideration for its Mohammedan subjects in the most minute points touching the religious aspect, but it is here asked to support an avowed enemy for no legitimate Moslem religious purpose. A British spokesman for India affirmed the other day that as touching the Sultan of Turkey, every Mohammedan in the world was proud of the latter's position. Apart from this being disputable from the Shiah aspect, the Wahabis, who are the purest of all Mohammedan elements, would laugh such a statement out of court. I have personally spent a considerable time amongst my friends the Wahabis, and to hear their opinion of the Turkish "Moslem" would be indeed an eye-opener to some of our excessive partisans.

Whilst we are for one thing supporting the Wahabi element in its own particular sphere, it is idle to pretend that we are anti-Moslems; and this our Indians should be told.

One word more regarding Smyrna in especial. This is just as much a Greek as a Turkish "port" and while it may, perhaps, for various reasons be more advantageous for the Greeks now to relinquish it, one cannot help realising which Government would make for progress and civilisation. Even the continued presence of the maligned King Constantine does not alter that fact. And were the real true history of Salonika in 1915-16 to be revealed, many Englishmen would not have been ashamed to act in many respects as he did.

I am, etc.,

F. Cunliffe-Owen,

Lt.-Colonel.

25-3-22.

CYPRIOI LITERATURE.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—Cyprus is not well known in Europe; still less Cypriot literature. Mr. Simo Menardos, the Mediaeval and Modern Greek Lecturer at Oxford, is probably the sole known representative of Cypriot intellectual life there. Nevertheless the soil of the Island which once gave birth to the fairest of goddesses, to the Cyclic poet Stassinus and to the originator of Stoic philosophy, and which claims Homer as its offspring, is not yet entirely barren. Various circumstances have for a long time arrested its intellectual progress; but when—thanks to the British Occupation,—the atmosphere became favourable, literature began once more to flourish.

An unprecedented event took place in this Island in January last. This was the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the first issue of *Mastigion*, a satirical newspaper in rhyme, edited by Yannis Perdios, a native Greek poet.

Mr. Perdios and his work are not unknown to the English Press. The late Max Ohne Hals von Richter has spoken of both in eulogistic terms in a leading English review—*The Fortnightly*, if I mistake not. In singing their praises he went so far as to compare *Mastigion* to the far-famed *Punch*. Although such

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comparison is undoubtedly exaggerated, there can be no doubt that *Mastigion*, coming straight from the depths of the poet's heart, is an earnest attempt at social purification.

Pure and sincere-hearted Yannis Perdios allowed no social vice to pass before him without castigating it in the pages of his *Mastigion* (literally, "a Whip"). His object was twofold; either to cause vice to disappear, or to lay it open to the disgust of all pure-minded individuals. Unlike the humorous poets, George Souris and Theodore Orfanides, in this respect, Perdios reminds us more of Barthélemy and Alexander Soutsos. The resemblance to the latter is all the greater, as patriotism is the main chord in the lyre of both.

Although well acquainted with the new aspirations of human thought, Perdios may be said to be one of the best representatives of the body of patriotic poets—so numerous in modern Greek literature—who gathered round the brother Paraschos.

His poetry is mainly patriotic, in spite of the truth contained in his own verses.

"L' héroïsme philanthropique
Doit posséder un plus haut rang
Que l'autre, le patriotique,
Dont les lauriers sont pleins de sang."

Yannis Perdios writes equally well in French and in Greek. His poems are nearly all published in the two small volumes of "Cypriot Muse." Besides "Cypriot Muse" and *Mastigion*, he has published poems, soliloquies and dialogues for recitation in schools.

Many of his Greek poems have been translated into French by M. René Delaporte and M. Jacques Desmeules. Some have been set to music and are sung locally. Two are the School songs of Nicosia "Pankypriou" Gymnasium and of Larnaca Commercial Lyceum respectively. Another is the song of the "Omios" Guild of Greek students in Beyrout. The latter arose out of a competition in which such eminent poets as the late G. Souris and Aristomenes Provelengios took part.

Besides Max G. von Richter, other writers in Europe have mentioned Yannis Perdios. René Delaporte in *Luth Français* (1907); Louis Jaillou in *Feu Follet* (1907); another one in *La Tribune de Genève* (1907); René Martin of Paris in *Luth Français* (1909); Mrs. Richter in her book "Cyprus" (1913 or 1914); Jacques Desmeules in *Gazette de Lausanne* (1920).

I am, etc.,
Sava Christis.

Kyrenia, Cyprus.

February 25, 1922.

"PROTECTORATE TO ANNEXATION."

(From a Correspondent.)

Zaghloul papers being muzzled, extremist views cannot find a voice in the Egyptian Press. Perhaps Sheikh Mohammed Shakir expresses the average opinion of the many Nationalists who advocate rejection of the terms now offered. In a recent article in the *Mokattam*, headed "From Protectorate to Annexation," he asserts that acceptance would simply mean that Egyptians agree to annexation in the place of a protectorate. They may well, he says, be astounded and perplexed over the contradictions contained in the latest proposals. Britain, while announcing that the Protectorate is at an end, and Egypt a sovereign State, reserves the right of defending her against foreign aggression. This and other reservations, plainly speaking, would give more

right to interfere under the new dispensation, than under a protectorate. But the contradictions will not really surprise those who have followed the history of the Egyptian problem. It was said a few weeks ago that no Egyptian minister would accept or sign the agreement then proposed, for the simple reason that the Egyptian nation would not sanction it. The only way out of the crisis was to elect a National Assembly as soon as possible. In England it is held that there is no need whatever for a British Protectorate. There need be no apprehension. It is only a question of establishing a new relationship. England will simply exercise the rights over Egypt which Turkey lost in 1914.

So, then, the whole amounts to this. Britain takes the place of Turkey, and Egyptians become British, instead of Turkish, subjects. In order to please Egyptians, Lord Allenby, it is true, says in his letter to the Sultan (now King Fuad) that the abolition of martial law may take the place even before an Indemnity Bill is passed: and as for the election of a Parliament, to which Ministers will be responsible, that is left "to your Highness' discretion, and to the Egyptians." But in reality Egypt gains nothing. It is practically annexed, and will be under Britain instead of Turkey. We have striven to abolish the Protectorate, but have become British subjects. The case is as that described by the poet Mutanébi, who said:—

If one ill by another you would cure
The last will be more grievous to endure.
*Iza istafaila min dain bidain,
Faaktalu ma aalaka ma shafaka.*

By Allah! I never imagined that Great Britain would treat Egyptians in this way, while she can see what the East and Eastern people are doing. It would have been better for her to wait, and to think twice before devouring the property of a sick man, whose teeth, however, can still grip the vitals of his enemy. Never did we dream that the policy of Britain would mean annexation to the British Empire. In 1914 England said that the rights which Turkey enjoyed had ceased to exist. Then we heard no more openly regarding British policy. It remained hidden: only martial law was proclaimed. Let us be patient until Allah carries out His will. In the circumstances it is well to repeat of a nation what has been said of an individual:—

A man may think his nature lies concealed,
Yet will the hidden always be revealed

TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

The subjoined headings are those of the Official Report.

Palestine (Jewish Settlement).—Iraq.—India (Revolutionary Agitators).—Palestine Gendarmerie (Recruiting).—Russian, Armenian, and Assyrian Refugees.—Egypt.—(Thursday, 16th March.)

India: Fiscal Commission; Law and Order; Cotton Goods (Excise and Customs Duties); Prisoners (Treatment).—Palestine: Jews (Settlement); Present Situation.—Sir Basil Zaharoff.—Anglo-Persian Oil Company.—Armenia.—Public Service, India (Retirements).—(Tuesday, 21st March.)

Bulgaria.—Mr. Montagu's Resignation.—East Africa (Pro-Indian Agitators).—Indian Press Acts.—British Officials, Iraq.—(Wednesday, 22nd March.)

It is stated that the Marchese di Paperno has been appointed Minister to take charge of the newly created Italian Legation in Kabul.

Arrested at sea by a Greek warship, the German steamer Otranto, of Hamburg, has been taken into Patras under suspicion of having contraband of war on board.

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MUSICAL NOTES.

THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

"A Musical Tour through the Land of the Past."
By Romain Rolland. (London: Kegan Paul. 10s. 6d.)

For those who would go a-travelling into either the highways or the byways of musical history, there is no guide more reliable or more charming than M. Romain Rolland. M. Rolland is an extraordinarily versatile man, excelling in many things, but it is curious how clear and free from other matter he keeps his writings on Music. His "Musicians of the Past," which was devoted to the big composers, has become a classic; and this book, which describes historical tendencies and explores little-known roads, will also attain high rank.

There is running in and out of it the conviction that it is only the work of the small man of Music that makes possible the *magna opera* which are for all time: in particular and for instance, he believes that the advent of men like Mozart, Haydn, and Beethoven was no miracle but the "logical conclusion of a whole century of genius." It is a conviction which he tests with much nice learning and with very scholarly discrimination, but despite all my burden of ignorance I cannot accept it, for it seems to me that the coming of real, indisputable genius is always a fluke. But one freely though discontentedly admits that nearly all the arguments—the soil in which to grow, the tradition in which to steep, and so on—are on the other side.

This is by the way, however. The main thing is to welcome these delightful glimpses into the past which M. Rolland has provided for us; he draws the curtains, as it were (that is, he discovers to us the contemporary authorities), and lets us look as human beings into this old Eighteenth Century which we had supposed so stiff, so "classical," so formal. Thus we learn that even at the beginning of this Century, and even in Germany, the excessive praise lavished on Italian executive musicians was condemned—we learn this by means of a *précis* of a novel by the versatile Kuhnau (no one, incidentally, who has heard Cortot play a sonata by this composer will ever think again of Kuhnau but highly). So we are given a human and most telling picture of Handel—Handel whom we had thought that nobody since Samuel Butler (except Arthur Balfour) could possibly revere; we see him as a seer like Goethe, regarding his life from a great height, retiring from his life to his art. Similarly we are shown the little men of the time, who were big enough in their day, the Telemanns, the Metastasios, and so forth, who experimented, invented and generally cleared the ground until such good time might come when the supreme genius should arrive. But it is not only men that M. Rolland describes; we are given the clearest conceptions of the general musical life, the institutions, and the forces that promoted and fashioned the growth of a love of Music. This "Musical Tour" will in fact appeal to many who, though they do not call themselves musicians, yet love the curious byways of the history of art.

This book is not only very good, it is important. And that is why I wish to call attention to a serious mistake occurring in the chapter called "An English Amateur," namely Pepys. M. Rolland ransacks the "Diary" very penetratingly, but when he says: "it possesses a real historical interest in that it is a barometer of English musical taste about the year 1660; that is, at the beginning of the golden age of English music," he forgets that the really golden age of our music was when its supremacy in Europe was unquestioned, that is, at the time of our Madrigalists and of our Lutenists. But this is the only blemish that I have found in this most pleasant volume, which literally sparkles with hitherto obscured and now illuminated facts.

The Return of Gerhardt.

Elena Gerhardt has returned to London. The fact alone will raise a thrill to all those who heard her before the War, and her actual singing at the Queen's Hall last week raised a good deal more than that. I personally

can think of no words with which to describe the sheer perfection of her work at its best. No conceivable instrument is capable of such beauty as is her voice; a Kreisler, a Busoni, a Casals cannot move us more absolutely.

Sculpture has often been called "frozen music," and if the converse can in any way be conceived one may have in some measure a conception of the art of Gerhardt. Hundreds of times you may have heard most of the songs she sang, and yet now you went with her voice as if journeying in a new world. It was no originality in interpretation, no intensity of expression, but simply sheer vocal perfection—perfection in tone, rhythm and colour—that caught the mind, the soul and the memory. In the singing of *lieder* there not only is not, but there cannot be, anyone to equal her.

Not that everything she did was excellent; far from it. It made one despair of English audiences that they should encore two such trite, unworthy, and in fact vile things as E. C. Sharp's "Japanese Death Song" and E. G. Wolff's "Fairy Tales"—two "appealing" productions that one supposes Mme. Gerhardt sailed with from those awful States—and this after Beethoven's "Adelaide" had been done so gloriously, so exquisitely as to make one catch one's breath at its final beauties, and after his "Vom Tod" had been sung so that its chilling philosophy became a magic enthrallment. And again, Gerhardt's voice should not be forced, as it was, in an attempt to sing "Die Ehre Gottes aus der Natur": this is a man's song, for the counterparts of Gerhardt—Chaliapine, for example.

I wish to say here, and not at the end, where such things are dutifully done, that Gerhardt's success was sustained with most sympathetic constancy by Paula Hegner, an accompanist of rare and very noteworthy merit. She showed not only complete understanding of the singer, but individual and quite distinctive art.

The habit of decrying Brahms and his songs is one in which every body, if he write long enough, indulges; yet how absurd it is! Here was Gerhardt singing them as naturally as they were written, and the conquest was as natural as it was easy. It was not the loveliness of her rhythm, the sad curve of her voice that made "Auf dem Kirchhofe" seem one of the world's great songs; and it was not something peculiar but an absolute quality that informed "Im Stiller Nacht" so that its chiselled beauty was graven for ever in our memories. For these two songs alone it was worth forgoing years to hear Gerhardt; and it seemed ingratitude, though explicable enough, to ask her for more than her printed programme said she would sing. Though of course one remained to the end, and so heard "Vergeblisches Ständchen," "Der Schmied," and Strauss's "Morgen".

Gerhardt is giving her last recital in London to-day—a Schubert programme.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE SUDAN.

"The Sudan in Evolution": A Study of the Economic, Financial and Administrative Conditions of the Anglo Egyptian Sudan. By Percy F. Martin, F.R.G.S. (Constable & Co., 1921. London. 42s. net).

The Anglo-Egyptian Sudan has continued its existence for twenty-three years, and it has been the scene of a very remarkable transformation of a people rebellious and oppressed into a contented and prosperous population full of promise and opportunity. To the man in the street the Sudan recalls vague recollections of Gordon and his tragic end, and with greater precision the tedious expeditions up the Nile that finally led to the battle of Omdurman and brought Lord Kitchener into prominence as a great military leader. Since then except for occasional brief press notices of happenings in places too remote to bear much meaning the Sudan has "carried on" unnoticed, and only recent matters, such as the need of cotton growing and the pretensions of some Egyptian politicians, have brought it into notice. Sportsmen and travellers have written books about it, but its moral and material progress has remained unrecorded except in the official phrases of the Blue Books that every year included its report. Now, however, when the Sudan is beginning to take a place among the growing possibilities of the world, a book of reference describing its history, its people and its material possibilities is a growing need. Such a book Mr. Martin has endeavoured to supply.

Mr. Martin first visited the Sudan in 1907-8, but he could do no more than outline his project at the time, and it was not till 1913 that he took a protracted tour throughout the Sudan, and he had intended to publish in the autumn of 1914. The outbreak of the war prevented this, but he was able to make some additions to his work and bring it up to date for publication in 1921.

A study of the contents is impressive; after a chapter on the general physical characteristics of the Sudan and the definition of the sphere of his work he passes to a historical note on the Turkish invasion of the Sudan, the rise of the Mahdi, and the breakdown of his rule and the battle of Omdurman.

After a brief description of the administrative service and a tribute to some of the great names who have served in the Sudan he allots a chapter or more to each of the departments of the Sudan Government. A few short chapters on varied subjects, such as ethnology and archaeology lead to the most important part of the book, the economic study of agriculture, irrigation and commerce with reference to the Gezira irrigation scheme.

These follow three chapters on travel, its difficulties and discomforts and how some of them may be palliated or avoided, and the remainder of the book consists of a description of each province in turn. The appendices give some figures of taxation, some ordinances likely to be important to travellers, and a note on the Government Railways; the population of Khartoum and native weights and measures with their equivalent in European standards. There is a fairly adequate index and a map on the scale of 1/3,000,000.

Although the sub-title of the work gives promise of a complete work of reference on the Sudan, the table of contents indicates a tendency to degenerate into a tourists' handbook. The letterpress, unfortunately, more than confirms this.

When an authority like Mr. Martin writes it is natural to concentrate primarily on his examination of the financial and economic conditions under consideration. Finance, trade, customs, taxation all have their place, but there seems to be a certain meagreness of facts which makes the result rather thin and unsatisfactory.

In a serious work of nearly 600 pages Finance is dismissed in some twenty. The gist of these is that Egypt had incurred up to the end of 1912 an expenditure of £E.3,761,035 on the Sudan, and as Mr. Martin very

justly observes this expenditure has rendered secure to Egypt the water that is her very life-blood. This is a point on which a good deal more stress might be laid. To those who recall the early financial struggles of the Sudan it would probably not seem in any way cynical to suggest that the expenditure had been incurred not with the idea of bettering the Sudan (that easy appeal to the softer sentiments), but for the purpose of securing a revenue which depended chiefly on the success of cultivation in Egypt, and it was necessary first of all to secure the frontiers and secondly to establish such a state of peace in the Sudan as would enable the waters of the Nile to be exploited—for Egypt. The question of debt may then assume a somewhat different complexion, and indeed an actuarial examination of what Egypt owed to the Sudan for the unrestricted use of the waters that flow into it would be an interesting and impressive calculation. In the chapter on Irrigation, pp. 319 foll., Mr. Martin indicates the great value that irrigation works in the Sudan can be to Egypt, and since these matters have been very much before the public recently, it may not be altogether inept to suggest that there may be a point of view that has been lost sight of in the prospective of latitudes that have to be crossed before the Sudan can be reached.

In the chapter on trade (pp. 268 foll.) from a good deal of extraneous matter it appears that there is a market for agricultural implements, small machines, etc., in the Sudan, and this is indeed justified by the work that has been done recently by the Associated British Manufacturers. Mr. Martin takes a gloomy view of the prospects of cotton goods, though the facts seem to be against him. He adverts to the trade in sesame and ground-nuts and refers very briefly to the banks in the country. He has a good deal to say about gum, and considerable space is allotted to minerals, though the information to be derived is rather sparse.

The next chapter on private companies gives a brief description of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, and a considerable reference to Suddite, Ltd., now dead. The former company is flourishing and is very deeply concerned in the Gezira Irrigation Scheme. It has now quite an appreciable proportion of the land ultimately to be irrigated under the scheme actually in cultivation by means of pumps, and it provides not only a most important educational influence in the economic welfare of the scheme, but is a successful commercial investment of a kind that should prove very encouraging to sound firms.

The chapter on Irrigation (pp. 304 foll.) is fortunate in including a description of the Gezira Irrigation Scheme written by Mr. Martin and previously published in *The Times*.

As stated above, the book contains a brief note on each department and on each province. These contain a great deal of matter and, in some cases, of opinion, but the work is marred by constant small inaccuracies, either of fact or of print, which must seriously reduce the value of the book as a work of reference. Without attempting to correct every error it should suffice to give examples of the kind of inaccuracy referred to.

For instance, the final paragraph on page 127 refers to various places Yeirab, Tei, and Libago. There is a village and district known as Yei, and Libogo is a township on the Congo side of the border, and presumably reference is made to them. In the Chapter on Police (pp. 150 foll.) the writer has not grasped the system of administration. Throughout the country the police are under the Governors and District Commissioners, and they administer the police, through the Mamurs and Sub-Mamurs. It is usual for the Sub-Mamur to be the man who is directly in charge of police. The Director of Stores and Prisons deals with all kit and equipment of police, and for this purpose is called Director of Police, and has under him the necessary staff. In some of the larger towns, such as Khartoum and Port-Sudan, it has been found convenient to put the police under one or more Superintendent instead

of the Sub-Mamur, as police work in these towns requires specialization, and the sub-Mamur is already fully occupied in other matters. The chapter ends with a misprint "innua" for "emma," a glaring instance of careless proof reading or inaccurate record.

Inasmuch as the Sudan is little known and this book gives to anyone who has no knowledge of the country a general impression of it, it has a certain value; but it is very much to be regretted that so considerable a compilation should be brought down to the level of journalistic hackwork by the inclusion of obvious padding, of personal opinion on matters not germane to the subject and by inaccuracies and mis-spellings, and a very great deal of revision and correction will be necessary before it can be looked upon as the standard work on the Sudan.

ANCIENT TEXTILES:

"Victoria and Albert Museum, Department of Textiles: Catalogue of Textiles from Burying-grounds in Egypt. Vol. 1. Graeco-Roman Period." By A. F. Kendrick (London: H.M. Stationery Office. 5s. net)

It is probable that the Graeco-Roman period in Egyptian history makes less appeal to the average Nile tourist than do the earlier periods of unmixed, or comparatively unmixed, Egyptian culture; but to the student at least it is as full of interest as, and no less important than, the best of the purely Egyptian days. As this catalogue of textiles illustrates very clearly, life beside the Nile in Graeco-Roman times was in many respects very similar to life in Rome or Constantinople, and assuredly the art there was influenced far more by the art of the metropolis than by that of Egypt, whether of its own time or of the old dynasties. Comparison of a painted portrait from one of the later cemeteries with the carved or painted work of earlier days, for instance, will show at once what a difference there was both in the aim and in the execution of the artists of the two periods.

It is to Egypt that we look to provide us with the greater part of the material for studying some of the arts of other peoples as well as of its own. Thus, Mr. Kendrick informs us in the useful General Introduction which he contributes to this Catalogue that: "there remains hardly a vestige of the actual stuffs from any site beyond the limits of Egypt." The explanation of this fact lies, of course, in the splendid climate and in the custom of placing cemeteries in the dry desert, the land subject to inundation being too valuable to use for that purpose. Anyone who has been present at excavations at an ancient cemetery on the edge of the desert will know how wonderfully preserved are even delicate objects in such conditions. Those who have had no such opportunities of obtaining evidence of the kind on the spot will find it in plenty in this interesting volume.

The Catalogue has evidently been compiled with great care. The illustrations are well chosen and well reproduced; and the Introduction and Notes are both practical and useful. Naturally its chief use is to serve students at the Museum itself; but it is so well done that it will be studied with pleasure and profit by others who may be unable to visit the Museum. It would be omitting to give credit where credit is surely due if we failed to add that the printing and paper are both excellent. We recommend all our readers who are interested in Egyptology to study the book for themselves. (Copies can be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Imperial House, Kingsway, W.C.2.)

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Studies in the Palaeopathology of Egypt." By Sir Marc Armand Ruffer, Kt., C.M.G., M.D. Edited by Roy L. Moodie, Ph.D. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press).

"Abdication." By Edmund Candler. (London: Constable and Co., Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

"The Jews." By Hilaire Belloc. (London: Constable & Co.)

"Arabia." By D. G. Hogarth. (Oxford: The Clarendon Press. 7s. 6d. net.)

THE ANGLO-EGYPTIAN UNION.

The first meeting of the Anglo-Egyptian Union was held on March 23 at the Society of Arts, Adelphi, W.C., Sir Henry McMahon presiding.

The Chairman moved the following resolution:—"That the meeting of the Anglo-Egyptian Union founded to promote friendly relations between Great Britain and Egypt, welcomes the recent declaration of His Majesty's Government, as an earnest of their desire to reach a satisfactory settlement of outstanding questions in consonance both with Egyptian aspirations and the interests of Great Britain, and conveys to Lord Allenby the assurance of its warmest support." (Applause.) In doing so he said that the Anglo-Egyptian Union dated its origin from that black hour a few months ago when all hope of a satisfactory settlement of the Egyptian question appeared to be at an end, when Lord Milner's mission had come to naught, and Adly Pasha had returned dispirited to Egypt. At that time in England the utterances of public men had indicated the prevalence of an appalling ignorance of the relative position of the two countries. Even a leading statesman was reported to have thought that Egypt was a long established British possession, and that Egyptian Nationalists were but rebellious British subjects; while in Egypt there was an ever-decreasing faith in our friendship and good intentions, and all recollection of the past good services of England were being lost in the heat of nationalist agitation. The Society had been founded to encourage the moderate party in Egypt, to educate people here as to the facts of the case, and to produce the atmosphere necessary for the consideration of a proper and lasting settlement. Since its formation, Lord Allenby had come to England, and taken back to Egypt a settlement which at the moment was in the course of coming into effect. The Society welcomed the settlement as opening once more the door to the adjustment of the mutual needs of the two countries; and its work would not come to an end with the establishment of cordial relations between them. Egypt had many problems to solve—of health, education, agriculture, irrigation and many others; not to mention the problems of scientific research in which she had already done much more valuable work than was commonly supposed—and in all these problems a non-official association such as the Anglo-Egyptian Union could often be a more valuable means of communication of needs and requirements than any State or Government agency could afford.

Dealing then with the position of Egypt during the war, the Chairman said that at the outbreak of war that country was a Turkish protectorate. When Turkey joined our enemies the position in Egypt became anomalous and had to be regularised; and the declaration of a British protectorate had been a wise step and as much in the interests of Egyptians as in our own. Whatever may have been the change in Egyptian opinion since the war he could, from personal knowledge, vouch for the fact that, except for a few pro-Turk and pro-German agitators, Egypt not only gave a favourable acceptance to the Protectorate, but did everything in her power to assist Great Britain and her Allies in the prosecution of the war. She gave, not only material assistance, but kindly sympathy also.

Sir Rennell Rodd said that he had never seen any reason to modify his opinion formed at the time, that the conclusions arrived at by the special mission were sound. They proposed an arrangement which was equitable, inasmuch as it involved the fulfilment of our undertakings towards Egypt, and advantages to ourselves, inasmuch as it assured us an establishment permanently in a friendly Egypt on imperial lines of communication. But apparently those recommendations had been too drastic for immediate acceptance by public opinion here, which had come to think of Egypt as incorporated in the elastic circle of the British Empire—a view which had never been accepted in Egypt, and never could be acceptable there.

Dr. D. G. Hogarth traced the growth since 1882 of that deep distrust now evident in the attitude of Egypt with regard to our intentions and our present position in the country. He said he would like to see some arrangement now come to by which we had a clear situation, something logical and legal. It was vital to the British Empire that we should have a *piéd à terre* in Egypt, and from that a right of re-entry. Would it not be possible to have some portion of Egypt territory near the seaboard and canal leased to us, in which we should have an actual claim! The rest of Egypt could be left to be run by its own people so long as the condition of the country did not become a crying scandal. We should thus get rid of the atmosphere of make-believe, makeshifts and unavowed restrictions which caused so much danger and difficulty.

Lord Meston spoke of the influence of the Egyptian situation on the Indian Mohammedan community. He said we should not be turned aside from the path we hoped to pursue by the fear of its increasing our difficulties in India; the way we could best serve the cause of Indian Mohammedans was by strict justice towards Islamic communities, and the observances of obligations. He believed that if justice and generosity were shown a chord would be touched in the heart of every Indian Mohammedan.

Mr. R. C. Hawkin said it was essential there should be formed a body of men to express the view that Lord Milner's policy was right. It was to be hoped there would be an early calling together of a Legislative Assembly—a body elected in the way suggested by Lord Cromer might speak on behalf of Egypt. Once elected, we should have no hesitation in accepting their representative men to negotiate outstanding points affecting British interests. The resolution was carried unanimously.

Sir Valentine Chirol moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman, and this having been accorded, the proceedings terminated.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.**To-Day.**

March 30 (New Style).

March 17 (Old Style).

Shaban 1, 1340 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.

Nisan 1, 5682 of the Jewish Calendar.

King Fuad has given £6,000 to the poor of Cairo.

Moussa Kazim Pahsa, President of the Palestine Arab Delegation, has left for Paris.

Sir Thomas and Lady Bennett have returned from India to 38, Hans Place, S.W.

M. Vladimir Milanovitch, Secretary at the Yugoslav Legation, is back in town from Paris.

The University of Athens has decided to confer the degree of doctor *honoris causa* upon Dr. Georg Brandes.

The Earl of Ronaldshay was accorded an ovation on March 23 on his final departure from Calcutta.

M. Nicolas Vladesco, who was Secretary at the Roumanian Legation, has now left London for France.

The Afghan Minister has taken 25, Knightsbridge, as the Legation.

Major-General Sir John Davidson arrived at Marseilles last week from Bombay, on his way to London.

Sir Louis Kershaw has returned from India and resumed his duties at the India Office.

Prince Ghika, the retiring Roumanian Minister to France, and Princess Ghika, left Paris on Sunday for Bucharest.

According to information received by the Serbian Legation, the marriage of King Alexander and Princess Marie of Roumania will take place on June 1.

M. Pashitch, the Prime Minister, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Finance, and Public Worship will represent Yugoslavia at Genoa.

The Shah of Persia visited President Millerand last week and was received at the Elysée with military honours.

Commander Jean Bouboulis, Naval Attaché to the Greek Legation, and Madame Bouboulis left London last week for Paris.

Lord and Lady Allenby left Cairo on March 21 for Khartoum and the Sudan, where the High Commissioner will spend a month on his annual tour of inspection.

The Sirdar, Sir Lee Stack, who is Governor-General of the Sudan, left for London last week in order to discuss the final arrangements for the Sudan Loan.

According to arrangement, the King was on Tuesday to receive the Roumanian, Afghan, and Yugoslav Ministers, for the presentation of their Letters of Credence.

The engagement is announced of Brigadier-General F. C. Nisbet, D.S.O. (late of The Gloucestershire Regiment), and Helen Agnes, daughter of the late John MacFarlane, Indian Civil Service, of Invermay, Wimbledon.

The Rev. W. D. Monro, Assistant Master at Winchester College, has written a play on the introduction of Christianity into Armenia and Georgia in the Third Century. It will be produced at Winchester on three successive days in June next.

King Fuad has conferred the Grand Cordon of the Mohamed Ali Order on Sarwat Pasha, the Egyptian Premier, and the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Nile on five others. The Grand Cordon of the Kamel Order is conferred upon Zeinab Hanem, the wife of Adly Pasha.

The King has granted to Mr. Sydney Armitage Armitage-Smith, C.B., licence and authority to wear the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Lion and the Sun, conferred upon him by the Shah of Persia in recognition of valuable services rendered by him as Financial Adviser to the Persian Government.

The engagement is announced of C. H. O. D. Burrell, M.C., 2nd Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment, Staff Captain, Delhi Brigade Area, third son of Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Burrell, of Liverpool, and Dorothy, youngest daughter of the late Mr. W. E. Adie, of Derby, and Mrs. Adie, of Buxton.

A marriage has been arranged and will shortly take place between Major Rowland P. S. Elderton, late A.S.C., Assistant Financial Secretary, Sudan Government, youngest and only surviving son of the late Major-General Arthur Elderton, and of Mrs. Elderton, 10, Cornwall Mansions, Kensington Court, W., and Gladys Maud, only daughter of Mrs. and Mrs. M. W. Hervey, East Bilney Hall, Dereham, Norfolk.

A marriage has taken place in London, by licence, between Francis Evelyn Massy-Dawson, Captain R.N. (retired), D.S.O., Commander of the Crown of Roumania, Chevalier of the Legion of Honour, and Officer of St. Stanislas, eldest son of the late Francis Staunton Massy-Dawson, of Merrion Square and Herbert Street, Dublin, and Ebie, widow of Captain Herbert Algernon Adam, R.N., C.B.E., Commander of the Crown of Italy, of The Chillies House, Crowborough, and elder daughter of Lieutenant-Commander S. James Johnstone Bey, R.N. (retired).

THE PERSIA SOCIETY.

The programme of the Persia Society, 74, Grosvenor Street, W.1., includes lectures by Major W. L. Meade on Khuzistan and Fars, by Sir Percy Sykes on Cyrus the Great, by Dr. Donald Carr on Reminiscences of 28 years in Persia, and by Professor E. G. Browne, Sir Thomas Arnold, Sir Wolsley Haig and Mr. Victor Mallet on subjects to be announced later. Particulars regarding membership may be obtained from the Honorary Secretary.

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

At the meeting of the Royal Geographical Society last week the president announced that the King had been pleased to approve the award of the Royal medal as follows:—

The Founder's Medal.—To Lieut.-Colonel C. K. Howard Bury, D.S.O., for his distinguished services in command of the Mount Everest expedition of 1921.

The following awards have been made by the Council:

The Victoria Medal.—To Mr. J. F. Baddeley for his great work on the historical geography of Central Asia.

The Back Grant.—To Khan Bahadur Sher Jang for his surveys on the Indian frontier and in adjacent countries.

The Gill Memorial.—To Mr. A. A. R. Boyce for his triangulations in the Sudan.

EGYPT AND SUDAN HONOURS.

The King has given orders for the following promotions in, and appointments to, the Order of the British Empire (Civil Division) for services in connexion with Egypt and the Sudan:—

K.B.E.

Maurice Sheldon Amos, Judicial Adviser to the Egyptian Government.

George Beeton Alderson, formerly a leading member of the British community at Alexandria. A generous supporter of the Victoria College and many other British institutions.

C.B.E.

J. F. Lees, M.D., C.M., Director-General of Public Health; A. C. McBarnet, O.B.E., Judge of the Native Court of Appeal; H. W. Molesworth, Assistant Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo; R. S. Patterson, Civil Adviser to the Egyptian Ministry of Education; R. Rolo, O.B.E.

O.B.E.

G. C. Delaney, Reuters' Agent in Egypt; W. Gillman, General Manager to Messrs. Thomas Cook and Son (Egypt), for valuable services to H.M. Forces; A. Jackson, Stevedoring Contractor at Alexandria, for valuable services to H.M. Forces; W. M. Logan, M.B.E., Director of Stores, Egyptian State Railways; H. Mason, M.B.E., of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture (late Major, R.A.V.C.).

M.B.E.

Miss M. B. James, for services to the Arab Bureau, Cairo; Raoul Biancardi, of the Egyptian Ministry of Finance; Sub-Inspector Hakim Said Hassan, of the Indian Police.

APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS.

M. Franche has been appointed Chancellor to the Roumanian Legation.

The King approved the appointment of Major George Croker Bayly (Commissioner of Nicosia) to be a member of the Executive Council of the Island of Cyprus.

M. Michel B. Boeresco has been appointed Roumanian Roumanian Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Berne.

Viscount Peel has appointed Mr. S. K. Brown, of the India Office, to be his Principal Private Secretary, and Mr. R. T. Peel of the India Office, to be his Assistant Private Secretary.

At a meeting of the Senate of the University of London last week, Dr. R. W. Seton-Watson, D.Litt. (Oxford), D.Phil. (Prague and Zagreb), was appointed as from April 1 to the University Chair of Central European History, tenable at King's College.

Earl Winterton, M.P., Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for India, has appointed Viscount Ednam, M.P., M.C., to be his Parliamentary Private Secretary (unpaid) and Mr. J. G. Laithwaite of the India Office to be his Private Secretary.

OBITUARY.

The death occurred last week of Mr. William Beauchamp Heard, of His Majesty's Levant Consular Service. Mr. Heard, who was in his forty-fifth year, was appointed a Student Interpreter in the Levant in 1900. His varied experiences included service at the headquarters of the Central European Expeditionary Force. He was subsequently appointed Commercial Commissioner in Bulgaria, and his latest appointment—"to be His Majesty's Consul in the Delta of the Nile, the Province of Galioubieh, Dakahlieh, Menoufieh, and the Charkieh, and the whole of Upper Egypt, the 22nd parallel of North Latitude, excluding the maritime portion of the Mudiria of Kenh, to reside at Cairo"—was gazetted but a few weeks ago.

THE PERSIAN NEW YEAR.

The Persian Minister was at home on March 21 at the Persian Legation, 47, Biamham Gardens, to celebrate the Persian New Year. A selection of orchestral music was played during the afternoon, and the large attendance included among many others:—Prince Anowshiravan, Mirza Salour, Lord and Lady Lamington, Baron de Nordwall, Brigadier-General Sir Percy Sykes, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Arnold Wilson, Sir Vincent Caillard, Constance Lady Boyle, Sir Hugh Barnes, Sir Charles Greenway, Sir Harry and Lady Foster, Begum Shansha, Mme. Ispahani, Mirza Mohammed-Ali Khan, Counsellor of the Legation; Mr. F. Khan Noury, Colonel Bousquet des Champs, Mlle. Bousquet des Champs, Mrs. Nicholas Treinn, Mr. E. J. Heinz, Persian Consul at Cardiff; M. Darab Khan, Mme. Rostamdji,

the Rev. Arthur Browning, Mr. and Mrs. Caesar Hawkins, Mirza Reza Khan Hariri, Colonel E. Mossberg Swedish Military Attaché; Mr. B. W. Stainton, Colonel Stokes, Professor and Mrs. Browne, M. Kassim Ghassemzade Kassimoff, and Professor G. Hagopian.

The many members of the Persian Colony present included M. Kassim Zadeh, M. Tabriz, and M. Sifollah Khan.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

According to a message received from the Greek Legation, an official telegram has been issued from Angora stating that provisional estimates passed by the National Assembly at Angora involve the suppression of the tobacco *regie* as from March 1.

Gandhi's arrest was celebrated in Calcutta by a bonfire of foreign cloth at the conclusion of a public meeting, held under the auspices of the Burra-Bazar Congress Committee.

Anzac Day (April 25) is to be observed as a general holiday in Australia.

BABYLONIAN RELICS.

Dr. H. R. Hall, in a lecture before the Egypt Exploration Society on "The British Museum Excavations in Babylonia, 1919," at Burlington House recently, described some work that he had undertaken in Mesopotamia at the end of the war, while our forces were in occupation. At Shahrin and elsewhere he found temples, towers, houses, streets, and tablets of about the time of Nebuchadnezzar. Some of the most interesting finds occurred at Tel el Obeid, where the relics included copper animals with golden horns, the copper filled with a core of bitumen.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 1922.

NEW PHASES OF THE INDIAN LAND QUESTION.

We referred on more than one occasion last year to the opening stages of the campaign designed to improve the position of the tenant-farmers of Oudh. The results so far attained have been disappointing. The great landholders found no worthy leader, and, being assured of a temporary majority in the local legislature, insisted successfully on the maintenance of their privileged ascendancy. Some concessions indeed were made, but the tenants' substantial demands are still unsatisfied; the continuance of a vigorous agitation seems now to be assured; and the probabilities are that, after the next election, the landholders will be forced to surrender much more than would have sufficed to bring about an amicable and desirable adjustment. We do not propose to deal with the highly technical details over which the discussions have ranged, for the Oudh agrarian system stands by itself, and even now we question whether its fundamental features have been grasped by many of the politicians who took part in the recent debates. Our object is rather to direct attention to a fact of much wider significance. Not merely in Oudh, but throughout India as a whole, the land question is forcing itself to the front; economists and politicians alike are beginning to ask whether the existing system is as stable as it looks; and, underlying the confident polemics of the champions on both sides, there is increasing uncertainty whether institutions based on the theories of the nineteenth century will continue to meet the requirements of the new India which has sprung so quickly into existence. Among those requirements, the most obvious and pressing is the need for a large increase in the national income, and, while much may be hoped for from development of the country's mineral wealth, accompanied by the establishment of many new industries, there is now general recognition of the fact that the land must remain the principal national asset; wheat and rice, fibres and oilseeds, must continue to form the main items in the stream of wealth by which India lives; and the country as a whole cannot afford to tolerate any avoidable inefficiency in the production of these commodities.

Now, there is a large amount of inefficiency at the present day. It is true that in recent years the administration has done much for the improvement of agriculture; it is no less true that it can do much more; but these efforts may be largely sterilised by indolence, apathy, or lack of skill on the part of the cultivators, and the problem which is now forcing itself to the front is how to ensure that the land shall be in the hands of the men who will make it yield the most. It is by this criterion that the existing systems of tenure must in future be judged. The common feature of these systems is the favour shown to the man in possession, whether he be a rent-paying tenant, or a peasant holding directly from the State. The conditions prevailing in the last century, and notably the rapid growth of competition for land, made it necessary to secure the peasants against arbitrary displacement, and the measure adopted with this object included the recognition of hereditary rights: it is round the question of these rights that discussion in the near future is likely to range, and in our opinion it is desirable that the question should be faced at once, for the drawbacks inherent in the hereditary system are becoming more and more prominent. For one thing there is the certainty of

progressive *morcellement*; a holding is constantly split up among several heirs, and, from being a unit capable of economic management, becomes a number of fragments from which the holders can barely derive a living. This certainty again is the principal obstacle to the realisation of a national policy of consolidation of holdings, the great organic reform on which nearly all future agricultural progress must depend. The need for consolidation has won widespread recognition in the last few years, but no reply has yet been found to the objection that the effort will be wasted if the new compact holdings are promptly to undergo a fresh fragmentation, reproducing in the course of a few years the evils which it is desired to eliminate. Apart from *morcellement*, there remains the uncertainty of succession. An incompetent son often succeeds a competent father; and, while he is exhausting the capital inherited, the land is badly tilled, and the national income is so far reduced. All the time there are competent men ready and eager to take over the land, whether neighbours whose success justifies an extension of their enterprises, or labourers with the grit and skill to rise to a higher position; on the one hand the land is wasted by neglect or incompetence, on the other ability is wasted for lack of opportunity. In this connection it must be remembered that in India the drift to the towns is only just beginning; the man who is denied an opportunity of rising still usually remains on the land, but the movement is bound to develop with the growth of industries, and as the attractions of alternative forms of employment increase, the tendency will be to drive enterprise off the land, and leave it in possession of men who are fit for nothing else. It is true that the agricultural population can be reduced with advantage to the country as a whole, but it would be a disaster for India if the reduction were to be effected in such a way as to diminish the efficiency of those who stay; the land can spare many hands, but it needs a corresponding improvement in the supply of brains and energy.

In the national interest then a strong case can be made out for a reconsideration of the hereditary system as applied to Indian land-tenures. Its application gave security indeed at a time when security was the most immediate need, but its continuance makes at the most for stagnation, and may well lead to eventual impoverishment. To say this, however, is not to pronounce a final verdict. Adequate security of tenure for the individual is, and must remain, the first condition precedent of successful agriculture, and the advocates of any change must be prepared to show that their proposals comply with this requirement. The hereditary principle has struck its roots deep in the soil of India, and it is significant that the recent struggle in Oudh centred on the attempt to extend its range; before it can safely be discarded, or even restricted in its operation, some adequate substitute must be forthcoming, and it is from this standpoint that the subject should be approached by the statesmen and administrators of the present day. The question is by no means ripe for legislation, but its serious consideration is overdue. Nearly a decade has been given to the elaboration of political machinery, and for the time being the larger economic problems of the country have necessarily received inadequate attention; but during these years India has not been standing still, and there is not much time left for serious study before the call to action may come. The questions to be answered are as intricate as they are important. The whole future of the country requires that the land should be in the hands of the men who can use it to the best advantage: the incompetent must be speedily and automatically eliminated; and the promotion of the exceptionally competent must be assured. Can these conditions be reconciled with the maintenance of the hereditary system in any form? If not, what practical alternative can be suggested, which shall provide the necessary freedom without sacrificing the still more necessary security? That to our mind is the problem which now requires consideration. The nineteenth century gave stability to Indian agriculture; to-day the need is for a system which shall combine stability with the necessary elasticity.

THE WELL CLEANERS.

A Morning in Koweit.

By *Baduiyah*.

It was last Friday morning, I was just finishing breakfast; my Baduin factotum had gone off for the day, after performing her light tasks; the cry: "Jilba no!—Jali—ib!" rang out at our crossroads. I knew the well needed clearing out, for that morning my bath was scanty and slightly turbid, but alas I had also experienced several encounters with the local sharks who "sweep" wells, and so I was apprehensive. Dare I? Yes—why not tackle the little adventure, for the first time, alone. Snatching up an Arab cloak, on opening the gate I encountered a pack of schoolboys: "Call back those well-scrapers," I insinuated with an engaging smile. Off darted one boy; then the whole pack yelled to the men in chorus until they turned towards us, when the youngsters promptly swarmed



A Schoolmaster of Koweit.

round my gate. At another time I might have let them in, but not just then. To my relief in the circumstances—and one may add to my pride in my local friends—no breath of "Backsheesh" was discernible, and the lads withdrew, as the blind well-cleaner was led in by his small son, and followed by a grey-haired old man, who was not blind.

So far so good: on previous occasions when my well had been cleaned, both men were blind, which was risky. They said they would inspect the well before committing themselves to an estimate, thereby meaning that they would be assured that the water was sweet and the well not exhaling dangerous gases,—a condition of affairs which causes several deaths in the town nearly every year, and is duly dreaded. So I drew up a bucket of water for them. Each man solemnly smelt and tasted it,—yes, it was fresh and clean. Now for the fray! The blind man manoeuvred to persuade me to name the first sum. I fenced, laying the onus upon them. The old man, throughout our negotiations, remained silent, evidently enjoying the situation. Apparently my accent struck the sightless one for he hesitated in the middle of a sentence. "But—what is your creed?"

"I am of the People of the Book," I replied.

"The Jews and Nazarenes!" His lip curled, and he gazed upwards piously. Instantly I was on my dignity, and the older man looked apologetic.

"Truly," I deliberately explained, "the Books of the Jews and Nazarenes came by Jewish prophets, who were their guardians, but not their owners, the Books are for the whole world, and the Table* says: 'Ye stand upon nothing until ye establish the Law and the Gospel.' Now as for me I observe them, but I see not that ye do so."

Our friend looked the tiniest bit nonplussed, and hastily plunged into a list of local celebrities whose wells he had cleaned at the price of Rs. 2.† In his list was the name of my neighbour who, I felt quite sure, had not paid that sum.

"I will do your work at the price they paid. Ask them," he wound up triumphantly.

"It shall be even as you say," I replied, "let us go and ask our friend the Mullah."

"But first agree to my price," he insisted dictatorially.

"Nay, ask me not to change your judgment, we will ask the Mullah."



A Street in Koweit.

"So be it," he agreed, and we all moved to the gate. But instead of passing out the little party settled themselves squatting down just inside, saying, "You go." I saw nothing for it but to acquiesce, so slipped in to my neighbour's compound and enquired of the Mullah's wife what they had paid.

"No one has cleaned our well for years," was her illuminating reply. "The Mullah's son sees to that, a friend helps him to clean it when necessary."

I hastened back, dangerously inclined to be annoyed. "Oh," said the professional, unperturbed: "I referred to another Mullah of the same name who lives at the other end of the town!"

I turned to the old man quite gravely: "Perchance old age will comprehend and justify me: listen! A

* Quran, chapter V.

† The price my Arab friends pay for clearing sand or mud sediment from a well such as mine is 8 to 12 annas.



ASK FOR

WHITE HORSE WHISKY



BY APPOINTMENT.

stranger coming to your town and paying more than current prices, demoralizes your market. I would not bear that guilt."

At this moment the post boy called with a mail; as I turned it out of the bag, he valiantly upheld my cause. He is probably Persian, an Arab would hardly have done so. But the mail was my undoing, or, if you will, it saved the situation. I stood back and announced pompously:

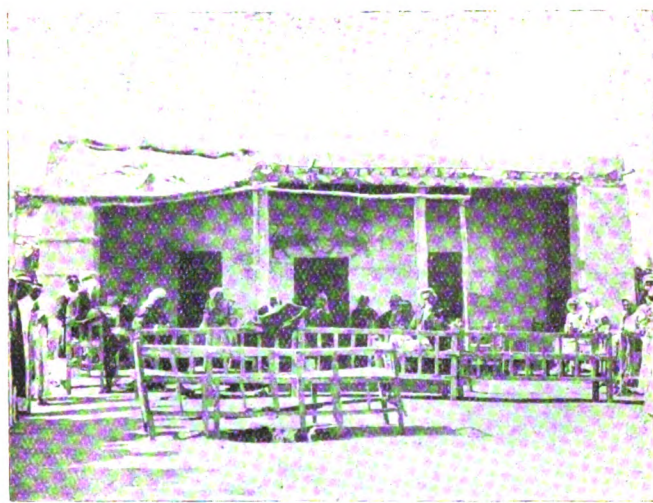
"The postman now witnesses that I have protested against spoiling your market, if you persist in an exorbitant price, the blame is upon you, not me. I seek not a rupee, but honourable dealing."

Loud were the protestations that all sin of our transaction should rest for ever on the blind man's shoulders—so I relented.

"But where is your rope?" I asked. (I knew it is usual for well cleaners to carry their own).

"We will sit here outside and the boy will fetch rope and bucket—we have all."

So I closed the door and went to my mail. Hardly had I sat down before: "Bang—bang—bang," at the door, although at the first knock I shouted: "All right!" They were back.



A Coffee-House Koweit.

"Oh! we borrowed a rope from a house quite near, but will use your bucket."

Now my bucket is useless for such work, being far too large, so off I went to borrow one from the Mullah's house. The baby was fractious, so I rocked her while 'Mrs. Mullah' went for their bucket. When a sister of some nine summers appeared, I went round to the well. The rope was firmly fixed at both ends. Each of us tackled one end and we had a race to see who would undo their end first. Mrs. Mullah won, and off I went with the bucket.

The cleaning passed off without incident, the old man filling the bucket at the bottom of the well, the blind man drawing it up, and the boy emptying it a few yards from the well. I peeped at them once or twice, otherwise buried myself in the mail. Just over half-an-hour after they had started work the lad called me to inspect, and the blind man triumphantly splashed the bucket up and down to show how deep the water had become. The old man, who had only just scrambled into his shirt, said the water was half way up his thigh in depth.

"Now for breakfast," said the blind man in a matter-of-course tone.

"Ask for some dates," the old man said to him under his breath.

"No, we'll have breakfast," was the low rejoinder. I slipped indoors for the padlock, meaning to close the outer gate as I returned the bucket. Seeing me go, someone said in a delighted voice: "She's going to get it for us!" When they saw me appear cloaked and veiled there was some consternation, but to the Badu's denunciations—for the blind man proved to be of the hawk-like Baduin—the old man replied

soothingly, "Well, she's given us Rs. 2." I edged them towards the gate, unfortunately forgetting to give the laddie a few sweets; he had behaved well and worked well.

The Badu was still grizzling about breakfast, and just before crossing the threshold made another appeal for it, to which I demurely replied:

"Would you have me lay this bucket about your head? For I suppose that I might do so were you not blind."

The mischievous delight on the face of the kindly old man I shall not soon forget. But the master-shark delayed not to retire.

And so ended a little incident of life in the Middle East. But I fear that these small happenings are too insignificant to deserve the interest of busy people in London.*

(The photographs from which our illustrations are prepared are by the Rev. E. Calverley, Koweit)

* Arabs often designate the country of the Inglis "London."

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

In consequence of queries, the Editor thinks it advisable to state that the quotation from any article does not necessarily imply that the views expressed are shared by "The Near East." On the contrary, an attempt is made to include as far as is possible in the available space all sides of the various questions discussed.

Egypt and Zaghloul Pasha.

The *New Statesman* of March 18 has a note upon the recent debate in the Commons upon Egypt, and after remarking that the opposition was directed not to the principles of the Government's policy, but mainly to the personality and position of Zaghloul Pasha, it says:—

The partisans of Zaghlul are, of course, right in protesting against ignorant and spiteful attempts to vilify him, and they are entitled to hold the opinion that until he is recalled from exile no genuine step forward can be taken in the freeing of Egypt. We do not hold that opinion ourselves. We believe that the effort will be made by Lord Allenby and the Egyptians with whom he is working, and that there is a good prospect of success. If they are convinced that the prospect of success will be spoilt by the return of Zaghloul, we may regret it; but we are not prepared, on present evidence, to question either their good faith or their judgment. A national leader, as we know well enough from contemporary history in other parts of the world, can in certain circumstances be a national danger. The next step, now that the Protectorate has been abolished and the Sultan has been proclaimed King of Egypt, is the holding of an election, which, as has been unequivocally stated, will be free from the trammels of martial law. After that, there will remain the all-important business of negotiating the Treaty of Alliance that is to settle the "reserved matters." In these negotiations, with, or without Zaghlul—and we hope that by that time it will be with Zaghlul—the Zaghlulist party will evidently play a dominant part, if its strength is so overwhelming as it is claimed to be.

Britain and the Near East.

The *Saturday Review* of March 18 says that the heart of the business of the Near East Conference at Paris is "to constitute, or reconstitute, a definitive Turkey," and continues:—

Very nearly everybody agrees that the Sèvres Treaty must be revised. Reports are current that fighting has broken out again between the Greeks and the Turks, and a prompt settlement is urgently necessary. In this connexion we note that Mr. Montagu, in his now famous speech, said that he had never been able to understand from what motive the Prime Minister's pro-Greek policy was dictated. "I do not believe it is in the interests of the Greeks," averred Mr. Montagu; "I do not

know in whose interests it is. . . . Well, I suppose one day we shall understand the motive." Apart altogether from the innuendo these words unmistakably convey (and the name of Sir Basil Zaharoff was not so much as mentioned), we would simply say this: For our part we are sick and tired of a pro-Greek or a pro-Turk policy; what, in our view is required is that, while being fair to others, the policy of this country should in this, as in other things, be a pro-British policy. It is high time that this was said, nor do we believe that in the view of the world Britain loses by a frank statement to this effect, but immeasurably gains.

The Times of March 22, in an article entitled "The Near East Conference," words its concluding paragraph thus:—

The great unrest in the Middle East is the problem with which the Allied Governments now have to deal firmly and wisely in Paris. Instead of the vivid impression of Lord Allenby's triumphal advance, the Allies have as assets now a small garrison at Constantinople, a Greek Army in Asia Minor that has become less a protection than an embarrassment, and whatever wealth and moral influence they may still possess after all these exhausting and spendthrift years. The Allies were imposingly united at the moment of the Armistice. They have been in sharp conflict since over this very Near East question. It is imperative that they should be united now, when at last they appear seriously to be attempting to make peace. A great part of their task will consist in trying to find a way out of the tangle of their own errors and their own divisions. Our own Government, who have done so much by their futile and incomprehensible policy to wreck the position of Great Britain in the Near and Middle East, have in the impending Conference a heavy debt to repay to the people of this country. We cannot approve of the separate action taken by the French in concluding the Franklin-Bouillon Agreement with the Angora Government, and so creating the impression of disunity among the Allies; but the long persistence of our Government in their error of encouraging excessive Greek ambitions is largely responsible for the present grave situation. Fortunately it appears to be recognized now that the Greeks must evacuate Anatolia, and it is to be hoped that in Paris such provision will be made as to secure the evacuation's being carried out systematically in an orderly manner under Allied supervision with a gradual re-establishment of Turkish administration, and with a firm avoidance of any danger of vindictive destruction by the retreating Army. On the other hand, the nature of the obligations of the Allies to Greece and the effects of the withdrawal from Anatolia on the Greek political situation must be very carefully taken into account. All possible guarantees must be secured for the protection of the Christian minorities, though it must be admitted frankly that the only real guarantee lies in the conclusion of a fair and satisfactory peace. The attitude of Mustapha Kemal to the Sultan-Caliph must be made clear in the interest of civil peace in Turkey and of those Mahomedans throughout the world who recognize the Sultan as their religious head. We do not place excessive hopes on the Paris Conference, but the people of this country will be gravely dissatisfied if Lord Curzon does not return with the draft of very definite agreed proposals that can be regarded as the basis of a real Allied peace with a united Turkey.

The New Statesman of March 18 attempts to deal in radical fashion with "The Problem of the Near East." It begins by saying, quite categorically, that the Treaty of Sèvres must be modified out of all recognition. It then sketches the steps by means of which we have, so it says, lost all our friends except the Greeks, and bluntly proceeds:—

In all the circumstances, we can see but one policy open to us, which is to put the Treaty of Sèvres in the waste-paper basket and make a new one. What the full Turkish demands will be is not yet certain. It is probable that they will be exaggerated, and we do not suggest that everything that Mustafa Kemal asks ought to be granted. But the main points on which concessions must be made are clear enough. In the first place, the Greeks must evacuate Asia. They never had any right in the hinterland of Smyrna, and any notion that may once have existed that they might fairly hold the town and the port, is now dispelled. They have perpetrated massacres which have shown that they have no objection when it suits them, to descending to the Turkish level, and which have made it impossible to hope for any acceptance of their rule by the Turks. And they have not even proved that they can govern well. They are entitled to all the proper guarantees for their protection, and no more than that. If the friends of Greece in this country think it hard that she should be dispossessed of Smyrna without compensation, let us compensate her by dispossessing ourselves of Cyprus. It is eighty per cent. Greek, and we have singularly little moral right there. And its restoration to Greece would result, incidentally, in the restoration of Rhodes also, since Italy has pledged herself, with frank cynicism, to hand over Rhodes when we evacuate Constantinople. It is absurd to pretend that in no other way can we make the neutralisation of the Straits effective. It is reasonable to insist on a commission of control—on which Turkey herself, however, ought certainly to be represented—and on naval and military guarantees. But it is not reasonable to demand that foreign garrisons shall sit permanently in Constantinople and that foreign warships shall cover the city with their guns from the Bosphorus.

Thirdly, there is Thrace. This is the most difficult question of all. The Turks show no sign of abating their claim to the whole of Thrace, including the "Holy City" of Adrianople. The Bulgarians, on their side, have been very badly used. The Treaty of Neuilly purports to give Bulgaria access to the Aegean through Western Thrace. But, in fact, the clause is a dead letter, and Bulgarian commerce is paralysed by the attitude which the Greeks have adopted. The occupation of the whole of Thrace by Greece is not only a rankling sore both to Turks and Bulgarians, but it is a grave danger to the peace of the Near East. We do not believe this occupation can be maintained indefinitely, and the sooner it is ended the better will it be for all concerned.

And it concludes with a consideration of other claims less difficult of adjustment:—

The Indian demand for the restoration of the Sultan's suzerainty over all the Holy Places we do not believe the Turks will take very seriously; they are concerned with more real things. On the other hand, they will insist, and rightly, on the withdrawal of the heavy hand of the Allies in respect of some of the political and financial controls created by the Treaty of Sèvres. And we on our part, shall rightly insist on the most effective guarantees for the protection of racial and religious minorities in the territories that come under Turkish rule, and equally in those that come under Greek rule. The greatest of all these minorities is Armenia, and we shall continue to hope that the promises of European and American statesmen will be redeemed by the establishment of Armenian autonomy. Finally, we would repeat what we have said many times in these columns, that a settlement of the Near East requires an honest and concerted policy on the part of the Powers. If the long rivalry of France and Britain in the Mediterranean is to continue, it will mean ceaseless strife between the Turks and Greeks. We, exhausted by the war, can only pursue our

quarrel by using them as our pawns; they have not the resources to pursue their own without our help. And strife between Turks and Greeks, with the Western Powers behind them, will clearly not be confined to the Near East and the Middle East; before many years are passed it will involve all Europe in another conflagration. The French and ourselves, with our sham co-operation, have done great mischief; we must undo it with a real co-operation.

The Arabs of Irak.

The current *Asiatic Review* contains, among other interesting articles, "An Interview with the King Faisal of Irak," by Captain A. H. Roberts, an ex-Political Officer in that country. The writer gives us what is in fact a good deal more than an interview. Like most others who have met the Emir, he is a warm admirer of the King, who, he bears witness, makes friends wherever he goes and has an astonishing gift for saying the right thing in the right place and at the right time. But, interesting as we find this part of the article, it is its concluding portion, in which Captain Roberts gives us his own views on the Arabs, which strikes us as the most valuable upon the whole. He tells us that "what we should now avoid at all costs is a further change of policy," and continues:—

The Arab cannot think by nature in the abstract; he is a child in that respect, and people who have dealings with him must be mindful of that fact if they wish to gain his confidence. Speeches and promises do not move him. He bases his judgment purely upon acts. We have now an opportunity of regaining his lost confidence in us. We had the complete confidence of the Arabs of Mesopotamia up to the date of the Armistice. If we had then done what we are now doing, that is, set up a government in accordance with our declared principle of self-determination, compatible with the economical condition of the country, and giving full play to national aspirations, there would, perhaps, not have been a revolution in Irak.

We alienated the Arabs of the river area by not giving to those Irakians who were qualified by past experience, and entitled by the positions they had held in the former administration of the country, to hold important posts, a place in our administration; and, in many cases, raising men who had held inferior posts, or none, in the Turkish Administration to positions of confidence and trust... There were many men in Mesopotamia who had held important offices under the Turkish Administration and were well fitted and disposed to work for us. These men saw their places being filled by an ever-increasing number of young officers, among whom were men, who, although picked for their good qualities, lacked administrative experience, knowledge of the language, people and country... When the revolution broke out there were no Arabs in the administration occupying positions that would qualify them to proffer advice. It was the men who might have occupied such positions who fomented the troubles and eventually brought about the revolution which cost us such an enormous amount in lives, money and prestige.

The wells of speech lie deep down in the heart. Sympathy alone will attract confidence. You cannot know a people until you know that people's language. To learn it is to acquire a new soul, for it is to see all things from a different viewpoint, and the more different the language the more different the point of view.

All our administrators should always remember the above in their dealings with eastern races. The Arab in particular is quick to respond to sympathy and confidence, especially from Englishmen in whom he has learnt to trust. On the other hand he is quick to recognise the man who is out to outwit him, and will either retire completely, or use flattery and deceit to gain his ends, according to his individual temperament. That is the type

of man we have to deal with in Mesopotamia. It will take much to regain his trust in us, but it can be done by supporting the present Irak State as we have promised.

THE IMPERIAL WAR GRAVES COMMISSION.

The annual report of the Imperial War Graves Commission, just published, states that its work is further advanced in Italy than in any other theatre of war, and there will be some 19 main cemeteries, constructional work on which, it is hoped, will be completed this month. In Egypt the work of concentrating isolated graves has been completed, except in the Western Desert and in the Sudan. It is proposed to erect a general memorial to the members of the Egyptian Labour Corps and the Camel Transport Corps. Palestine will have eight main cemeteries, Macedonia 10, Gallipoli and the Aegean 38, containing about 16,000 known graves. There are also some 20,000 soldiers with no known graves in this area, and the method of commemorating them is under consideration. Over 7,000 graves have been located and identified in Mesopotamia.

PALESTINE IMMIGRATION.

It is announced by the Colonial Office that the number of Jewish immigrants who entered Palestine during the month of January was 869, comprising 519 men, 217 women, and 133 children. Immigration is still restricted to the following seven categories:—

1. Members of professions who intend to follow their callings;
2. Persons who have definite prospects of employment with specified employers or enterprises;
3. Persons of religious occupation (including the class of Jews who have gone to Palestine in recent years from religious motives), who can show that they will have means of maintenance in Palestine;
4. Wives, children, and other persons wholly dependent on residents in Palestine;
5. Residents returning from abroad;
6. Persons of independent means;
7. Travellers whose stay will not exceed three months.

All applications from intending immigrants falling within the first four categories must now be referred to the Palestine Government for decision. The Palestine Government in dealing with every application of the kind will have special regard to the opportunities for employment prevailing at the time it is made.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

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The British Trade Corporation.

Among the company reports that have been issued within the last few days are two which are of special interest in view of the negotiations now in progress with regard to a Near Eastern settlement. Both in different ways serve to emphasise how urgent the need is for the treatment of outstanding questions on sane lines which will permit the resumption of normal commercial activities in that important region. The first is that of the British Trade Corporation, which from the outset of its brief career, has confined its activities mainly to the Near East. For its first four years small but increasing profits were earned, but for the last year there was a deficit as the result of the necessity for writing down holdings and making provision for bad debts of about £200,000. The trade depression alone would have made the year a poor one, but on actual dealings a fair profit was recorded, and this unfortunate result is to be attributed to local conditions in the Near East.

Effect of Unsettled Conditions.

It is worth while to examine in a little detail the corporation's position in that region. A number of branches have been established in various regions. control of the National Bank of Turkey was acquired, and the corporation further took part in the creation of the South Russian Banking Agency which was designed to promote trade with South Russia. Under normal circumstances this organisation should have gone far to enable the corporation to realise the purpose for which it was formed, but conditions in the Near East, particularly in Asia Minor, in which the corporation is specially interested through its subsidiaries, have been such as to make it a matter of absolute impossibility to reap the fruits of commercial enterprise however well-directed. It has been a case of trade endeavour handicapped by politics. Once there is a satisfactory settlement, and it is possible once more for commerce to pursue an even tenour in Asia Minor it is obvious that there are great possibilities before the Corporation. How soon they will be realised will depend on what has been accomplished at Paris and how it is received at Angora.

The Smyrna-Aidin Railway.

The other report, that of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway, gives what may be termed a local view of the consequences of the position in Asia Minor. During the period covered only about one half of the company's system was worked, the remainder still being in the hands of the Turkish Nationalists. Political and military conditions have greatly interfered with the working of the line, and it is further pointed out in the report that no revival of agriculture or trade, on which, of course the future prosperity of the line depends, can be expected until the future Government of the country is more clearly defined. "The continued failure to reach a settlement in the Near East" the directors state

"is paralysing British trade with Turkey in general, and represents annual losses of many millions of pounds. The effects of this failure upon the railway, which is far the most important British enterprise in Asia Minor, are disastrous."

Conditions in Syria.

Encouraging reports are being received regarding the state of affairs in Syria. Transport is now much improved, the railways being again in working order, while motor services are established between most towns not served by the railway. The reconstruction of the ports has been proceeding satisfactorily, while the development of the economic machinery of the country has contributed greatly to commercial progress. In this connection special reference must be made to the Banque de Syrie which is proving a very important medium in the commercial life of the country.

An Instance of British Apathy.

A very timely plea is made by Mr. Mattheeff in a letter which appears on page 433 for the promotion of the knowledge of the English language in the Near East. As he very justly points out language is an invaluable link in the relations of nations, and the strengthening of this link between us and the Near Eastern countries is bound to have an important influence on trade relations. But as in regard to other things this country has hitherto shown a striking apathy in this matter in marked contrast to the policy of our competitors such as Germany, who before the war was untiring in fostering German institutions, and France and Italy, whose activities since the war in this direction have been most pronounced. This country, further, has not merely held aloof from such enterprise, but has actually failed to support institutions such as the English Speaking League formed by Bulgarians in Sofia in 1911, whose considerable library of English books, is due mainly to American support! It is to be hoped that henceforward a very different policy will be pursued otherwise British interest in the Near East will be bound to suffer.

Commentator.

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REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, March 14.

Projected Reductions in Expenditure.

The favourable result of the elections has given the Government greater authority in starting its programme for the reduction of the State's expenditure. M. Vintila Bratianu, the Minister of Finance, who is determined to emulate the "Geddes Axe," has taken under his own control the adjustment of the budgets of the different Departments.

He is determined not only to do away with sinecures of all kinds, but will reduce the number of State officials to the possible minimum, by abolishing some of the Departments and curtailing others. He further intends cutting down the expenditure on material by postponing for next year the major part of the construction work that was intended for this year.

Non-Paraffinous Crude Oil.

A local newspaper announced the other day that on March 6 a fountain well erupted on the northern hill of Stavropoleos-Moreni—belonging to the "Unirea" Co. (Phoenix Oil and Transport Co.)—and that at a depth of 950 metres there were very violent flows of 90 to 100 car loads in a few hours. This event has aroused great interest in geological and oil circles here.

The principal characteristic of this well is that it was drilled down to 950 metres after having passed the usual stratum of paraffinous crude oil, which is generally exploited now in all the wells in Moreni, and that at this depth a very strong stratum of non-paraffinous crude oil has been found.

The theoretical consequences of this practical case are incalculable; they strengthen from the geological point of view one of the two theories which are actually considered in reference to the origin of the crude oil.

The first theory, sustained by Prof. Mrazec, asserts that the oil is of organic origin, his theory being thus limited to certain well-determined geological strata. The second theory, sustained by Prof. Popescu-Voitesti, gives the oil an inorganic and thus more profound origin. According to this latter theory, the deeper the well drilled, larger and more intense anticlines will be found and thus the more certain is it that stronger strata of crude oil will be found. If for example we take the classical petrol region of Bustenari, where all the wells are being exploited at a comparatively small depth, it should be enough to deepen below the salt strata to find in all probability eruptive strata. At small depths Bustenari did not give any flowing wells; at greater depths fountain wells would be very probable. According to M. Popescu-Voitesti's theory it would result

that in regions where the wells are exhausted or even flooded, immense reserves of the precious combustible are to be found deeper.

Miscellaneous.

Following the recent thaw, the water level of the Danube has risen considerably, occasioning overflows at different points of the river and more especially at Harshova where the population sustained losses of property.

The Ministry of Finance has decided to pay off the Treasury Bonds not exceeding 10,000 lei. Those of larger amounts will be renewed with the interest due.

With the view to reducing the cost of living the Government has decided to use the 176 locomotives expected shortly from Germany exclusively for the transport of cattle, cereals, vegetables and other commodities from the home centres of production to the centres of consumption in the country.

The Ministry of Agriculture has approved the export of oil-seed cakes on condition that the respective exporters supply the farmers' syndicate with the home-consumption quota.

ASIA MINOR.

Smyrna, March 15.

Greece and Smyrna's Trade.

The delegates of the Associated Chambers of Commerce have addressed a petition to all the Consuls in Smyrna pointing out that the Greek authorities having recently commandeered small stocks of goods, orders for sugar, rice, leather, cotton sheetings, etc., have ceased because traders fear that all stocks will shortly be seized for the army. Under these circumstances, and to avoid a complete stoppage of trade, the delegates asked the Consuls to obtain an assurance from the Greek authorities that goods arriving for foreign merchants would not be molested. Failing this the delegates urged the following procedure:—

1. That the kind of goods to be commandeered should be announced.
2. That the value of the goods commandeered should be fixed by two surveyors, one appointed by the Greek authorities and one by the Chamber of Commerce or Consul of the owners' nationality.
3. In case the said surveyors cannot agree a referee, to be appointed by the surveyors, to decide.
4. Payment of the value of goods commandeered to be made before delivery is effected.

In view of the immediate necessity of measures which will induce traders to resume importing goods, the Consuls were also urged to act promptly in this matter.

GREECE.

Athens, March 18.

Customs Receipts.

The receipts of the Piraeus Customs during February last (O.S.) amounted to 11,276,578.75 drs. Compared with the receipts during the corresponding period last year there is an increase this year of 5,897,051.90 drs.

MESOPOTAMIA.

Baghdad, March 2.

Crops Promising.

The winter crops look like being very good. Thanks to the heavy early rains a very large area has been sown and more recent rains have almost assured a heavy yield. It is expected that there will be a considerable surplus of wheat and barley available for export this year and obtainable at prices which will make export profitable.

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"A PLEA FOR THE D.O.T."

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir, I have read your article "A Plea for the D.O.T." in your issue of March 2 with interest. That it should be necessary to defend the Department does not surprise me in the least, for England, as the result of her commercial success, has always shown herself singularly indifferent to any indirect means for the extension of trade. The attitude taken up with regard to the spreading of the English language abroad is a case in point.

There is no doubt that the English language is more widely spoken than any other European language in the world, but there are parts of the world in which the knowledge of English is backward, coming far after that of French. The Near East is a case in point. You will meet in the Near East with numerous French schools, French book stores, and many people reading and speaking French, with a considerable knowledge of the French people, and very naturally entertaining much sympathy for France.

Language is a very important link in the relations of men and nations. The strengthening of this link must contribute to the development of other links such as those of trade. France has worked hard and laboriously for the spread of her language in the Near East. Her agents' duties have ever been directed to that end. All over the Near East wherever there is a French Consul there is an *Alliance Française*, which is supported and in whose prosperity an unceasing interest is taken.

England to my knowledge has taken no special or even passing interest in the promotion of the knowledge of the English language in the countries in this region. Many times I have heard regrets expressed that the ignorance of the English language was a great hindrance to business with England. It cannot be otherwise. Of course the remedy for this is apparent, but it is hard to persuade the stubborn British official, abroad or at home, to accept a new aspect of the situation.

Here is a case in which I have personally taken much trouble and interest, and have done a good deal to interest Englishmen. In Sofia there are French schools, and an Italian school has been opened since the war. A flourishing *Alliance Française* exists, also an Italo-Bulgarian alliance, promoted and supported by the French and Italian officials of the respective legations.

Nothing of the kind has been attempted by British officialdom, nor has it shown any interest in such an attempt made by others. English speaking Bulgarians in Sofia formed an English Speaking League in 1911 with a constitution legalised by the competent authority. Last year it had a membership of 180. The League has collected a library of over a thousand volumes thanks largely to American sympathisers. Under the particularly difficult conditions ruling in the country at present the League meets with little encouragement, and its development is very doubtful because of the lack of sufficient support such as similar French and Italian institutions receive.

The methods of the French and Italians in such matters certainly differ from those of the English, but surely a more substantial recognition of an institution, organised and ready to hand, with the objects of promoting the spread of the English language, and of bringing its members into closer relation with everything that is English ought not to be denied it. This institution has under great difficulties succeeded in keeping up the evening courses in English. Those who, one would think, should have taken an interest in the success of these classes as well as in the institution generally are remarkably indifferent towards it!

The D.O.T. is fortunately not to be suppressed, but you should be searching for means to supplement its activities. I have pointed out one such way—the encouragement of all institutions which work for the spread of the English language. They should be

created where they do not exist, and certainly should be supported where they do.

Yours, etc.,

P. M. Mattheeff.

Sofia, March 15.

THE COLONISATION OF PALESTINE.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir, Your correspondent, Mr. Rosen, shows himself lamentably ignorant of history and of present-day facts. Under the rule of his "much maligned gentleman" Palestine went to rack and ruin, and no finer example could be afforded of how a country should *not* be governed than Palestine under the Turk. The only oasis in the desert created by Turkish misgovernment were the Jewish agricultural settlements established by exactly the same elements as those whom your correspondent politely describes as the "backwash of the Jewish race." These settlements are now being multiplied in all parts of the country by the Haluzim, the sturdy pioneers who have emerged from the Hell of Eastern Europe, into the—to them—Heaven of sunny Palestine.

The following extract from a letter from Captain W. Stanley Shaw, a British officer, which recently appeared in the *New York Herald* gives a true picture of the achievements of the "backwash of the Jewish race."

"Up to about thirty-five years ago, Palestine was a graveyard, a desert, over which the silence of centuries hung like a pall. Now that under the hand of the Jew the desert is beginning to blossom like the rose, along come all sorts of people, Arabs, natives, and so on, with all sorts of grievances. What have the Arabs, Turks, natives, etc., done for Palestine during the past five hundred years? Nothing at all. Now that the Jews are causing dead bones to live and are producing the finest fruit and vegetables in the world, up come these people with their most preposterous and ridiculous grievances. The thing is absurd. I am not a Jew, nor do I hold any brief for the Jews, but right is right."

Mr. Isaac Snowman, the well-known artist, thus describes a group of Haluzim who have been hard at work constructing the roads and avenues which will form the main arteries of the new city of Tiberias.

"It is truly inspiring to watch these young people at work. Men of education and refinement are doing navvy's labour with a zest and a joy wonderful to behold. Young girls, wearing huge bonnets to protect them from the intense rays of the sun, sit astride, each on her heap of stones, and, hammer in hand, they break these into small splinters for use on the surface of the new roads. Other girls and women cook, or attend to the various domestic requirements of the huge camp of workers. Not one but is buoyed up by sentiments of deepest patriotism. They are building up their land. It is a picturesque and romantic life which they lead. They work hard; but after the day's

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work is done they assemble in the big hut which forms the common dining room, where entertainments are organised among themselves, dances not being infrequent. Hebrew is the language spoken by all, almost without exception. The earnings of the workers go into a common purse, from which the expenses of the community are defrayed."

Your correspondent professes to believe that "the Arab emphatically is a bigger factor in the destiny of Palestine than the Jew is or ever will be." What have the Arabs done so far for Palestine? Where are the Arab schools and colleges? Where are the Arab agricultural colonies? What have the Arabs done for sanitation, for art, for music? The Jews are spending £100,000 a year on their own schools and pay taxes towards the upkeep of the government schools for the Arabs, which the latter have not provided for themselves. They have a technical college, a high school, a school of art, a school of music, agricultural experimental stations, hospitals, nursing units; they have done valuable work in draining marshy country, in reforestation.

Your correspondent thinks that the Arab as a policeman "would be decidedly effective and of infinitely more use than a few Jews armed with borrowed rifles." He is evidently unaware of the disgraceful behaviour of the Arab police during the last disturbances at Jaffa, which was so strongly condemned by the Haycraft Commission. "A few Jews armed with borrowed rifles" successfully ward off unprovoked attacks on the Jewish colonies. It will be to the enthusiasm of the Jewish race that Palestine will owe its regeneration.

Mr. Rosen prophesies that the more Jews that enter Palestine, the more the Moslems will hate them. I hope, and believe, that your correspondent will prove as false in his prophesies as he is incorrect in his facts. The Jews are bending every effort to arrive at an understanding with the Arabs. Mr. Ramsay MacDonald who has just returned from Palestine bears testimony to the success of these efforts and to his belief in the possibility of Jewish and Arab co-operation for the regeneration of Palestine.

Maurice Myers,
London Editor, *Palestine Weekly*.

154, Bishopsgate, E.C.2.
March 14.

A factory erected recently by the Lightfoot Refrigerating Company at Colombo is manufacturing 16,800 cubic feet of oxygen a day.

The Imperial Mineral Resources Bureau has been informed by the Geological Survey of India that the quantity of gold extracted from the mines in India during the month of December, 1921, amounted to 386,163.773 oz., valued at Rs. 24,11,764.

It is estimated that the total yield of pure rose oil in Bulgaria during last season was about one-third the pre-war yield of 150,000 ounces. At the present time the gardens cover less than 15,000 acres.

H.H. Consul-General at Tangier reports that the Government of the French Protectorate of Morocco have decided to maintain during 1922 their scheme of bonuses for the cultivation of land by motor traction. A bonus of 60f. will be granted per hectare (2.47 acres) of land ploughed by a mechanical agricultural implement. In the administrative districts of Fez and Marrakesh, in the interior, this bonus is raised to 80f.

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THE TER MEULEN SCHEME AND GENOA.

(From a Correspondent.)

It is not unnatural that considerable disappointment should be felt at the lack of success that has so far attended the efforts made to bring the Ter Meulen scheme of export credits into operation. From the first it has been admitted on all sides that the scheme affords a really practical method of overcoming the obstacle to trade caused by the collapsed exchanges. The difficulty has been to persuade the countries the scheme is designed to benefit to make the allocations of revenues necessary for an issue of bonds. They one and all need help to put them on their feet and restore their earning power. The reconstruction of ports, railways, and roads is a *sine qua non* for the establishment of normal conditions. This work cannot be accomplished without a large expenditure, and as the countries cannot find all the money they require at home they must look to outside sources for it.

They have been trying to obtain accommodation abroad by various means during the last few years, but not with any great measure of success of late. Until however, all means available have been exhausted they will not have recourse to the Ter Meulen scheme. That time is now close at hand, for countries are no longer willing to take Treasury Bonds in payment. Countries like Canada, for instance, have stocked thousands of bonds and will not touch them again. The position now is that unless and until the lender knows that the dividends on his loan will be paid out to him he will advance no more money. The difficulty of obtaining assistance is not lessened by the fact that in some Near Eastern Countries it is possible that a change of Government may vitally affect existing arrangements. There could be no chance of this if there were someone above the parties which is what has happened in Austria as the result of the adoption of the Ter Meulen scheme. In Austria Liberals, Socialists and Catholics and other parties were all engaged in fighting each other. A pledge was obtained from all parties, so that if one party disappeared the position would be the same, thus paving the way for reforms. What has been done in Austria could be done in all the countries concerned.

When the countries realise that enterprise is fostered not only for their immediate welfare but for their great and lasting good, enabling them to export and to take part in the distribution of international wealth they will not be so averse to the scheme. Another factor that has had a delaying influence has been the impression that America would be willing to come forward with assistance. It has now been made clear that American money will not be lent to Europe unless there is a specific guarantee such as the Ter Meulen bonds. America by her attitude has closed the last door, and has helped to bring about the realisation that there is now a circle outside which the countries cannot get until they are prepared to allocate certain revenues and give specific guarantees. Once a settlement of outstanding political questions is arrived at things are likely to move, and it would seem extremely probable that not the least important result of the Genoa Conference will be the adoption of the scheme by one or more countries of South Eastern Europe. It only needs a lead then all the countries will follow.

A message from Angora states that a postal aeroplane has flown from Adalia to Angora, and that it is proposed to organise a regular service between the two towns.

Engineering Topics.

By Our Engineering Representative.

Wolseley Coming of Age.

Few motor cars have so long and interesting a history as the Wolseley. Their story is practically synonymous with that of British motoring, and the fact that the Wolseley Company has just celebrated its 21st birthday marks a real motoring anniversary. When in February, 1901, the great Vickers firm founded a separate branch under the title of the Wolseley Tool and Motor Car Co., Ltd., to manufacture Wolseley cars, they very wisely entered an industry which ultimately showed tremendous growth during the ensuing years.

In those early days much courage was required to embark at all in the infant industry, hampered as it was on every side by prejudice and legal restriction. But although the original factory at Adderley Park was comparatively small, if measured by present-day standards, its founders were possessed of unbounded enthusiasm, and have played a leading part in the developments which have placed the British motor industry in the front rank of the world's trade.

Early Experience.

Wolseley experience, of course, goes much further back than 1901, for the first Wolseley car was built in 1895, whilst in 1900, in the historic R.A.C. 1000 Miles Reliability Trial, a Wolseley carried off the first prize in the Voiturette class—a very early indication of the part this car was to play in motoring development. During its earlier years, when it was necessary to arouse interest and dispel prejudice, the company played a somewhat prominent part in races and competitions, winning many successes including the Ajakham Challenge Cup in the Poona Reliability Trials in India in 1905. But as the demand for cars increased, it was realised that what the public wanted first and foremost, was a vehicle that should be thoroughly reliable, and to this particular point the company began to give its undivided attention. Their solution of the problem was immediate and complete, and the company's products rapidly attained a reputation for reliability which has proved their greatest passport to popularity.

Coachwork Detail.

Another question which early engaged the Wolseley designers was that of motor coachwork. Most of the older coachbuilders failed altogether to grasp the possibilities of the new vehicle, as witness the illustrations of the "carriages" fitted to many of the earlier chassis. Very grotesque they looked, and very draughty and uncomfortable they undoubtedly were. It was evident that to attain the desired end the complete vehicle must be designed as a whole, engineers and carriage designers working together to one end. By their steady co-operation the complete cars were evolved which were the forerunners of modern cars, built throughout in one factory under one supervision, and with all parts designed in proper relation to each other. The reputation of Wolseley coachwork, both in design and finish, began to rival that of Wolseley chassis, and to-day over 90 per cent. of Wolseley cars for use in the United Kingdom are turned out complete and ready for the road. But improved coachwork, though of great importance in the popularisation of the motor car, was not nearly so vital a factor as progress in chassis design, and in this latter respect the Wolseley record is a very striking one. Research and experiment were sedulously fostered, and the Wolseley shops originated many of the improvements and devices which to-day are recognised standard practice. Wolseley design was invariably well to the forefront, and every year saw further innovations in design, a steady increase in the number of cars turned out, and expansion after expansion of the factories. By 1914, the factory space had grown from 3½ acres to nearly 30 acres, employing 4,500 men.

A Fine Record.

The part the Wolseley Company played in the war is too well-known to need recapitulation, but it may be

noted that its achievements in aero engines, and in the production of certain delicate and important naval mechanism had their due effect on the design of the present day Wolseley cars. After the war it was realised that new conditions had arisen, necessitating a still further advance in motor design. Owing to the rise in values, the production of high-grade cars at a moderate cost could only be achieved by scientific organisation on a large scale, taking every advantage of the most modern methods. It was also necessary to produce a more economical vehicle, of which the running costs should be reduced to a minimum. Three entirely new models were introduced to cover the entire motoring field from 10 h.p. upwards, and this range was afterwards completed by the introduction of a small 7 h.p. These new cars were carefully and scientifically designed and manufactured so as to produce vehicles of remarkable efficiency, giving a phenomenal performance on the road with a low running cost. The works at Adderley Park were remodelled and extended, and a large new factory was acquired at Ward End, giving a total factory space of nearly 100 acres. The new policy met with an entire and immediate success, and the production of Wolseley cars during the past two years has totally eclipsed everything formerly accomplished by the company.

The Next Light Car Race.

With regard to the lines on which the next light car will be run, it has been suggested by Mr. H. P. MacConnell who was responsible for the last contest, that there should be three classes, *i.e.*, one for the standard cycle cars of from 1,000 to 1,100 cubic centimetres; a second for standard light cars of 1,500 c.c., and an open class of 1,500 c.c. The first two classes should be for standard stock cars and the third class, run on a different day, should be of a purely sporting character. "I realise," says Mr. MacConnell, "only too well the difficulty of defining standard stock cars but in my opinion it is not an insuperable difficulty. Cars could not be entered in this race that would not conform to the following simple regulations. A number of standard production units could be sealed. By units I mean base chamber, crank shaft, cylinders, gear box housing and back-axle housing. The standard diameter of valves and the lift of the same should be verified, but in any other respect the maker should be allowed a free hand to make whatever modifications he wished, such as dispensing with the differential, using whatever gear ratio he pleased, fitting whatever springs or shock absorber devices he thought advisable. This would encourage him to make his vehicle as reliable as possible and to learn whatever lessons he could from a 250-mile event."

Non-Ferrous Metals.

The work of the British Non-Ferrous Metals Research Association is not only extensive but has already proved of exceptional value and so far as can be judged even more interesting and essential research work is to be undertaken this year. For example the whole theory and practice of brass casting will probably be reviewed and the question of the effect of various impurities on copper will be gone into thoroughly. The subject of metal furnishing, grinding and polishing will also be dealt with and extensive data as to methods of jointing metals are being collected. The value of the electric furnace for melting non-ferrous metals is also to receive full attention. Possibly the most valuable of the work to be done will be the dealing with corrosion and the effects of all kinds of fluids on such metals will be ascertained as far as possible. Already interesting and valuable results have been obtained for a study of tarnishing and loss of reflective power which are the first stages of corrosion, and the final conclusions of the Association will be awaited with more than usual interest.

Compulsory labour in Bulgaria during 1921 has resulted in a profit of £700,000 to the State.

Stock and Share Markets.

MARKETS GENERALLY FIRM.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Tuesday morning.

A much better tone has been in evidence during the past week, and yesterday something approaching buoyancy developed. The improved political situation has been a bull point for the markets, while favourable anticipations of the Budget and the expectation that we shall soon see a further reduction of the Bank Rate have also had a considerable influence. Adverse factors, it need scarcely be said, are not lacking, but they have not had any appreciable effect, possibly because during the past few years people have become so accustomed to threatened dangers that did not materialise.

Bulgaria's Need for a Loan.

Apropos of my remarks last week with regard to the failure of the Bulgarian Loan negotiations I have just received some interesting particulars of the general position in the country from a correspondent who emphasises the point that Bulgaria simply must obtain foreign capital to carry out the programme of reconstruction. Very rightly Bulgaria is concentrating on the question of transport, and during the coming year it is hoped to finish the construction of the railway lines and to obtain the necessary rolling stock. But if this is to be done my correspondent points out that Bulgaria "must have credit, and must look for money abroad." As I have already said I trust the negotiations for a loan will be persisted in since assistance of this nature given by this country would have the very best effect on our relations with Bulgaria.

Gilt-Edged Firm.

Gilt-edged are closing on a very firm note. Consols at 55.7-8 show a gain of $1\frac{1}{2}$, War Loan Fives are 131-32 up at 98.1-8, while the Conversion Loan at 73 $\frac{1}{2}$ has gained 15-16. Indian stocks have shared in the general recovery. The Seven per cent. Loan is $\frac{1}{4}$ up at 105 $\frac{1}{2}$, the 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Loan has gained $\frac{1}{2}$ at 60 $\frac{1}{2}$, while the 3 per cent. Loan is $\frac{1}{4}$ up at 52 $\frac{1}{2}$.

There has been considerably greater activity in the foreign market, but a variable tone has prevailed, and in a number of cases shares are slightly down. French War Loan Fives have shed $\frac{1}{2}$ at 44 $\frac{1}{2}$, while German three per cents. are 3-16 down at 2.3-16. Italian Rentes are unchanged at 23 $\frac{1}{2}$. Russians have been ignored. There has been some realisation in Chinese securities, but prices in general are above the previous levels. The Five per cents. of 1896 are $\frac{1}{2}$ up at 91 $\frac{1}{2}$, while the 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cents. of 1898 are $\frac{1}{2}$ up at 74. Brazilians have been dull, with the 4 per cent. 1889 Loan $\frac{1}{2}$ down at 55, while the 1914 Funding Loan has shed a point at 71.

Industrials Steady.

Despite the labour situation decidedly cheerful conditions have obtained in the Industrial group, though business as usual has been confined to a few specialities.

Tobaccos have displayed strength, Bats being 2s. 9d. up at 70, while Imperial Tobaccos are 1s. up at 55s. Dunlops are 3d. up at 6s. 6d.

Textiles have been firm with Coats at 2.13-16, and Courtaulds at 37s. xd. Iron, Coal and Steel securities have been steady. Vickers are 9d. up at 9s. 3d., Armstrongs are 1s. up at 13s. 6d., Guest Keens are unchanged at 30s., while Lamberts are 1.7-8xd.

In Shipping securities P. and O. Deferred are unchanged at 298. Cunards are the same at 18s., while Furness Withys are unchanged at 27s. 6d.

Oils Dull.

Business has been on a small scale in the Oil market, and changes of prices have been limited. At the present time the investor is evidently determined to leave the market alone until the outlook is decidedly clearer. Burmahs are unchanged at 5 $\frac{1}{2}$. Anglo-Persian Ord are 13-16 premium. Mexican Eagles are the same at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$. In Trinidad issues Centrals are $\frac{1}{4}$ up at 3.7-8, while Leaseholds are 1.9-32, a rise of 5-32.

Among Egyptians Anglo-Egyptian B are 1.9-16, the same as last week, while Oilfields of Egypt are 6d. up at 5s. 6d. In the Roumanian group Roumanian Consolidated are 9d. down at 10s. 3d., while Phoenix are 3d. down at 18s. 6d. and have been somewhat lower. This share, as I have pointed out, is expected to go higher, and the latest news of the position of the company is very favourable. Dacia Romanos are 11-16 the same as before while Steaua Romanas are 1s. 3d. down at 10s. 6d.

Banks Firm.

Eastern Banks have been a firm spot during the week. National of India are 37, while Chartered of India are 16. National of Egypt have firmed up to 19.5-8.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ..	Piastres to £....	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	97, 7-16
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$ -106 $\frac{1}{2}$
†Belgrade ..	Dinars to £....	25.22 $\frac{1}{2}$	370-380
Berlin	Marks to £....	20.43	1,430-1,490
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3-3.16-1.3.5-16
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3-3.16-1.3.3-16
Brussels.....	Francs to £....	25.22 $\frac{1}{2}$	52.05-52.35
*Bucharest ..	Lei to £....	25.22 $\frac{1}{2}$	580-605
Constantinople	Piastres to £....	110	635-675
New York....	Dollars to £....	4.86 2-3	4.37-4.38 $\frac{1}{2}$
Paris	Francs to £....	25.22 $\frac{1}{2}$	48.50-48.70
Prague	Kronen to £....	24.02	240-250
Rome	Lire to £....	25.22 $\frac{1}{2}$	85.50-86.50
†Sofia	Leva to £....	25.22 $\frac{1}{2}$	640
Teheran	Krans to £....	50	51
Vienna	Kronen to £....	24.02	12,000-33,000
Warsaw	Marks to £....	20.43	17,000-18,000

*Nominal.

† Sellers.

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20/10/21	BRAZILIAN 5% FUNDING	61 $\frac{1}{2}$	£ 73
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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE

DEVELOPMENT OF MERSINA.

A French company is busy with work to improve the shipping facilities in Mersina (says the *Journal of Commerce*) which should greatly help the trade revival of the port. The Angloa Government having examined the proposition of the Groenland Company of Paris in connection with the improvements to be made to the port of Mersina has accepted it. The company, which has a capital of 30 million francs, has undertaken to construct an entrance to the port, a breakwater 1,200 metres in length, a discharging quay for boats up to 15,000 tons, another quay for the loading of vessels, together with broad-gauge and decauville railways, Custom house buildings, an office for the captain of the port, and a railway station.

SHIPPING AT THE PIRAEUS.

(From Our Own Correspondent)

Athens, March 18.

There were 387 arrivals of various steamers in the port of Piraeus during February (O.S.) of the following nationalities:—Greek 290, Italian 35, British 30, French 7, German 6, American 5, Dutch 4, Norwegian 3, Swedish 2, Russian 2, Spanish 1, Belgian 1, Bulgarian 1. The number of sailing vessels which entered the port during the same month was 532, of which 513 were Greek, 17 Italian, 1 Yugoslavian, and 1 British.

NEW STEAMSHIP SERVICE TO ODESSA.

The Trieste Lloyd Line has decided to inaugurate a new passenger service from Trieste to Odessa. The service is being opened by the s.s. *Carniola* (5,723 tons) and the ports of call will include Brindisi, Piraeus, and Constantinople.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

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

Anchor Line.—S.s. *Scindia* for Bombay (Liverpool, April 6); s.s. *Castalia* for Bombay (Liverpool, April 21).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. *Mahsud* for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, April 8); s.s. *Imani* for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, April 25); s.s. *Mandador* for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, May 9).

Bibby Line.—S.s. *Gloucestershire* for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, April 12); s.s. *Oxfordshire* for Rangoon (Middlesbrough, April 12).

Clan Line.—S.s. *Clan Malcolm* for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (Birkenhead, March 31); s.s. *Clan Macphee* for Colombo Madras and Calcutta (Birkenhead, April 6); s.s. *Clan Sinclair* for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, April 7).

Cunard Line.—S.s. *Pavia* for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Odessa, Novorossisk, Poti, and Batoum (Liverpool, April 1); s.s. *Syria* for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, etc. (Liverpool, April 27).

Ellerman's "City" Line.—S.s. *City of Poona* for Calcutta (Birkenhead, April 10); s.s. *City of Shanghai* for Calcutta (Birkenhead, April 10); s.s. *Walton Hall* for Bombay and Karachi (Birkenhead, April 22).

Ellerman's "Hall" Line.—S.s. *City of Brisbane* for Bombay, Karachi and the Punjab (Liverpool, March 31).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—Steamers sail fortnightly for Malta, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz and Braila.

Glen Line.—S.s. *Radnorshire* for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, April 13); s.s. *Glenavy* for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, May 4); s.s. *Glenluce* for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, May 18).

Harrison Line.—S.s. *Defender* for Calcutta (Liverpool, April 11); s.s. *Candidate* for Port Said, Port Sudan, Aden, Mombassa, etc. (Birkenhead, April 20).

Henderson Line.—S.s. *Jalavihar* for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, April 5).

Holt Line.—S.s. *Achilles* for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, April 6).

Johnston Line.—S.s. *Dromore* for Piraeus, Syra, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, April 15); s.s. *Aviemore* for Piraeus, Syra, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, April 29).

Moss Line.—S.s. *Karnak* for Gibraltar, Malta, Piraeus, Syra, Smyrna, Salonika and Constantinople (Liverpool, April 8).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. *Cressado* for Algiers, Malta, Syra, Smyrna and Constantinople (Liverpool, April 15).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. *Padua* for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, April 7); s.s. *Delta* for Bombay (London April 7); s.s. *Kaisar-I-Hind* for Bombay (London, April 21); s.s. *Nagoya* for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, May 5).

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. *Margha* for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, March 31); s.s. *Manela* for Bombay and Karachi (London, April 7); s.s. *Malda* for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, April 15); s.s. *Madura* for Bombay and Karachi (London, April 21); s.s. *Nuddea* for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, April 29).

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated March 20:—Condition of Crops.—March 17—rain very much wanted in East Bengal for jute sowings. Otherwise prospects in other provinces are unchanged. Markets.—March 16—Bombay cotton market steady. Fine M.G. Oomras, Rs. 369 March, Rs. 380 May. Bombay cotton arrivals from September 1, 1921, to March 10, 1922, were 2,009,000 bales as compared with 1,359,000 bales during the same period of the last year. Fair demand in Bombay imported piece-goods market with healthy under-current of enquiry. March 17—Calcutta jute market very strong. Firsts Rs. 60 to Rs. 61, buyers; Lightnings Rs. 50. March 18—Gunnies quiet and rates easier. Shellac.—March 20—steady. T.N. Rs. 175 spot. March 17—special Straits quality rice Rs. 470. No change in bank rates.

FRENCH-CZECHO-SLOVAK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN PARIS.

A French-Czecho-Slovak Chamber of Commerce was created at Paris in 1915. After the war the efforts of the interested persons were directed towards the establishment of this institution on a broader basis, and they also aimed at securing its recognition by the Czecho-Slovak and French Governments, in order that they might widen the scope of its activities. These endeavours have met with success, and the general meeting of the new institution took place at Paris on February 27. M. Andre Lebon, former Minister of Trade and President of the Federation of French Industrialists, was elected President, the vice-presidents being M. J. Godet, industrialist and member of the executive of the French Chamber of Commerce at Paris, and M. F. Hlavacek, director of the Paris branch of the "Bohemia" Czecho-Slovak Foreign Bank.

During January last Tunis exported 244,880 tons of iron, of which 134,240 tons were sent to Holland and 110,640 tons to England.

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PASSENGER SAILING DATES—

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CASTALIA, APRIL 21.	CIRCASSIA, JUNE 22.
MASSALIA, MAY 5	OLYMPIA, JULY 5

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Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Advance in Sugar.

Sugar.—Home refined has been in moderate demand at revised rates. Tate's cubes at 53s. 9d.; mineral water sugar at 49s.; London granulated at 48s. 6d., and Lyle's granulated at 48s. 9d., have all advanced 1s. A slight advance has been noticeable in export descriptions, West Indian crystallized having risen 1s. at 43s., and Czecho-Slovakian 1s. 1½d. at 21s. 4½d. Cane sugar quotations are:—March, 15s. 6d.; April, 15s. 6d.; May, 15s. 6d.; August, 15s.; and September, 15s. White sugar quotations are:—March, 20s.; April, 19s. 7½d.; May, 19s. 3d.; August, 19s. 4½d.; and September, 19s. 4½d.

Coffee.—Prices have advanced. Costa Rica is 1s. up at 137s., while Indian has gained 8s. at 120s. Nairobi has risen 6s. to 118s., while Jamaica at 150s. has remained firm. The futures market has been unsteady. Quotations are:—March, 55s.; May, 54s.; July, 55s.; September, 55s. 6d.; and December, 55s. 9d.

Rice.—The market has been quiet but prices have been firm. American rice has been in excellent request, but prices for future shipments are likely to advance during the week.

Dessicated Coconut.—At the commencement of the week the demand was extremely brisk, but towards the end buying practically ceased. Prices are firmer.

Green Fruit.—Supplies of oranges are still plentiful, while the demand has been good. Very little supplies are afloat. Shipments of lemons have been on a large scale, but prices have been steady. There is a shortage of selected bold fruit. Supplies of Valencia onions are small and higher prices are being asked. The first consignments of Australian and Tasmanian apples have now reached England, and are in sound condition.

Oilseeds.—Unsteadiness has prevailed. Indian linseed has risen 3d. to 19s. 9d., and La Plata at 19s. 4½d., has gained 1½d. Rapeseed is higher with Toria 1½d. up at 17s., and bold Ferozepore 2d. up at 18s. 8d. Cottonseed is lower. Indian has shed 1½d. at 9s. 4½d., while Egyptian is 9d. lower at 12s. 3d. Sakellarides is firm at 12s. 6d.

Oils.—The tone has been steady. Linseed oil is unchanged at 37s. 6d. Rape oil has shed 2s. in both cases, the crude variety now being 44s., and refined 46s. Cotton oil has advanced with refined 2s. up at 49s. and deodorized a like amount up at 54s. Egyptian crude is steady at 41s.

Oilcakes.—Linseed cake has advanced 10s. to 340s. ton, as also cottonmeal cake at 320s. ton. Arachis cake has shed 20s. at 200s. ton, while palm kernal cake has been a firm feature at 160s. ton.

ASIA MINOR FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., Smyrna, report as follows under date March 11:—

Sultanas.—The estimated arrivals to date amount to 169,070 bags, the sales are 163,570 bags, and the stock unsold is estimated to amount to 5,500 bags.

Markets.—The sultana market continues steady at no change in prices. Somewhat improved exchange rates current during the past week however reduces sterling quotations 1s. to 2s. The total sales for the week amount to about 2,000 boxes as against 8,000 the preceding week. Black raisins are again in strong demand for both Marseilles and the States, and prices have marked a sharp advance of about 12 per cent. since the beginning of the month.

CURRENT PRICES.

General Produce.—Bacon: (Continental), 112s. 6d. cwt.; (Canadian), 107s. 6d. cwt.; (American), 102s. 6d. cwt.; butter (Danish); 184s. cwt.; (Australian), 130s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 147s. cwt. cheese (Canadian), 97s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 88s. cwt.; lard 70s. 6d. cwt.; eggs (Danish), 18s. per 120; Styrian, 13s. per 120; chillies, 162s. 6d. cwt.; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 2d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon good to fine), 95s. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 130s. cwt.; (East Indian), 133s. 6d. cwt.; (Central American), 102s. 6d. cwt.; (Jamaica), 68s. 9d. cwt.; (Mocha longberry), 106s. 6d. cwt.; (Santos, superior), 65s. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochin), 52s. 6d. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 11½d. lb.; pepper (Singapore Black), 4d. lb.; (Muntok white), 7½d. lb.; pimento, 2½d. lb.; raisins (Valencias), 57s. 6d. cwt.; sultanas (Smyrna), 121s. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 70s. cwt. (Amalias), 57s. cwt.; sugar (Tate's cubes), 52s. 9d. cwt.; (Lyle's granulated), 48s. 1½d. cwt.; (Mauritius crystals), 44s. 3d. cwt.; (West Indian crystallised), 43s. 1½d. cwt.; (centrifugal), 15s. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 1½d. lb.; rice (Rangoon No. 2), 14s. 1½d. cwt.; (bran Rangoon), 46 8s. 9d. ton; cinnamon (firsts), 11½d. lb.; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 3½d. lb.; tea (common to good common), 1s. 2½d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 6½d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 7½d. lb.; Ceylon (common to good common), 1s. 2½d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 7d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 7½d. lb.; (Java (common to good common), 10½d. lb.; wheat (English white), 56s. 6d. qr.; wheat (Australian), 60s. 9d. qr.; barley (malting), 50s. qr.; barley (feeding), 36s. 6d. qr.; oats (English), 31s. 6d. qr.; oats (La Plata), ex-ship, 25s. 3d. qr.; maize (La Plata), 42s. 6d. qr.; flour, 49s.

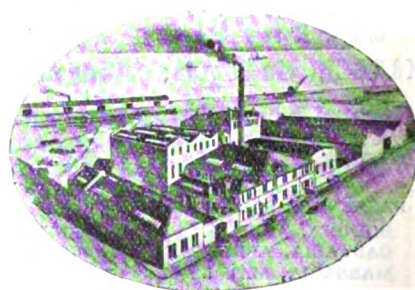
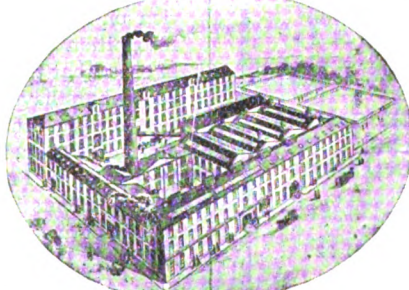
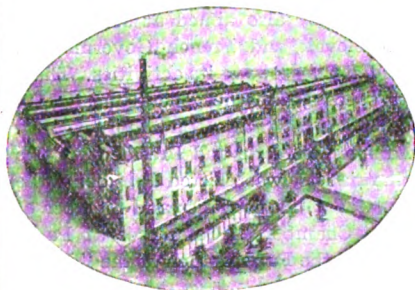
Metals.—Aluminium, £122 10s. ton; antimony (English Regulus), £30 15s. ton; bismuth, 9s. lb.; copper (standard) £60 1s. 3d. ton; copper (electro), £68 ton; gold bars, 95s. 4½d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 90s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 92s. 6d. ton; galvanised sheets (24 G), £16 5s. ton; lead (soft foreign), £21 9s. 9d. ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 1½d. unit; molybdenite, 27s. 6d. unit; nickel, £175 ton; platinum, 360s. oz.; plumbago, £16 ton; quicksilver, £10 12s. 6d. ton; spelter (G.O.B.), £25 16s. 3d.; tin (standard), £143 8s. 9d. ton; wolfram 10s. 6d. unit; zinc sheets, £35 10s. ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 18s. 7½d. box; silver bars, 33½d. oz.

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Chemicals.—Acids : Boric, 61s. cwt. ; oxalic, 8½d. lb. ; citric, 1s. 11½d. lb. ; tartaric, 1s. 3½d. lb. ; ammonia (sulphate) £16 11s. 6d. ton ; arsenic (white powdered), £30 ton ; benzole (standard), 2s. 5d. gallon ; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £13 ton ; borax crystals, 30s. cwt. ; cream of tartar, 110s. 6d. cwt. ; Potassium : Bichromate, 8d. lb. ; chlorate, 4½d. lb. ; caustic, £33 10s. ton, nitrate £41 10s. ton ; permanganate, 8d. lb. ; prussiate yellow, 1s. 1½d. lb. ; sulphate (90 per cent.), £15 5s. ton ; Sodium : Crystals, 130s. ton ; bi-carbonate, £11 5s. ton ; bi-chromate, 5½d. lb. ; alkali (58 per cent.), £8 13s. 9d. ton ; chlorate 3½d. lb. ; caustic (70 per cent.), £23 ton ; hypo sulphite, £15 10s. ton ; prussiate, 9d. lb. ; nitrate, £14 17s. 6d. ton glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £75 ton ; glycerine (industrial 1200 per cent.), £100 ton ; lemon oil, 3s. 8½d. lb. ; quinine, 2s. 11d. oz. ; red lead, £34 ton ; white lead, £37 15s. ton ; white ground lead, £48 7s. 6d. ton ; sulphate of copper, £27 5s. ton ; sulphate of iron, 75s. ton.

Hides and Skins.—Ox and Heifer (first) 90 lbs. and up, 7½d. lb. ; 80 to 89 lbs., 7½d. lb. ; 70 to 79 lbs., 7½d. lb. ; 60 to 69 lbs., 6½d. lb. ; 50 lbs. and under 6½d. lb. ; (second) 90 lbs. and up, 6½d. lb. ; 80 to 89 lbs., 6½d. lb. ; 70 to 79 lbs., 6½d. lb. ; 60 to 69 lbs., 5½d. lb. ; 50 lbs. and under, 4½d. lb. ; Cows (first), 60 lbs. and up, 6½d. lb. ; (second), 60 lbs. and up, 4½d. lb. ; 50 lbs. and under, 4½d. lb. ; Bulls (first), 4½d. lb. ; Kips (first), 4½d. lb. ; (second), 3½d. lb. ; Calcutta Market. Prices in rupees per 20 lb. Arsenic hides (cows) : Agrad, 10 to 14.8 (9 to 14.8) ; Durbhangas, 7.8 to 9.8 (8 to 10.8) ; Patnas, 6 to 7.8 (6 to 7.8). Salted cows : 4 to 8 (4.8 to 8). Arsenic hides (buffalo) : 3.8 to 8 (3.8 to 8.8). Skins : Calf, 8 to 10 per 20 lb. (8 to 10) ; goat, 230 to 295 per 100 pieces (230 to 295).

Miscellaneous.—Cotton : (American), 10.95d. lb. ; (Egyptian Sakel), 17.10d. lb. ; Oilseeds : Linseed (La Plata), £19 15s. ton ; palm kernels, £18 10s. 3d. ton ; castor seed (Bombay), £16 15s. ton ; Oils : Linseed £35 10s. ton ; olive (Levant), £77 ton ; rape (crude), £47 ton ; soya, £37 5s. ton ; petroleum, 1s. 4½d. gallon ; petrol, 2s. 1d. gallon ; fuel oil (ex-tank), 70s. ton ; coconut (Ceylon), £40 14s. ton ; cotton (crude), £40 10s. ton ; ground nut, £43 ton ; Rubber : Plantation (No. 1 crepe), 8d. lb. ; smoked sheet, 8d. lb. ; fine hard para, 11d. lb.

Tractors of 15 to 20 h.p. are in demand in Tunis.

A Fair and Exhibition is to be held at Marrakesh, the centre of one of the most populous districts in Morocco from April 2 to 13.

There is an excellent market in Tunis for common glassware such as decanters, tumblers, lamp chimneys, and hollow ware.

Work is progressing favourably in connexion with the Ceylon railway extensions.

In order to meet the requirements of oil-tank ships, etc., the Ceylon Government built oil tanks at Kolonnawa, and laid pipe lines to the Colombo harbour. The British and American mineral oil companies trading in Colombo have now taken over the new tanks.

The Czecho-Slovak Banking Office announces a reduction of 255 million crowns in the circulation of paper money for the first week of March, the present value of paper money in circulation being 10,480 millions. The value of foreign bills at the disposal of the Banking Office has been reduced by 31 million crowns to 383 millions, while the metal reserved has increased by one million, being now 581 millions. The revenue derived from the property tax amounts to 1,028,890,000 crowns.

ENQUIRY BUREAU.

ADVERTISERS requiring agents abroad and readers abroad desirous of getting into touch with British Manufacturers, Export Merchants, etc, may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau," "The Near East," 1, Deconshire Square, London, E.C.2." It must be understood that "The Near East" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.

114. Importer in Karachi (India) travelling throughout India wishes to get in touch with merchants and manufacturers in England and elsewhere. General merchandise.

115. An import and export firm in Spalato, Yugoslavia, wishes to enter into business relations with British manufacturers, importers and exporters. Specialities :—Exports : Medicinal herbs dried fruits, hides, timber. Imports : Oils, food products, tarpaulins, mackintoshes, sacks.

116. Import Merchants in Adana, Cilicia, Asia Minor, wish to represent British firms for any kind of British-made goods. Own account and commission basis. Good references provided. Send catalogues and samples with prices and terms.

117. Importer in Roumania, interested in Jute trade, wishes to get in touch with firms dealing in sacks, new and old Dundee, and Calcutta makes.

121. Exporter of Greek Ores in Athens, especially of purest quality Magnesite and Chrenute wishes to be connected with interested British firms.

122. Merchant in Galatz, Roumania, wishes to enter into business relations with British firms willing to ship goods on consignment terms. Guarantees by Leading Banks given. Full details on application. Correspondence in French.

123. Import and Export Merchant in Beyrout (Syria) invites correspondence with British firms. General Merchandise. Will act as agent, commission basis, or own account.

TENDERS INVITED.

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

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

Bulgaria.

Suction Dredger, etc.—The Ministry of Railways, Posts and Telegraphs of the Bulgarian Government is calling for tenders for :—(a) one suction dredger, (b) one salvage tug, (c) two barges June 1 (D.O.T.)

Egypt.

52,000 yards Tarlatan White.—The Egyptian War Department invite tenders for 52,000 yards Tarlatan white. Particulars can be obtained from the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1. April 4.

Twil.—The Egyptian War Department invite tenders for the supply of twil for cavalry shirts. Tenders must be sent to the office of the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1, by April 3.

Woollen Cloth, Light Blue for Uniforms, about 28 oz.—The Egyptian War Department invite tenders for the supply of woollen cloth, light blue, for uniforms, about 28 oz.

Particulars can be obtained from the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1. April 4.

Canvas, Cotton, Waterproofed, Chocolate Colour.—The Egyptian War Department invite tenders for the supply of canvas cotton, waterproofed, chocolate colour. Tenders must be sent to the office of the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1, by April 3.

Canvas, Cotton, White.—The Egyptian War Department invite tenders for the supply of canvas, cotton, white. Tenders must be sent to the office of the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1, by April 4.

Canvas (Various).—The Egyptian War Department invite tenders for the supply of canvas (various). Tenders must be sent to the office of the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1, by April 4.

Calico.—The Egyptian War Department invite tenders for the supply of calico cotton. Tenders must be sent to the office of the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1, by April 5.

Boots.—The Financial Secretary, Egyptian Army, War Office, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 44,814 pairs of boots, ankle (Cavalry and Infantry) with laces. May 1.

Malta.

Conveyance of Mails.—Sealed tenders will be received at the Treasury, Valetta, Malta, up to 10.30 a.m. Thursday, April 27, 1922, for the conveyance of mails between Malta and Syracuse or between Malta and Reggio, at the option of the tenderer, for a period of three years, three times weekly.

Tenderers will give the following particulars :—(a) Days of the week and hours of proposed arrivals and departures at Malta and at the above mentioned ports ; (b) Gross and net tonnage of steamers, which should be classed A.1 at Lloyds, or have a certificate of the Bureau Veritas and should not be of a lower tonnage than 600 tons net ; (c) Speed of the steamer, which should be of a minimum of 12 knots ; (d) Passenger and other accommodation. Accommodation for not less than forty first-class and for thirty second-class passengers should be provided, (e) Amount of annual subsidy required ; (f) date of commencement of service.

Copies of conditions of contract and forms of tender may be obtained on application at the Treasury, Valetta, Malta, or to the Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, Westminster, London, S.W.1.

The Sudan.

General Stationery.—The Sudan Government, Khartoum, Sudan, invite tenders from well-established firms of general stationers for the supply of stationery required by the Government. Samples and specifications can be seen and conditions and form of tender obtained on application to the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1.

Paper and Envelopes.—The Sudan Government, Khartoum, Sudan, invite tenders from well-established firms of paper-makers and envelope manufacturers for the supply of paper and envelopes required by the Government. Specifications, conditions and forms of tender can be obtained on application to the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1.

Yugoslavia.

Oil.—Tenders are invited by the Serbian Minister of Communications, for the supply of :—390,750 kgs. oil for greasing locomotives and railway wagons for summer use ; 465,750 kgs. oil for greasing locomotives and railway wagons for winter use ; 400,000 kgs. oil for cylinders worked by steam (surfeited) ; 200,000 kgs. oil for cylinders worked by steam (over-heated) ; 120,000 kgs. colza ; 150,000 kgs. naphtha ; 5,000 kgs. oil for cylinders of Diesel motors ; 300,000 kgs. refined petroleum. Tenders must be in Belgrade by 10 o'clock on April 11, bearing the inscription " Offre de . . . par l'adjudicataire X Y." Further details can be obtained from the Banque Franco-Serbe 39, Coleman Street, E.C.2.

FINANCE AND COMMERCE IN THE NEAR EAST.

The following extracts are taken from the March issue of the monthly circular of the Imperial Ottoman Bank :—

Ottoman Finance.

During the month of February the Ottoman Treasury has received the ordinary revenues, derived, as in previous months, from customs, the vilayet of Stamboul, and sundry other sources.

There have also been the following extraordinary revenues :—1. The payment by the Tobacco Régie of the balance due to the Government of their share in the receipts of the seventh year in accordance with the Agreement of the 13th February, 1922. This amounted to £T. 254,073.31, after repayment of the advance of £T. 1,200,000 made by the Imperial Ottoman Bank in June last. 2. The payment by the Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt of the balance, amounting to £T. 300,000 of the advance of £T. 1,000,000, granted on the 31st December last on the Government's share in the Tobacco Régie profits during the eighth and following years.

During the month the Sales Commissions paid to the Malié (Treasury) a sum of £T. 50,000 on account of the advance of 1,200,000 consented by the Ottoman Public Debt; payments from this source total £T. 137,000 at the end of February. The revenues of the month were used, as usual, to meet urgent needs and to pay priority salaries.

The Ministry of Finance, on the occasion of the new financial year, prepared a provisional budget for a period of six months; the new budget has already been submitted to the Cabinet for examination. It includes a number of measures for the increase of revenues and the reduction of expenses in general. New laws for the increase of receipts are being considered; others, the "taxe de luxe" for instance, are already in force; the latter levies a tax of 10 per cent. on entertainments (theatres, cinemas, dancing halls, etc.). The bonus granted to Government Officials owing to the increased cost of living is to be reduced by 20 per cent. and it is proposed that Cabinet Ministers be authorised to grant leave to members of their staffs, varying from six months to two years. During this time officials, whilst receiving the whole of their basic salaries, would only be allowed 50 per cent. of their supplementary emoluments. By the adoption of these measures the Ministry of Finance hopes to be able to balance the budget.

Markets.

Constantinople.—The market remains stagnant. Transactions are even more restricted than last month. Small exports of tobacco; arrivals of sugar, coffee and flour have shown a little increase.

Tobacco.—Arrivals from the interior and from Russia: 311,000 kilogs.; exports 525,000 kgs., as against 201,000 kgs. during the preceding month. Stocks available 5,500,000 kilogs. made up of Turkish tobaccos, 4,000,000 kilogs., and of Russian tobaccos 1,500,000 kilogs. Average prices lower: Piastres 48 to P. 160 per kilog. according to quality.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

FOUNDED 1863.

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

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

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SALONICA. SMYRNA. TUNIS.

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Cotton & Cotton Goods.

COTTON INDEX HIGHER.

Hopeful Trade Position.

Taking the quotation ruling on July 31, 1914, as a basis of 100 the index number for the current general average of raw cotton, yarn and cloth prices is given by Mr. Frederick W. Tattersall, of Manchester, in his Cotton Trade Circular published last week, as 178, a rise of 7 points compared with a month ago. In the middle of January the figure was 191.

American cotton now stands at 165, an increase of 9 points on the month, and Egyptian cotton also has advanced 9 points to 215. The upward movement in yarn quotations is reflected in the figures of 179 for American qualities and 166 for Egyptian, which are advances of 7 points and 6 points respectively. Prices for cloth have been dearer only to the extent of 2 points at 165.

The tendency of prices to move in favour of sellers during the past month is an indication of the slowly improving state of affairs in the largest manufacturing industry in the United Kingdom, and the belief is spreading that trade will continue to develop.

MANCHESTER MARKET.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Manchester, Saturday.

Although the general conditions prevailing throughout the market during the past week have been rather quieter than was the case some ten days ago the tone has continued firm. A favourable feature has been the steadiness displayed in raw cotton circles. Manufacturers are now presenting a stiffer front to customers, and more machinery is gradually being started especially in the Blackburn and Burnley districts. With regard to the cloth demand for Egypt it has not been on very encouraging lines, but the trade position out there is stated to be improving slowly. Remittances have come to hand much better from the Levant and Constantinople. Quotations for Egyptian yarns on the week are higher, and the turnover has been quite moderate. The bulk of the piece goods inquiry has been for India, and some encouraging transactions have been put through for Calcutta. Shippers to China are slow in raising rates, and no revival of activity is anticipated until the exchange value of the tael get higher. Fancies have again been in request for the Continent and South America. Buyers for the home trade have operated on rather freer lines. American yarn quotations have continued firm, but the turnover has not been as large as was the case a week ago. Bundles have been sold for India, and business has been done in cops for Holland. The wages question in the cotton trade has been discussed by the employers, and as the notices of a reduction have been sent out by the masters it is generally anticipated on the Manchester Royal Exchange that the cut will be in the neighbourhood of 70 per cent. off list rates which means a drop of 5s. 9d. in the £ on present wages. Taking the market as a whole the prospects are rather bright, and manufacturers and spinners hold the opinion that we have definitely turned the corner towards a period of greater activity.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows under date March 22 :—

Business during the past week has been of a steady description, Nothing of a startling nature has occurred, and sales even show a distinct decrease on the previous week's total, which, however, is easily accounted for by the falling off in the enquiry for Scarto and kindred qualities. The tone here has improved, chiefly owing to the better reports received from Manchester, and there is a tendency for prices to harden all round.

The bulk of the enquiry has centred around Sakellaridis Fair to Fully Good Fair, and there still appears to be a very fair selection to choose from in these qualities. Tokar and Sudan have been in improved request, and are responsible for quite a good turnover. Other growths have been practically neglected. C.i.f. business during the last few days has shown a slight improvement.

Manchester reports have again been consistently good. India has been buying fairly freely during the week, chiefly on Calcutta account, and latterly China has also increased her quota. Prices are hardening, and bids from the East show some improvement, although the spinner or manufacturer who will admit that he has made a profit on any transaction has still to be found. However, stocks are moving at last, and that is the first step towards a healthier state of affairs throughout the whole trade. Liverpool is doing all it can to assist matters by keeping steady; and we can only hope that nothing untoward will occur to interrupt the flow of trade.

We do not look for any soaring upwards in the price of raw cotton—there is too much of the commodity available, and it will take a long time, even with good trade, to absorb existing stocks. Arrivals in Alexandria still continue to be greater than was expected, and, in this connection, it is interesting to note that our friends, the Commercial Co. of Egypt, have now raised their previous total crop estimate of 4,600,000 kantars to close on 5,000,000 kantars, and this in face of the fact that their original estimate was the highest one published. From the same source we hear that fears of a water shortage during the summer months is causing considerable anxiety in Egypt. It is still early, however, to speculate on the possible result of this until we see what the next few months will bring forth in the way of trade demand. Total sales, 2,200 bales (includes 400 bales Sudan). Quotations remain unchanged. Fully Good Fair Sakellaridis 18.25d.

MANCHESTER COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

We give below the cotton trade review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended March 25 :—

General. The tone of this market during the past week has maintained the improvement recently notified. The better conditions of the last few weeks have given much needed relief to a fairly large number of spinners and manufacturers. The financial stringency is still an all-important factor with most firms, but money is said to be coming in a little more freely from some quarters, and in this respect the situation may be said to be gradually easing; nevertheless it is to be feared that there are many failures of respected and old established firms still to come. The employers met yesterday to consider the question of a reduction in the operatives' wages and are said to have reached a decision as to the extent thereof which they will propose; this figure has not yet been published, but estimates conform generally to something round about a 25 per cent. reduction on present wages.

Yarn. This market has been fairly strong throughout the week and the tendency is for prices to harden. There are fewer urgent sellers on the market and spinners have reduced stocks. The latter are tired of working at a loss and are making determined efforts to improve their position; many offers being refused on these grounds.

Cloth. This section also has shared in the general improvement and the week ends with a firm tone, particularly as regards all makes of cloth for India, from which the demand has been fairly substantial. Orders from China, which showed a slackening at the early part of the week, have again come into prominence; the Near East unfortunately remains practically idle apart from a few orders for shirtings, sheetings and miscellaneous dyed goods. The Continent is again making demand and certain lines are moving more freely.

Raw Cotton. This market has shown a remarkable steadiness during the past week in spite of the increased "spot" demand due to greater activity in Manchester. The quotation for American has not fluctuated more than 6 points on any day during the week. Closing prices are as follows :—American Fully Middling 11.01, last week 11.00; Egyptian Fully Good Fair 18.00, last week 18.25.

BALKAN' NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

FOUNDED 1895

Capital paid up	5,000,000
Total reserves as per December 31st, 1920	53,200,000
Premium Income during 1920	28,300,000
Amounts insured of Life branch exceed	150,000,000

Branches maintained: Fire, Life, Marine, Casualty and Re-insurance of all branches.

HEAD OFFICE: SOFIA, BULGARIA.

Company Notes and Reports.

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA, AND CHINA.

The report of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China states that the accounts show a net profit, after providing for all bad and doubtful debts, of £997,669 15s. 5d. inclusive of £209,601 9s. 11d. brought forward from the previous year. The interim dividend at the rate of fourteen per cent. per annum paid in September last absorbed £210,000. The amount now available is therefore £787,669 15s. 5d. and the directors propose to pay a final dividend at the rate of fourteen per cent. per annum, together with a bonus of six shillings and three pence per share, making twenty and-a-quarter per cent. per annum for the whole year, free of income tax; to add £100,000 to the reserve fund which will then stand at £3,700,000; to add £25,000 to the officers' superannuation fund; to write off premises account £50,000, and to carry forward the balance of £215,169 15s. 5d. Meeting, 38, Bishopsgate, E.C., April 5 at 2.

SMYRNA-AIDIN RAILWAY.

The report of the council of administration of the Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin for the half-year to December 31 last states that the earnings of the railway for the period amounted to £241,829, of which military traffic produced £51,948. The expenditure was £134,443, showing a net profit of £107,386. The mileage worked was 193 miles, about one-half of the company's entire system, the same as at the period of the last report, the remainder of the railway still being in the possession of the Turkish Nationalists. The working of the restricted portion of the line is still much interfered with by the political and military state of affairs, nor can any revival in agriculture or trade be expected until the future government of the country is more clearly defined.

The continued failure to reach a settlement in the Near East is paralysing British trade with Turkey in general, and represents annual losses of many millions of pounds. The effects of this failure upon the railway, which is far the most important British enterprise in Asia Minor, are disastrous. It is earnestly to be hoped that during the impending Near Eastern Conference a final settlement will be arrived at. With the conclusion of peace and just recognition of the company's audited claims for reparation, the company should eventually make a good recovery. It will be seen from the auditors' certificate that a revaluation of the stores has been found necessary, and will be taken in hand during the current half-year, and any modification of the figures that may be found necessary will be made in the next half-year's accounts.

The general manager, in the course of his report, states gross receipts, £241,829, compare with £334,414 in the corresponding period of 1920, and with £282,140 in the December half of 1913. Working expenses, £134,722, against £205,510 in 1920 and £102,856 in the December half of 1913.

The auditors' certificate states: We have examined the accounts with the books and vouchers in London, and the audited accounts from Smyrna. Owing to the manner in which the stores have been dealt with in the Smyrna books in regard to the value of the Turkish piastre, in which there have been wide fluctuations during 1921, it has been found necessary to have a revaluation of the stores, which will be made in April next. Subject to such reduction in the value of the stores as may be found necessary as a result of this revaluation, and to the company's claim against the Turkish Government, in our opinion the accounts show the true and correct financial position of the company.

Meeting, Winchester House, March 31, noon.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

The report of the National Bank of Egypt for the year ended December 31 states that the gross profit for the year, after providing for depreciation on the bank's buildings and furniture for rebate of discount and for bad and doubtful debts, amounts to £991,829 10s. 10d. After deducting from this sum: for directors' fees £11,000 13s. 4d., for current expenses £421,607 6s. 2d. (£433,273 10s. 6d.) there remains £558,556 4d. In conformity with Article 49 of the bank's statutes a dividend of 4 per cent. is payable on the share capital, £120,000. After this statutory distribution there remains £438,556 4d. Adding to

this the balance brought forward from last year, £172,354 2s. 1d., the amount available is £610,920 2s. 5d. The directors consider it prudent to allocate to special reserve for contingencies a sum of £100,000, which leaves £510,920 2s. 5d. From this amount the directors recommend the payment of an additional dividend of 11 per cent. on the share capital which will absorb £330,000, and leave a balance to be carried forward of £180,920 2s. 5d. The total dividend for the year will thus be at the rate of 15 per cent., equivalent to £1 10s. per share. An interim dividend of eight shillings having been paid on September 5, 1921, the balance remaining to be distributed will be £1 2s. per share.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION.

The report of the directors of the British Trade Corporation for the year ended December 31, states that the figures relating to the branches have been made up to the previous September 30. The proprietors will remember that reference was made at the last meeting to the investments of the corporation in subsidiary companies, and the impossibility of placing value thereon. Since that date it has been demonstrated that values should be written down, and also that provision should be made for losses in connection with the closing of the corporation's Batoum branch, and for other bad debts, and the result is that a debit balance is shown upon the profit and loss account of £193,075.

The difficulties referred to last year in obtaining payment for goods shipped abroad by clients have been accentuated during the past year, and it is to be feared that some of the loans and advances made will be difficult to realise, and may be subject to loss. Having regard to this fact and the statement made by the auditors in their certificate, the directors recommend that the existing capital be written down by an adequate amount, and that there be created an issue of "A" shares to take the place of the capital so displaced. The "A" shares will be preferential, and when issued will be offered to the shareholders. Resolutions to give effect to both these operations will be submitted to the proprietors in due course. The writing down is subject to the obtaining of a supplemental charter, for which application has been made. The effect of the reduction will be to wipe off the debit balance upon the profit and loss account now shown, and to reduce the figures appearing under the heading of bills discounted, loans, advances, and sundry debtors, and provide reserves against other assets.

The auditors' report states: "Assets and liabilities of branches have been incorporated in balance-sheet as at September 30 last. No provision has been made for any loss which may have accrued at date of balance-sheet in connection with certain assets, and we are unable to form an opinion as to what reserve may be necessary. As stated however by the directors in their report, adequate provision in this respect is proposed to be made by means of a writing down of share capital."

MYSORE GOLD.

The report of the Mysore Gold Mining Company for 1921 states that the tonnage dealt with was 726,518 tons, producing 130,024 oz. of fine gold, a decrease of 37,245 tons and 26,734 oz. The average yield per ton was 8.4 dwts. and per ton of sand and slime 1.7 dwts, against 9 dwts and 1.9 dwt respectively. The sum realised for gold and sales of silver, less royalty and refining charges, was £648,762. The total income was £672,547 and working costs £464,747, leaving a profit of £207,800. Including £4,114 brought in, and £1,116 for dividends on the Kolar Mines Power Station shares, the total profit was £213,030. Dividends totalling 2s. 6d. per share for one year, equal to 25 per cent., further remuneration to directors and managers, income-tax, amounts written off machinery and plant and East Beterasawmy block, etc., absorbed £104,192, leaving £17,338 carried forward, subject to corporation tax, royalty and percentage on dividend. Liquid assets at December 31, including reserve and other investments, and after deducting liabilities, totalled £508,003. Meeting, Cannon Street Hotel, April 6, 12.30 p.m.

There is a considerable demand in India for sanitary and plumbing fixtures, especially in the larger cities like Bombay, Ahmedabad, and Nagpur.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 569—Vol XXI.

THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 1922.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Situation in Greece.

These are extremely difficult and delicate days for Greece, and one can, unless he be a hopeless partisan, but wish her well in the sacrificial times to come. Naturally, those whose first consideration is the stability of Europe hope that she will accept *in toto* the Allies' proposals, but while it is easy from this distance to say how she ought to behave, it is not too comforting a task, perhaps, to reflect how one would oneself behave in similar circumstances to the Greeks'. We were reminded a few days ago, when the King refused to consult General Danglis, the Liberal, about the formation of a Cabinet, how bitter the feud still was between Constantinist and Venizelist, but now it is stated that the greater part of Greece is one in common despair at the Allies' proposals. Whether there will be determined resistance in Anatolia to the Turkish re-conquest we do not know—we await a statement of the case by the man who chiefly matters to the Anafolian Greeks—the Patriarch of Constantinople; but perhaps the return of M. Venizelos to Europe at the present moment is not without significance, for there are more impossible things than a restoration to Greece of Venizelism, a restoration by the unredeemed and the island Greeks to save the Hellenic idea. For there is no doubt that, round whomsoever it centre, the idea of Hellenism is the permanent thought or 'dream of the Greeks, and it is precisely that idea that is now in danger of being outraged.

The Little Entente and the Proposals.

From the information that we can gather it would appear that the Balkans and Roumania are equally against certain of the Allies' proposals to Turkey. We need scarcely mention the unanimous Greek disapproval of the proposed handing back to the Turks of the Smyrna enclave, but Roumania and Serbia alike have grievances of their own. It may be that these grievances, are, compared with the boon to be gained by a cessation of the Greco-Turkish strife, unimportant, but they are genuinely held by parties closely interested in the settlement, and they should at all events be considered in the event of a rejection of the Allies' terms by Angora. Roumania, as also the Balkan countries, cannot be expected to look favourably on the increase in Turkey's armed forces, nor can she but fear the results of the setting up of a common Turkish-Bulgarian frontier. In

these two objections it is quite possible that the Little Entente (certainly Serbia) would support her; but she has in addition an unique interest in the whole question of the Straits. To her there is, besides the necessity of the freedom of the Straits, that of the Bosphorus also. If the Russians, about whose attitude towards these terms we know nothing for certain—though it is as important as that of any party—chose with the Turks to close the Bosphorus, Roumania would inevitably be isolated. It is not a pleasant possibility to entertain. But any conceivable arrangement is dependent upon the duration of present alliances, and we think that between Bulgaria and Turkey a frail one, and that between Russia and Turkey frailer still.

Education and Politics.

An indiscriminating mixture of religion with politics has always been a distinguishing feature of the Balkans and of neighbouring countries, and recently we have seen in those parts lamentable efforts similarly to mix education with politics. Not only in Greece, where the nicest literary points are sometimes combated on political grounds, but also in Bulgaria have the capital seats of learning been subject and subordinate to political influence. And now we learn from Constantinople that the same degrading sight may be witnessed in the Turkish capital. At the University of Stamboul Riza Tewfik Bey was lecturing on the origins of Turkish literature when he was howled down by Kemalist students, who objected on patriotic grounds to his statement that traces of Persian inspiration were evident in some of the early Turkish poets! Nor were these students content with howling down the lecturer; steeped in and fired with the Nationalist spirit they forthwith drew up a memorandum demanding the proscription of their political opponents. In any other than the serious times of the present such an incident would be amusing; as it is, it is a tragic example of the stubborn stupidity of the classes upon whose reasonableness the peace of the world now depends.

English and French Eastern Methods.

The air is full at the moment of rumours that France intends to usurp, or perhaps merely by force of circumstances to succeed to, Great Britain's supreme influence in the East, and particularly in the world of Islam. We know well enough the traditional liberal policy that our country pursues towards Eastern races, and it is instructive to contrast with this the centralising, conservative policy that France appears to think most beneficial. No better examples of the two policies could be found

than Egypt and Morocco, where fundamentally opposed conceptions have produced equally efficient results. On the whole, however, it must be admitted that the sterner policy of France is the more immediately successful, and it will be interesting to watch the progress of their conduct in Syria, where, so it is stated, it is meeting with considerable opposition. In the drawing up of the Constitution for the State of Lebanon they have not failed to reserve the final decision in the hands of the High Commissioner: General Gouraud is to be every whit as great a dictator as General Lyautey in Morocco. Whether Syria will follow Egypt's example, and agitate for more power to itself is uncertain, for France has a quick and ready way of quelling such disturbing influences.

The Situation in Egypt.

In regard to Egypt just now "no news is good news." The Sarwat Cabinet appears to be going about its business methodically, and the country is quiet. Last week, at a banquet in honour of King Fuad's birthday, Sarwat Pasha made a rather remarkable speech. Egypt, he told his hearers, had emerged victorious from a political battle, winning objective advantages, without any engagement limiting her future action; she had not accepted the conditions attached by the British to her independence, and there would be a great difference between the guarantees demanded and those retained by Great Britain. As the oration appeared to have something of the character of an electioneering speech, it may not be necessary to examine these phrases too closely; but they can hardly fail to cause surprise. Sarwat Pasha has certainly a difficult task before him, as the reception of this particular speech demonstrates. For certain references by him to the value of opposition have given rise to a good deal of pointed comment by a section of the Cairo Press; and a tendency is manifesting itself to demand that the elaboration of the Constitution shall not be concluded until Parliament has been elected and given a chance to make its views known. It appears, however, that the Moderates are nevertheless making headway in the country, while the Extremists have lost another prominent member in Ali Bey Maher.

A Gallipoli Canal?

In a letter to the *Morning Post* a retired officer of the Royal Engineers gives some particulars of a scheme proposed by him to Lord Kitchener at the time of the Gallipoli campaign, for the cutting of a canal from the Gulf of Saros to the Sea of Marmara. As he remarks, the existence of such a canal would greatly help towards a solution of the question of the administration of the Dardanelles. Lord Kitchener, the writer states, was greatly interested in the proposal, and regretted that it had not gone before him before he advised the evacuation of Gallipoli; and the Admiralty regarded the scheme as practicable and feasible. Moreover, he was actually able to provide Lord Kitchener with an undertaking from a leading firm of contractors to execute the work in two months if the necessary protection could be afforded during construction. The cost of the canal he estimates at £2,000,000. The advantages of such a scheme are obvious, and it is most probable that they have been considered by the Allies in connection with their Paris proposals. In these days the physical difficulties may be ignored, and the real obstacles in the way of constructing such a canal would be, of course political considerations. But political, like physical,

difficulties can be overcome, and it would be interesting to have the scheme discussed, and to see who supported and who opposed it.

India in Parliament.

The House of Commons devoted a portion of last week to Indian affairs, first in the course of a miscellaneous debate on the Consolidated Fund Bill, and then on a formal resolution authorising further sterling loans for railway equipment. Lord Winterton, the new Under-Secretary, made a satisfactory début, but the bowling he had to meet was not of a very high class. Lancashire talked of cotton-duties, and Labour showed itself anxious for Indian custom; everything that was said on these topics had been said frequently before, and the official answers were necessarily of the familiar type; but it is well to take note of the formal announcement that the recent change in personnel at Whitehall has involved no change in the Indian policy of the Government. We trust that this declaration will allay the nervousness which was produced in Indian political circles by the news of Mr. Montagu's retirement; advices by the last mail show that the immediate effect was greater than the cable suggested, and Lord Winterton's unqualified statement that the policy laid down in 1919 will be carried out in the spirit and the letter ought to serve as a tonic to the spirits of those who feared that their efforts for the success of the Reforms were about to be thrown away.

The Viceroy's Council.

One of the first acts of the India Office under its new chief was to issue a list of appointments, some of which have been considerably delayed. The confirmation of Mr. Innes as Commerce Member of the Viceroy's Council did not come as a surprise, for he had been acting successfully in the post for several months, and there were no very obvious competitors. Sir William Vincent's appointment to the Council in Whitehall as soon as his Indian service terminates is in accordance with the declared policy of keeping that body up-to-date, for, after five years' charge of the home department, and a term as leader of the Legislative Assembly, he will be able to tell his colleagues anything they want to know. Interest now centres on the choice of Sir William's successor. The Home Member is, next to the Viceroy, the most important wheel in the administrative machine and it has been said that he can do more harm than anyone in India, though there are perhaps two or three appointments which offer greater chances of doing good. India cannot afford many mistakes at the present juncture, and we hope the authorities will on this occasion play for safety.

The New Governor of Bihar.

The long delay in appointing a successor to Lord Sinha as Governor of Bihar and Orissa has been taken in this country to indicate that the post was being hawked about among the junior ranks of the peerage, and if there be any foundation for that suggestion, we are not surprised that the effort should have failed. Properly speaking, the charge is not a province, but only a congeries of sample districts; there is no common tradition, and as yet there are few signs of any community of feeling, while the Legislative Council has so far been a rather grotesque institution. The choice of Sir Henry Wheeler, now Member of the Bengal Council, to fill the vacancy strikes us as a happy one. At present it is a thankless post, but Bengal has given him small thanks

for his admirable work there, and if he can build up a province out of the very raw materials now placed at his disposal, his work will deserve cordial recognition, and may even secure it.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Monday Evening.

Genoa and Westminster.

Mr. Lloyd George is making his great speech in the House this afternoon on the vote of confidence in himself. It is being boomed and denounced in advance in the daily Press; I have no doubt that it will be a success—of a kind. But only, as Einstein would say, of a relative kind; the path of light—if one may so call the Prime Minister—has again been deflected by gravitation in the shape of the Conservative Party.

The original resolution has been modified, or as the unkind would say, watered down in the Cabinet discussions of the last few days; the Conservatives would not stand it as originally drafted. From the fact that Mr. Lloyd George has accepted these modifications it is clear that he is entirely set on his Genoa policy. His admirers say that he believes in the reconstruction of Europe even at the cost of party advantage at home; his detractors declare that he is ambitious enough to think that he can make terms with Russia and Germany, that he has an insane or perverted desire to meet Lenin, and that he will make party capital out of his success in the end when he comes home, and use the Conference as the winning card at a General Election in May.

All this, of course, is pure speculation; and since I am the only journalist in London who is not in the full secrets of Mr. Lloyd George's conscience and calculations, I cannot give any decided opinion. I can only say that to all appearance he prefers the chance of a real agreement in Europe to the certainty of party strife at home. He may fail at Genoa; it is unlikely that his success will be complete. But I doubt if either success or failure there will make very much difference to party prospects in the constituencies. The fact is that public opinion is not at the moment deeply exercised over foreign affairs, and I am not altogether inclined to blame it. We are denounced for merely shrugging our shoulders over Russia; but what else can the average man do? The Paris negotiations over the Near East excited no general interest; and for the rest, foreign affairs remain a kaleidoscopic mystery. England is at present more interested in domestic and economic problems, and wages and prices; and with two million unemployed and money tight everywhere and a re-emergence of the strike feeling, there is something to be said for this "parish pump" attitude of mind.

By-Elections and Finance.

The Government lost the by-election at Leicester, consequent on Sir Gordon Hewart becoming Lord Chief Justice. It has been represented as a great victory for Labour, but in fact Leicester had been a Labour seat for years, until 1918, and it has now merely reverted to its old allegiance. The really interesting fact about the election was that the Independent Liberal candidate was again at the bottom of the poll. The "Wee Frees" have plenty of money, and they are seeking carpet-bag candidates from the Temple and elsewhere for the General Election; but neither cash nor carpet-bags can secure them votes in the present position.

It is thought by some people that the forthcoming Budget, which may knock a shilling off the income-tax, will do good to the Government prospects. It is quite true that the financial year ends with a surplus—a surprising recovery after the depression of the coal strike, the failure of the Excess Profits Duty, and the stagnation in trade. But the outlook for next year is not particularly hopeful.

E.P.D. has now vanished. Income-tax (which has been paid in many cases this year by an overdraft on the bank) will not yield so much next year, under the three years' system. The Corporation Profits Tax has

only produced half the anticipated amount, and some part of the surplus is due to the rise in gilt-edged securities, which is in turn merely due to the stagnation of industry.

There is no room for unqualified optimism in the Treasury position. A reduction of the Income Tax would probably be a good thing, because we are at present rather overtaxed, and any reduction would help a little towards a general revival. But the situation would still remain an anxious one. And the idea that the voter will roll up to support the Government because the income-tax is only five and not six shillings in the pound grossly overrates the gratitude of the ordinary man towards his rulers. He takes any reduction of taxation as less than his proper deserts, and votes, or does not vote, according to his inclinations.

The New Irish Agreement.

The best news of the week is undoubtedly that an agreement has been concluded between the two Irish Governments to cease belabouring each other. At the invitation of Mr. Churchill, whose influence in politics is growing steadily and quietly, Sir James Craig and Messrs. Griffiths and Collins met at the Colonial Office, and an honourable accommodation was arranged between Belfast and Dublin. This does not, of course, necessarily mean that their followers will consent to agree, or to refrain from throwing bombs at one another; but at any rate it is something considerable that the two Governments in Ireland should no longer bite their thumbs at each other.

It must not be imagined, however, that the future is settled for good and all by this pact; indeed, there are some who interpret it as an indication of the real weakness of the Irish Provisional Government. These pessimists suggest that Messrs. Griffiths and Collins were the more ready to come to terms with Ulster because they are increasingly conscious of their own weakness. There are still far too many outrages in the South; the Provisional Government has little real power to suppress murder or arson, which still continue, and pure terrorism like the destruction of the *Freeman's Journal* offices in the capital for daring to criticise the Republicans is an indication of moral weakness on one side and physical weakness on the other.

De Valera remains as a sphinx in the background, neither approving nor condemning these outrages; which must be accepted as meaning that he approves. He has, of course, a good many devoted followers, but it is doubtful whether he has a majority of Irish opinion behind him. But in Ireland moral courage is not conspicuous in politics; even the Roman Church, which is in favour of the Treaty, has havered about it, lest it should offend the Republicans.

The Engineering Stoppage.

The lockout of engineers continues, and the negotiations give no indication of an early settlement. The discussions between the parties have been published in part, but they are not too easy to follow; the general impression is that the men are quite as reasonable in their attitude as the masters.

Judges and Politics.

An interesting debate took place in the House of Lords last week. The Lord Chancellor criticised his old friend, Lord Carson, for his political utterances since he became a Lord of Appeal, and pointed out that he had broken the unwritten law which prevents a judge from intervening in politics. Lord Carson retorted by saying that he preferred his honour to his interest, which was not exactly the point; he was nearer the mark in pointing out the anomaly—the recognised anomaly—of the highest judicial officer, the Lord Chancellor, being an active party politician. Lord Birkenhead frankly admitted this, but at the same time stated that this is a traditional anomaly, whereas Lord Carson has broken a tradition.

The sense of the House and the country was on the whole with the Lord Chancellor, and it is probable that the time will come when the Chancellor himself will become increasingly a judicial rather than a political

personage. The double duties of the existing post are in fact too heavy even for the present holder, who is an extraordinarily vigorous young man of fifty; it is notorious that some older Lord Chancellors in the past have simply not discharged their duties punctually—although they have drawn their salaries promptly—with the result of grave embarrassment and delays in judicial work. Lord Birkenhead cannot be reproached on that score, but he has found the strain too great, and was compelled last week to apply for a month's leave of absence, in order to restore his eyes, which have suffered from overwork.

Cambridge Wins Easily.

I do not know whether the usual crowds saw the boatrace; there was an icy tweak in the east wind that was discouraging, and when it began to snow after lunch I decided that the club fire was better for my digestion than Barnes Bridge. Oxford lost her never very great chance of winning when one of her men strained himself at practice during the week; but the crew put up a good fight, and spurted occasionally, but Cambridge got home by four and a half lengths. The time—19 minutes, 27 seconds—was quite good, and opinion seemed unanimous that it was a better race than the actual result suggests; but from the frozen noses of the spectators who assured me that I had missed what was well worth seeing, I am not sorry that I preferred the less courageous part.

M. Coué and the Dean.

Fashionable London, which always loves a new craze, went mad last week over the visit of M. Coué, a French professor of the celebrated psychological school of Nancy. Auto-suggestion is his theme, and he advocates that everybody who is suffering from some real or imaginary complaint should say every morning before they get up: "Everyday, in every respect, I am getting better and better and better." If this is said twenty times in succession every morning—the numbers can be counted by a sort of rosary—it will result in an improvement, according to M. Coué; but he denies that he can work miracles—a power that has been seriously claimed for him by some of the more fervent believers. Perhaps that is the most curious aspect of the whole business; it shows that superstition is still not very far below the surface even among educated people, and that most of us still prefer the marvellous or supernatural explanation to the rational.

Dean Inge, who has just had a bout with Mr. G. K. Chesterton on eugenics—in which both parties thoroughly enjoyed themselves over the tuberculosis of John Keats—has vigorously attacked M. Coué, whose appearance he ascribed to the same father of lies that produced Bolshevism, Christian Science, and other evils. This is rather hard measure for the little Frenchman, although it seems to have annoyed that foolish and obscure sect, the Christian Scientists, beyond measure. But all's fair in love and war, and most things are fair in controversy. The Dean has never used such sulphurous language towards his opponents as I recently heard used about him by a High Church padre. It is true that this was in private conversation, but it gave one an inkling of what volcanic fires may still lurk beneath the Cassock.

The Loom of Youth.

The industrial depression, combined with the cuts in the Army, Navy, and Civil Service, has again brought

up the old vexed question—"What shall we do with our sons?"—and *The Times* has been publishing letters from schoolmasters, heads of colleges, eminent bachelors, and even from unfortunate parents, on the subject. Everybody seems to agree that the professions are overcrowded; a barrister informs me that not one in twenty of his kind is making a living; a Harley Street specialist told me the other day that surgical fees have dropped badly, and that the most eminent surgeons are now glad to remove one's appendix almost for a mere song; while as to the Church, its prospects are worse than either law or medicine. An editor, too, assures me that the quantity of young fellows trying to enter journalism is only equalled by the bad quality of the wares they are trying to sell; the schools of journalism turn these folk out by the hundred, and the tables of editors groan under the plentitude of manuscripts, not one in a hundred of which can be used.

But the big business houses do not want recruits at the moment any more than the professions; they are full up with ex-Service men, who rightly and properly have precedence. The exceptional boy, of course, is all right; the boy with influence can generally find a niche somewhere; but the mere ordinary boy is in for a bad time for the next year or two, until things revive.

The only comfort—if it is a comfort—is that the outlook for girls is even worse. Apart from domestic service, where the demand is greater than the supply, and teaching, where women have things pretty much their own way, the prospects are hopeless. Two or three women have been called to the bar, but one or two barristers with whom I have discussed the subject, and men with no suspicion of sex-antagonism, inform me that there is not much prospect of many women barristers making their way. The Church, of course, is barred to the more religious sex; while as for medicine, only a few will survive in this field. "The average man," said a busy medico to me the other day, "will not go to a woman doctor on any terms, nor does she expect him to do so; and the average woman would sooner trust a man than a woman. The first consideration automatically reduces their chances fifty per cent; the second probably some thirty per cent. It is unjust, for women doctors are quite good, but one cannot fight the prejudices of the lay public."

The Week's Books.

Those who wish to know "what to do with our sons" will not discover much encouragement to take up politics as a profession from "The Prime Ministers of Britain 1721-1921" (Murray) by the Hon. Clive Bigham. Nowhere is the competition to get to the top more keen and merciless; out of many thousand members of Parliament only 36 have become Prime Ministers in two centuries. From a statistical examination of the careers of past heads of the Government, Mr. Bigham concludes that the average Prime Minister is born heir to a peerage, educated at Eton and Oxford, enters the House at 25, marries at 29, and obtains his first appointment at 32. At 48 he enters the House of Lords, at 50 becomes Prime Minister, and dies at 70. But this calculation is weighted with the burden of the aristocratic traditions of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Mr. Lloyd George was born heir to nothing, was educated at a national school, and has never been in the House of Lords.

"Edward Carpenter: The Man and His Message" (Jonathan Cape) by Tom Swan, is an appreciation of the well-known writer whose reputation is growing with the years, with many quotations. As an introduction to Carpenter's teaching, it is very well done.

Lovers of Anatole France will be grateful for another volume—"On Life and Letters"—in the fine English translation which Mr. John Lane has been publishing for some years. The vogue of the great French ironist continues to increase in England.

The author of "Sonia" has published a new novel—"The Confession of a Well-Meaning Woman" (Cassell). I have not read it, but the reviewers seem agreed that Mr. McKenna's hand has not lost its cunning.

Continued.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

From Our Own Correspondents.

EGYPT.

Cairo, March 18.

The Sultan Becomes King.

The event of the week has been the proclamation of Sultan Fuad as King of Egypt, following on the ratification by Parliament of the proposals transmitted to him by the Cabinet. His Highness (or rather His Majesty as he must henceforward be styled) made the announcement to his people in a rescript addressed to H.E. Abdel Khaled Pasha Sarwat, the Prime Minister; and the proclamation was read publicly throughout the country and celebrated by salutes of a hundred and one guns fired at Cairo, Alexandria, Port Said and Aswan, and at Khartoum. Yesterday King Fuad attended the Friday prayer at the Mohamed Aly Mosque, thus following the example of previous sovereigns of Egypt on the first Friday following their accession or any great national event, and this morning he held a review of the Egyptian Army, at which the troops acclaimed him King of Egypt. Next Monday there will be a great reception at the Abdin Palace, and the day will be kept as a public holiday throughout the country.

The foreign Diplomatic and Consular Corps have now been officially advised by the Residency and the Egyptian Government that Egypt is independent and a Sovereign State. They will no doubt wait for confirmation from their respective Governments, but from now onwards their relations with the Egyptian Government will be directly with the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and not through the Residency as has been the case since December, 1914.

It is difficult at this short interval to gauge public opinion in regard to the change. There have been hostile demonstrations, mainly in Cairo, and in each case directly attributable to incitement of the mob by Zaghloulist and Khedivist agents; but beyond these there has been no outward expression of opinion. The fact that the Sultan would take the title of King had been known for some time. Considerable surprise has, however, been expressed everywhere that the moment chosen for this should not have been when the new Constitution, by which His Highness would divest himself of certain of his prerogatives, was promulgated. There may, of course, be some very good reason for making the proclamation now, and not waiting until the new Constitution is ready.

Another attempt on an Englishman.

Another attempted assassination of an Englishman took place this week, McIntosh Bey, Locomotive Works Manager of the Egyptian State Railways, being shot through the shoulder as he was walking to his house from the station at Zeitoun. McIntosh Bey had received a threatening letter a few days before this attempt, telling him that unless he retired at once he would be shot. He was, therefore, prepared in a way, and carried his revolver handy, but he was shot in the shoulder before he was able to fire; and owing to the wound, which fortunately has not proved very serious, his three shots missed his assailants—who as usual were two men in *galabeas*—and they made good their escape.

The fact that several of the Englishmen attacked recently have belonged to the Railways, where they have under their orders large numbers of men who have to be very firmly handled, has been adduced by certain people as proof that the motive for the attacks on Englishmen which have been so repeatedly chronicled during the past few weeks is personal and not political. It must, however, not be overlooked that the majority of the workers in the Railway workshops are a very rough element recruited from the lowest social stratum. Temperamentally they constitute far easier material than the purely student class to manipulate for political purposes and the perpetration of acts of violence. Quickly worked up to the required pitch, and ordered

to shoot an Englishman, it would be only natural that they would select as their victims men whose daily habits are known to them and whom they could more easily entrap rather than go out in the streets and wait for some stray Englishman to pass. Combining this with the facts that the other Englishmen who have been attacked have not been connected with the Railways and that it has been impossible to discover the existence of any personal grudge against them, it is clear that all these attacks have had a purely political object; and the opinion is gaining ground that the Wafd is not only responsible for the daily troubles which are occurring in Cairo, but is also behind the organisation carrying out these cowardly attacks.

The Anglo-American Hospital.

Information reached here this week that the British Red Cross had offered a contribution of L.E. 50,000 to the fund which had been opened for the erection of a British Hospital in Cairo. This hospital, it may be remembered, was to take the place of the existing Anglo-American Hospital which had been found to be inadequate for the needs of the rapidly growing British community. Latterly, owing to the change in the political situation, which foreshadows if not a reduction at any rate little further increase in the British community, it was decided to abandon the scheme for a new hospital and to concentrate on extending and improving the Anglo-American Hospital, to enable it to meet the possible future requirements of the Anglo-Saxon community. It is much to be hoped, therefore, that the offer which the British Red Cross has made to the British Hospital scheme will hold good for the new project. Apart from the fact that the maintenance of a properly run British hospital is essential to British prestige in Egypt, where France, Austria and Italy all have their own institutions, the Anglo-American Hospital rendered invaluable assistance to the Army during the War, often at loss to itself; and this grant would be in the nature of a recognition of the services rendered to the Allied cause not only by that institution but also by the Anglo-Saxon community for which its existence is vital.

The Sudan Irrigation Works.

Next week Sir Lee Stack, Governor-General of the Sudan, leaves for London, in order to discuss the question of the loan for the Sudan development works. I understand that as a result of further enquiries made recently on the spot all the circles interested in the financing of the Sudan are now satisfied that the projects are sound, not only from the technical but also from the financial and economic point of view. It only remains for the lines along which the work shall from now onwards be executed to be decided, and as soon as this is settled it is expected that the necessary money will be provided for completing the Blue Nile works which have temporarily been slowed down. Sir Lee Stack will deal with the broad lines of the loan in London, but Sir Edgar Bernard, the Financial Secretary, who will follow him shortly, will settle all the details; and we can confidently expect a satisfactory conclusion in this respect during the coming summer.

Cairo, March 5.

Monday was a gala day in Cairo in honour of Egyptian Independence. It was a general holiday, all business houses were closed, and most shops were shut. The King held a reception in the morning, which attracted one of the largest attendances recorded of late years. The scene in and round Abdin Palace throughout the morning was a very brilliant one. Large deputations came up from the provinces, and an interesting feature was the spontaneous manner in which after the reception the provincial notables proceeded straight to Adly Pasha's house in order to thank him for the part he had played in bringing about the change in status. These

notables also visited Sarwat Pasha, who made them speeches in which he called upon them not necessarily to support him personally but to support the policy he represented, which he considered was in the interest of the whole country.

In the afternoon Her Majesty the Queen held a reception for the Diplomatic Corps and the ladies of the European colonies, and in the evening the city was profusely lit up, the most striking illuminations being those at Abdin Palace, the Station, and the Royal Opera House.

It is a matter of much regret that on an occasion of such national importance one should have to record unpleasant incidents which occurred during the morning. It was well-known that the Wafd would try to create trouble, and precautions were accordingly taken to protect the route to and from the Palace. The objects of the attention of the mob, who were led by agents of the Wafd, were the provincial notables, whom they attacked as they came from the Palace, in the same manner as they attacked those who went to greet Adly Pasha on his return from London last December.

The Police and the Egyptian Cavalry did exceedingly good work, but the Egyptian Infantry behaved in a most deplorable manner, fraternising with the crowds and standing by unmoved, and even applauding, when the notables, many of them old men, were attacked in their carriages as they passed.

All this took place within sight of the Hotels, where the balconies were crowded with tourists, and the impression made on them was a most unfortunate one. To the credit of the Cabinet it should be added that as soon as the facts became known it took immediate action. An Egyptian Army Court of Enquiry was constituted, and has started work; and the Cabinet is determined to inflict exemplary punishment on the officers and men concerned.

The New Budget.

In addition to the statistical details which are discussed on another page, the new Budget shows one or two features which are indicative of the new régime. The resuscitation of the Foreign Affairs Portfolio has naturally entailed an increase in the Foreign Affairs budget, while a separate account has been opened for the offices of the Financial and Judicial Advisers, whose budgets have hitherto been included in departmental estimates, but whose offices are now detached from the Central Administration and will henceforward be entirely separate. The most important feature is, however, the absence of the signature of the Financial Adviser from among the members of the Finance Committee, whose explanatory note accompanies the budget statement. The retirement of the Financial Adviser from that Committee is a corollary of his abstention from attendance at the Council of Ministers and of his resuming the purely advisory duties with which his post was originally invested.

Generally speaking, the financial situation as revealed by the new Budget and by the figures so far published for the year which closes on the 31st instant, appears to have undergone vast improvement. It is anticipated that the surplus which will replace the anticipated deficit for 1921-1922 will not be less than two-and-half millions, which means that at the opening of the new financial year the Government will have at its disposal a reserve of not less than six millions, which will certainly stand it in good stead in dealing with the problems confronting it.

This return to a satisfactory state of things financially has been effected by adherence to a policy of strict economy and of steady expansion of the revenue resources of the country. The Egyptian Government will do well to adhere to this policy for some time to come, otherwise it will not be able to meet the many heavy calls for capital expenditure on development work that are pending, nor the demand for credits in connection with the extension of the existing, and the creation of new, services rendered necessary by the new status which the country has acquired.

The Bomb Conspiracy.

The conspiracy trial, which has been before a British Military Court for over a fortnight, was concluded yesterday. In this case five men, *i.e.*, four students and one ex-servant of the Wafd El Masri (Egyptian Delegation) were accused of conspiracy in that, as members of a society having assassination amongst its objects, they conspired with each other and with a certain doctor, who is still missing, to kill by means of bombs and firearms His Excellency Abdel Khalek Sarwat Pasha, the Prime Minister, and Selim Effendi Zalki, the Head of the Secret Police. It may be remembered that about two months ago two attaché cases containing six bombs were discovered in this connection.

The prosecution produced evidence of the existence of a "Society for the National Defence" which proposed to obtain by all possible means the satisfaction of its demands. These demands included the complete independence of the whole Nile Valley from source to mouth, the repatriation of Zaghloul Pasha and his companions from the Seychelles, the release of Abdel Rahman Fahmy Bey and others who were sentenced in the famous "Vengeance Society" case, and the establishment of an international court consisting of Egyptians and foreigners to enquire into the case of those people who were sentenced in connection with the Alexandria riots.

The Society was organised into a number of committees, one to destroy by arson and other violent means all English and Government properties, one to shoot prominent Egyptians and British soldiers and officials as a revenge for Egyptians killed during recent events, one for obtaining bombs and arms from abroad, and others for boycotting British trade and organising strikes.

There were over thirty witnesses, the most important of whom was an informer who had been a member of the Society and had been chosen to carry out the assassination of the Prime Minister, and who gave previous information to the authorities and enabled them to track down the conspiracy. The case against one of the students was withdrawn during the trial, and yesterday the Court acquitted another student and, calling for evidence as to character on behalf of the other two students and the servant of the Wafd, intimated thereby that it had found them guilty. The sentences will be promulgated in the course of next week as soon as the Commander-in-Chief has examined the papers.

Port Said, March 20.

Last week the P. and O. s.s. 'Naldera' arrived here on her way out to Australia. Among the passengers who disembarked at Port Said were Lord and Lady Milner who are on their way up to Palestine for a pleasure trip. Lord and Lady Lytton were also on board, the former of whom is going out to India as Governor of Bengal.

As evidence of the increasing tranquillity of Trans-Jordania it may be noted that Mr. Forder has just passed through here on his way to Amman, where he will open a new branch of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank.

The news of Egypt's Independence was received here without any violent demonstrations of joy. People ate and smoked, and cabmen continued to lash their horses at ten to fifteen second intervals in the same old way as when they were ground down under the galling slavery of the British Protectorate. Perhaps some of the more thoughtful Egyptians may realize that, after all, the English Inspector who came round at uncertain intervals, and asked uncomfortable and awkward questions of officials, was of some use in keeping things moderately correct, and that the blessed word Independence, which appears to bring such comfort to so many Egyptians, is not always the "open sesame" to all the delights of Paradise.

The chief item of interest in the town, which may or may not have any connection with Independence is that the Post Office clock has started again and appears to show the correct time. It is thought that possibly the Railway Administration will not like to be behind the

Post Office authorities, and will get the Station clock going too, for both have been out of action for some years.

GREECE.

Athens, March 25.

How the Government was Saved.

Although the Gounaris Government succeeded in obtaining the support of 164 out of the 303 deputies who were present at the sitting of the National Assembly last Saturday, it has certainly no reason to congratulate itself on its Pyrrhic victory. It was the extreme seriousness of the exterior situation alone that saved M. Gounaris from a second collapse. All the anti-Venizelist groups which, with the assistance of the eight-five Liberal deputies, had, a week previously, forced the Government to resign, declared that a new ministerial crisis at a time when the fate of the entire nation was discussed by the three Allied Powers, would be disastrous. Instead therefore of blackballing the new Government, they unanimously decided to abstain from voting, while the Mussulman deputies forming part of the group of Independent anti-Venizelists, did not even appear at the sitting of the Chamber. A second crisis was thus averted, but anyone can see that the life of the new Cabinet will be very short.

The Armistice Terms.

The Allied Note with regard to the conclusion of an armistice on the Asia Minor front was handed to the Greek Government by the Allied representatives on Thursday morning. Shortly afterwards the Minister of War, M. Theotokis, proceeded to the Royal Palace and acquainted His Majesty with the armistice conditions set forth by the Allies. At 4 o'clock in the afternoon a Council of Ministers was held, at which it was decided to invite the Greek Commander-in-Chief in Asia Minor to come to Athens. On General Papoulas' arrival a second Council of Ministers will be held in his presence and the nature of Greece's reply will then be

definitely decided upon. As the General is expected in Athens to-day, it is quite possible that the reply will be handed to the Allied Representative before tomorrow evening. It is generally believed here that this will be in the affirmative; at the same time, however, it is anticipated that the Greek High Command will propose a slight modification of the second article of the Allied conditions. Meanwhile rumours are current here to the effect that Mustapha Kemal has rejected the armistice terms.

Turkish Officers set Free.

At the request of the Hellenic Red Cross Society the Government has authorised the release of all Turkish Sanitary Officers taken prisoners by the Greeks since the commencement of operations in Asia Minor. Twenty-six of them have already left for Constantinople. Prior to their departure the liberated Turkish Officers were received by the Administrative Council of the Hellenic Red Cross. They then visited the Evangelismos and Syggros hospitals, also the Acropolis and other places of interest in the city. In the afternoon they were entertained to tea by their Greek colleagues.

M. George Brandes.

The well-known Danish critic and Professor of Philosophy, M. George Brandes, who is spending a few weeks in Athens, was yesterday proclaimed *doctor honoris causa* of Athens University. The ceremony took place in the large reception room of the University in the presence of the Crown Prince, Prince Nicolas, the Minister of Education, M. Polygenis, the Professors of Athens University, and many students.

Miscellaneous News.

General Danglis has been elected "Director" of the Liberal Party. Despite M. Venizelos' declaration to the effect that he has irrevocably decided to retire altogether from politics, his adherents still consider him their chief.

The Italian steamer 'Abazzia,' which was captured last week by a Greek destroyer and conveyed to Salamis, has been released and is leaving to-day for Mersina. It appears that the Greek Government was forced to comply with the demands of the Italian Government, the latter threatening to send a fleet to the Piræus. Though undoubtedly contraband of war, the cargo has been returned to the Italians. There were also a number of Kemalist officers on board the 'Abazzia' who have been allowed to continue their journey.

The French steamer 'Espoir' was released last week. The coal was confiscated, but Greece has agreed to indemnify France.

ALBANIA.

Tirana, March 22.

The General Position.

As I write these lines, peace has come back to the little capital of Albania, to this town of Tirana, now so pleasant with its gardens, its verdure, and its trees in blossom. With Nature so beautiful and harmonious one asks oneself with astonishment whether it is true that this place has been the theatre of a drama, the scene of tragic fighting. Apart from five burned houses, the *débris* of which is still smouldering, there is nothing to indicate the passage of the storm. Now, after three days of death, life has returned. Everybody is going about his own affairs, looking with curiosity at the holes in the walls made by rifle bullets.

Is this a real and deep peace, or does the fire yet lurk in the embers? The near future will answer that question, though evil things are foretold for this country, in which passions are so easily loosed and fired.

The Facts of the Situation.

My readers are acquainted already—by my letter of March 10—with the personages in the drama which has been played in Albania. First of all, there is Bairam Tsurri, chieftain of Yakova, a kindly old warrior. As I told you in my last letter, this man lacks nothing in intelligence or in good sense, and he was perhaps sincere when he placed himself at the head of a movement the aim of which was the forcing of new legislative elections and the convocation of a Constituent Assembly. Bairam

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Tsuri acted thus in the belief that he was fulfilling the unanimous desire of the people. But as soon as the inhabitants of Scutari notified him that they did not share his opinions, Bairam renounced his enterprise and remained peaceful in the North. He went no farther than this, and all that the European Press has published concerning him is false.

But besides Bairam Tsuri there are two other chiefs, Halid Lleshi and Elez Youssuf.

Halid Lleshi is reputed the agent of Serbia, as he was the agent of Essad Pasha. Lleshi is an officer in the Serbian Reserve, and his supporters are recruited in Yugoslav territory. With two hundred men he marched, on March 6, from the banks of the Drin on Elbasan, but he encountered two companies in a skirmish which took place thirteen kilometres north-east of the town of Elbasan. Halid Lleshi was defeated and pursued as far as the frontier, which he crossed, seeking refuge in Serbian territory. (This is the explanation of the Serbian telegraphic *communiqués* announcing the violation of the neutral zone: in reality they meant the refuge accorded by the Serbian authorities to the rebels). According to the custom of the country, Halid Lleshi was exiled to the interior of Albania.

On the other hand, while Halid Lleshi and his band were defeated, there appeared on the scene Elez Youssuf, chief of the mountains of Dibra, supported by three hundred men. On March 7 this force met a small Company in the plain of Kroya. The commander of the Albanian gendarmerie, Major Melez Frasheri, was twice wounded, finally falling dead on the field of battle, and his soldiers were routed in face of the superior numbers of the rebels. On the following day Elez Youssuf and his men fortified themselves in a quarter of Tirana. The capital was depleted of its troops, who had been sent to Elbasan and to Kroya. However, Ahmed Zogolli, Minister of the Interior, and Spiro Koleka, Minister of Public Works, organised a plan of defence, while the President of the Council and two of the Ministers retired to Elbasan. It is therefore an exaggeration to say that the Government quitted the capital.

The fight in Tirana itself lasted fifteen hours; meanwhile reinforcements were coming to the assistance of the Government. On both sides there were killed, five houses were burned, and more blood would have been shed but for the wisdom and the moderation shown by Mr. Eyres, the British Minister. Thanks to his personal and friendly action Elez Youssuf asked pardon of the Albanian authorities, made his submission, surrendered his arms, and withdrew, promising never again to meddle in politics. This submission avoided much spilling of blood both in Tirana and in the country. To judge by the appearance and the talk of Elez Youssuf, one would have said that he was a sincere man who had acted under a wild impulse, thinking to render service to his country, and it should be emphasized that this chief comes from the regions devastated by the Serbian Army in 1920 and in 1921.

However, even with Halid Lleshi and Elez Youssuf both out of the way, the danger was not yet over.

Events at Durazzo.

There remained another source of trouble in Albania, namely Durazzo and the small town of Shiak, between Durazzo and Tirana. While the Government was engaged at Tirana, Hamid Toptani and Omer Shiaku were endeavouring to make themselves masters of these two towns. These two men had both been implicated in the Essadist movement of June 1920, for which they were arrested and imprisoned in the fortress of Argyrocastro, where they remained for a year and whence they gained their liberty only owing to the general amnesty. It seems that their lesson had been of no use to them, and they dreamed of revenging themselves upon the Government. However, their resources were feeble, for Ahmed Zogolli entered Shiak and Durazzo without striking a blow and without meeting any resistance. Hamid Toptani, Omer Shiaku, and twelve of their supporters betook themselves on an Italian vessel, to seek refuge in Italy.

This was the last episode in the nightmare which failed to overthrow Albania. The Government remained victorious, and so saved the national and nationalist idea, and, too, the idea of political independence.

The Attitude of the Country.

This movement has caused much perturbation. The Government was within an inch of being overthrown, and the success was due to several factors, first of which was the loyalty shown by the troops, both soldiers and gendarmes, then the courage of the officers, and finally the loyalty of the Albanian towns—Scutari, Elbasan, and so on—and that of the inhabitants of the country—(Malissors, Puka and so forth).

It is worthy of note that the conduct of Mirdita was blameless, and its inhabitants not only took no part against the Government; they rather adopted a frankly loyal attitude.

Without ranging myself wholly on their side I will mention that the optimists think that this affair will have a salutary effect and will consolidate peace; they believe that the letting of blood will have done good.

The Guilty Punished.

A Council of War has been constituted and a state of siege proclaimed. Several men have been arrested and sent to the fortress of Argyrocastro, and the principal rebels have been condemned to death and executed at Durazzo.

Italian Journals and Some Rumours.

The *Idea Nazionale* of Rome, the *Gazette di Puglia* of Bari, as well as other Italian journals have openly declared that in the last troubles of Albania Italian influence has been at work: if the movement had succeeded and the Government had been overthrown, Italian policy would have achieved a victory in Albania.

On the other hand there is a rumour that M. Perigoni, the Consular Agent for Italy at Scutari, said that Italy has in this movement played her last card.

The British Minister.

Since his arrival in this country a year ago, first as Consul, then as Minister Plenipotentiary of Great Britain, Mr. Eyres has won the hearts of all Albanians by his courtesy and integrity. The firm attitude and wise counsels which he adopted in the recent events have very considerably enhanced his popularity.

The Reply of Yugoslavia.

An official despatch from the Serbian Minister for Foreign Affairs, addressed to the Albanian Foreign Minister, states that the Government of Yugoslavia has just decided to recognize officially *de jure* the Government of Albania and that diplomatic relations between the two countries will shortly be resumed. This news has created a very good impression at Tirana.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, March 24.

The Political Situation.

In view of the threatening attitude of the Opposition, the new Parliament, which is to be opened on Monday, March 27, does not appear to have a very good chance of entering upon an era of peaceful activity. The different parties of the Opposition, who acted more or less independently during the elections, now, exasperated by the alleged illegalities committed by the Administration at the poll are impelled by force of circumstances towards concerted action. The Transylvanians and the Tzaraniists—on the strength of their comparative success, despite the alleged obstacles at the elections—are the leading spirits of the Opposition. They have proclaimed that they do not acknowledge the legitimacy of the present Parliament, owing to its doubtful origin, and that much less do they credit it with the character of a "Constituante" intended to modify the Constitution of the country. The Opposition's future tactics are not yet clearly defined. Its leaders, however, have intimated that as soon as they have made their protests during the first sittings of Parliament, when the mandates will be validated, they will withdraw in a body and abstain from any further parliamentary activity; and after this they will not rest until they bring about

the dissolution of the present Parliament, to be followed by fresh elections, held under a neutral Government.

The Government, although feigning to be sure of its ground—thanks to its compact majority—cannot but feel somewhat uneasy at the stand taken by the entire Opposition; and in order to mitigate this hostile feeling, will probably show itself generous in allowing the annulment of a certain number of elections of its own party, thereby giving rise to a corresponding number of by-elections, at which the Opposition may succeed. The Government may further try to smoothe over matters by making concessions to the Transylvanians in order to gain their collaboration. In this connexion it is generally felt that the chances of such collaboration are very slight unless a radical change takes place in the leadership of the Liberal party. It is further rumoured that the Government will resort to one other means of bridging the present difficult situation, by making the first session a very short one, closing it shortly before the Easter holidays, and adjourning until the autumn. Into this first short session of about two weeks the Government intends to crowd—besides the validations and the debate on the King's Speech—the voting of a provisional budget and the House Rent Bill, as well as the ratification of a few Treaties which cannot be delayed any longer.

First Japanese Minister to Bucharest.

Viscount Nischi, the first Minister in Roumania for Japan, arrived in Bucharest on March 12, accompanied by the personnel of the new Legation. On March 19, His Excellency presented his Letters of Credence to the King. On this occasion he also, on behalf of the Mikado, handed the Grand Cordon of the Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum to the King and the Grand Cordon of the Japanese Crown to the Queen.

The new Japanese Minister was previously attached to the Legations of Berlin, Vienna, The Hague and Berne, and when the War broke out he was Counsellor to the Japanese Legation in Vienna, from which post he was transferred to Siam as Minister Plenipotentiary.

General News.

The Coronation festivities, which were fixed to take place on May 10, have been postponed to August 14, as the preparatory work in connection with these festivities cannot be completed in time.

General Cristescu, the Chief of the Roumanian General Staff, has issued an order by which by April 1 all men of the 1919 and 1920 class should be demobilized.

On Sunday, March 19, M. Skrzynski, the Polish Minister to Bucharest was received in audience by King Ferdinand, when the Order of the White Eagle was presented to the Sovereign by M. Skrzynski on behalf of M. Pilsudski, the President of the Polish Republic.

The Queen of Roumania has offered the Academy of Moral Science and Politics of Paris her new volume in French entitled "La Roumanie." M. Millerand, the President of the French Republic, was present when M. Raphael George Lewy presented the volume on behalf of Queen Marie. This book will figure in the place of honour at the Archives of the Academy as a sign of the ties that bind France and Roumania.

The first step in the demilitarisation of the Railways has been taken by abolishing the Military Commandants at all stations except those in Bessarabia.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, March 27.

Cabinet Misunderstandings.

The week has been full of political thrills culminating in a rather stupid practical joke. On the 22nd instant at the Sobranye, MM. Tourlakoff and Omartchevsky, Ministers of Finance and Education respectively, after having engaged in a short conversation with M. Stambolisky, took hurried leave of the Prime Minister, and later on in the day it was stated that these two Ministers had tendered their resignations. It seemed that M. Stambolisky wished to yield on certain points in connection with the dispute that has arisen between the Government and Sofia University, but that his colleagues said they

would not be parties to any concession. The following day the split had somewhat widened, and it was ascertained that the Cabinet was divided up into two groups each consisting of five Ministers, one group for and the other against concession. Next day, however, it was announced that the misunderstandings had been all removed. It appears that M. Stambolisky, after having seen the King, decided to allow MM. Tourlakoff and Omartchevsky to have their own way regarding the University dispute. On Friday the 24th MM. Theodoroff and Kostourkoff, leaders of the Obedinist and Radical parties, received telephone messages, purporting to emanate from the Royal Palace, stating that King Boris wanted to see them. The two gentlemen in question duly went to the Palace, only to find that the whole matter was a hoax and that the King had never sent for them. The Government Press made much fun of the incident, and a stranger arriving in Sofia at the end of last week, were he to have read the *Pobeda* or the *Zenledelsko Zname* would have imagined that the Government had resigned, and been succeeded by a Theodoroff-Kostourkoff Cabinet. The identity of the person who telephoned to MM. Theodoroff and Kostourkoff is not known, but it is surmised that he was an adherent of the Government.

The Near East Conference.

Telgrams from Paris state that the Allies have taken certain decisions relative to the Greek evacuation of Asia Minor and Eastern Thrace. So far there is no mention of Western Thrace. If the Conference at present being held at Paris breaks up without considering the question of Western Thrace, and without making any provision for granting Bulgaria an effective outlet to the Aegean, a great wrong will have been done. Bulgaria has not been allowed to state her case, and she is feeling sore regarding the way her claims have been ignored. The right of Bulgaria to have a free outlet to the Aegean has been stated so many times in these columns that it is not worth while repeating, but it should be realised that every day that passes without a just settlement being arrived at, makes a future settlement more difficult and makes Bulgaria doubt more and more the good faith of the Allies. The only clause of the Treaty of Neuilly which is favourable to Bulgaria is No. 48, i.e., that which deals with the economic outlet. This Clause the Allies have disregarded, whilst insisting that the other clauses, unfavourable to Bulgaria are carried out.

Prince Borghese's Declaration.

Prince Borghese, the Italian delegate on the Inter-Allied Commission, who is President for 1922, made the following declarations in the course of an interview which he granted to Miss Nelia Pavlova, correspondent of the Rome newspaper *Epoca*:—"I am in favour of a *rapprochement* between Italy and Bulgaria and having spent three years in Sofia can testify to two admirable traits of the Bulgarian character, namely love of work and sobriety. Nevertheless I feel bound to say that as regards Article 121 of the Treaty of Neuilly (this Article refers to the payment by Bulgaria of a 2½ milliard gold francs war indemnity), Bulgaria has up to the present and in spite of the time being overdue, done nothing to pay the money she owes. Bulgaria pleads an economic and financial crisis as an excuse for not paying. There are three ways of surmounting this crisis, first by reducing expenses, secondly by increasing production, and thirdly by securing the confidence of the Great Powers. As to Bulgaria's access to the Aegean Sea, I am in sympathy with Bulgarian hopes in this direction, but do not think it possible for her to obtain this access, without the support of the Allies. This support will only be forthcoming if it is proved that Bulgaria is really determined honestly to meet her Treaty obligations."

The declarations of Prince Borghese have been widely and for the most part unfavourably commented on in the Bulgarian Press, but it must be remembered that Italy is especially interested in the payment of reparations by Bulgaria, as the Italians are due to receive a considerably higher percentage than the other Great Powers.

Wrangel's Army.

General Wrangel is expected to arrive in Sofia from Belgrade tomorrow. The General is coming on a visit of inspection to the 17,000 men of his former Army who are now scattered over Bulgaria. Recently the question of Wrangel's Army has been receiving a certain amount of attention, largely owing to the attacks that the local Communists have levelled against it. The Communists declare that Wrangel's Army will be used as a tool by the Bourgeois parties with which to overthrow the Agrarian Government. By saying this the Communists hope to discredit Wrangel's Army, and at the same time draw closer themselves to the Agrarians.

Madame Karsavina.

The performance given by Madame Tamara Karsavina, the famous Russian ballerina, at the Free Theatre last week was an unqualified success. Madame Karsavina requested that the entire proceeds, less expenses, should be given to a fund that has as its object the maintenance of Russian refugee children in Bulgaria.

The substantial sum of 150,000 levas, which is nominally £6,000 but to-day only £230, was realized. This sum will assist very materially in maintaining the unfortunate refugees. The Free Theatre was crowded to the doors, many people being unable to gain admittance. Among the audience were to be noted Princess Eudoxie, the King's suite, several Ministers, the entire Corps Diplomatique, and almost all the notabilities of Sofia. The Programme, which was divided into two parts, consisted solely of dancing, and Madame Karsavina danced nine numbers, the majority of which were encored once or more times. Her rendering of Percy Grainger's "Shepherds Hey" was especially effective, whilst a Bulgarian "Mazurka" drew forth rounds on rounds of applause. The performance is considered to have been the greatest artistic success ever seen in Sofia.

A False Rumour.

A Press tleegram emanating from Vienna which stated that the Agrarian Government had been overthrown by the Bulgarian Military Party is absolutely false. It is thought that this telegram originated from sources hostile to Bulgaria.

IRAQ.

Baghdad, March 17.

Electoral Preparations.

Politically things have been remarkably quiet during the past fortnight, and but for one or two straws which show which way the wind is blowing one might easily believe that all parties were indulging in a complete holiday. There are, however, stray indications which show that preparations are on foot on a considerable scale for the elections to the National Assembly, which are expected to take place in the near future. The local vernacular papers declare that the electoral law is to be published in a day or two, and fill their columns with elementary treatises on the duties and responsibilities attaching to citizens of an independent state.

Tribesmen and Townsmen.

The publication of the electoral law has been long declared, owing, it is said, to its having to be made to conform to some of the clauses of the treaty which is to be concluded between Great Britain and Iraq. The delay has not, however, been altogether disadvantageous. It is only very recently that the tribal leaders have come to realise that they are very closely concerned with the result of the elections, and have begun to draw together with a view to forming a definite tribal party which shall receive the election of its own candidates and form a tribal *bloc* in the Assembly, able to voice tribal opinion in all matters which concern their interests. If they succeed a great step in the advancement of the country will have been made. One of the chief complaints made against the existing Government is that it is effendi-ridden and that the great majority of the officials are persons who are completely out of sympathy with the tribesmen and quite unable to appreciate their point of view. The formation of the tribal party will be a great

benefit to the country if it results in securing a hearing for the tribal point of view.

A 'National Party.'

On the other hand it is announced that a party is being formed to be called the National Party of Iraq. No programme has yet been published nor have the names of the leaders of the party been divulged. If, however, it is true—and rumour has it so—that the leaders of the party are Ja'afar Abu Timman and Maulud Pasha it may be expected to favour a policy with an extremist orientation.

Military College Dinner.

On Monday evening a dinner was given by the instructional staff of the Iraq Military College to celebrate the end of the term. The dinner was attended by H.R. the King, H.E. the High Commissioner, and the Commander-in-Chief of the British forces in Iraq, together with the Ministers and other prominent officials.

Raid by the Akhwan.

A disturbing event of the past week has been the attack of the Akhwan under Faisal Al Dawish on Iraq tribesmen near Nasiriyah. Details are not to hand but the newly-formed desert camel corps appears to have sustained heavy losses. More details shall be given in my next letter.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, March 14.

The Patriarchate.

The Holy Synod is now in session. Amongst the principal agenda is the question of a reply to the letter received from the Oecumenical Patriarch, Melétios IV. The Synod has decided that a telegram shall be despatched to the Patriarch of Alexandria, asking whether his Church would be willing, in common with that of Cyprus, to propose their joint mediation as regards the differences which now divide the Churches of Greece and Constantinople, respecting the disputed validity of the election. The Cyprus Synod will await a reply before further considering the matter.

"Imaginary Prosperity."

The *Phone tes Kyprou*, in a recent article states that the Island Government, by some peculiar psychological process, speaks of island prosperity, regardless of the fact that the real state of things loudly proclaims the reverse. There is no foundation for any such view or statement. If instead of a surplus there is in reality a deficit, this is met by stringent economies in directions where they are quite unjustifiable, e.g. in the Public Works Department, which with an inadequate vote cannot even maintain in order the public roads. Clearly the great excess of imports over exports during the last year shows that the life blood of Cyprus is being exhausted instead of being replenished. Such is now the deplorable condition of an island which possesses scarcely any industries, and lives by agriculture. For the year ended December 31 last, there is an excess of £591,421, of imports over exports. With such a balance of its accounts, to say that the islands is prosperous is mere irony.

A Call to Patriotism.

The Greek Community and Press are downhearted over the latest news regarding the Near East Question. The papers call upon Cypriots to make every sacrifice towards the cause for which Hellenism is now to undergo fresh trials. Since Cyprus is not allowed to send volunteers to shed their blood in Asia Minor, Greeks must contribute all they can in money, in spite of the depression from which the island is suffering.

Miscellaneous News.

Mr. C. Luke is on a short visit to the island from Jerusalem. He has visited the Greek Archbishop.

A farewell dinner has been given by the English and Greek Clubs to Major Bayley, Commissioner of Nicosia, who is leaving Cyprus, and whose departure will be much regretted.

There are still fresh cases of small-pox, which was imported from Asia Minor, especially in the Carpass district.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of THE NEAR EAST. Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper.

"CALIPH" AND "KHALIFA," "CALIPHATE" AND "KHALIFAT."

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—I think that the time has come for a protest against an abuse which has become prevalent—the practice of substituting transliterations from the Arabic for well known English words.

Surely "Caliph" and "Caliphate" are now standard English words, the meaning of which is understood by those who know anything of the history of Islam, and, whatever may have been thought of them when they were first employed, they are now hallowed by time and use.

Arabic abounds in pitfalls for the ignorant and unwary, and those who are unacquainted with the language but are not unwilling to acquire a cheap reputation for scholarship by the employment of words of unusual form and appearance are apt to flounder in these pitfalls. We see *Khalif*, on the measure, so to speak, of Caliph, *Khalifat* on that of Caliphate, used to signify these two words, but *Khalif* means, not Caliph, but a "road or valley between mountains," and *Khalifat* does not mean Caliphate, but does mean Caliph.

Those who understand these matters may, of course, if they choose, use *Khalifa* for Caliph and *Khalifat* for Caliphate, though their use is unnecessary, pedantic and repellent; but such, if they are consistent, will substitute *aljabr* for algebra, *alkuhl* for alcohol, *makhzan* for magazine, and *albarquq* for apricot.

I am, etc.,

WOLSELEY HAIG.

GREAT BRITAIN AND GREECE.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—As one who is also acquainted with Turkish affairs, etc., having travelled and lived in this part of the sphere, I was glad, like many others who happen to know the Near East to read the just views of your correspondent, Mr. Butler (Athens), in your issue of the 2nd inst., supporting the Hellenic people of the Ottoman Empire. I would like to amplify Mr. Butler's communications by stating the following facts: the most important responsible positions and situations not only in Greek, but in European, banks and institutions in Turkey are filled by Greeks. Moreover, it is really worth while mentioning that Britishers, Americans, Frenchmen and all other Europeans living in Turkey, enter into matrimonial alliances with Hellenic ladies and by no means with Turks.

Greek architects have built every house standing, large and small, and the Greek merchants and shippers of Smyrna and Constantinople, etc., are well known for their good qualities, not only in England, but all over the world, who have large interests in Great Britain, America, France and elsewhere. So when trading generally speaking with Turkey, we really trade with the Greek merchants, who are far wealthier and more reliable than the rest.

One has only to come out here, or to look in the Foreign Directory of Commerce of Messrs. Kelly's, London, to find how largely the Greek element prevails—commercially, socially, intellectually, scientifically and otherwise, so our interests are with the Greeks of the Orient and by no means with the Turks.

I am, etc.

P. I. NICOLS.

Smyrna, Greece.
March 20.

GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—It will be within the recollection of your readers that a Permanent (Official) Committee on Geographical Names was, at the request of the Admiralty, formed three years ago with the object of laying down the proper spelling of foreign place-names, and thus standardising for English-speaking nations the spelling of many thousands of names which would otherwise be spelt in a bewildering variety of ways.

This Committee, formed under the Presidency of the Royal Geographical Society, has already, besides much other excellent work, laid down the correct spelling of several thousand names. Its labours are, however, now threatened with immediate extinction by the withdrawal of the Treasury grant on which it has hitherto subsisted.

Much yet remains to be done; and it is suggested that it would be a matter of great regret if this work, now in full swing, should be brought to an abrupt conclusion for want of funds. May I therefore urgently appeal to your readers to help us with subscriptions for this valuable object? Contributions (annual if possible—for we wish to raise at least £500 a year) may be sent direct to the Committee at the above address.

I am, etc.

FRANCIS YOUNGHUSBAND.

Royal Geographical Society,
Kensington Gdns.,
London, S.W.7.

March 25.

ENGLISH IN LIUBLIANA.

Our Liubliana Correspondent writes:—"The Yugoslav Society for the Study of English" held its Inaugural Meeting on Wednesday, March 8, in the Great Hall of the State Gymnasium here. There is a widespread interest in this country for English literature, learning and science, and the formation of this Society, the first of its kind in Yugoslavia, is therefore very welcome. This meeting was public and largely attended. At the end of the proceedings most of those present applied for membership. A Committee was duly elected and a General Meeting was held, followed by a Committee Meeting, at which administrative details were discussed.

Members of the Committee:—Chairman: Dr. Gustav Gregorin (late of the Yugoslav Committee); Vice-Chairman: Dr. F. Skaberne (of the Board of Education); Treasurer: M. D. F. Andritchevitch (of the Adriatic Bank); Librarian: Mrs. Punta; Slovene Secretary: M. Vladimir I. Vidmar (P.O. Savings Bank); English Secretary: Miss F. Copeland (English Lecturer at the University of Liubliana); Curator: Mr. F. Miklautchitch (Zadrzna Gospodarska Zveza).

The objects of the Society are the study of English language, literature and culture, the fostering and furthering of friendly and mutually helpful relations between the Yugoslav and English speaking worlds and first and foremost the foundation of a good English Library. Not the smallest of the tasks the Society has set itself is the compilation and publication of dictionaries, grammars and other aids to the study of English. The programme is ambitious but perfectly practical, and it should appeal to a very wide public among English speaking people.

EARLY GREEK VASES.

Under the auspices of the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies, a students' meeting was held recently at the Art Workers' Guild, Queen's Square. An address was given by Mr. E. J. Forsdyke on "The Decorative Art of Early Greek Vases." The lecturer showed a number of lantern-slides illustrating the Society's pottery, and in describing it directed special attention to the Minoan art, of which specimens had been obtained from Crete. This went back to the Bronze Age, and exemplified the developments of pottery from the original shape of a gourd, cut in half or in the form of the entire fruit. The incisions which represent the earliest decoration arose from the cracking of the skin of the gourd, and were filled in with white chalk.

TOWARDS A NEW TREATY.

The Allies' Proposals for the Near East.

The following is the text of decisions reached by the Allied Foreign Ministers in Paris last week, and communicated to the Governments at Constantinople, Athens, and Angora :—

Guiding Principles.

The Foreign Ministers of the Allied Powers of France, Great Britain, and Italy, having during five days in succession discussed every aspect of the situation in the Near East, having consulted at each stage the military and financial experts who were summoned for the purpose, and having further enjoyed the advantage of communicating beforehand with the representatives both of Turkey and of Greece, have unanimously agreed to the following propositions which they put forward as the most equitable solution that it is in their power to offer of the Near Eastern problem.

The principles which they have throughout borne in mind and which are the basis of their proposals have been :—

(1) They desire to re-establish peace between the conflicting armies of Turkey and Greece, and to deal fairly with both parties and to impose upon neither conditions of discomfiture or defeat.

(2) They desire to re-establish the Turkish nation and the Turkish dominion in the areas which may fairly be regarded as their own, with the historical and renowned capital of Constantinople as the centre, and with such powers as may enable them to renew a vigorous and independent national existence.

(3) They desire to secure full and fair treatment to the followers of the creed of Islam, and to maintain the secular and religious authority of the Sultan of Turkey.

(4) They desire to compensate the Greek nation for the great sacrifices which they accepted during the war in the cause of the Allies, and to leave them free scope for their national and economic progress in the future.

(5) They desire to enable both peoples in regions where they are contiguous or where their populations are intermingled to live in future in conditions of mutual confidence and self-respect.

(6) They desire to provide for the protection and security of the various minorities, whether Moslem or Christian, or of other races and creeds, who, whether in Europe or Asia, find themselves placed in the midst of larger political or ethnic aggregations.

(7) They desire to prevent the recurrence of armed conflict between the Turkish nation and the European Powers with whom it was recently at war.

(8) They desire, above all, in the solution which they propose, not to be suspected of partiality for the one side or the other, but with firm hands to hold the scales even between the two.

Proposed Armistice.

With these ends in view the first object of the Allied Powers has been to bring about a suspension of hostilities between the confronting armies in Asia Minor in order to enable the counsels of peace and the prospects of an amicable settlement to prevail. They have therefore proposed the conclusion of an armistice to the Governments of Turkey and Greece, subject to conditions which are scrupulously fair to both parties and which were defined by the military authorities under the presidency of Marshal Foch.

The Hellenic Government has already signified its acceptance of this proposal. The decision of Turkey is awaited.

The proposal of an armistice has been made with the avowed intention of assuring the peaceful evacuation of Asia Minor by the Greek forces and the restitution of Turkish sovereignty over the whole of that region. The arrangements for this evacuation, as the first step in the general settlement which is now proposed, have simultaneously been elaborated by the military authorities under Marshal Foch and are capable of being put into execution without delay. It is calculated that the period required for a complete and peaceful withdrawal of the Greek forces will be somewhat over four months.

It will be observed that in the event of these proposals being accepted by both parties the recovery of Anatolia by the Turks, which is believed to be their principal national aspiration, will have been attained without any further sacrifice of treasure or life. Correspondingly the retirement of the Greek troops will be effected with honour.

Should this operation be successfully accomplished, the Turkish sovereignty in Asia will exist unimpaired from the Mediterranean to the Straits and the Black Sea and from the borders of Trans-Caucasia, Persia, and Mesopotamia to the shores of the Aegean.

Question of Minorities.

Accepting the imperative necessity, which is the result both of historical and geographical causes, for the protection of the minorities of alien race or religion who are found in some cases in large numbers both in the *vilayets* of Turkey and in the European possession of Greece, the Powers have proposed a series of provisions for their full and adequate security without distinction of race or creed in both areas. These provisions will be based both upon the stipulations contained in existing treaties or draft treaties and in the secular or religious law of the countries concerned. Furthermore, the Powers have decided to invite the League of Nations to collaborate in this object by the appointment of special Commissioners to superintend the execution of these provisions in the areas and for the communities who are principally concerned.

The case of the Armenians has called for special consideration by reason both of the undertakings entered into by the Allied Powers in the course of the war and of the cruel sufferings of that people. Accordingly the aid of the League of Nations is authorized over and above the protection accorded by the

minority provision to which reference has already been made, in order to obtain for the Armenians the satisfaction of their traditional aspirations for a national home.

The Straits.

The interests of peace and the safety of the future demand that Europe shall never again be exposed to the perils and sacrifices which were imposed upon her in 1914 and the succeeding years by the forcible closure of the Dardanelles. The countless lives that were there poured out, the stupendous efforts that were entailed, must not have been expended in vain. The Turks will be readmitted to the Asiatic shore of the Dardanelles under conditions which will provide for the existence of a broad demilitarized zone in order to obviate the possibility of any hostile military preparations in that quarter. But an Allied force must be placed, and must remain in occupation of the Gallipoli Peninsula in order to safeguard the free and unimpeded entrance to the Straits. This also will be a demilitarized zone. The Allied garrison will consist of a force sufficient to secure the entrance to the Dardanelles.

The navigation of the Straits will be placed as already proposed under the control of an International Commission under a Turkish President, on which it is hoped as time passes, that all the principal States who are interested in the commerce or navigation of the Straits will be represented.

The demilitarized zone will be identical with the existing Sanjak of Chanak. No further demilitarization is proposed on the southern shores of the Marmora with the exception of the Peninsula of Artaki. On the Asiatic shores of the Bosphorus the demilitarized zone will be identical with the existing neutral zone. The Islands of Lemnos, Imbros, Tenedos, Samothrace, and Mitylene outside the Dardanelles and all the islands in the Marmora will equally be demilitarized.

Eastern Thrace.

Passing to the European shore of the Dardanelles and the Marmora, the three Ministers have been confronted with the difficult and anxious problem of the future of Eastern Thrace. On the one hand, they were unable, for the reasons which have already been stated, to accept a solution which would place the Gallipoli Peninsula once more in the hands of Turkey. On the other hand, they were met by the complaint that some at any rate of the lines of frontier that have hitherto been proposed between the European possessions of Turkey, to the North and West of Constantinople, and the areas in Eastern Thrace in the occupation of the Greeks, offered insufficient protection to the Turkish capital, which might find itself exposed in the future either to the military menace of invasion or to the invidious propinquity of a neighbour with whom it had recently been at war.

Such dangers, it was obvious, would be most effectively removed (a) by the removal to a sufficient distance from Constantinople of the projected frontier ; (b) by the effective neutralization of the areas outside this line. Furthermore, the Ministers were confronted by the incontestable facts of the existing situation. Whether the attribution of Eastern Thrace to the Greeks by the unratified Treaty of Sèvres be or be not held to constitute a valid title, the Greek forces are in effective occupation, and the Greek Government is engaged in administering that area, which moreover contains and has long contained a considerable and, in certain parts, a preponderant Greek population.

In these circumstances the Ministers were unable to assume the responsibility of requiring from Greece not merely the complete evacuation of Anatolia, to which it must be remembered in passing that Greece was invited in 1917 by the Powers, but the complete evacuation of Eastern Thrace in addition.

Accordingly, bearing in mind the importance of the strategic considerations before referred to, which may be summed up in the *desideratum* of reasonable security for the capital and the State of Turkey in Europe, the Foreign Ministers of the Powers invited the Military authorities to assist them with their expert advice. These authorities recommended the drawing up of a line which will run from the neighbourhood of Ganos on the Marmora in a northerly and north-easterly direction to a point on the Bulgarian frontier in the western part of the Istranja Mountains. This frontier will leave Rodosto, a Greek town, to the Turks. It will keep Baba Eske and Kirk Kilisse on the Greek side of the Turco-Greek frontier. The safety of the frontier is assured by the topographical features of the country and will be further confirmed by the demilitarization of almost the entire area of Eastern Thrace, both on the Greek and the Turkish sides of the frontier. Thus the Greeks will not be able to threaten Constantinople and the Turks will not be in a position to attack the Greeks.

The periodical inspection of these and the other demilitarized zones will be undertaken by Allied officers attached to the Allied forces on the Gallipoli Peninsula, the area of whose occupation will be extended eastwards to Rodosto.

Adrianople and Smyrna.

It has been considered whether any special provision should be made for the town of Adrianople, which it has been found impossible to sever from the surrounding territories of Eastern Thrace. Smyrna, which will revert to Turkey, and Adrianople, which will be retained by the Greeks, are in a somewhat analogous position. The Powers will be quite willing to enter into friendly communication with the Turkish and Greek Governments, with a view to the conclusion of a friendly agreement upon conditions which will guarantee a full and fair share to the non-Turkish and the non-Greek elements in the populations in the administration of the two cities, and will further safeguard the religious buildings and institutions of Adrianople.

The three Ministers are not so vain as to suppose that this solution of the Thracian problem will be warmly accepted by either party. The problem admits of no such easy solution. They can only commend it to the public opinion of the world as the proposition which seems to them to be most consistent alike with justice and with the facts of the case.

Constantinople.

Passing to Constantinople, the three Governments desire to confirm their previously expressed willingness to withdraw altogether the threat that was made at the time of the Treaty of Sèvres to revoke at some future date the retrocession of the capital to the Turks. They confirm the restoration of that city to the full authority of the Government of the Sultan; and they are further willing to engage that the Allied forces, by whom it is at present occupied shall be altogether withdrawn after the ratification of the treaty of peace.

The Turkish Government will be invited to garrison the city with a larger force than was contemplated in the Treaty of Sèvres. There remain questions of the future armed forces of the Turkish State, the financial independence which it will enjoy, and the suggested modification or surrender of the capitulatory rights which are enjoyed by foreigners.

Concerning the armed forces of Turkey, the Allied Powers are unable to depart from the principles which it has been found necessary to enforce in the Treaties that have been concluded with all the other States recently at war, or to admit the continuance of the system of conscription. They will, however, be prepared to consider with the Turkish Government in an amicable spirit the determination of the period in which the voluntary system of recruiting must be established in that country.

As to the numerical strength of the Turkish forces, it is proposed to allow a very appreciable augmentation of the figures which were contained in the Treaty of Sèvres or were afterwards suggested in London in 1921. The forces now officially proposed are: *Gendarmerie*, 45,000; Regular Army, 40,000, or a grand total of 85,000 men—a total which is very markedly in excess of the 50,000 designated in the Treaty of Sèvres.

Should the Turkish Government desire the assistance of foreign officers for the organization of the above-named force of *gendarmerie*—a measure which will probably be found to conduce greatly to its efficiency—the Powers will be ready to place themselves at the disposal of the Turkish Government.

Financial Proposals.

With regard to finance. The financial clauses of the Treaty of Sèvres shall be modified in such a way as to abandon the proposed Financial Commission, while reconciling the principle of Turkish sovereignty with the protection of the Allied economic interests and with the Commission of Control necessary to ensure the payment of the Turkish pre-war debts to the Allies and the war indemnity fixed at a sum which Turkey can be reasonably expected to pay. The pre-war Debt Commission shall be maintained and the special Allied Liquidation Commission shall be set up for the above purpose.

In respect to the existing capitulatory system, the three Ministers are anxious to accord to Turkey the largest measure of economic independence consistent with the due protection of the interests of the nationals of their respective countries. For this purpose they are prepared to set up at Constantinople within three months from the coming into force of the treaty of peace a Commission composed of representatives of Great Britain, France, Italy, and Japan, and of Turkey, to prepare, with the assistance of technical experts representing the other capitulatory Powers, proposals for the revision of the capitulatory régime in fiscal matters.

These proposals shall provide for fiscal equality between foreign and Turkish subjects, while safeguarding the former against excessive taxation and abuses in collection, and for any necessary modifications of the Customs taxes, with the consent of the Powers concerned.

Capitulations.

As regards the capitulations in judicial matters, the Allied Powers repeat their former offer to set up within the same period a similar Commission to prepare a scheme of judicial reform to replace the capitulatory system, which will continue provisionally pending the introduction of the proposed scheme. This Commission, on which Turkey will be represented, will be at liberty to recommend either a mixed or a unified judicial system.

Such, in broad outlines, are the main features of the settlement which the Ministers of the three Great Powers, acting on behalf of their Governments have decided unanimously to recommend. These proposals are now submitted preliminarily to the judgment of the two parties who are directly involved, and to, secondarily and in a not inferior degree, that of the civilized world.

Nor is it necessary to add that the peoples or the Governments by whom they were deliberately rejected, if such a misfortune were to occur, will assume very grave responsibility before the public opinion of mankind—namely, the responsibility of resuming a struggle which has already wrought sufficient havoc among the peoples of two continents and the renewal of which can only bring further ruin and destruction in its train, besides leading to a permanent embitterment between the races and creeds of the Near East.

THE BAKHTIARI COUNTRY AND PEOPLE.

Speaking at Burlington House before the Persia Society, on March 13, Mr. Sydney Armitage-Smith gave an account of the Bakhtiari people, and of the road which runs across their country to the oilfields. This road he described as little more than a track for much of the way. When the sides of the ravine become too precipitous for a mule the traveller descends into the river bed which runs at the bottom. There he zigzags along until the road becomes practicable again. Of the rulers of the country, the Khans, the lecturer said these were few in number, but they were rich and united, and knew what they wanted; thus they had great political importance in Persia. The Bakhtiari country was organised on a patriarchal and feudal basis. The ownership of land, jurisdiction and military service were closely connected, as they were in this country in the middle ages. The Khans were supreme in all matters of military command; they settled tribal disputes and dispensed justice. The word of a khan was absolute law. The inhabitants of the country might be divided into three classes: the Khans, their immediate retainers, whom they kept about them for fighting and to maintain their dignity, and the peasants. Amongst the last named it was interesting to find a large number of Christian Armenians; these lived happily in their own villages. When Mr. Armitage-Smith visited these villages he was received with joy as a fellow Christian, and the church bells were rung.

FRENCH SUPPORT FOR ZIONISM.

The Zionist Organisation Central Office states that recently President Millerand received Dr. Weizmann who was accompanied by Dr. Bernard (brother of M. Bernard Lazare) representing French Zionists. President Millerand re-affirmed the favourable attitude of the French Government towards the Jewish National Home. He asked for assurances as to the attitude of Zionism towards the Holy Places. Dr. Weizmann solemnly declared that Zionists had no other desire than to leave this question to be settled by the Powers. They would be only too glad to contribute to such a settlement in their feeble measure. President Millerand intimated that he would view favourably the participation of French Jewry in the reconstruction of Palestine.

MEMORIAL TO DR. ELSIE INGLIS.

A memorial tablet to the late Dr. Elsie Inglis, of the Scottish Women's Hospital was unveiled in St. Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh last week, by Dr. Mary Scharlieb. The memorial is cut out of a single block of delicate rose-tinted stone of hard close grain, quarried in France, and bears the following inscription: "To the beloved and honoured memory of Elsie Maud Inglis, surgeon and philanthropist founder in 1914 of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, for service with the Allies in France, Serbia, and Russia. Born 1864; died on active service, 1917. Mors Janua Vitae."

A SUSPICIOUS CROAT.

A correspondent writes:—In their political fervour, the Croats sometimes expose themselves to criticism, but one does not expect a Zagreb newspaper to make a blunder through ignorance of its own language. There is a children's paper entitled *Nash List* ("Our Paper"), published in Belgrade by the Ministry of Education, and one would hardly think the most jaundiced of the parish-pump class could find material for his bile in such an innocent publication. But in the December number, in one of the stories, there occurred the word "mrda." Now in ordinary Serb, this means to move, to budge: in Vuk's and Ivekovich's dictionaries the meaning is given as "to work clumsily." But in Zagreb slang, it has another meaning, which is offensive to polite ears. Our precious journalist characteristically knew only the latter meaning and called upon all good Croats to boycott the children's newspaper, as guilty of Serbians' swinishness. An apt comment crops up at once in the mind in three languages, "Puris omnia pura," "Wie der Schwein ist, so denkt er," and "Honi soit qui mal y pense."

TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

The subject headings given are those of the Official Report.

Anglo-Persian Oil Company.—Georgia.—(Thursday, 23rd March.)

Serbian Youths (Education Grant).—(Friday, 24th March.)

Palestine (Draft Mandate).—Greece and Turkey.—Egypt.—Persia (British Advances).—India: Civil Servants (Retirement); Seditious Speeches (Prisoners' Treatment).—Greece (Foreign Loans).—Consolidated Fund (No. 2) Bill: Foreign Affairs; India.—(Monday, 27th March.)

India: Bhagalpur Exhibition (Swaraj Flag); Burma Constitution; Anti-Boycott Bill (Burma); Cinema Films (Censorship); Indian subjects (Kenya); Army (Pension Rules); Ordnance Department (Pay); Civil Service Pensions; Wireless Service.—Palestine (Official Language); Jews and Arabs.—Iraq.—(Tuesday, 28th March.)

MUSICAL NOTES.

BELA BARTOK.

Perhaps there is no composer so essentially interesting to readers of THE NEAR EAST, as Bela Bartok, the Hungarian. In England we have heard much of him, of his researches into such things as Arab and Magyar folk-music, of his founding a school in Hungary which derives its motive power from traditional music; we know well his arrangements of Roumanian folk-songs and dances; but of his more important works very few have as yet been performed. Our appetites were, therefore, keen to hear him when he gave a concert, mostly of his own works, last week at the Eolian Hall.

Quite frankly, Bartok is not a composer who immediately and closely holds you. There are in his music all sorts of very important things—an extraordinarily sharp sense of rhythm, a feeling for harmonic effect at once subtle and cold, a rigidity of line that excludes all padding or exaggeration, and so on—but these, though you recognize them at once, are not of themselves sufficient to enthrall you; and it was these things, rather than the strain of genius which bound them and made them one, that one noticed first and remembered last. Here was immense talent, you said, a real, inventive mind seizing and setting fire to conceptions that had lain for centuries in his race's soul; and there must be, you thought, genius behind it all. But for the discovery of this genius one must surely hear this music again, and again, and, perhaps, fifty times.

Certainly Bartok has considerable personality, as much because as in spite of his evident concentration upon and inspiration from the rhythms and tonal peculiarities of his race. But it seems as if the fire which was kindled from the first contact of himself with the folk-music of his country and of surrounding countries has lost the intense leaping flame which characterised his early works; for his later works have a strange dryness, a calculated hardness that savours of mathematics. It is as if the hearth of fiery coals had become a smooth electric stove: the human element seems absent. This difference was noticeable even between Op. 14, a Suite for Pianoforte, and Op. 20, a set of Eight Improvisations on Hungarian Folk-Tunes; for whereas the first were fresh, pulsating and very individual, the second were imitative, full of the composer's own *clichés*. To go back even further, in showing how zestful Bartok's earlier works were, one need mention only the "Burlesque" and "Roumanian Dance," both from Op. 8 that he played, which are both full of ingenious charm.

However, the most important work of the evening was the Sonata for Violin and Pianoforte (Op. 21), which Miss Jelly d'Aranji played with the composer. Miss d'Aranji of course played magnificently—as she very often does—in a work that appealed very intimately to her own musical sensibilities, so that this performance, was, I suppose, as good as we are ever likely to get. The Sonata is in three movements: (1) "Allegro appassionata," of which I made nothing at all, discovering no unity or even bond between the two instruments, (2) "Adagio," in which were *cantilena* phrases of exquisite beauty for the violin with harsh interjectory stuff for the pianoforte. This, incidentally, was the movement from which you knew for certain that there was something large in the composer's mind, but could not quite seize it,—and (3) "Allegro vivace," a very lively movement in folk-pattern, with exultantly over-running rhythms and cunning joinery. At the same time you felt, as in many of Bartok's arrangements for the pianoforte, that these stirring folk rhythms are not really reproducible except on stringed instruments. On a pianoforte, or better still, on a player-piano, you can get the superficial rhythmic effects, but not the colour.

Whether Bartok is the great artist who has fashioned to his own uses the pliable material of his folk, or whether he is the inventive explorer and discoverer on

whose labours the genius will build I do not yet know, but his importance to the present generation of musicians is undoubted. I hope some day, with completer knowledge and more decided judgment, to return to him.

M. Mischa Elman.

There are a few great fiddlers known to all the world, and M. Mischa Elman is one of them. There is nothing on the technical side that he cannot do, and he plays easily and with equal facility on all the emotions. He is especially a master in the art of *rubato* and of light and shade. But with all this excellence in detail, this wealth of command, he is not, I think, a supreme artist, though without doubt he is a supreme miniaturist. At his recital last week at the Queen's Hall his big works were Bach's "Partita in E minor for Violin and Clavier," the Kreutzer Sonata, and Vieuxtemps' fifth Concerto. The Bach was romanticized—even the glorious *adagio*—and though there were an infinite number of things to admire in it (and one or two little slips to wonder at) it was a technical, rather than an artistic triumph. In the Kreutzer Sonata, again, in which M. Mischa Elman had the assistance of his very capable sister, Mlle. Liza Elman, there was not an ideal balance, and though he informed it with a fine restraint and individuality, we did not, as Mr. Ernest Newman so often and so excellently says, hear the last bar in the first. The Vieuxtemps was M. Elman's triumph; here his technical abilities won a sheer triumph, and though the Concerto is poor enough music (and though it sounded poor enough as transcribed for the pianoforte) one cannot do violence to it, and the fiddler could with impunity, and in fact with glory, be a law unto himself. But it was in a group of small pieces at the end that M. Elman caught both the fancy and the imagination. His tone in a Nocturne of Grieg arranged by himself was a dream: his harmonics a marvel. Similarly his rhythm was a delight in the "Passepied" from Delibes' "Le Roi S'amuse," as it was in Beethoven's "Country Dance," which he played as an encore. In such things, M. Elman is indeed unsurpassable, so keen is his verve, so irresistible his impulse.

ANDANTE.

AN APPEAL FOR ENGLISH BOOKS.

The desirability of doing everything possible to encourage the study of the English language in the Balkans—as elsewhere—needs no demonstration. One way of helping on the good work is by providing English books for such bodies as the English Speaking League of Sofia. A year ago we inserted an appeal for books for presentations to the League, and we venture now to remind our readers that any volumes they can spare for the purpose may be sent to us for forwarding to Sofia.

THE AERIAL ORIENT EXPRESS.

The dream of an "Aerial Orient Express," ascending from London and travelling, by stages, at 100 miles an hour, to the Eastern boundary of Europe, is now to be realised. The timetable and fares for this Orient air express were received in London by the Lepaerial Travel Bureau recently, and the airway was to be opened on April 1. The route followed is *via* Paris, Strasbourg, Prague, Vienna, and Bucharest to Constantinople. During the summer months a business man in a hurry will be able to step on board an air express at the London Air Station and arrive in Constantinople, after a flight of almost 2,000 miles, forty hours later, a compared with the train time of four and half days. The actual flying time along this great transcontinental airway will be only 24½ hours, the remaining time being spent for meals and sleep. The through air fare from London is £37 16s., which is roughly, 4½d. per mile flown, a figure which compares favourably with the rail fare by Wagon Lit. Travellers by the Orient air express can book to any town along the route.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

ALBANIA.

"L'ALBANIE EN 1921." By Justin Godart. Preface by D'Estournelles de Constant. (Paris: 1922. Les Presses universitaires de France, Boulevard Saint-Michel, 49.)

M. D'Estournelles de Constant on the request of the Carnegie Trust in 1913 undertook the organisation of the Commission which was sent to the Balkans with the object of making an impartial enquiry into the various charges of atrocities made against each other by the Balkan States after the conclusion of hostilities. M. Justin Godart represented France on this Commission, whose admirably impartial report is well known. It was not possible, however, for the Commission to cover the whole of the ground before the outbreak of the world war, so that when peace had come again M. D'Estournelles de Constant expressed a desire to the Carnegie Trust that someone should be sent to Albania to make a report on the situation there supplementary to the former report. M. Justin Godart was invited to undertake the task. He accordingly visited Albania during the summer of last year, and the present book is a record of his impressions.

No one who wishes to be thoroughly conversant with Albanian affairs to-day can afford to neglect this very admirable volume. The cultivated Frenchman with no axe to grind, who travels abroad in the pursuit of knowledge and impressions is invariably the most delightful of companions. M. Justin Godart is the last of a distinguished line of such travellers in Albania—from Jacques de Lavardin, who lived at the beginning of the 17th Century, to Ami Boué and G. J. Jaray—whose writings never fail to please because they are the fruit of acute observation lucidly expressed. The present volume is a perfect mine of information and, what is more, precise and accurate information. The chapters include a review of the past and present history of Albania, of the conspiracies, in which the Great Powers played their full part, to partition the country, of the relations existing between Albania on the one hand and Italy, Yugoslavia, Greece and the League of Nations on the other, of the country's present institutions, revenue, resources and prospects, and lastly a description of the conditions existing in the districts not included in the Albanian State but which possess a predominant Albanian population. The writer visited nearly every town of importance, so that much of his information is local; which adds interest and relief to the general information given. A phenomenal number of names are mentioned which suggests that the Author was anxious to do something in the way of repaying the generous hospitality of his many hosts; but the result is the more useful to anyone either wishing to visit Albania or to follow with intelligence the internal politics of the country where personalities having local influence play so important a part. Yet with all these names and statistics M. Godart contrives to maintain the reader's interest throughout, which represents a very laudable achievement. A preface by M. D'Estournelles de Constant, a number of sketch maps and characteristic photographs, and a good map of the whole country complete the volume.

I have not been able to detect any errors of importance in the mass of facts which M. Godart has recorded. If the book has any defect it is because it reacts on the reader as somewhat superficial. The Albanian stands out in it rather in European clothes than in his national costume.

Now, a visit to Albania makes one very soon realise how poor is so called "modern civilisation." Deprived of the mechanical comforts and pastimes to be found in more advanced countries, one realises how very easy it is to get on without them, and that the difference between Albania and the rest of Europe is largely due to the absence and presence of these superficial advantages. In most respects Albania shares the rest of Europe's emptiness. M. Godart's book makes one realise this and very little more. I agree with him that Albania has it in her to maintain her independence, to develop

in due time her resources, to grow even rich and be able to afford all the mechanical advantages of modern life elsewhere. All these things are necessary to her. The building up of material progress is a worthy task and may even be a romantic one too. But in the amazing contrasts between the 20th century pagan and mediaeval aspects of Albanian life, is there anything that gives promise that out of Albania may come something having a little of the richness of antiquity? I sometimes think there is, but no hint of it is given in this book. Unencumbered by the shackles which the rest of Europe has forged in the course of its strenuous political and economic evolution, Albania might find itself able to take a short cut to the richer life towards which we all hope at least Europe is again tending. There are certainly many aspects of life in Albania, dead elsewhere, which have something of the old virtue in them and might be adapted to modern conditions.

J. S. B.

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

"THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA." By Sir Courtenay Ilbert. (Oxford: Clarendon Press. 10s. 6d. net.)

This slim volume contains a reprint, revised and brought up to date, of the Historical Introduction to a work of the same name, which was last issued in 1915. It is a brief and admirably clear survey of parliamentary legislation relative to India, and its impartiality will make it welcome to all serious students. The account of the legislation establishing the new Constitution is the best we have seen. Extreme partisans will doubtless complain that there are no clear-cut judgments which can be quoted with effect on the platform, but for ourselves we are quite satisfied with the concluding sentence: "Some ten years hence, when the Statutory Commission has reported, it will be easier to say where, how and why the experiment has succeeded or failed. In the meantime our watchword should be patience, sympathy and hope."

"THE INDIAN ANTIQUARY."

We referred recently to the completion of the fiftieth annual volume of this indispensable periodical. The issues for December and January, which have now reached us, show that there is no break in continuity, and certainly no falling off in point of quality. Most of the articles in these numbers are of interest mainly to specialists, but everyone can understand, and nearly everyone will enjoy, the accounts printed by Mr. William Foster of Sivaji's raid on Surat in 1664, and of the action taken on that occasion by that "most worthy, discreet, courageous person," Sir George Oxenden, the President of the Council of English merchants. One of these accounts describes incidentally the method of cutting off men's hands, a practice in some favour of Sivaji: a blunt knife was used to lay bare the bone, which was then broken by main force, the victim was then forced to run about till he fainted, "and the blood stops." That blunt knife is eloquent of the old India.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.**To-Day.**

April 6 (New Style).

March 24 (Old Style).

Shaban 8, 1340 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.

Nisan 8, 5682 of the Jewish Calendar.

Sir George Buchanan has returned from India.

Mrs. Alex Tweedie has returned to London.

Viscount and Viscountess Goschen are expected in town from Egypt this week.

Major Bentinck, Coldstream Guards, has left England for Mesopotamia, and expects to be away some time.

Viscount and Viscountess Milner will return to London towards the end of this month from Palestine.

Lieutenant-Colonel Vivian Gabriel has arrived at Claridge's Hotel from Thrace and Anatolia.

Sir Byron and Lady Peters have arrived at the Grand Pump Room Hotel, Bath, from India.

M. Antonesco, the Roumanian Minister in Paris, presented his credentials to M. Millerand last week.

Voussough ed-Dowleh, ex-Persian Premier, arrived in London last week from Paris.

Sadikh es-Saltaneh, Persian Minister in Madrid, arrived in London last week from Spain.

Mrs. Lloyd Baxendale has returned to Greenham Lodge, Newbury, from Ceylon.

Mehmed Bey Konitza, the new Albanian Minister, is residing temporarily at 17, Collingham Gardens, S. Kensington.

Viscount Chelmsford has succeeded the Earl of Lytton as chairman of the State Children's Association.

At the Holborn Restaurant last Tuesday the Coalition Liberals of the National Liberal Club gave a dinner to Sir Murdoch Macdonald.

M. and Madame Venizelos are now on their way back to London. They are expected to reach here by the end of this month.

M. Stancioff, Bulgarian Minister in London, leaves London this week for Genoa, to attend the Conference as member of the Bulgarian Delegation.

Commander John Bouboulis, Naval Attaché to the Greek Legation, and Mme. Bouboulis returned to London last week from visiting Paris.

The Bishop of Madras (Dr. Whitehead) is resigning and expects to leave India soon after Easter. He has held his present post since 1899.

Madame Ghika, wife of Captain Matila Costiesco Ghika, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation in Madrid arrived in London last week from Spain on a visit.

M. Jevrem Taditch, the newly-appointed Counsellor to the Legation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, has arrived in London and taken up his duties.

M. Stefanovitch, Secretary to the Legation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, left London last week for Belgrade and will be absent six weeks.

Earl Reading and Lord Rawlinson, the Commander-in-Chief, left Calcutta last week for a short tour of the North-West Frontier.

Princess Nicholas of Greece, with her daughter, Princess Olga, and the latter's *fiancé*, the Crown Prince of Denmark, arrived at Athens last week.

Lieut.-General Sir Charles Harington, who has lately been taking part in the Near East Conference in Paris, left on Sunday in order to resume his duties as Commander-in-Chief of the British Corps in Constantinople.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place on April 1, in Madras, between Geraldine Helen, daughter of Major-General G. G. Gifford, C.S.I., I.M.S., and Mrs. Gifford, of Madras, and Colin R. White, M.C., son of Mr. and Mrs. White, 66, Belsize Park Gardens.

Under the auspices of the Central Asian Society, Mr. Robert Williams yesterday delivered a lecture, at the Royal Society's Lecture Room, Burlington House, Piccadilly, on "The Cape to Cairo Railway, from the Point of View of African Development."

Mlle. Nadejda Stancioff, daughter of the Bulgarian Minister in London, has been summoned to Genoa by the Bulgarian Prime Minister, M. Stambolisky, to attend the Conference as his private secretary and interpreter. Mlle. Stancioff left London on Tuesday.

The King has granted to Miralai H. G. Fuller Archer Bey, O.B.E., Commandant of the Suez Canal Police, Port Said, licence and authority to wear the Insignia of the Third Class of the Order of the Nile, conferred upon him in recognition of valuable services rendered.

The engagement is announced of Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Albert Stern, K.B.E., C.M.G., of Savoy Court, and Helen, elder daughter of the late Sir Frederick Orr-Lewis, Bt., and of Maud Lady Orr-Lewis, of the Villa Valetta, Cannes, and sister of Sir Duncan Orr-Lewis, Bt., of Whitewebbs Park, Enfield.

The engagement is announced between Thomas Farquharson Ker Howard, R.F.A., only son of Mr. W. H. F. Howard, O.B.E. (late P.W.D., Government of India), and Mrs. Howard, and Anne Cunningham, second daughter of the late Mr. Charles Cunningham Scott and of Mrs. Scott, of Halkhill, Largs, Ayrshire.

Sir Herbert Samuel, High Commissioner for Palestine, who has now quite recovered in health, is expected to reach England at the end of April for a period of leave. During the time that he is in this country Sir Herbert Samuel will take the opportunity to discuss with Mr. Churchill outstanding questions regarding the administration of Palestine.

The marriage was solemnized at St. Paul's Cathedral, Calcutta, on March 7, of Mr. Henry Birkmyre, elder son of Sir Archibald Birkmyre, Bt., C.B.E., and Lady Birkmyre, to Doris Gertrude, elder daughter of Colonel Austen Smith, I.M.S., C.I.E., M.L.C., Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals with the Government of Bihar and Orissa, and Mrs. Austen Smith.

Colonel Douglas Capitaneano, Military Attaché at the Roumanian Legation, last week entertained to luncheon at the Cavalry Club M. Titulesco, the Roumanian Minister, Sir Oswyn Murray, Permanent Secretary at the Admiralty, and Lady Murray, Commander T. W. Thompson, who leaves shortly to reorganise the Roumanian Navy, and Mrs. Thompson.

The Bulgarian Minister and Madame Stancioff gave a dinner-party, followed by an informal reception at 51, Queens Gate last Thursday. The guests included Lord and Lady Newton and the Hon. Hilda Legh, the Hungarian Chargé d'Affaires, the Italian Military Attaché and Madame Riggi, Major Neate, Lady Boyle, Lord Denbigh, Major Villiers-Stuart, Lady Constance Boyle, Monsieur Doreff, Captain Petroff, and M. Angheloff, of the Bulgarian Legation.

A Reuter message, dated Calcutta, March 28, states: Lord Lytton, the new Governor of Bengal, and his family arrived here to day. They were given a cordial reception by the large crowds, mostly Indians, who lined the streets as they drove in state from Howrah Station to Government House. There they were welcomed by Sir Henry Wheeler, the new Governor of Bihar and Orissa, who has been Acting Governor of Bengal since the departure of Lord Ronaldshay. Lord Lytton entered the Throne Room, where he took the oath of allegiance.

The marriage took place on March 30, at St. George's Hanover Square, of Mr. Thomas Beaumont Hohler, C.B., C.M.G., of Fawkham Manor, Kent, British Minister to Hungary, and son of the late Mr. H. B. Hohler, and Miss Cynthia Astell, daughter of the late Mr. William Astell, of Woodbury Hall, Sandy, and Lady De L'Isle and Dudley, of Penshurst Place, Kent. Prebendary Thicknesse officiated, assisted by the Rev. Michael Horsfall, vicar of Ingleby Greenhow, Yorkshire.

After a reception held at 34, Belgrave Square, the bride and bridegroom left for Italy. Amongst those invited were:—Lady De L'Isle and Dudley, Mrs. Arthur Hohler (sister of the bride); the Brazilian Ambassador and Mme. da Gama, the Hungarian Chargé d'Affaires and Mme. de Hedry, M. G. de Ruttksey, Counsellor to the Hungarian Legation; Prince and Princess Belowsselsky, the Marchioness of Normanby, the Marchioness of Sligo, the Countess of Dundonald, Earl and Countess Stanhope, Viscount and Viscountess Hardinge, the Hon. Ruby and the Hon. Sybil Hardinge, Viscount and Viscountess Gort; Eleanor Viscountess Gort, Lord Ellenborough, Lady Monk Bretton, Lady Carew, Lady Newton, and the Hon. Hilda Legh, Lady Moya Campbell, Mr. and Lady Kathleen Rollo, Major Sir John and Lady Ethel Baird, Sir Maurice and Lady de Bunsen, Sir James and Lady Enid Williams-Drummond, Lady Spring Rice, Lady Macdonald, Lady Cory, the Misses Astell, Mr. J. Astell, Colonel the Hon. Jeffrey and Mrs. Vereker, the Hon. Mrs. Foley Vereker and Miss Muriel Vereker, Mrs. H. B. Hohler, Mrs. Henry Hohler, Mrs. Edwin Hohler, Mr. and Mrs. Cazalet and Miss Cazalet, Mr. and Mrs. Glasgow and Miss Glasgow, Mr. Douglas Ainslie, the Hon. Henry Law, Mr. Anthony Wingfield, Colonel the Hon. Algernon Sidney and the Hon. William and Mrs. Sidney.

APPOINTMENTS.

Viscount Peel has appointed the Earl of Stamford to be his Parliamentary Private Secretary (unpaid).

Abdul Wahab Khan, son of the Afghan Foreign Minister, has been attached to the Legation here as Secretary.

Mr. Arthur Rowland Knapp, C.S.I., has been appointed a member of the Executive Council of the Governor of Madras, in succession to Sir Lionel Davidson, K.C.S.I.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Sir Henry Wheeler to be Governor of Bihar and Orissa, in the vacancy created by the resignation of Lord Sinha. His Majesty has also been pleased to approve the confirmation of Mr. Charles Alexander Innes in the office of Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council, in succession to Sir Thomas Holland. The Secretary of State for India has appointed Sir W. Vincent to be a Member of the Council of India in the vacancy

caused by the death of Sir G. Roos-Keppel. With the Secretary of State's concurrence, the Viceroy has asked Sir W. Vincent to continue his services as Home Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council during the summer before joining the Council of India.

JERUSALEM AND THE Y.W.C.A.

(From a Correspondent.)

Miss Grace Saunders, the indefatigable Y.W.C.A. secretary, after her tour through Bulgaria, Roumania, and Greece, is in charge of the work in Egypt and Palestine. Miss Margerison, who has served the Association with such selfless devotion for so many years, was obliged to resign on account of ill-health, and Miss Saunders is temporarily taking up her duties. One of the greatest interests for the moment of the Council for Egypt and Palestine is the new house which it is hoped to open in Jerusalem, and which it is expected will be the joint gift of all the Associations throughout the world. The sum of money required is not very large—only £6000—so it will be possible for many small personal gifts to make up the amount. Miss Saunders writes of increasing membership, and the success of the various activities. Those interested in the work in Jerusalem are invited to write for a free illustrated booklet to the World's Y.W.C.A. Office, 34, Baker Street, London, W.1.

In view of the prevalent unemployment, the Legislative Assembly of Malta has requested the Governor to secure preference for Malta dockyard for the building or repair of ships.

Greece has agreed to pay compensation in the case of the steamer *Espoir*, detained by her naval blockade, and to abstain from searching French ships in the future. The Italian steamer *Abbazia* has been released from detention in the Piraeus.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 1922.

PARIS AND THE NEAR EAST.

On another page will be found the text of the *communiqué* issued last week by the Foreign Ministers of France, Italy and Great Britain after their detailed discussion of the situation in the Near East. We should have liked to see included in it some recognition of the correct attitude observed since the war by Bulgaria, and some hint, at least, that her good conduct is to reap a reward of the character which she desires—a satisfactory outlet on the Aegean. Failing that, an impression may get abroad that it is only those who make themselves troublesome to the Allies who are likely to receive consideration. Possibly, however, the omission is due to the fact that the most urgent problem is to assure peace between the Greeks and the Turks, and that not until that is accomplished will the Allies be able to consider other, less pressing phases of the Near Eastern Question. Apart from this point, the *communiqué* appears to us as satisfactory as could be expected. It would not be difficult to criticise several of the proposals. In fact, several of them have already come in for criticism already, some by Philhellenes, others by Turcophiles, and more by "phobes" of one side or the other. But if we desire to be just, we have to bear in mind that while we may see one set of difficulties very clearly the three Allied Foreign Ministers, probably seeing them no less clearly, possibly saw also others which may be hidden from us, but may outweigh those we see. Moreover, the Ministers undoubtedly had to take into account some factors which while not strictly Near Eastern in character, yet affect profoundly the problem of the Near East. Speaking last Thursday in the House of Lords on the subject of this Paris Conference, Lord Curzon said quite frankly that the main object for which he went to it was to secure the unanimous decision of the three Great Powers on the questions discussed. In view of all that has taken place since the Armistice, it was not at all certain that unanimity would, or could, be reached, but that very desirable purpose has been achieved; and we feel that Lord Curzon was fully justified when he said that the proposals appear to have been generally approved by public opinion in this and other countries, and to be regarded as, on the whole, an equitable solution of a most difficult problem.

The sincerity of this effort after peace is hardly questioned in any quarter; even Angora recognizes that "this time the Entente has shown itself comparatively sincere." It does not follow, however, that it will finally be crowned with success; although we all hope that it will be. Officially Greece gave evidence of her readiness to do what she could by her prompt acceptance of the armistice proposal, but the publication of the three Ministers' *communiqué* has by no means been received with unmixed favour by the Greek people; and even if M. Gounaris persuades the Chamber of Deputies to approve the scheme outlined, the people may decline to follow the lead given. Our Constantinople correspondent reported quite lately rumours that the Greek army in Anatolia might borrow a leaf out of its opponent's book and, led by its present officers, insist on fighting on; and, extravagant though it sounds, the rumour may turn out to be well founded. The attitude of the Turks, too, is no more certain than that of the Greeks. Constantinople appears to be tolerably satisfied with the terms offered, but Angora professes to be very far from approving them. Adrianople and Thrace are

the stumbling blocks that the Kemalists make most fuss about; but the famous National Pact bogey makes a fleeting appearance now and then; and it is tolerably certain that Angora keeps a nervous eye on Moscow, wondering whether the whip will crack, and when. The Soviet Government, despite its preoccupations in other directions, is sure to have a good deal to say, directly or indirectly, on the subject of any agreement between Turkey and the "capitalistic Western Powers"; while Roumania is reported to view the suggested arrangement of the Straits difficulty with disfavour and to be disposed to take a strong line on the matter. Finally—and most unsatisfactory of all—there is a tendency in certain French circles to regard, or affect to regard, the proposals as a triumph for Great Britain rather than for the cause of peace, and to suggest that the measures preferred for the control of the Straits would mean British domination. The adoption of such an attitude is not only deplorable, but indicates an extraordinary lack of faith in the opinion of the French experts; for Lord Curzon has stated explicitly that in arriving at the decisions regarding the Straits the Conference was guided by the "unanimous advice" of the naval and military advisers. One of the most satisfactory things about the proposals, in fact, is that they are based on the advice of the experts who have studied them on the spot.

If we were to accept half the protests and grumbles called forth by the proposals at their face value we might lose all hope of any settlement. But we decline to do anything of the kind. The Turks, even the Kemalist Turks, have surely not so far lost their old-time gift of bargaining as to be blind to the chances now offered them; and they will be well advised to pay heed to Lord Curzon's warning against embarking on a protracted process of haggling. Let them reflect that, if the proposed scheme does not give them all they desired, it does surely give them all they could have hoped for, if not more than they could reasonably have hoped for, a short time ago. With the Greeks, the case is different. They are called upon to make sacrifices, which they can see only too clearly, while the compensation they are to receive is not definitely stated; and they are at present hardly in the mood to realize how great a blessing to them will be the cessation of war, with its drain on their manhood. Nevertheless, the wisdom they have shown in the matter of the armistice proposal encourages the hope that their political sagacity will enable them to see and follow the safer and better path. In that case they will undoubtedly deserve well of their Allies, and the compensation awarded to them is bound to be on a generous scale. As for any third parties, who may think themselves aggrieved or their safety endangered by the Paris proposals, they may rest assured that any representations they may make will be most carefully and sympathetically considered; for the Allies desire above all things to make a lasting settlement; and that will not be done if any just reason for complaint is afforded to a third State. On the other hand fanciful or factitious claims are likely to receive short shrift, for, to quote Lord Curzon again, "the civilized world is sick of this continuance of war, and longs . . . to settle down to normal conditions of tranquillity and peace." We believe that that statement is well within the mark, and that the world is so sick of the Turco-Greek situation that, if the parties to the quarrel refuse to see reason, it would be prepared to back the three Great Powers in any measures they may deem it necessary to take to put an end to the business. The proposals made may be open to modification in some minor respects, but any attempt at "protracted haggling" should be firmly suppressed, and the three Great Powers should not hesitate to take whatever steps may be necessary to bring about a settlement. They may be war-weary, but they are not too war-weary for that, now that they are united in purpose.

THE NAME OF "BULGAR."

By Our Former Belgrade Correspondent.

Strange are the vicissitudes of some words: strangest of all, perhaps, have been those of the name of Bulgar, which, at different times, has raised so much passion.

It is well known that the nucleus of the people were Tatars from the basin of the lower Volga, where their ancient home retained its name of Great, or Black Bulgary, until the XVth Century. They migrated along the shores of the Black Sea, past the mouths of the Danube and finally settled on the steppe-lands of the eastern Balkans, which resembled the vast plains of their home. Here they were reinforced by the kindred Pechenegs, Kumans and Tatars of the Horde, but by intermarriage and general contact, became eventually assimilated with the Slavs whom they found in their new home, accepting their religion and language, but retaining their name of Bulgar. A vigorous, military, disciplined race, they asserted themselves in Balkan history, spreading an ephemeral empire far beyond their natural boundaries, to be eventually crushed by the Turks, whom they resembled in many respects.

The Ottoman conquest of the Balkans reacted very differently upon Bulgars and Serbs. Kosovo inspired the latter with a vigorous sense of nationality, which the distance from Constantinople, and the wooded and mountainous nature of their country, encouraged. The Bulgars, on the other hand, were completely crushed. The reasons were partly the innate sense of obedience in their Turanian blood, and partly their proximity to Stamboul, and the open nature of their country, which enabled the Turks to maintain an efficient occupation more easily than in the forests of Serbia or the rocky fastnesses of the West. The consequence was that it was the steppes of the platform of the lower Danube which became the home of the crushing *chiflik* system of Ottoman feudalism, which reduced the patient Bulgar to the status of *rayah*, just as it did the Slavs of the centre and of Macedonia. The name of Bulgar soon lost all national sense and became synonymous with *rayah*, which was the true meaning of the word in the mouths of Turks and Greeks. A Russian traveller in the XVIIth Century refers to the *kmets* of even distant Bosnia as Bulgars, and the Mohammedan Serbs of Bosnia, Herzegovina and the sandjak of Novibazar used it in no other sense. We find it in the eastern districts under the true form *Blgar*, but in the centre south and west, it is softened into *Bugar*, which is the form in modern Serbian.

It passed to signify anything that is simple, coarse, and heavy: in Macedonia, the poorest labourers are referred to as *asti bugari*, real Bulgars, and *bugarska rabota*, Bulgar work, means a heavy toll. "To talk like a Bulgar" means simply and plainly, as the common peasants speak. Cvijich records that near Salonika, the verb *izbugariti se*, applied to corn, means to be spoilt, and *pobugariti se* means to rot: during the war, in the vernacular press in Salonika, *izbugarena* meant devastated, and *bugarka* is an inferior kind of wheat. One of the old peasant songs quoted by Cvijich relates:—

*junak svlachi svilu i kadifu
pa ponese budak na ramenu
i oblachi bugarske haljine
uchini se golema sirota,*

which may be translated literally:—

The hero doffed silk and velvet,
and took an adze upon his shoulder,
and donned rough clothes,
and made up as a very poor man,

where *bugarske haljine* means coarse, rough clothing. And in the "Wedding of Tsar Dushan," a warrior who has disguised himself in "Bulgar clothes" is not admitted to the inn. *Bugaraska kopanja*, is the coarsest kind of wooden goblet.

As far away as Dalmatia and in Croatia, the simplest kind of songs are termed *bugarstije*, Bulgar songs, and we find the same thing in the Ragusan epic "Osman,"

of Gundulitch, in the XVIIth Century. And even as far away as Zagorje in northern Croatia, unceasing rain is described as *bugar*, while in the Bocche di Cattaro, the natives apply the name *bugar* to the least valuable of their animals.

A similar fate befel the word *Vlah*, or Wallach, a Roumanian or Aromoun, which is a corruption of the Teutonic root for stranger which we find in *Welsh*. In Turkish, a Vlah was not necessarily a Roumanian, but a Christian shepherd, and the term was applied indiscriminately to Serbs as well as true Vlahs, and in this sense we often find it in place-names in Serbia to-day. In Serb and in Croat it has gained a derogatory sense, but Bulgar has gone much farther.

The Armenian colonists round Plovdiv brought the Patarene heresy from their uplands in Asia Minor, and gave birth to the curious sect of the Bogomiles. In time, persecution scattered those remnants who did not turn to Islam, and so Bulgar heretics spread over Europe. They passed into Italy, and thence gave rise to the Albigeois, and so their name passed into the French *bougre*, which originally meant a heretic. It has now lost its mediaeval significance, and ceased to be even a term of contempt or abuse, and is dependent upon its adjective for its effect: thus, while a Frenchman would object to being called a *sale bougre*, he would not mind being referred to as *un bon bougre*. In English it brought over its mediaeval significance from France, and meant simply a heretic, and in this sense is employed by early ecclesiastical writers, who apply it to the "Pope of Rome." In the bitterness of religious conflict, it has gradually lost its specific meaning and become offensive. Doubtless it will pass through the same phase as the French form, for undoubtedly in certain circles it simply means "fellow," with no opprobrious sense, and will very probably one day, like many a slang word, find a resting place in the respectable vocabulary of the country.

But with the awakening of the sense of nationality in Bulgaria, which we may date from the granting in 1870 of the Exarchate by Turkey, in order to sow dissension between Bulgars and Serbs, it has re-assumed its long-lost ethnical meaning, and consequently it made easy the work of the propagandists of Sofia in Macedonia, where the natives were accustomed to the word, as meaning a mere peasant, and it shocked them as an ethnic designation as little as did the name of *Boer* appear undesirable to the Dutch of South Africa. It is strange indeed that a philological curiosity should have such far-reaching political effect.

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BRITAIN AND EGYPT.

Egyptian Press Views.

As far as the Egyptian Press can do so, it indicates that Egyptians in general, while welcoming independence—respecting which much perplexity, misunderstanding and suspicion nevertheless exist—are solidly opposed to the reservations as nullifying “complete independence;” and hold that real power will remain in the hands of Lord Allenby. Mohammed Shakir, who has a considerable following, continues his comments on the situation in the *Mokattam*. The British Government, he says, has proclaimed that it is for Egypt to respond to the offer made, and “it is hoped she will justly appreciate the good intentions of Britain, and that reflection, not passion, will guide her attitude.” We have to thank Britain for her good advice, which we hope all responsible Egyptians will follow. Well, for ourselves, on full reflection we say that Egyptians must reject the new terms as they did those of Lord Curzon and Lord Allenby. Egypt claims complete independence from the sources of the Nile to its mouths, and freedom from all interference, internal or external, by any Power whatsoever, at whatever cost, and by whatever methods. It is not wise to rejoice over what is merely illusory. Lord Allenby brings what is merely equivalent to a title bestowed by a King upon one of his subjects. The King of England is usurping from the Sultan-Khalifah, without justification, but with the approval of the European Powers, the rights which he possessed by virtue of conquest. Our advice to the Egyptian people is to send representatives to the Conference of Powers who alone are able to decide regarding the relations between East and West, and who have preached complete independence for all countries, in order to establish peace in the world. Before this can be realized the domination of strong nations over weak must come to an end. Liberty and equality must be established without distinction of race or colour.

It is quite premature and illogical to suppose that Egypt is now a sovereign State, or to rejoice over the new title given to Sultan Fuad, and the firing of guns. The so-called independence is obviously quite incompatible with the four reservations. We advise our Government to avoid the danger and responsibility of yielding. Should it bind itself to agreements as proposed, let it clearly understand that it represents, not the will of the Egyptian people, but only that of a few individuals; and in the end it is for the Egyptian nation to decide. Egypt moreover must entirely refuse to accept as legal, or to sanction, the enactments passed during the period of martial law. These relate to the Budget, the continuance for five years of the Mixed Tribunals, and other important matters affecting foreigners in Egypt, passed during the time when no Ministers would accept office, and British Under-Secretaries of State were acting as Ministers. England's object is to obtain legal fixity for these before a National Assembly comes into being.

The *Ahram* of March 17 expresses views much to the same effect. A letter is published from the “Egyptian Democratic Party” to the Egyptian Premier. This party would, it says, have expressed its attitude sooner had it been able to understand what was the driving power behind the late rapid decisions. Mr. Lloyd George has stated that any agreement is exclusively a matter between England and Egypt. “While we accept that Egypt is now a Sovereign State, we entirely deny that any of the reservations are acceptable or valid. Egypt desires to be precisely on the same friendly terms with the other Powers as she will be with England, and it is the duty of the Egyptian Government to notify all the Powers accordingly.”

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

In consequence of queries, the Editor thinks advisable to state that the quotation from and article does not necessarily imply that the views expressed are shared by “The Near East.” On the contrary, an attempt is made to include as far as is possible in the available space all sides of the various questions discussed.

The Independence of Egypt.

The *Daily Telegraph* of March 17 begins an enthusiastic article thus:—

One of the most creditable chapters in the history of the British peoples has been brought to a close by the declaration of the Independence of Egypt. Mistakes have been made in the long years since we set foot in the land of the Pharaohs, for it is human to err; but we confront the world to-day with a record of administrative, civilising and educational work in this once-harried and disordered portion of the world which finds its fitting climax in the proclamation which has now been issued by the Sultan, who becomes King of Egypt. We have good reason to be proud of what we have done in face of many and conflicting difficulties. We have brought order out of chaos, financial equilibrium out of a state of bankruptcy, and have conferred on the fellahen a new charter of freedom. We entered Egypt when it had been for almost four centuries a vassal State of the Turkish Empire, subject to the authority of local rulers, who exercised within its frontiers practically despotic powers, so long as they paid the annual tribute to the Porte and did nothing to offend the will of the supreme master, seated in Constantinople, of Egypt's destiny. The Proclamation of Independence revives memories which were wearing dim.

It outlines the troubled history of Egypt in the latter half of the nineteenth century, speculates on Egypt's possible future, and concludes:—

But this land of ancient repute and new aspirations is free of oppression and misrule as in past centuries it never hoped to be free. The Protectorate has been denounced and the new measure of independence granted, not by the British Government as an arbitrary act, but by the British peoples, expressing themselves through the Prime Ministers' Conference last summer, and more recently through the House of Commons. The foundations have been laid of a new and, as we hope, a happy relationship between the British Empire and this new State. What the future destiny of the country may be depends on the chosen and responsible leaders of Egyptian public opinion. The reins of government under the new Monarchy have been confided to their hands. They receive from us a territory which, under British influence, has been transformed in the course of years from a place of desolation and suffering into a domain which, enjoying a large measure of material prosperity, holds a fair promise. It is unnecessary to do more than recall in the briefest words the distinguished part which Lord Allenby, the British High Commissioner, has had in the later stages of this evolution, which has added a new State to the constellation of the nations of the world. The future of Egypt, as any reader of the news from day to day must realise, is not unclouded, but freedom, under ordered government, is the solvent of many troubles. From every part of the British Empire, where the course of recent events has been watched with lively and sympathetic interest, the sentences of hope of the Marquis Curzon's recent despatch will find an echo. He remarked that “his Majesty's Government are convinced that the people of Egypt will show themselves worthy of the independence which they have now secured, and will prove by their use of it that the confidence reposed in them has not been misplaced.” Egypt, with its long and fascinating history dating back beyond all human records, emerges on the world's state as a Sovereign State

with the good wishes of every friend of liberal civilisation and King Fuad I. will be universally felicitated on the assumption of his new dignity.

Turkey and Greece.

The *Westminster Gazette* of March 28 is not hopeful of any lasting results from the Near East Conference, thinking that the proposals therein set down for "saving the face" of Greece are bad statesmanship. It reproaches both Mr. Lloyd George and Lord Curzon, and concludes:—

The prospects are not very bright. The Angora Government is reported to be unwilling to agree to an armistice; and certainly there is no very obvious reason why it should. That is the central difficulty of the problem. The Turks, in this war which Mr. Lloyd George has so unwisely provoked, are substantially the victors. If they were prudent they would perhaps accept the great concessions which they are now offered. But when have victors, even Western victors, been prudent? Why should the Turks surrender their claims to Adrianople, which is a Turkish city? Why should they consent to the Greeks holding not only Gallipoli but a tongue of land which, reaching to the Black Sea, will cut them off from their Bulgarian neighbours? And why should the Bulgarians be denied access to the Aegean Sea? To these questions there are no easy answers, unless the Allies are prepared—as at present they certainly are not—to employ military force on the spot. That being so, there is no reasonable alternative to the policy of attempting to draft a settlement on the simple basis of racial and economic justice. We have made a great mistake, and we must climb down. To climb down only two-thirds of the way, as Lord Curzon seems to have done, is merely foolish. We thus get the worst of both worlds; we lose prestige without securing peace. That is the danger of the policy which has just been promulgated from Paris; it is likely to settle nothing, even in the improbable event of its being accepted, for the moment, by the Angora Government. In the Near East, more plainly than anywhere else, we must cut our losses; and that is just what our present Government seems incapable of doing. No Government can ever rectify its own mistakes. It is indispensable that we should have a new broom.

The Near East Proposals.

The *Morning Post* is, by no means optimistic over the Conference. In its issue of March 28 it says of the terms of the settlement that they

obviously constitute a compromise which seeks to balance the evacuation of Anatolia by Greece by an adjustment of the Thracian frontier line which, while giving a certain freedom to Constantinople, leaves to Greece territorial advantages, including the retention of Adrianople, which, it is believed, may make less galling to Hellenic pride the loss of Smyrna and the Anatolian hinterland. Thrace is the real crux of the problem, and in that connection there are two considerations which cannot be neglected. In the first place, Greece, as we pointed out yesterday, is in possession of Thrace, and those who are determined to dispute that possession must be sure that they have at their disposal the requisite forces to carry out their will. In the second place, the proposed compromise gives a certain amount of

territorial contiguity to Turkey and Bulgaria, and it is quite clear that if that contiguity were increased both Roumania and Jugo-Slavia, with armies on the spot, might feel constrained to take drastic action. Therefore the dread possibility of another Balkan outbreak cannot be disregarded by the statesmen of the Allies. Will this settlement which is open to many criticisms, but which has one merit, that it wipes out the foolish iniquity of Mr. Lloyd George's proposal to break up Turkey as an Asiatic Power, be accepted by the parties concerned? It is from that point of view we advise caution. The Kemalists may refuse. We have much sympathy with the claims of Angora, and we have always pleaded their cause. Therefore we again remind its rulers that their decision must be regulated not only by the military situation but by the undoubted fact that if Turkey is again bled white by a renewal of hostilities the one Power which will gain is Bolshevik Russia, which is the enemy of Christian and Moslem alike and the sworn foe of peace and reconciliation. Most important of all, failure to reach a settlement will be a blow to the Entente, and will have serious consequences not only at Angora but at Genoa, and may make itself felt not only on the shores of the Aegean but on the banks of the Rhine. It is not so much Thrace or Anatolia as the Entente which is at stake in these delicate negotiations. It is not yet firmly established that a complete agreement, which will inevitably lead to a durable settlement, has yet been reached. But if there is to be peace in Europe as well as in Anatolia such an agreement is an urgent necessity.

INTERESTING STAMPS.

The *Times* of March 13 states:—The present tendency is to make stamp designs characteristic of the lands on their origin, and to this end the once universal portrait or armorial device is gradually giving place to local types and views illustrative of topography, manners and customs. Archaeological subjects introduce a novel element into the designs of the latest postage stamps of Armenia, certain values of which bear reproductions of curious sculptures and bas-reliefs unearthed from the ruins of Ani, while the five roubles stamp presents a general view of the site of the ancient Armenian capital, founded by Ashat II. and destroyed by earthquake in 1319. A panoramic view of Mount Ararat, the traditional resting place of the Ark, appears on the 500 roubles value of the same series, printed in purple. An Armenian soldier and a fisherman on the shores of Lake Van form the subjects of the vignettes on the 50 roubles red and 1,000 roubles blue-green respectively. The remaining denominations are decorated with the Soviet emblem of a crossed hammer and sickle. All the stamps are very crudely printed at Erivan by lithography, and issued imperforate. From the near by Transcaucasian State of Georgia comes a new 100 roubles stamp, lithographed in brown, with a figure of St. George, and inscribed in native characters.

It is understood that designs for an issue of national postage stamps by the Arab Government of Irak have been approved.

THE CAUCASUS PEASANTRY.

The representative of the American Near East Relief Organisation at Tiflis has sent a telegram, dated March 7, depicting a terrible state of things in the Caucasus, where starvation, overcrowding in towns, severe weather, and attacks of wolves in the country are causing great distress. The telegram says:—"The snow is now six to nine feet deep in the Eastern districts, where the villagers have been terrified during the past fortnight by incursions of wolves. Two soldiers on outpost duty near Darachichak were eaten by wolves after a desperate fight. Near Alexandropol five peasants lost their lives when a band of wolves attacked the village."

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

—OMAR KHAYYAM—

There are many methods of trying to get at the truth, and one is constantly hearing of ways that would hardly suggest themselves to the ordinary person in England, but then was not Solomon a Near Eastern potentate? A certain landlady living in Egypt, left her house to reside for several days in another town; she commanded the *boab* (hall porter) to watch, and to be sure to turn off the tenants' water at 9 p.m. However, the *boab* was a peace-loving man. On the return of the landlady, she accused him of allowing the tenants to have water all night. Naturally he stoutly maintained that he had shut it off punctually at 9 p.m. After much altercation, the landlady said she *knew* he had not done it, because she had had no complaints from the tenants on her return. Even a divorce court judge might get tips from the Egyptian landlady as to sifting grains of truth.

A friend who has been reading "A Song of Araby," which was reviewed in THE NEAR EAST not long ago, tells me that he found the descriptions of 'Iraq of the pre-war period particularly good. "But," he said, "there was a mistake in one place, in the chapter describing Eliot's escape from the Turks at Basrah, in which the author writes about the Persian Bank as being at a particular spot, when it was not at that period in existence there." This is just one of those pardonable slips that really do no harm, since they pass undetected by readers who don't know; while to those who *do* know the discovery of them affords, very often, real pleasure. Very different, to my mind, was a bad "break" made by a writer in describing his experiences at Kut during the siege—in, I think, *Blackwood*. Writing of the gallant attempt to run the "Jumna" through with provisions for the besieged garrison, he mentioned listening with much emotion to the beat of her paddles. The "Jumna" was the first—and I believe the last—boat on the Tigris to be fitted with screws in tunnels; so that whatever the imaginative gentleman may have heard it was *not* the beat of her paddles!

I cull the following from a paper published somewhere in the Near East:—"S.S. Caronia of 24,000 tons left New York on January 28 with 350 persons: she is due at Haifa on February 22 where she will visit Nazareth and Tiberius, and then come on to Jerusalem by car." We always knew our motor manufacturers and shipbuilders were clever people, but I think that the designer of this car should at least have an O.B.E. Perhaps, however, it is an American car, probably a ——— but no, no advertisements allowed in this column! Also the geography of Palestine seems to have altered a bit quite recently, but perhaps is was one of the Conferences did it.

When THE NEAR EAST, at Christmas, published the grim little play "A Turkish Night," it was criticized by one of its readers, who thought that the main incident of the play—the killing of the bandit, Kara Youssuf, by his mother, who failed to recognize him, was "too far-fetched for anything." As a matter of fact, I do not think that opinion would hold water, if we take into account all the circumstances of the play. But in any case the story is quite put in the shade by one told recently in the *Westminster Gazette*. In the latter tale, which is true, a Yugoslav peasant returning from America to his native village, with a small fortune which he had

made, kept his identity secret at first, meaning to give his family a joyful surprise. But the sight of the money he displayed so freely whetted the appetite of his wife and brother-in-law, who, still ignorant that he was their relative, murdered him while he slept. The following day a friend, to whom he had confided his intentions, came to the house, and the trick was revealed. Thereupon the wife and her brother, stricken let us hope by remorse rather than fear, drowned themselves.

The exciting events which have been taking place in Egypt during the past three months have been responsible for a good many "howlers" of one kind and another. Our London daily, I remember, came out just before Christmas with a very large type heading "Warships 'Hurried to Cairo,'" which leads us to hope that the Navy may yet find its way across the Armenian mountains to the help of the oppressed. Another London daily, which used to be better-informed, announced a little later that: "Four Cairo journalists—namely, the *Mukattam*, the *Mahroussa el Akhbar*, the *Ni zam* and the *Alexandria journal el Ommah*—have been suspended." The *Mokattam* and the other journals have no doubt often been "suspended" on book stalls, but one wonders whether the *journalists* were hanged on lamp-posts, or how! And then we had lately one of the Labour M.P.'s talking in Parliament about "the fellaheen" when he meant "the Fella" —not, perhaps a "singular" mistake after only three weeks in Egypt; and at least not so bad as Mr. Lloyd George's error in thinking that "fellaheen" were just insects.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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The Egyptian Budget.

The new Egyptian Budget, which is dealt with by our Cairo Correspondent on page 467, illustrates the great improvement that has taken place in the country's financial position during the past twelve months as a result of a regime of rigid economy. Last year the Budget provided for a deficit of £E,1,981,000, and it was generally thought that this total would be greatly exceeded. Actually, owing to the prudent policy of the Administration, there is a surplus of about £E2,500,000. This year's Budget provides for receipts of £E33,630,000, and expenditure of £E31,440,000, leaving a surplus of £E2,190,000. Our Correspondent points out that if this is realised the reserve will amount to about £E6,200,000, but it would seem that the estimates are rather on the cautious side, and any general improvement of trade would make a great difference to the position.

Egypt's Strong Economic Position.

In the course of his speech at the recent meeting of the National Bank of Egypt at Cairo the Governor of the Bank referred to the material change in the commercial position of the country during the past year. For the previous four years Egypt enjoyed favourable trade balances in some instances of a considerable character, but for the past twelve months there was an adverse balance of about 34 millions. This development the Governor remarked need occasion no alarm "as the country had accumulated large reserves of profit, the greater part of which still exist, and the general financial position of the country is undoubtedly sound." The Governor also emphasised the soundness of Egypt's currency system. As a result of the change in the trade position the figures for the note issue at the end of last year showed a fall of 30 millions in two years, the totals being 37 millions as compared with 67 millions. This reduction has had no effect upon the exchange owing to the mechanism by which the note issue is regulated. "If our currency system were not sound" the Governor pointed out "it would not have been possible to meet the demand for redemption of notes. . . without any difficulty whatever and without any effect on exchange."

Another Sudan Loan.

Turning to the Sudan the Governor pointed out that the trade statistics clearly showed that it had shared to the full the prevailing depression. In 1921 there was a decline of almost £E3,000,000 in the value of the Sudan's exports, while imports also declined though not nearly so extensively, this being due to the importation of material for irrigation works. In this connection the Governor stated that the Loan of £6,380,000 raised by the Sudan Government under a guarantee of interest by the British Government would not be sufficient, and that negotiations are in progress for a further loan. The result of the completion of the work will be that an area of 300,000 feddans will be available for cultivation in the

Gezira, the utilisation of which "cannot fail to give a considerable impetus to trade from which the whole country will benefit."

Lancashire and India.

Lancashire's case as regards Indian import duties on cotton was presented at the India Office last week by a deputation of Lancashire members of Parliament and others. Stress was laid on the point that the deputation was united on the necessity, as far as practicable, of absolute free trade between this country and India, and a number of extremely pertinent arguments were advanced against the duties to answer which satisfactorily is not likely to be an easy matter. But it is one thing to make out an adequate case against what is admittedly nothing more nor less than protection against Lancashire, and quite another to obtain any amelioration of the position. It has to be recognised that conditions in India are now vitally changed, and it is difficult in the circumstances to see any reasonable ground for confidence that Lancashire will obtain what she desires.

Handicaps to Trade.

It is not only in regard to India that Lancashire is faced with an unpromising position. We quote elsewhere an article in a contemporary giving the views of a merchant at Constantinople in regard to the shrinkage of British trade with that centre. He points out that in the past Lancashire has had no need to advertise owing to the number of native houses that had been long established in Manchester. But in recent years conditions have been adverse to their maintenance, and in the connection reference is made to the high wages insisted on by the the British workmen, and to the cost of transport and other things, the result of which is that British goods cannot compete with foreign products. It is, of course, an inevitable corollary that this should be so. Whether the loss of trade will bring about an improvement of conditions must remain to be seen. It cannot be said that up to the present labour has shown any overwhelming sense of realising the facts of the position.

Commentator.

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Commerce and Industry.

REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

GREECE.

Athens, March 25.

Requisitioning of Goods.

The manner in which the Government is carrying out the requisitioning of goods imported from abroad is causing much discontent among Athens and Piraeus commercial circles. Hitherto the Government held adjudications for all its requirements, and the orders were given as a rule to the lowest bidder, who was obliged by the terms of the contract to deliver the goods within a stipulated period. During the last few months, however, it was noticed that the number of bidders at these adjudications gradually decreased, until one day none appeared. This was due to the fact that the Government having already placed many orders for various commodities was unable, owing to the shortage of funds, to pay for them, and this naturally frightened the adjudicators away. The Government, however, being in urgent need of army commodities, decided to exercise the rights of a country in a state of war by requisitioning all goods, such as khaki cloth, coal, and so forth, also foodstuffs immediately on their arrival at the Piraeus and Salonika. But not only has the Government so far, not paid any of the importers for the value of their requisitioned goods, but even the price to be paid has not been fixed! Meanwhile the shippers of the merchandise abroad are pressing the merchants here for payment, and the latter are thus placed in a very difficult position as the Government being extremely hard up has notified them that it is unable to effect any payments at present. The Piraeus Chamber of Commerce has now taken the matter up with the Government, but one cannot see what good this can do as long as the public treasury is empty and no money is forthcoming. Many importers in Athens and Piraeus have cancelled any orders which they had already placed abroad. The value of goods requisitioned by the Government amounts to many million drachmae.

Agricultural Production in Samos.

According to information supplied by the Ministry of Agriculture the production in the island of Samos during 1921 was as follows:—Barley, 18,050 okes; wheat, 55,740 okes; potatoes, 73,100 okes; grapes, 31,600 okes; figs, 91,800 okes; must, 176,100 okes; raisins, 164,680 okes; pears, 37,100 okes.

Higher Custom Duties.

A Bill has been passed by the National Assembly by which all custom duties paid in gold will, in future, be collected in paper money, the value of the drachmae being calculated on the day's rate of the pound sterling as fixed by the Consortium of Banks. This also applies to all demurrage charges and municipal taxes. By the application of this new law the duty on all imported goods is increased by 60 per cent.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, March 24.

Question of War Compensation.

The Roumanian Foreign Office is making fresh representations to the late enemy States, who according to the Peace Treaties are obliged to return what they have taken from this country during the time of occupation. Bulgaria, who, by the Treaty of Neuilly, has to return a number of cattle and sheep, has so far only returned a very small quantity of sheep. Hungary in compliance with the Trianon Treaty has to deliver to Roumania cattle as war compensation, but is objecting to this, stating that the Roumanians during the occupation of Hungary in 1919 took much more material than was due to them.

Trade Market.

Despite the "Easter season" being on now local merchants are still complaining of trade depression.

This is chiefly due to the consumers holding aloof, not so much for the reason that they are now convinced that at least until the summer no reduction of prices can be expected, but mainly for the reason that they are not in a financial position to buy. The facts are that during the last two or three months living expenses have doubled, whilst the income of the bulk of the population has remained stationary, so that the average individual is unable to satisfy some of his essential needs. On the other hand there is an equal if not growing demand as compared with former years for the articles consumed by the wealthy class, whose income grows with the depreciation of the leu. Therefore, in the shops containing luxury articles, such as silks, etc., trade is very satisfactory although prices rise almost weekly. To give an example, while the merchants of cotton piece goods find very few buyers even at prices of 32 to 35 lei per metre, those with silks at 400 to 500 lei per metre have not sufficient stocks to satisfy the demand.

In other words, although existing stocks are gradually being depleted, local importers have no inducement to replenish their stocks from abroad, especially at the present rate of exchange, and prefer to order small parcels of articles that find a ready market, even by the Simplon Express service despite the very high transport rate. Others prefer to supply themselves with small quantities from factories in the country, even though prices are not lower than those prevailing abroad.

Miscellaneous.

The submarine cable between Constantza and Constantinople, which has been out of repair for over three months, has now been completely re-established, so that telegraphic and telephonic communications between these two centres are now resumed. This work was executed by Roumanian and Turkish working parties under French supervision.

The Ministry of Finance has now ordered the printing of duplicates of all State, district and town obligations that were sent to Moscow during the war. As the duplicates are issued the originals will be officially cancelled.

At the Railway Conference held recently at Vienna it was decided that, beginning from May 1, the Orient Express fare between Vienna and Bucharest shall be reduced by 30 per cent. It was further decided that from that date direct tickets shall be issued from Bucharest and Arad to Paris and other towns beyond Vienna.

From Bessarabia it is reported that owing to the rising of the Dniester several villages on both sides of this river are almost flooded out.

According to the latest bulletin of the Ministry of Agriculture, the autumn sowings are progressing very satisfactorily. Rapeseed is in excellent condition, but comparatively little of it has been sown. Spring sowings are now in full swing.

CYPRUS.

Cyprus, March 14.

Exports and Imports.

Figures for the calendar year 1921 show that exports amounted in value to £920,867 as against £1,200,650 in the proceeding year, and imports to £1,512,288, as against £2,073,584. The principal exports were—Carobs, £305,480; wines, £82,299; spirits, £14,346; raisins, £42,517; potatoes, £62,759; asbestos, £30,360; sheep, £24,926; mules, £20,945; cattle, £19,157; asses, £16,431; cereals, £17,132; oranges and lemons, £16,346; pomegranates, £27,088; cotton goods, £13,613. The chief imports were cotton goods, £254,002; petroleum, £77,556; tobacco, £70,546; flour and wheat, £94,758; sugar, £69,251; rice, £24,274; leather and skins, £69,064; drugs, £17,478; machinery and appliances, £38,405; cigarette papers, £12,901; iron, £9,535; coal, £15,355.

EGYPT'S BUDGET FOR 1922-1923.

Substantial Surplus Expected.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, March 25.

The Council of Ministers passed the Budget for the new financial year this morning. The receipts are estimated at L.E.33,630,000 and the expenditure at L.E.31,440,000, leaving an anticipated surplus of L.E.2,190,000 which will be added to the reserve. This compares as follows with the budget for the preceding year:—Receipts, L.E.36,701,000; expenditure, L.E.38,682,000; deficit to be debited to the reserve L.E.1,981,000.

The Finance Committee's note points out that the 1921-1922 budget included on the revenue side an item of L.E.4,123,000, representing the proceeds of sales of cereals and on the expenditure side an item of L.E., 4,709,000 representing the cost of purchase of cereals. In the current budget the amounts figuring on either side under this heading are L.E.162,000, and L.E.75,000 respectively. There is therefore a net increase in what may be called recurring revenue of L.E.890,000, and a decrease in recurring expenditure of L.E.2,608,000.

The year which ends on the 31st instant far from closing with the anticipated deficit will produce a surplus of approximately L.E.2,500,000, so that if the forecast for the coming year is realised the reserve a year hence should amount to L.E.6,200,000. This, as the Finance Committee points out, has only been brought about by the adoption of a policy of economy directed at re-establishing a strong reserve and by endeavouring to expand the general resources of the country; and the establishment of this new reserve should enable the Government to meet the first calls in connection with the development work which it must undertake in the near future.

Under receipts the chief items are:—Direct taxes, L.E.5,550,000—a slight improvement; customs, L.E.9,764,000—an increase of L.E.1,595,000, owing on the one hand to an underestimate of import dues even when allowance is made for the contraction of foreign trade in 1921 and on the other to an increase of L.E.490,000 from the excise duty recently established on alcohol; judicial fees, L.E.2,123,000—an increase of L.E.343,000, due to a large extent to the recent raising of transfer fees; railways, L.E.7,400,000—an increase of L.E.294,000 (this total is L.E.500,000 less than the total receipts for the current year, but it has been considered prudent to make allowance for the decrease in third class passengers to be expected as a result of the economic state of the country and for the reduction in the quantity of cotton transported; State Domains, L.E.913,000—an increase of L.E.113,000; military exemption fees, L.E.300,000—an increase of L.E.100,000 owing to the raising of the tariff; Ghaffir cess L.E.1,461,000; interest on funds, L.E.1,061,000—a decrease of L.E.1,194,000, due to the contraction in the note issue which is now down to 37 millions as against 40½ millions at the end of 1920 and 67 millions at the end of 1921; miscellaneous receipts, L.E.1,133,000—an increase of L.E.122,000 due partly to the proceeds of the sale of oil received as royalty; cotton tax L.E.1,150,000—a decrease of L.E.850,000, due to the reduction in the cotton crop and the contemplated reduction in the incidence of the tax on the lower grades of the cotton; extraordinary receipts, L.E.676,000—an increase of L.E.150,000 resulting from the sale of the balance of cotton purchased by the Government last year.

Under expenditure there is a reduction of L.E.205,000 in the King's civil list due to the termination of the repairs to his yacht. The Ministry of Finance Central Administration credit shows a reduction of L.E.298,042, owing partly to the completion of the purchase of Koubbah Palace. The Survey receives L.E.398,525;

the State Domains, L.E.416,018; the Customs' L.E.261,875; the Frontier Districts Administration' L.E.252,600; while a new item, Petroleum Office, appears with L.E.176,000, of which L.E.100,000 is destined for petroleum research and L.E.76,000 for the completion of Suez refinery. Public Instruction receives a small increase making a total credit of L.E.1,169,040; and the Ministry of the Interior, L.E.121,748 less, or a total of L.E.794,864 due partly to reduction in the cost of material and rations. Public Health has a slight increase to L.E.758,935, while the Prisons receive L.E.368,642 or L.E.96,506 less, due to reduction in the cost of material and rations. The Ministry of Justice, in which are included the Mixed, Native and Religious Courts has a total credit of L.E.1,280,420 which is slightly higher than the previous year. Under Public Works the Irrigation Department with L.E.2,278,763 receives L.E.149,170 less; the new works for which L.E.673,180 are provided are Abukir Drainage, L.E.75,000, survey work on the Upper Nile, L.E.42,000, work in connection with Gebel Aulia reservoir L.E.200,000 and for urgent work in Upper and Lower Egypt, L.E.60,000.

The State Buildings receive L.E.425,166, the new works including the construction of a primary school at Zagazig, and the reconditioning of the Hospital at Luxor given to the Government by Messrs. Cook and Son. The Mechanical Service credit is L.E.299,716; in this connection considerable economies are expected from the installation of oil consuming machines or the conversion of existing machines for the Helwan water supply, the Giza and Gezira pumps and the Port Said light-house. Cairo Municipal Service receives L.E.396,277; the Main Drainage, L.E.235,969 and the Ministry of Agriculture, L.E.359,499, a slight increase over the previous year permitting an extension of its activities. Railways figure for L.E.3,376,467 or L.E.1,501,028 less than the preceding year; this is due to economies on coal and maintenance expenses. The credit for Telegraphs is L.E.246,304, for Telephones, L.E.285,878; for the Post Office, L.E.522,401; and for Ports and Lights, L.E.690,646; in connection with the latter L.E.250,000 are for improvements in Suez Port and L.E.83,000 for other improvements in Alexandria. Main Roads and Bridges receives L.E.359,190; or L.E.181,758 more than the preceding year. A sum of L.E.153,000 is allotted to further work on Embaba Bridge. The Provincial Administrative Services receive L.E.731,388; the police L.E.986,976, and Ghaffirs, L.E.1,527,006. The War Office has a slight increase to L.E.1,889,835; pensions and indemnities credit is increased by L.E.255,060 to L.E.1,066,810, due partly to the regularisation of the position of temporary employees and partly to the payment of indemnities etc., to the Egyptian Auxiliary Corps. The Public Debt Service takes L.E.4,616,168, a slight increase due to the increased commission charged by the Banks on the payment of the coupons.

There is a decrease of L.E.650,000 in the indemnities for the increased cost of living paid to the Service which now amounts to L.E.2,500,000. This reduction is due to a decrease in the scale forecast for next June. A sum of L.E.900,000 is inserted for the settlement of riot claims in connection with the 1919 and 1921 troubles in respect of which L.E.864,000 has so far been paid. Finally a sum of L.E.500,000 has been inserted in the Budget to meet the arrears to the Civil Service in connection with the regrading which is now being carried out. The note points out that it will only be possible to meet a portion of the total arrears due and incidentally it draws attention to the fact that whereas in 1913 when there was no high cost of living allowance the total salaries amounted to L.E.5,360,000 out of a budget of L.E.16,130,000, to-day in a budget of L.E.33,630,000 the service costs L.E.13,186,000.

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THE YUGOSLAV BUDGET*.

By M. Burr.

(Concluded).

The state monopolies are a substantial business, but here again obsolete accountancy, according to Belin, and delay in unifying the system throughout the country makes it very difficult to form an accurate idea of the situation. The tobacco monopoly certainly shews a big profit as also petroleum, but in the latter case private competition is permitted subject to a tax, and it is very difficult to arrive at the correct figures. A profit of 552 millions is shewn by Belin, but admittedly on inadequate information.

Finally, direct taxation is over-estimated, as the difficulties and costs of collection are not taken into account. This should be the mainstay of the budget, but the government shirks the responsibility of increasing it to a proper proportion of the revenue for fear of alienating the powerful peasant vote. Yugoslavia is a yeoman state, and the peasants are to-day undoubtedly in an extremely prosperous condition, in spite of the fall of the currency and the rise of the cost of living. They could easily bear a much greater burden of direct taxation.

To resume, expenditure is heavily under-estimated, and many sources of revenue overestimated, but several sources of income are not made full use of: direct taxation especially and the "agio" on import duties are capable of great expansion, and the latter has the advantage of automatically counteracting the depreciation of the currency: the financial position of the country certainly leaves much to be desired, but is far from desperate, and there is no need to take the pessimistic and hypercritical view which is at once so easy and so fashionable. As Belin remarks, with a little energy and skill the budget should be really balanced in a relatively short time. For as to the natural wealth and great resources of the country there can be no room for doubt.

But the solid fact remains that the war credits amount to a quarter of the total expenditure, and that this is heavily increased by the fall of the dinar: moreover, it is unproductive expenditure. The only remedy is to reduce the strength of the army. That sounds, at this distance, an easy matter, but those who live on the banks of the Danube hesitate to bear the responsibility of a policy of reduction. Still, the burden is so great that a certain saving could surely be effected under this head. The interest on war debts is a very serious matter. Over two milliards of francs are due to France, and there is a heavy obligation to ourselves. The payment of the interest alone is bound heavily to affect the rate of the dinar, while Serbs may well ask what is to be their fate on this head, and cannot they count on at least some restitution from Germany?

The total outgoings for the year will therefore probably be nearer 8 milliards than six-and-a-quarter, if not more. The economy movement may effect some reductions, especially in the army of officials, who are a very expensive luxury, and vigorous steps have already begun to be taken in this direction.

Now let us examine the revenue side. Here again we find the same optimism, but of course on the other side. Dr. Kumanudi, the Minister of Finance, bases great hopes on the extraordinary property tax, not to exceed two per cent., to be applied once, and to provide nearly 600 millions. Here he is surely an over-optimist, for the tax will cost an enormous sum to collect, and much time will be taken in creating the necessary organisation. Only a small proportion could be collected during the current year, and the ultimate net results will probably be very disappointing. The Ministry counts, however, upon it to pay off the debt to the National Bank.

Under the heading of Customs, 300 millions is anticipated from the import duty, and 100 from the export duty. But the latter is necessarily the sport of passing conditions, and consequently fluctuates: a big change in the rate of the dinar would react sharply on the

export duties, and if by chance there were a strong recovery, this source of revenue would have to be largely reduced or even abolished. As a matter of fact, in September last this duty produced 16 millions, and if that rate were maintained it would give about 200 millions, so in any case the estimated figure is wrong.

An interesting item, and a very substantial one, is the "agio" on customs duties, which is entered separately. The "agio" is the ratio of gold to paper: the tariff is expressed in gold currency, but payment made in paper at a premium fixed periodically by the Minister of Finance: the latest rate was 500 per cent., that is, six paper dinars to be paid for every gold dinar of tariff: this source of revenue gave in September no less than 49,661,000 dinars, or about 600 millions per annum: but the rate then was only 300 per cent. If the "agio" were at a rate proportionate to the present figure of the dinar it would be about 1,200 per cent., and the income therefrom correspondingly greater. This is a very interesting item since it compensates for the fall in the dinar, and would automatically disappear if the dinar returned to par. If the customs were rigorously exacted and smuggling absolutely stamped out and the rate of the "agio" raised, we should have here an immense source of revenue, which the Minister has very greatly under-estimated. And the more the dinar falls, the greater the "agio."

The revenue from excise is also apparently under-estimated, and is capable of considerable expansion. The month of November gave 36 millions on this head, which is 430 per annum, yet only 390 is provided. The country imported 1,700 truckloads of sugar in the first six months of 1921, equivalent to 3,400 per annum: deducting the domestic production of 2,600 from the total consumption of about 10,000 truckloads, we have a revenue of about 240 millions on sugar alone, leaving only 150 millions from wine, spirits and alcohol: this could be greatly expanded, if the politicians had the courage: but it would arouse considerable opposition from the peasants, especially of Serbia, and no political party dare inflict it.

The tax on turnover is over-estimated at 400 millions: this provoked a storm of opposition from influential interested parties, and is sure to be largely evaded. It is capable, if wisely applied, of bringing in large revenue. In Germany it produced 21 milliards of marks, and in Czecho-Slovakia two milliards of krone.

The revenue from state investments calls for very detailed examination and particulars are not easy to obtain. It would appear, however, that in spite of the recently increased tariffs, the railways, except in the western districts, where traffic is heavier, are run at a heavy loss, and the posts and telegraphs certainly are: I. Belin, in a reasoned criticism of the state finances in a recent number of the *Nova Europa* shows that the methods of accountancy are obsolete, that no profit and loss account is kept, that no provision is made for depreciation and that a heavy deficit is inevitable.

* The First Part of this Article appeared in "The Near East" on March 23rd.

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Engineering Topics.

By Our Engineering Representative.

Electric Power Supply.

The huge scheme for improving the organisation for the supply of electricity to a large portion of the busiest industrial districts in the North of England seems to have the support of electrical manufacturers generally, all of whom no doubt trust it will result in an improved market for their products or fairly large orders for plant.

The scheme as it stands will involve the expenditure of some thirteen million pounds during the next ten years, a capital outlay which some consider will be between one and two millions less than the electric supply companies themselves would have to spend were they to continue in their present non-co-operative methods. It may seem a little curious that all large schemes involving the immediate expenditure of vast, almost unthinkable sums of money are invariably going to save millions some time in the future—if memory serves even the scheme of the Severn barrage was going in some way or other to show a profit, though possibly only on paper. The daily expenditure on the war, which was mentioned to us at least every week during the latter stages of the struggle, seems to have induced a sort of hypnosis on many in authority, which prevents them from recognising the value or even the existence of any sum under four or five hundred thousand pounds, and men who in 1913 would have slaved day and night to save shareholders a few hundreds now recommend, with a casual wave of the hand, the expenditure of as many or more millions. What is needed now is a little sane retrenchment and a devoting of our efforts towards the re-establishment of foreign trade relations. Schemes such as this 13-million reorganisation may well be left until we are rich enough to pay for them. I see one engineer's paper says that the new project should be put in hand at once and emphasises "the heartening effect it would have on the trade of the country if it could be commenced forthwith." In comment, all I can say is that if it will hearten British engineering to get to work and take money out of one pocket to put, as wages, into another, British engineering is far more easily cheered up than one would have thought possible.

The New "Ten."

By way of proof as to the exceptional qualities of the post-war Wolseleys, it was decided to test on Brooklands track a standard Ten with such modifications only as were required for racing purposes. This was done, and on November 24 last fifteen Brooklands records were captured in one afternoon, an average speed of 82 m.p.h. being maintained continuously for a period of over 5 hours—truly an epoch-making performance. First in its class in 1900, and breaking all records in 1921, it is not surprising that Wolseley is a household word throughout the civilised world. Public appreciation has set the seal of approval on the present-day Wolseleys,

and every indication points to an even greater increase in the demand for what are at the same time the oldest, and the newest, British cars.

Foreign Touring.

Arrangements have now been made whereby the Automobile Association will, if requested, accept a uniform cash deposit of one hundred pounds and an approved bankers' indemnity for the balance of the duty required for cars proceeding abroad. It will be remembered that in 1919 the Automobile Association inaugurated, as an experiment, the system of accepting bankers' guarantees in lieu of the cash deposits previously required to meet the demands of foreign Customs in respect of cars going from Great Britain to tour on the Continent. The experiment proved more than merely disappointing. It involved the A.A. Touring Department in such serious disputes with foreign Customs authorities that in the case of one otherwise friendly country all touring facilities were on the point of being withdrawn from A.A. members. The Association was therefore compelled in April last year to suspend completely the acceptance of bankers' guarantees.

All this trouble was caused by a number of members who—perhaps because they were relieved of the need to deposit actual cash—either forgot or ignored their obligation to get their triptyques or Carnets de Passage en Douanes properly visad at the various ports of exit or frontiers. It needs little imagination to appreciate the chaos, the waste of time, labour and money, which such non-observance of the regulations entailed. It is the fact that a large number of cases, already over a year old, are still unsettled as between the foreign Customs, various bankers and the A.A. Touring Department. It is unfortunately also the fact that the hitherto unavoidable reversion to the system of cash deposits has caused inconvenience to the majority of touring members and perhaps may have impelled some of them to abandon their projected tours.

This difficult situation has given the A.A. executive grave concern and after much study of the problem it is pleasing to be able to announce the foregoing modification, which it is hoped will be deemed an equitable way of preventing carelessness and loss on the part of the heedless member without penalising the great majority. The figure of £100 will, it is hoped, be sufficiently substantial to ensure members taking ordinary precautions concerning the due discharge of their obligations which, as stated above, in a surprising number of cases were entirely ignored. It should be clearly understood also that the amount of £100 can only be accepted in cash, and securities of any description cannot be accepted in place of either the guarantee or the deposit. The banks whose guarantees will be accepted are limited to the clearing banks and their branches.

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Stock and Share Markets.

GILT-EDGED FIRM.

The Rise in Roumanian Oils.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Tuesday morning.

Once again it has been a fairly good week for investment stocks. In a number of directions there has been considerable activity, and further advances are to be recorded. The continuance of the buoyancy is to be attributed to the improvement—for the moment at any rate—in the general position, and to the prospect of various favourable developments in the immediate future. A lower Bank Rate is confidently expected, while as the Budget day comes nearer the belief grows that there will be a reduction in the income tax. It is curious that conditions in Ireland and even the Genoa Conference should have little or no influence on the markets at the present.

Loans.

There have been a few new issues during the past week, but none of any outstanding interest, and it does not seem likely that any are to be anticipated for some time to come. In a month or two, when more settled conditions will probably prevail, it is possible that there will be developments with regard to some Balkan Loans. Outside that region several interesting issues are on the tapis, notably one for India, and a further Sudan Loan.

Gilt-Edged.

Buoyancy has continued to mark the Gilt-Edged market and in most cases shares are higher on balance. Consols are 5-8 up at 56½, War Loan Fives at 99.5-16 are 1.3-16 up, while the Conversion Loan at 73.15-16 has gained 11-16. Indian stocks are also harder. The Seven per Cent. Loan is 3½ up at 109, the 3½ per cent. Loan at 63½ has gained 2½, while the 3 per cent. Loan is 1½ up at 53½.

A much firmer tone has been in evidence in the market for foreign securities. French War Loan Fives are 44½, the same as before, while German three per cents. are 1-8 harder at 2.5-16. Italian Rentes are the same at 23½. Mexican issues have been in considerable demand, the four per cents. of 1904 going up to 59. Chinese bonds have been strong, and rates are harder. The Five per cents. of 1896 are 1½ up at 93, while the 4½ per cents. of 1898 are 2½ up at 76½. Brazilian stocks improved the 4 per cent. 1889 Loan being 53xd, while Chilean issues have also been in request. Turkish Loans have been hard, while Greek securities have shown an improving tendency with Monopolies at 35½.

Industrials Improving.

A better tone has prevailed in the Industrial group, and though as usual business has been on the restricted side there has been a fair amount of activity in certain directions. Tobacco shares after being buoyant are

closing on rather a dull note as the result of profit taking, but are still well above the previous week's levels.

Textiles have been firm with Coats at 2.15-16, a gain of 1-8, and Courtaulds at 37s. 3d. Iron, Coal and Steel securities have inclined to harden. Vickers are 3d. up at 9s. 6d., Armstrongs have gained 1s. 6d. at 15s., Guest Keens are 3d. up at 30s. 3d., while Lamberts at 2½ are 5-8 up.

Shipping Securities have been rather firmer. P. and O. Deferred are unchanged at 27s. Cunards are 9d. up at 18s. 9d.

The Rise in Phoenix.

A very variable tendency has prevailed in the Oil market during the week. The chief interest has been in the Roumanian section where Phoenix have again gone ahead, closing at 26s. 9d., a gain of no less than 8s. 3d. I only hope that some of my readers bought them when I advised a purchase when they were under 10s. Burmahs are 5.3-8, a rise of 1-8, while Anglo-Persian Ord are 4. Mexican Eagles are 3.9-32, a decline of 15-32. In Trinidad issues Centrals are ¾ lower at 3.1-8, while Leaseholds at 1.5-16 are 1-32 up.

Among Egyptians, Anglo-Egyptian B are 1½, at which they are 1-16 lower, while Oilfields of Egypt are 6d. down at 5s. The sensational rise in Phoenix naturally had the effect of drawing attention to other shares in the Roumanian group, and advances have taken place. Roumanian Consolidated are 13s. 9d., a gain of 3s. 6d. I regard this share as representing at the moment the best value in the group, and a purchase at the present time should show a good profit. Dacia Romanos are unchanged at 11-16, but Steaua Romana at 13s. are 2s. 6d. higher.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ..	Piastres to £....	97½	97.7-16
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	101½-101½
†Belgrade ..	Dinars to £....	25.22½	355-365
Berlin	Marks to £....	20.43	1420-1455
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3-3.16-1.3.5-16
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3-3.16-1.3.5-16
Brussels.....	Francs to £....	25.22½	51.90-52.05
*Bucharest ..	Lei to £.....	25.22½	610-630
Constantinople	Piastres to £....	110	650-670
New York....	Dollars to £....	4.86 2-3	4.39½-4.40½
Paris	Francs to £....	25.22½	48.05-48.30
Prague	Kronen to £....	24.02	225-235
Rome	Lire to £.....	25.22½	82½-82½
†Sofia	Leva to £....	25.22½	650
Teheran	Krans to £....	50	51
Vienna	Kronen to £....	24.02	31,500-33 500
Warsaw	Marks to £....	20.43	16,500-17 500

*Nominal. † Sellers.

GOVERNMENT BONDS

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We have published a series of Articles on absolutely safe Government Bonds (some with actual photographs). Of this series the following have so far appeared.

Date		Price then	Approximate price now
20/10/21	BRAZILIAN 5% FUNDING	61½	£73
12/12/21	FRENCH 5% WAR LOAN (BI)	37	£46½
18/4/21	ITALIAN 3½% RENTES	23	£25

These Articles will be sent free of charge or obligation, on application to Bond & Stock Dept.

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Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Smaller Shipments of Oranges.

Sugar.—Home refined has been in steady request at unchanged rates. Tate's cubes at 53s. 9d.; mineral water sugar at 49s.; London granulated at 48s. 6d.; and Lyle's granulated at 48s. 9d.; are all unchanged. There is no change in export varieties. West Indian crystallized is firm at 43s., and Czecho-Slovakian at 21s. 4½d. Cane sugar quotations are:—April, 14s. 6d.; May, 14s. 3d.; August, 14s. 9d.; and September, 14s. 6d. White sugar quotations are:—April, 19s. 6d.; May, 19s. 6d.; August, 19s. 9d.; and September, 19s. 9d.

Coffee.—A further advance has been noticeable this week. Costa Rica has gained 7s. at 144s., while Indian at 122s. is, 2s. up. Nairobi and Jamaica have remained firm at 118s. and 150s. respectively. The futures market has been quieter. Quotations are:—May, 54s. 3d.; July, 55s. 6d.; September, 56s. and December, 56s.

Dessicated Coconut.—The position has been easier, and a good demand has been maintained. There is a very small supply of this commodity at the London wharves, and it is said that unless larger shipments arrive an acute shortage is inevitable.

Green Fruit.—Prices for oranges have advanced rapidly during the past few days, while shipments are smaller. Merchants are holding their supplies back in anticipation of a large demand at Easter. Large quantities of Messina lemons have just arrived, but quality and condition is poor and quotations are excessive. Apples have been in excellent request at firm rates.

Oilseeds.—A dull tendency has been in evidence. Indian linseed has shed 3d. to 19s. 3d., and La Plata has dropped 1s. 1½d. to 18s. 3d. Rapeseed is higher with Toria 6d. up at 17s. 6d., and bold Ferozepore, 2d. up at 18s. 10d. Cottonseed is lower with Indian, 7½d. down at 8s. 9d., and Egyptian at 11s. 6d. is 9d. lower. Sakellarides has shed 1s. 4½d. at 11s. 1½d.

Oils.—The tone has been variable. Linseed oil has shed eighteenpence at 36s. Rape oil has risen, the crude variety being 1s. up at 45s., and refined 2s. at 48s. Cotton oil has declined 1s. in all cases. Refined is now at 48s.; deodorized at 53s., and Egyptian crude at 40s.

Oilcakes.—Linseed cake at 340s. ton has been firm, as also cottonmeal cake at 320s. ton. Arachis cake has been steady at 200s. ton, while palm kernal has remained unchanged at 160s. ton.

ASIA MINOR FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs C J Giraud and Co, Smyrna, report as follows under date March 31:—

Our last report was dated November 1 and has since been supplemented by weekly market summaries. We now set forth in condensed form, a review of the position over the period November 1, 1921, to date.

Sultanas.—In our preceding report the estimate of the sultana crop was put down at about 33,000 tons. The figures now at our disposal, as given in detail below, would indicate, in the light of our to-day's knowledge, that the crop will prove short of that figure by about 1,600 tons, or say will reach up to only about 31,400 tons as against 33,000 then estimated.

The statistical position is as follows, our figures being based on the returns of the Tithes Department and on shipments actually effected:—Total sales on the Smyrna market, 23,024 tons; total sales Carabournou Sultanas, 388 tons; total sales on the Vourla market, 6,388 tons; total 29,800 tons. Estimated stock remaining at Smyrna, Magnesia, Alaschier, Axar, Nymphio and Vourla, 1,600 tons; total 31,400 tons.

Shipments since opening of the season to this date have been as follows:—To the United Kingdom: London, 583,200 bales; Liverpool 431,740 bales; Outports, 106,740 bales, total 1,121,680 bales, equal to about 14,380 tons. To the Continent: United States, Canada, Australia, etc., 15,410 bales, 29,800 tons. Estimated

stock remaining in the country at date available for shipment, 1,600 tons; total 31,400 tons.

To the shipments made to the United Kingdom must be added about 15,000 boxes representing re-exports of Smyrna sultanas from the States to London and Outports, effected during the period under review; also several thousand boxes from Holland. Market values since November 1 last have steadily continued their upward tendency, reaching in the course of March the highest point touched during the season. This is partly attributable to the good consumptive demand in the U.K. which exceeded expectations in view of the general trade depression in that country. How this re-acted on market values is reflected in the fact that whereas shipments this season to the U.K. total 14,380 tons as against 7,950 last year, the price average has been much in the neighbourhood of the preceding season's. Since the turn of the year, however, the advance in prices has been considerably more rapid in Smyrna than on consuming markets.

In the U.K. values generally have been ruling 5s. to 10s. below Smyrna parities and with the exception possibly of the Continent where markets were lightened of their stocks by re-exports to the U.K., shipments from Smyrna since the turn of the year have been negligible.

The position, as it now presents itself, is that, with Smyrna stocks reduced to about 1,600 tons, stocks on consuming markets light and not more than are needed to meet demand until new fruit becomes available some fine months hence, there is no reason to anticipate any decline from the present level of values. Moreover, there is likely to be no carry-over of old fruit into next season. Little can be said at so early a date as to the coming season's crop prospects beyond remarking that atmospheric conditions generally have been normal with an abundant winter rainfall which may be regarded as favourable to agriculture. Much will depend on the spring rains. Exchange fluctuations have continued to be the chief of merchants' difficulties in computing the cost values in foreign equivalents on offers open even for immediate reply. The general tendency since December last has been for a gradual improvement in the value of Turkish currency and from about Ps. 900 to the sterling pound, the highest point touched, the exchange rate during the past month has averaged about Ps. 650 to the pound sterling.

Figs. Total arrivals to date amount to about 18,800 tons. No figs remain over in the Interior of the country and thus this figure may be taken as representing the extent of the yield.

Since November exports have consisted mainly of bags Natural, the States drawing the bulk of these. The stock in Smyrna is about 450 tons, all of which however, is earmarked for shipment to Egypt. Shipments this season have been distributed approximately as under: To the United Kingdom: London, 9,055 sk/cs, 35,527 B/s, 161,685 bags; Liverpool, 5,586 Sk/Cs, 12,404 B/s, 84,731 bags; Outports, 576 Sk/Cs., 2,255 B/s, 39,063 bags; equal to 6,500 tons. To the United States and Canada, 25,175 Sk/ton cases, 35,602 boxes, 24,566 bags; equal to 8,700 net tons. To the Continent, Australia, etc., estimated shipments about 3,150 tons. This brings up the total shipments to date to 18,350 net tons. Estimated stocks Smyrna and Interior, 450 tons. Estimated result to yield, say 18,800 tons.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated March 27:—Markets:—March 23—Bombay cotton market firm. Fine M.G. Oomras Rs. 380 March, Rs. 390 May. Bombay cotton arrivals from September 1, 1921, to March 17, 1922, were 2,085,000 bales as compared with 1,473,000 bales during the same period of the last year. Bombay imported piece-goods market steady and clearance of several styles very satisfactory. Demand exists mostly in whites and to a small extent in greys, but prints show no sign of improvement. Prices not advancing as stockholders are apparently endeavouring to clear. Indian mills prices are hardening slightly. March 25—Jute and Hessians quiet and steady. Heavies steady but dull. March 24—Special Straits quality Rice Rs. 485.

No change in Bank Rates.

CURRENT PRICES:

General Produce.—Bacon: (Continental), 116s. 6d. cwt.; (Canadian), 105s. cwt.; (American), 97s. 6d. cwt.; butter (Danish), 193s. cwt.; (Australian), 155s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 170s. cwt.; cheese (Canadian), 97s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 92s. cwt.; lard, 88s. cwt.; eggs (Danish) 14s. 9d. per 120; Styrian, 10s. 9d. per 120; chillies, 160s. cwt.; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 2d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon good to fine), 92s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 129s. cwt.; (East Indian), 133s. 6d. cwt.; (Central American), 104s. cwt.; (Jamaica), 68s. 9d. cwt.; (Mocha longberry), 106s. 6d. cwt.; (Santos, superior), 67s. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochín), 52s. 6d. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 11½d. lb.; pepper (Singapore Black), 3½d. lb.; (Muntok white), 7½d. lb.; pimento, 2½d. lb.; raisins (Valencias), 75s. cwt.; sultanas (Smyrna), 121s. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 68s. 6d. cwt.; (Amalias) 57s. cwt.; sugar (Tate's cubes), 53s. 3d. cwt.; (Lyle's granulated), 48s. 7½d. cwt.; (Mauritius crystals), 45s. 1½d. cwt.; (West Indian crystallised), 43s. 1½d. cwt.; (centrifugal), 15s. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 1½d. lb.; rice (Rangoon No. 2), 14s. 3d. cwt.; (bran Rangoon), £6 8s. 9d. ton; cinnamon (firsts), 11½d. lb.; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 5d. lb.; tea (common to good common) 1s. 2½d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 6½d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 7½d. lb.; Ceylon (common to good common), 1s. 2½d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 6½d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 7½d. lb.; Java (common to good common), 10½d. lb.; wheat (English white), 54s. 6d. qr.; wheat (Australian), 60s. 3d. qr.; barley (malting), 50s. qr.; barley (feeding), 36s. 6d. qr.; oats (English), 33s. 6d. qr.; oats (La Plata), ex-ship, 25s. 3d. qr.; maize (La Plata), 41s. 6d. qr.; flour, 48s. 6d. sack.

Metals.—Aluminium, £122 10s. ton; antimony (English Regulus), £30 15s. ton; bismuth, 9s. lb.; copper (standard), £57 13s. 9d. ton; copper (electro), £65 5s. ton; gold bars, 94s. 10d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 90s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 97s. 6d. ton; galvanised sheets (24 G), £16 5s. ton; lead (soft foreign), £21 3s. 9d. ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 1½d. unit; molybdenite, 27s. 6d. unit; nickel, £175 ton; platinum, 360s. oz.; plumbago, £14 5s. ton; quicksilver, £10 13s. 9d. ton; spelter (G.O.B.), £25 8s. 9d.; tin (standard), £144 8s. 9d. ton; wolfram 10s. 3d. unit; zinc sheets, £35 10s. ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 19s. 1½d. box; silver bars, 33½d. oz.

Chemicals.—Acids: Boric, 61s. cwt.; oxalic, 8½d. lb.; citric, 1s. 1½d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 3½d. lb.; ammonia (sulphate), £16 11s. 6d. ton; arsenic (white powdered), £36 10s. ton; benzole (standard), 2s. 5d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £12 15s. ton; borax crystals, 30s. cwt.; cream of tartar, 119s. 6d. cwt.; Potassium: Bichromate, 7½d. lb.; chlorate, 4½d. lb.; caustic, £33 10s. ton; nitrate £41 10s. ton; permanganate, 8½d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 1½d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £15 5s. ton; Sodium: Crystals, 130s. ton; bi-carbonate, £11 5s. ton; bi-chromate, 5½d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £8 13s. 9d. ton; chlorate 3½d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £23 ton; hypo sulphite, £15 10s. ton; prussiate, 9½d. lb.; nitrate, £14 17s. 6d. ton; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £75 ton; glycerine (industrial 1260 per cent.) £100 ton; lemon oil, 3s. 8½d. lb.; quinine, 2s. 10d. oz.; red lead, £34 ton; white lead, £37 15s. ton; white ground lead, £48 7s. 6d. ton; sulphate of copper, £27 5s. ton; sulphate of iron, 75s. ton.

Hides and Skins.—Ox and Heifer (first) 90 lbs. and up, 7.5-8d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 7.5-8d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 7½d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 6.7-8d. lb.; 50 lbs. and under, 6½d. lb.; (second) 90 lbs. and up 6.5-8d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs. 6.3-8d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 6½d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 5.7-8d. lb.; 50 lbs. and under, 4½d. lb.; Cows (first), 60 lbs. and up, 6½d. lb.; (second), 60 lbs. and up, 4.5-8d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 4½d. lb.; Bulls (first), 4.3-8d. lb.; Kips (first) 4½d. lb.; (second), 4.1-8d. lb.; Calcutta Market. Prices in rupees per 20 lb. Arsenic hides (cows): Agras, 9 to 14; Dur-bhangas, 8 to 10; Patnas, 6 to 7. Salted cows: 3.8 to 7. Arsenic hides (buffalo): 4 to 9. Skins: Calf, 8 to 10 per 20 lb.; goat, 230 to 265 per 100 pieces.

Miscellaneous.—Cotton: (American), 10.95d. lb.; (Egyptian Sakel), 17.05d. lb.; Oilseeds: Linseed (La Plata), £19 2s. 6d. ton; palm kernels, £18 16s. 3d. ton; castor seed (Bombay),

£16 12s. 6d. ton; Oils: Linseed, £37 2s. 6d. ton; olive (Levant) £77 ton; rape (crude), £47 ton; soya, £37 ton; petroleum, 1s. 4½d. gallon; petrol, 2s. 1d. gallon; fuel oil (ex-tank), 70s. ton; coconut (Ceylon), £40 12s. 6d. ton; cotton (crude), £41 ton; ground nut, £44 ton; Rubber: Plantation (No. 1 crepe), 8d. lb.; smoked sheet, 8d. lb.; fine hard Para, 11d. lb.

TENDERS INVITED.

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

Egypt.

Puggaree (Khaki and White).—The Egyptian War Department invite tenders for the supply of puggaree, khaki and white. Tenders must reach the office of the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1., by April 17, and will remain open for seven days.

Soap (Palm Oil and Soft).—The Egyptian War Department invite tenders for the supply of palm oil and soft soap. Particulars can be obtained from the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1. April 20.

Rope.—The Egyptian War Department invite tenders for the supply of manilla and Italian hemp rope. Particulars can be obtained from the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1. April 20.

Jerseys and Socks.—The Egyptian War Department invite tenders for the supply of jerseys and socks. Particulars may be obtained from and samples seen at the office of the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1. April 19.

Boots, Ankle, with Laces.—The Egyptian War Department invite tenders for the supply of boots, ankle, with laces. Particulars can be obtained from the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1. April 21.

Yugoslavia.

Salt.—Tenders are invited by the Direction des Monopoles de l'Etat, for the supply of:—25,000 tons salt in blocks, size between 20 and 40 kilos. The Direction will not allow more than 2 per cent to be in powder. The contractor must guarantee that the composition of the salt contains nothing injurious to health, that it can be used as table salt, must be white, must contain 98 per cent. sodium chloride. April 20. Tenders are also invited for the supply of:—18,000 sea salt in jute sacks, must contain 98 per cent. sodium chloride and a maximum of 4 per cent. water. April 22. Further particulars of the above can be obtained on application to the Banque Franco-Serbe.

India.

Paints.—The Burma Railways Company, Limited, invite tenders for the supply of 12 tons, 4½ cwts. paints. Tenders enclosed in sealed envelopes and endorsed "tender for paints," must be delivered at the company's offices 199, Gresham House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.2, not later than 12 noon on Monday, April 10

TRANSFER OF FOREIGN MONEY IN ROUMANIA.

The Board of Trade have been informed by the Roumanian Commercial Attaché in this country that the only object of the steps recently taken in Roumania with regard to the transfer of money or funds from that country is to stop speculation in Roumanian currency. If the applicant for permission to transfer his money abroad can prove that the sum to be so transferred is actually in connection with a commercial transaction, the Official Commission make no difficulties whatever. At the same time British firms are informed that all deposits with Roumanian banks can be transferred to special accounts according to the instructions given to the respective bankers if those sums have the same object.

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

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

Prices on March 17 were as follows:—Agricultural Bank of Egypt, £4 15-16; Alexandria Water Co., Ltd., £7, 15-16; Anglo-American Nile Steam, £2 27-32; Associated Cotton Ginners, £15-16; Banque d'Orient, Fr. 61½; Behera Ord., £E. 8, ½; Brasseries d'Egypte, Fr. 61; Building Lands of Egypt, £29-32; Cassi di Sconto Priv., Fr. 125; Comptoir Fin et Com. d'Egypte; £5-8; Consolidated Lands, Pt. 5½; Credit Foncier Fondateur, Fr. 870; Credit Foncier Act, Fr. 651; Credit Foncier 1886 Oblig, Fr. 251; Eaux du Caire, Capital, Fr. 83; Eaux du Caire Jouissance, Fr. 113; Egypt and Levant, S.S. Ord, 31s. 9d.; Egyptian Delta Light Railways, £4½; Filature National d'Egypt, £9½; Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. an des., £6 1-16; Khedivial Mail S.S. Ord., 100s.; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Pref., £3½; Kom Ombo Ste an de Wadi, £4½; Kom Ombo Ste an Fondateur, £34½; Land Bank of Egypt, Parts de Fond., £40; Lots Turc., £28½; Menzaleh Canal Navigation PT 248; Nungovich Hotels, £7; Ramleh Railways, £2 9-16; Urbaines et Rurales, £3 3-16; Union Fonciere Fond, £13-16.

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COTTON TRADE PROTEST.

A deputation of Lancashire members of Parliament and others representing the cotton trade was received at the India Office on March 29 by Viscount Peel, the Secretary of State for India, Earl Winterton, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary, and Sir William Duke, Permanent Under-Secretary. Lord Peel, after welcoming the deputation, was compelled to leave to attend a Cabinet meeting, and Earl Winterton replied on his behalf. Sir John Randles, M.P., headed the deputation, whose other members were, Sir Henry Norman, M.P., Mr. Dan Irving, M.P., Mr. Robinson Graham, M.P., Mr. Alfred Davies, M.P., Mr. R. J. Davies, M.P., Mr. W. Greenwood, M.P., General Archibald Hunter, M.P., Mr. F. W. Mallalieu, M.P., Captain C. Ainsworth, M.P., Sir John Rutherford, M.P., Sir W. Edge, M.P., Sir Ryland D. Adkins, M.P., Colonel Joseph Hall, M.P., Mr. J. E. Sutton, M.P., Captain D. H. Hacking, M.P., Mr. De F. Pennefather, M.P., Commander F. N. Astbury, M.P., Mr. Ben Tillett, M.P., Colonel G. Dalrymple White, M.P., Mr. Harold Briggs, M.P., Sir William Barton, M.P., Captain J. H. Thorpe, M.P., Mr. T. Shaw, M.P., Mr. Fildes, M.P., and the secretaries of the Lancashire Committee, Mr. Waddington, M.P., and Mr. W. H. Sugden, M.P.

Sir John Randles said that they thought that it was within the province of the Department, in view of all the circumstances of the case and the great importance to the industrial community which was represented there that day, to hold somewhat of a balance between conflicting interests. If, for instance, the Bombay cotton manufacturer put undue pressure on the Government of India, they looked to the Secretary for India to rectify that undue pressure, and to see that there should be a balance held as between Lancashire, if they liked to call it so, or between the United Kingdom and that great Empire. As far as Lancashire was concerned they wanted to do what was best for the interests of the whole and not of a section. If they seemed sometimes to be pushing Lancashire unduly they thought that it was within the Secretary of State's province to check their undue pressure; but on the other hand if it was thought that, say Bombay was exerting undue pressure, again there should be an influence which would check the Bombay manufacturers in relation to this question of duties. With regard to the policy itself, he did not think they wanted to arraign the policy of the Government. With regard to the Fiscal question they wanted to have a fair show. When those Fiscal enquiries were being held in India they wanted to be assured that the case for the whole Empire would be put as well as the case for the cotton manufacturers of India. They wanted in fact, nothing more or less than fair play as between the respective parts of the Empire.

Mr. Waddington said that so far as the general policy of the Lancashire members was concerned they had no policy in connection either with protection, or preference, or tariffs, so far as they came within the political region. They represented all sections of opinion in Lancashire. The membership of that Committee was extended to the whole of the Lancashire members, whatever views they might hold on particular questions, and while they had never expressed, as a committee, any views on the subject of Imperial Preference, nor had they expressed any views on the subject of free trade, what they were united upon was the necessity, as far as practicable, of absolute free trade between this country and India. Mr. Montagu's policy under the Government of India Act they considered had exceeded really the terms of the Act and had thereby created a false position among certain people in the House of Commons and in the country, and an equally false position in India. Under the Act there was no suggestion of granting Fiscal autonomy. They suggested that Fiscal policy was a very large matter of policy, and that it involved so many interests, both for the welfare of India and of the rest of the Empire, that there could not, and ought not to be, with the limited self-government which had been extended to India, any real Fiscal autonomy in India. With regard to the rules which were made under Section 33, as they knew there were two sets of rules. The first set, if they were made, dealt with the central subjects, and the next set dealt with the transferred subjects. Now under the transferred subjects certain rules had been made, and whilst those subjects had been deliberately transferred to the Government in India, yet they had by these rules established the right of Parliament to interfere when matters involving any dispute between this

country or any other part of the Empire and India were at stake. If they had made those rules in connection with the transferred subjects, giving the positive right of this Government to interfere, how much more power had they to interfere in the central subjects about which they had not made the rules?

It had been suggested that if the duty of 11 per cent. on Customs was reduced to 6 per cent., and the Excise Duty was increased from 3½ per cent. to 6 per cent., they would then get as much revenue as they were getting from the 11 per cent. and from the 3½ per cent. They would by that means reduce the price of cotton goods in India by 5 per cent. enabling more goods to be produced both in that country and in India, producing greater employment in both countries and the masses of the people being able to have more clothing. Also, it was a fair criticism that the Government of India were administering India in the best interests of the people, judged solely by its Budgets. He looked at the particulars as given by Mr. Montagu on last year's Budget, and noticed the revenue from intoxicants. He desired to say in that connection that he was not using those figures as any *teetotal* argument, because the Lancashire members were not all *teetotalers*—he assured them that he was not a *teetotaler* himself. He just mentioned it because, whatever might be their views on temperance or otherwise, they did like to have some relationship between the articles on which taxes were imposed. Now in India the imposition of taxation on intoxicants amounted to 27,000,000 rupees. On cotton manufactures, that was imported cotton goods only, not including Excise, the taxation was 59,000,000 rupees. He thought there was reasonable room for suggesting to the Government of India that they had a means, by looking at the Duties upon wines, spirits and beer, of obtaining revenue which would at least be as easily paid as in the other case, and if they reduced it in the case of cotton goods they would certainly make it easier for those cotton goods to be bought by the masses of the people.

Mr. Shaw said they were told that this tax was necessitated by Indian public opinion. Their reply was that they did not believe a word of it. They believed that the vast mass of the people in India under normal circumstances required their cotton goods as cheaply as they could get them. They were probably the poorest civilised people in the world needing the cheapest of goods, and they did not believe that the vast majority of Indian people demanded those taxes in the way they were imposed. They did not believe the argument that the vast majority of the Indian people had any interest at all in a protective duty against Lancashire cotton goods. What reason was there for imposing a protective duty? Was it because India needed a protective duty to build up her industry? At the very time they were placed before the *fait accompli*, he thought the average profits of Indian cotton firms were 90 per cent. So that it could not be argued that India needed that protection because without it she could not make her industry pay. What the Lancashire workers said was this, "We do not want any preference over India; all we want is equality. If 10 per cent. is put on our goods then we claim that 10 per cent. should be put on the goods produced in India." They claimed that Indian industry in cotton was profitable enough without having an added protective duty. They also claimed that the method of imposing the tax was such as to impose a very considerable burden on a finished piece of Lancashire cloth that entered India, and it was very much open to doubt as to whether the protective duty in actual fact did not amount to much more than the difference in the percentage. They had a right to ask the Government, in response for services rendered to the country, that at any rate Government should use all its efforts, either by friendly representation or by any better method to see that this burden was taken from the Lancashire cotton trade.

Sir William Barton said that he wanted to represent what he believed to be the true Indian view. He quite recognised that there was scarcely a politician in India who was not a Protectionist. He had not met one—and he had met a great many—who did not strongly desire protective duties for India. But he had some personal experience of India and of the intense poverty of the people of the country. They lived in a state of poverty unknown in this country at any time or under any conditions, and had no reason to believe, and he had never

heard any observations that would lead him to think, that the ryot in India knew anything about this taxation. If he did know about it, and if he knew what had been admitted so fully to-day by Mr. Waddington that it must of necessity increase the price of his clothing, he felt sure, that, so far from it being a popular tax, it would be an intensely unpopular tax.

Earl Winterton said that of course the ultimate financial responsibility under the Government of India Act rested with the Secretary of State, but he thought it would be generally admitted that the Government of India must have wide latitude in deciding the steps to be taken in particular instances. If he wanted to put them in a dilemma he would say to them that their arguments were really arguments against ever granting Fiscal autonomy to India; therefore they were arguments against advance along the path to self-government which had been referred to by the late Secretary of State and others. If they accepted his argument, real, complete self-government must always be based on Fiscal autonomy. He would only venture to say, with all respect, that sooner or later, when that question came to be the subject of public controversy and public debate, not perhaps in this Parliament but in a future Parliament when the advance was again made, then Parliament would have to make up its mind when the question was most emphatically brought up of the cotton interest of Lancashire, whether it was prepared to say that it would grant complete Fiscal autonomy to India or not. He admitted that the question did not arise at the moment. He agreed that there should be the closest co-operation between the Government of this country and India in these matters, and that the views of their great industry might be represented very clearly to the Government of India. As a result of the action taken in the Legislative Assembly, both the Customs Duty and the Excise Duty were in the same position as they were last year. The cotton duties would now be 4 per cent. below the general tariff.

Asked to deal with the point raised about splitting the difference between Customs and Excise, Earl Winterton said he could make no sort of promise or statement as to alterations of the duty in the Budget next year; he could only put their representations before the Secretary of State. He was afraid there would be little hope of getting the Secretary of State to make an announcement on the subject at the present time. After all, he would obviously have to consult the Government of India. No one suggested that he should lay down the policy here. But he would ask him to give, and he was sure he would give, every

attention to those representations. He added that he thought it would be very useful if those questions were raised in the House of Commons and they had an opportunity of having a further debate on the subject when it could be explained more in detail.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Mercantile Bank of India.

The profits for 1921, after providing for bad and doubtful debts, and including £127,638 brought in, amount to £390,671. An interim dividend of 8 per cent. less tax, on "A," "B," and "C" shares was paid in September last, absorbing £84,000. To reserve £50,000 (making it £1,150,000); to officers' pension fund. £15,000; written off premises, £20,000 final dividend on "A." "B," and "C" shares of 8 per cent., less tax, making 16 per cent, for year; forward £137,671.

National Bank of India.

The report of the National Bank of India for the year ended December 31 states that the net profits for the year, after providing for all bad and doubtful debts, amount to £555,063 15s. 8d., and adding £149,031 17s. brought forward, the available total is £704,095 12s. 8d. An *ad interim* dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, free of income tax, was paid on September 20 last, amounting to £200,000. The directors now recommend a further dividend at the same rate, and an addition of £100,000 to the reserve fund, raising it to £2,600,000. They propose to write £20,000 off house property account and to add £20,000 to the officers' pension fund, leaving a balance of £164,095 12s. 8d. to be carried forward.

UNITED STATES LOAN TO CZECHO-SLOVAKIA

According to *Narodni Listy* an American financial group having interests in the United States railways is disposed to grant Czecho-Slovakia a considerable loan for carrying out work in connection with the railways there. The chief condition upon which this credit would be granted is that the Czecho-Slovak State railways should be administered separately as a commercial undertaking, the proposed loan being in the form of a mortgage grant for which the financial group in question would have priority rights.

LONDON COUNTY WESTMINSTER & PARR'S BANK LTD.

ESTABLISHED IN 1836.

Chairman: WALTER LEAF.

Deputy Chairman: SIR MONTAGU TURNER,

R. HUGH TENNANT.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL -	-	-	-	£33,000,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL	£9,003,718		RESERVE -	9,003,718

(30th JUNE, 1921.)

Current, Deposit and other Accounts	-	-	£308,996,025
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Head Office - - 41, LOTHBURY, LONDON, E.C. 2.

Chief General Managers F. J. BARTHORPE, JOHN RAE.

Foreign Branch Office - 82, CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C. 3.

AFFILIATED ABROAD.

LONDON COUNTY WESTMINSTER & PARR'S FOREIGN BANK, LIMITED

FRANCE.—PARIS: 22, Place Vendôme,
BORDEAUX: 22 & 24, Cours de l'Intendance.
LYONS: 37, Rue de la République.
MARSEILLES: 29, Rue Cannebière.
NANTES: 6, Rue Lafayette.

BELGIUM.—BRUSSELS: 114-120, Rue Royale.
ANTWERP: 28-30, Place de Meir

SPAIN.—MADRID: Avenida del Conde de Peñalver 21 & 23.
BARCELONA: Paseo de Gracia 8 & 10.
BILBAO: Gran Via 9.

VALENCIA: Alfredo Calderon 13 & Pascua y Genis 6.

AFFILIATED IN IRELAND.

ULSTER BANK, LIMITED.

All cheques on the Ulster Bank will be collected for Customers of this Bank, free of Commission.

The Bank is represented by Branches or Agents in all the Principal Cities and Towns of the United Kingdom, and has Correspondent throughout the World.

EXECUTOR AND TRUSTEE DUTIES UNDERTAKEN.

Company Meeting.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Commercial and Financial Conditions in Egypt and the Sudan.

The Twenty-Second Annual General Meeting of the shareholders in the National Bank of Egypt was held on March 21 at the head office of the bank in Cairo, Mr. B. Hornsby, C.B.E. (the Governor), presiding.

The Governor, in the course of his speech, said:—Gentlemen, We have the honour to submit to you the balance sheet and profit and loss account for the year 1921. The gross profit for the year is £991,829, from which expenses amounting to £433,273 fall to be deducted, leaving an available balance of £558,556. We propose to place a sum of £100,000 to the special reserve, to pay a dividend of 15 per cent., requiring £150,000, and to increase the carry forward by £8,000 bringing it up to £180,000.

Our gross profit of £991,829, as mentioned, compares with £1,269,000 for the year 1920, thus showing a marked decrease. This decrease is fully accounted for by the general conditions of trade and finance which prevailed during the year, and also by the shrinkage in the figures of our balance sheet, the probability of which I foreshadowed last year. On the other hand, we have not been obliged to set aside anything for depreciation on the value of our securities, so that the net result of the year's working is roughly the same as in 1920.

Our balance sheet shows a decrease, as compared with 1920, of about 8 millions. Public deposits have fallen by about six million pounds, of which some three millions is due to the final liquidation of the accounts of the Cotton Control Commission, the balance being probably accounted for by the favourable opportunities of investment which have presented themselves to our customers, and also by the gradual dispersal of funds accumulated during the war.

I am happy to state that the movement recently organized against the National Bank as being a foreign institution—which we are not—has had little effect. We have a valuable *clientèle* among the Egyptians, with whom we always have maintained the most cordial relations, and we believe that our friends appreciate the valuable services which the bank has at all times and in various circumstances rendered to the country.

Value of Securities.

Our holding of securities is less than a year ago, and reflects naturally the decrease in the amount of deposits. For the first time for many years it has not been necessary to draw on our profits to provide for depreciation in securities. A considerable rise in value set in towards the end of the year, and has since continued, so that, thanks to past provisions, we have the satisfaction of knowing that to-day our securities stand in our books at a figure much less than their value at present market prices. It is true that this satisfaction is somewhat tempered by the knowledge that the rise in prices is in great measure due to the abundance of money set free for investment by the depressed state of trade and commerce throughout the world.

Our advances on the whole show an increase, due chiefly to the fact that we have a larger sum outstanding on merchandise, chiefly cotton.

You will notice at the foot of our balance sheet there has appeared during the last few years a remark to the effect that a substantial sum—roughly £560,000—under the heading of "Bankers' Accounts," stands to our credit with banks in Austria and Germany. These banks are large and respectable institutions, who acted as our correspondents, and with whom we had considerable balances at the outbreak of war. We had hoped that during the past year we should have obtained a decision regarding our claim to be paid these sums at the pre-war rate of exchange. Unfortunately, such has not been the case. We have taken the best legal opinion, and we are assured that our claim is well founded, but it seems probable that we shall be obliged to have recourse to justice to obtain what we believe to be our rights. In the meantime we have taken all possible measures to protect your interests, and I should like to add that your directors have not failed, during the past few years of exceptional prosperity, to provide against the possibility, however remote, of an unfavourable issue.

Note Issue.

The figures of the note issue provide as usual an interesting commentary on the course of the country's trade. The year began with the issue standing at about 40½ millions, from which figure it shrank, almost without interruption, till the end of August, when it touched about 30½ millions; from this point the autumn demand for currency for moving the cotton crop brought it up again by the early days of October to just under 40 millions. The activity in the Cotton trade proving only to be temporary, the increase was not maintained and at December 31 it stood at 37 millions. The latter figure compares with 40½ millions at the end of 1920, and 67 millions at the end of 1919, the comparison showing a striking fall of 30 millions in two years.

I explained last year the mechanism by which the issue was regulated. I will confine myself this year to saying that, thanks to this mechanism, the country has enjoyed during and since the war a stable rate of exchange, which to-day is everywhere recognised as an extremely important element in commerce.

I saw it stated recently that our notes are guaranteed by the British Government. This is not the case; the fact is that, by agreement with the Egyptian Government, the issue is covered

by the deposit of British Treasury bills, chosen because they represent practically cash in the country with which the larger part of Egypt's foreign trade is conducted.

If our currency system were not sound it would not have been possible to meet the demand for redemption of notes which, as I have stated, has amounted to 30 millions over the past two years, without any difficulty whatever, and without any effect on exchange. Moreover, the interest on the British Treasury bills, held in the note issue, has provided an important source of revenue to the Egyptian Government.

Imports and Exports.

The following figures, showing the totals of imports and exports for the past five years (the year is taken from September to August) reveal the very important change in the commercial situation of the country which the last financial year brought about. During the four preceding years the balance of trade was strongly in favour of Egypt, whereas in the past 12 months the imports exceeded the exports (including re-exports) by some 34 millions, subject to some adjustment for invisible exports and imports, which would probably slightly reduce this balance. But these figures need cause no alarm, as the country had accumulated large reserves of profit, the greater part of which still exists, and the general financial situation of the country is undoubtedly sound.

		Imports.		Exports.
1916-17	 L.E.	30,095,371	L.E.	44,587,950
1917-18	 "	47,285,226	"	48,019,952
1918-19	 "	44,334,720	"	48,829,951
1919-20	 "	87,577,985	"	113,461,806
1920-21	 "	71,725,677	"	37,690,260

Cotton.

The high prices which cotton reached in 1920 unfortunately gave rise to the impression that Egyptian cotton was so indispensable that there was no limit either to demand or to price. It is therefore natural that the fall in prices and the restricted demand should cause great discouragement to the cultivator.

Moreover, the flat rate tax of PT.35 per kantar, introduced when prices were at a considerably higher level, presses to-day with undue severity on the cotton grower, more particularly with regard to the lower qualities. In addition to this, railway rates have been doubled since 1914, and it is to be hoped that, despite the large revenue which accrues to the Government from these two sources, some relief may be looked for in the near future.

There is one object to which the attention of cotton cultivators could profitably be turned. I refer to the serious question of the poor return in cotton which land has given in recent years. It is disappointing that so little progress should so far have been made in combating the various insect pests which every year destroy a large quantity of cotton, and a continuous effort on the part of the landowner could not fail to do good.

The import trade has inevitably suffered from the decreased purchasing power of consumers, due to the lower prices obtaining for the country's products. Importers have also been hardly hit through having on hand large stocks ordered before the general fall in prices, which can now be disposed of only slowly and generally with heavy loss. Unpleasant as these proceedings are for those concerned, the market is getting back to a more healthy and normal condition.

The Sudan.

The Sudan has shared to the full the prevailing depression in trade, as the following table of imports and exports during the last five years clearly shows:—

		Imports.		Exports.		Total
		L.E.		L.E.		£E.
1917		3,102,117	..	3,729,181	..	6,831,924
1918		4,024,582	..	4,210,384	..	8,234,966
1919		4,805,745	..	3,029,569	..	7,835,314
1920		7,006,865	..	5,075,971	..	12,082,836
1921		5,806,070	..	2,318,533	..	8,124,603

Exports show a marked decline of nearly three millions, and are the lowest of any years of the period. There has been no falling off in the country's production, the reduction is entirely due to the lessened demand and to reduced prices. This is obvious from the fact that, whereas in 1920 the exports of cotton were about 88,000 kantars, valued at £1,600,000, in 1921 the quantity exported was about 110,000 kantars, valued only at £380,000.

Imports, though lower than those of the two previous years, are still high in comparison with exports. This is due to the importation of material for the irrigation works which are in progress.

To carry out these works the Sudan Government has raised a loan of £6,380,000, the interest of which is guaranteed by the British Government. This sum will not be sufficient, and negotiations are in course with the object of raising a further loan. When the work is completed an area of 300,000 feddans will be available for cultivation in the Gezira, of which one-third will be put under cotton. The cultivation of this large area cannot fail to give a considerable impetus to trade, from which the whole country will benefit.

The directors who retire by rotation this year are the Hon. A. Mills and Mr. Léon Suarès, who submit themselves for re-election.

In conclusion, the directors wish to express their thanks to the sub-governor, the managers, and the staff for their services during the past year.

SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE
NEAR EAST.

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

Nicosia, March 14.

The Cyprus Government has just published its Customs returns for the year ended December 31. The total value of imports amounted to £1,512,288 as compared with £2,073,584 in 1920, or a diminution of £561,296. The total value of exports amounted to £920,867 as compared with £1,200,659 in 1920, or a diminution in value of £279,792. The quantities remained in 1921 at about the 1920 level, the above diminution being almost entirely due to the fall in prices. The prospects for the coming cereal crops remain good, abundant rain having fallen during February. On the other hand business in general remains stagnant.

Constantinople, March 25.

The market is very weak. Imports are practically limited to foodstuffs. Some transactions in opium have increased the exports.

The market in textiles is inactive. Sales are limited, and prices are somewhat below those in centres of origin, merchants being compelled to make sacrifices in order to realise.

Panderna, March 13.

The report for February states :—The strong rains of late have affected the new crop, especially that situated in the plains. The lands being flooded, it is very difficult for agriculturists to increase the sowings, and it is estimated that this year's crop will be from 20 to 25 per cent. below that of the previous year.

The following are further extracts taken from the March issue of the monthly circular of the Imperial Ottoman Bank :—

Cyprus.—Recent abundant rains warrant favourable expectations for the next crop of cereals. So far as locust beans are concerned, however, it is estimated that the total crop will only amount to half the previous one. The olive crop also promises to be very inferior to last year's.

The Government experiences difficulty in disposing locally of the stocks of cereals which were collected as tithes, owing to the very low prices now ruling in the island. It is reported that steps have been taken for the disposal abroad (mainly in Egypt) of these stocks, at prices more advantageous than those which could be obtained locally.

BANQUE COMMERCIALE ITALIENNE & BULGARE, SOFIA.

adresse télégraph. "Bulcomit"

Capital : Leva 12 millions
reserves Leva 556.000—

Filiation de la Banca Commercial Italiana
MILANO.

Capital Lit 400 millions ;
reserves 176 millions.

Succursale a Varna.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

FOUNDED 1863.

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

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L. STEEG, Director-General.

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

Messrs. P. REDON, Director
B. KERESTEDJIAN } Sub-Directors.
J. UNGAR }

DJEVIAD BEY.
HAMID BEY.
NOURY BEY.

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

LONDON.

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN, C.B.E.
E. W. H. BARRY.
THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH,
C.M.G.
THE EARL OF CHICHESTER, O.B.E.
SIR W. GUY GRANET.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I.,
K.B.E., C.I.E.
LORD HILLINGDON.
General the HON. SIR HERBERT A.
LAWRENCE, K.C.B.
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE,
K.P., P.C.
Lieut.-Col. SIR ALBERT STERN,
K.B.E., C.M.G.

PARIS.

LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE, C.V.O.
JEAN BOISSONNAS.
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HORACE FINALY.
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ARSENE HENRY, G.C.V.O.
BARON HENRI HOTTINGUER.
RAOUL MALLET.
LE COMTE FREDERIC
PILLET-WILL
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London Office : 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.2.

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Assistant Manager and Secretary : C. E. L. CORTHORN.

Assistant Manager and Deputy Secretary : R. S. C. PEARCE.

Assistant Manager : W. P. SHEPPARD.

MANCHESTER :
50-60, Cross Street.

PARIS :
7, Rue Meyerbeer.

MARSEILLES :
41-43, Rue Grignan

CONSTANTINOPLE.

(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

EGYPT.
Alexandria.
Calro,
Mansourah,
Minieh.
Port Said.

PALESTINE.
Jerusalem.
Jaffa.
Caiffa.
Ramallah.

CYPRUS.
Famagusta.
Larnaca.
Limassol.
Nicosia.
Paphos.

PERSIA:
Hamadan.
Kermanshah.

MESOPOTAMIA
Ashar.
Baghdad:
Bassorah.
Kirkuk.
Mossoul.

SALONICA.

SMYRNA.

TUNIS.

SYRIA.

(Banque de Syrie—Affiliated Bank).

Aleppo.
Alexandretta.
Beyrout.

Damascus.
Hamah
Homs.

Saida.
Tripoli.
Zahle.

The Bank has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued. Letters of Credit granted.

Exchange and Merchandise operations effected.

Cotton & Cotton Goods.

LANCASHIRE'S DECREASING TRADE WITH TURKEY

[The current issue of the Journal of the British Chamber of Commerce of Turkey and the Balkans contains some interesting comments by a native merchant in regard to the shrinkage of British trade with Constantinople. The correspondent states that the shrinkage is deep-rooted, and points out that without the necessity of advertising Lancashire had a valuable asset in the shape of native houses established in Manchester, some of which have been in existence for more than half a century. To the present day many of the larger native firms still have their buying houses there, but for the past few years, that is since the war, conditions have been most unfavourable for their maintenance, owing to the British workman insisting upon war-time wages, while the cost of transport, packing, dyeing, finishing bleaching, printing, is so high that there is little or no possibility of competing with the produce of other countries in this market. Unless the home country wakes up to the realities of the situation, the correspondent is convinced that we are bound to see even worse returns yet.

The correspondent goes on to refer to American competition : " You will remember I raised the alarm last year in referring to the enormous quantities of grey sheetings imported from the United States, and I am certain this is the article which swells the amount of the import returns from America. The goods sell without advertisement owing to their cheapness, I might say at dumping prices which Lancashire cannot touch." He expresses the fear that the old supremacy of Lancashire is being reduced to a position of inferiority. The sale of prints, a purely British line, is diminishing in the country, and is being replaced he points out, by Italian fancy woven goods and cotton dress materials mixed with artificial silk or striped silk. Italian printed flannelettes are being sold at much lower prices to the detriment of British prints, over and above the fancy articles already mentioned.

Dyeing prices, the correspondent continues, are high in England. " Lately some cuts have been made, but I hope to see more reasonable figures. I know one Italian manufacturer who is selling 15,000 pieces of 40 yards each of one black article alone to Turkey yearly. I tried to replace this article in Manchester, but could not come within 15 to 20 per cent. of the price and burned my fingers before leaving it alone. I have on a previous occasion stated that grey T cloths or shirtings have been ousted by American sheetings, and are little imported nowadays. This line used to represent a fair portion of British cotton imports to this country."

MANCHESTER MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Friday.

The healthier feeling in the market has been maintained during the past week. Actual business, however, has been rather irregular. Many spinners and manufacturers have now obtained some relief, but when attempts are made to secure better prices their progress is blocked. A steady trade has occurred in Egyptian yarns for home consumption, and fine counts have also been sold for India and Germany. It is realized that the Egyptian cotton crop will turn out to be much larger than the official estimate of 3,300,000 kantars, and some people are expecting a yield of nearly 5,000,000 kantars. Lancashire users of Egyptian cotton have purchased fair lots. Odd sales have occurred in grey shirtings and printing cloths for Egypt and the Levant, but for the Near East as a whole trade has not been important. A large inquiry has been about for India and some well known makers of grey shirtings have sold freely. Further buying has also occurred in dhooties, mulls and jaconets. Operations for China have not been much in evidence. Prices in American yarns have tended to harden with a fairly healthy undercurrent of demand. Yarns for India have been rather quieter. It is expected that an amicable settlement of the operatives wages question will be arranged.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

† Messrs. Reynolds & Gibson report as follows under date March 29 :—Our market has been somewhat disturbed this week

by the unexpected break in Alexandria caused by heavy crop movements, together with rumours that, after all, the Egyptian Government was not going to accord that support to the market which many speculators had confidently expected. Nevertheless, whilst causing a temporary easing of prices, a substantial business has been done, and the week closes with a good tone and a partial recovery. The bulk of the enquiry has been for Sakellaridis 14.00d. to 18.00d. Uppers, Brown and White cotton have also been asked for occasionally, and a fair business has been done in Sudan cotton. It is difficult these days to trace actual business in many cases. A spinner comes and looks through the market and picks out one or two lots that suit him, all the while, perhaps, expecting to hear from Manchester that he has sold some yarn. If he fails to sell his yarn he merely makes a note of the cotton he has chosen and goes away. A week later, he may sell his yarn and then he telephones through and if the cotton is still available he buys the cotton. So that under present circumstances the daily estimate of sales may bear but little relation to the actual enquiry on that particular day. There seems to be plenty of cotton available to meet the demand, and more than ever it is the lowest offer which gets the business.

There still exists a spasmodic enquiry for Afrita and Scarto cotton, but this class of business has now returned once more to what are practically normal conditions. C.i.f. business has been quiet, though at the beginning of the week the slight improvement referred to in our last report was maintained. Manchester reports continue to make good reading. The business with India shows signs of broadening, and the tone keeps steady whilst prices are hardening. The decision of the employers to ask for a 75 per cent. reduction on war increase on wages seems to have come rather as a shock to the spinning community at large, and it would certainly be most regrettable if a big wages war was allowed to break out just at the present juncture, when the wheels of trade were commencing to revolve. There seems however, little doubt but that both sides realise that the cost of production must be reduced, if trade is to revive, and the opinion prevailing in Manchester is that an amicable compromise will be effected on the lines of a 45 per cent. or 50 per cent. reduction on current rates. Speaking generally, we regard the situation as hopeful, and, barring any upheaval in the labour world, we see no reason why the steadier and improved conditions in trade, which we have recently experienced, should not continue. Total sales, 3,500 bales (including 600 Sudan). Quotations of Sakellaridis are reduced ½d. per lb., whilst those of Brown and Upper are 50 points lower, with the exception of Fully Good Fair and above, which are 75 points lower for both qualities. Fully Good Fair Sakellaridis to-day 18.00d.

EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Commercial Co. of Egypt, in their report for the week ended March 17, state :—

The steadiness of our market may be attributed to the increased spot sales of Egyptian cotton in Liverpool, indicating a better demand in Lancashire, and the lack of any pressure on the market from the part of local holders of spot cotton, the latter being due to the repeated assurances of the Ministers of the Government that it will support prices in case of a break. There has been little new business from abroad, and to this fact is due the falling off in the week's exports. Speculative interest is mainly on the bull side, but is comparatively small.

The spot market has been moderately active this week, and sales for the 5 days amount to about 7,000 bales of which we estimate 5,200 bales Sakellaridis, 1,600 bales Uppers and 200 bales Brown, etc. Arrivals continue on a fair scale, but exports are less than last week and the stock shows a small increase.

The weather has been practically normal during the last week: Sowing in the Southern districts of the Delta will be completed in the course of next week: As regards the Northern districts, a considerable delay is noted on account of heavy rains at the beginning of the month; sowing and preparation of land are late by about 15 days. In Upper Egypt the reports show about normal conditions. The land already sown shows normal germination; resowing will be necessary but not on a larger scale than normally.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE

THE REBUILDING OF SALONIKA.

The present position with regard to schemes for the re-building of the area in Salonika devastated by fire during the war is that this area has been divided into sites which are already being put up for auction, so that when the financial side of the scheme can be adjusted actual building may take place.

In connection with these schemes H.M. Consul-General at Salonika has been approached by a Constructional Engineer in Salonika, who desires to be placed in communication with the United Kingdom firms dealing in building materials from whom he could obtain quotations for the undermentioned requirements. The enquirer requests that where possible a catalogue and illustrated price list should be sent by any firm communicating with him, and the prices quoted should be c i f Salonika.

(1) Girders. For construction of frame and roofing. (2) Roofing. Must be light and strong. Corrugated asbestos cement sheeting is apparently required to resist local climatic conditions. (3) Cellar Lights. With frames complete. Estimated quantity required twenty sets size 2 metres by 1 metre. (4) Window Frames. Metal. Required for high level. Fifty per centum must open. To be hung in centre or at top. (5) Wire Grills. Quantity about 56 sets, size 3 metres by 2 metres. (6) Shutters. Iron, for shop fronts. Type closing upon themselves by flowing from right to left or vice versa. Quantity required about 88 sets size 3½ metres high by 3 metres wide. (7) Central Heating. For a dwelling-house of 12 rooms, 5 on ground-floor and 7 on first floor.

The name and address of the engineer referred to may be obtained by any United Kingdom manufacturers and exporters interested, on application to the Department of Overseas Trade.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

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

Anchor Line.—S.s. Scindia for Bombay (Liverpool, April 6); s.s. Castalia for Bombay (Liverpool, April 2).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mahsud for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, April 8); s.s. Mathura for Calcutta (Birkenhead, April 12); s.s. Imani for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, April 25); s.s. Macarda for Calcutta (Birkenhead, April 29); s.s. Mandasor for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, May 9).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Gloucestershire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, April 12); s.s. Oxfordshire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, April 26).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Macphee for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (Birkenhead, April 6); s.s. Clan Sinclair for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, April 7); s.s. Clan Ronald for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (Birkenhead, April 20).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Tyria for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Odessa, Novorossisk, Poti, and Batoum (Glasgow, April 21); s.s. Phrygia for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, etc. (Liverpool, April 27, and Swansea, May 2).

Ellerman Line.—S.s. Gulf of Suez for Genoa, Leghorn and Naples (Liverpool, April 6); s.s. Gerano for Gibraltar, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas and Varna (Liverpool, May 6).

Ellerman's "City" Line.—S.s. City of Poona for Calcutta (Birkenhead, April 10); s.s. City of Shanghai for Calcutta (Glasgow, April 10, and Birkenhead, April 20); s.s. Walton Hall for Bombay and Karachi (Glasgow, April 10, and Birkenhead, April 22).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—Steamers sail fortnightly for Malta, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz and Braila.

Glen Line.—S.s. Radnorshire for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, April 13); s.s. Glenavy for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, May 4); s.s. Glenluce for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, May 18); s.s. Glenbeg for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, June 1).

Harrison Line.—S.s. Governor for Calcutta (Liverpool, April 11); s.s. Navigator for Port Said, Port Sudan, Aden, Mombassa, etc. (Birkenhead, April 20); s.s. Colonial for Calcutta (Liverpool, May 4).

Henderson Line.—S.s. Pegu for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, April 10).

Holt Line.—S.s. Cyclops for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, April 20); s.s. Eurypylos for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, April 20).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Dromore for Piraeus, Syra, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, April 15); s.s. Avimore for Piraeus, Syra, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, April 29).

Moss Line.—S.s. Karnak for Gibraltar, Malta, Piraeus, Syra, Smyrna, Salonika and Constantinople (Liverpool, April 8).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. Serbino for Algiers, Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, April 8); s.s. Cressado for Algiers, Malta, Syra, Smyrna and Constantinople (Liverpool, April 15).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Padua for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, April 7); s.s. Delta for Bombay (London, April 7); s.s. Kaiser-I-Hind for Bombay (London, April 21); s.s. China for Bombay (London, April 28); s.s. Nagoya for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, May 5).

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. Manela for Bombay and Karachi (London, April 7); s.s. Malda for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, April 13); s.s. Madura for Bombay and Karachi (London, April 21); s.s. Nuddea for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, April 29); s.s. Chindwara for Bombay and Karachi (London, May 5).

Prince Line.—S.s. Highland Prince for Tunis, Malta and Alexandria (Manchester, April 11); s.s. Merchant Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria and Syrian Coast (Manchester, April 21); s.s. Algerian Prince for Malta, Alexandria and Syrian Coast (London, April 21).

THE AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Notice is Hereby Given that the Nineteenth Ordinary General Meeting of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt will be held at the Head Office of the Bank in Cairo, on Thursday, the 27th April, 1922, at 4 o'clock p.m. for the purpose, among other things, of:—

- Receiving the Directors' Report;
 - Receiving the Auditors' Report;
 - Approving the Accounts for the period ended 31st January, 1922;
 - Declaration of Dividends;
 - Election of Directors;
 - Election of Auditors and fixing their remuneration.
- And the transaction of the general business of the Ordinary General Meeting.

Every Shareholder holding a minimum of Five Shares has the right to attend the General Meeting, provided the Shares are deposited at least five days before the day of the Meeting (the last day for depositing the Shares in London is the 15th April, 1922), when Cards of Admission and Proxy Forms will be handed to them at one of the following places:—

- In Egypt—At the National Bank of Egypt, Cairo.
- At the National Bank of Egypt, Alexandria.
- In London—At the National Bank of Egypt,

6 & 7, King William Street, E.C.4.
B. HORNSBY, President.

Cairo, 23rd March, 1922.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 570—Vol XXI.

THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 1922.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Turkey's Conditional Acceptance.

As we had hoped, Turkey has accepted, conditionally, the first step in the scheme for peace in the Near East. But we must receive the news of her acceptance with caution and reserved welcome, for her reply is but an acceptance of the Armistice Note of the Allies. Provided that the Greeks immediately withdraw from Asia Minor, she will discuss the proposals for peace, but until the evacuation is accomplished we are not to know what she thinks of the Allies' unanimous scheme. This, we think, is scarcely good enough, for the reason that the Allies would have meanwhile to set such store by Kemal's good faith. With the Greek Army out of its strong position on Eski-Shehir—Kutahia—Afion Karahissar, the safety of all non-Turks would be problematical, to say the least. It is true that Allied commissioners would supervise the evacuation, but the means at their disposal would be chiefly moral. What we want at once is a reply by the Turks to the proposed terms of peace, not the manifestation of a De Valera-like attitude insisting first and above all things on the departure of their adversary.

Turkey and Russia.

It may be that this narrowing down of the matter by the Angora Government to the Armistice issue is the genuine desire of the Turks, but to us it looks as if the astute hand of the Bolsheviks were behind it all. Playing for time is of course the oldest of all games in the East, and if it so happen that Russia comes to be recognised at Genoa she will then have much stronger cards to play when the time for the making of the Near East peace arrives. Russia, the real Russia, has paramount interest in the Near East, interests which it were folly to neglect; and we imagine that Bolshevik Russia is no less keen than was her predecessor in the question of the Straits. The Bolsheviks have long been indulging a strong power in the East, and lately, through Turkey, they have attempted to turn their attention Westwards, and not without success. How they helped Turkey in her hour of extremity the world knows well enough; and now, at what may well be the climax of their career, Turkey is to help them. In other words, though the hand which defies the Greeks be the hand of the Turk, the voice which replies to the Allies is the voice of the Bolshevik.

The Transition in Anatolia.

We by no means wish to pour cold water on the hopes of those informed optimists who believe that peace in

the Near East is really in sight, but it is easy to minimise the enormous difficulties that have yet to be overcome. Already things are happening in Anatolia which give but the gloomiest prospects for the immediate future, unless indeed Allied officers of control can take absolute charge of the evacuation. We hear, for instance, on the indisputable authority of Professor Toynbee, of abominable outrages by the Greeks near Aidin, and from the American Near East Relief Fund on the other hand, of horrors perpetrated by the Kemalists. If these things are to continue, all talk of real peace seems fanciful. Further, there is the certain fact of the Smyrna Defence Committee, which has set its teeth firmly against evacuation unless freedom from Turkish administration, police, and soldiery is assured the Greeks, Armenians, Jews, and non-Turkish Moslems of the Smyrna zone. It is obvious that officers of control are needed urgently and abundantly.

The Fate of the Armenians.

We commented recently upon the sad fate to which the Ministers at Paris felt compelled to relegate the Armenians—and we were certain that it was facts temporarily insuperable, and facts alone, that stood in their way when they made so ungenerous a provision for the future of the Armenian people. Fortunately we are in a position to know the exact position of England and France in this matter. A letter written by Lord Curzon to Senator Luzzatti, the octogenarian ex-Premier of Italy, and dated March 18 (and published in the *Daily Telegraph*), foreshadows the regret and impotence which were later to be manifested at the Paris Conference. Lord Curzon affirms that "in the controversies of long past years over the Armenian question Britain has deliberately and with her eyes open sacrificed her material interests in Turkey to her ideals. To-day the sentiments of my country remain substantially the same, but facts have changed to this extent, that, hard pressed as all countries now are, aggressive action on behalf of ideals is not to be contemplated." In other words, Great Britain still knows right from wrong, but owing to temporary fatigue (universally shared however), must for the moment allow an injustice to be committed. And we believe that Lord Curzon did at the Conference make a valiant effort for the triumph of justice over expediency. The French view we obtain from a meeting of the Commission of Foreign Affairs on April 5 which, after approving of the Angora Agreement, resolved:—"The Committee expresses the hope that re-adjustment of the agreement in the general

peace will confirm the French point of view as to the protection of minorities and the constitution of a national home for Armenians within the limits laid down by the Allied Powers." Our hopes for the re-cession to the Armenians of a corner of that soil which was once Armenia are therefore not yet dead.

Difficulties in Palestine.

To those who hoped that matters in Palestine were settling down quietly the report of the recent meeting at Safed between Sir Wyndham Deedes, Civil Secretary to the Palestine Administration, and a deputation representing the Moslem, Christian, and Jewish communities, will have come as unpleasant news. If we are to credit the telegraphic accounts of it which have appeared in various newspapers, several and serious differences in points of view between governors and governed revealed themselves. There was made, for instance, the statement (though we can scarcely believe it), that "the policy of the Palestine Government had satisfied the Arabs;" which of course was promptly controverted by the deputation, who pointed out that if Zionism had satisfied the Arabs the arming by the Government of the Jews was a wasted measure. This interview is stated to have resulted in an embitterment of feeling among the Arabs, and if adequately reported, it seems to us proof not only of the moderation with which the anti-Zionists in Palestine invest their feelings, but also of the width and the permanent character of the opposition to our present policy in Palestine. In fact, if things do get better without far-reaching changes in the nature of the administration of the country, there will be no one more surprised than ourselves. We may add here a note of puzzlement at the remark which Sir Wyndham Deedes is reported to have made at this meeting—that England regarded fifteen million Jews as subjects, in spirit, of Palestine. If there is any relevant significance in this assertion we fail to see it: can it mean that the Jew is to be the subject of two countries at once, materially subject to the land in which he resides and spiritually subject to Palestine? The concept of dual allegiance is a myth, and, moreover, among all but the most civilized people, spiritual values attaching to an alien race are wont to be disregarded, and if such peoples adopt the English policy towards Jews, we fear the latter are destined to further unmerited misfortune.

The Sudan's Requirements.

The letter from our Khartoum Correspondent which will be found on another page will be read with particular interest just now because it throws some light on questions discussed last week in Parliament in connection with the Government of the Sudan Loan (Amendment) Bill. The desirability of finding, or creating, fresh cotton-growing areas to which Lancashire may hopefully look for supplies of raw material is generally recognized, and the Sudan certainly appears to be one of the most promising fields, if not the most promising, at the time. The right soil is there, the water is there—and in plenty, without endangering Egypt's supply at all—and all that is required to turn the natural advantages to account is the necessary financial backing. As our Khartoum Correspondent writes, it is unthinkable that the Blue Nile Scheme should not be carried through; and the delays caused by the effects of the war—as the Financial Secretary to the Treasury made clear in the

House of Commons—are intensely regrettable. The subject is too large to be dealt with in the compass of a note or two, and we must leave discussion of it for another day, but we earnestly hope that the British Parliament, while insisting, of course, on proper security, will deal generously with the Sudan in regard to any proposals for development put forward. Any money advanced for that purpose would be well invested.

Its Future.

In the debate in the Commons on the Bill referred to, one or two Members expressed a not unnatural anxiety about Great Britain's guaranteeing any loans to the Sudan if there should be any chance of her losing control over the country. In reply Mr. Shortt, while declining to commit himself to any definite statement, made it clear that the position of the Sudan in the future is to be substantially the same as at the present time. This is not unsatisfactory in view of the present anxiety to avoid hurting Egyptian susceptibilities, just now super-sensitive perhaps. For in effect the Sudan is now a separate political unit, with a Government of its own, controlled by British officials at Khartoum; and, as we have remarked before, the progress it has made in the past twenty years is the best justification of the existing régime. It is to be hoped, therefore, that no attempt will be made to introduce changes in obedience to agitation from outside. And we would add that any attempt at propaganda introduced from outside should be firmly dealt with by the authorities. For the rest, anyone who feels at all nervous about the many millions of British capital already invested in developing the Sudan will find comfort in recalling Mr. Lloyd George's declaration on the subject made in the House of Commons on February 28 last. We regard the Sudan as a first-class field for investment.

The Egyptian Constitution.

The Egyptian Cabinet is to be congratulated on a useful piece of work done. It has been subjected to a good deal of criticism by its opponents because it was supposed to be set upon elaborating a constitution entirely by itself; but it has now shown such criticisms to have been confounded, by inviting the collaboration of a number of representative Egyptians in this very important work. It was represented by the Extremists that invitations to serve on such work would meet with a cool reception by good patriots, but as a matter of fact Adly Pasha has secured the co-operation of several ex-ministers and other prominent men, apparently without any difficulty. Thirty-two leading Egyptians have agreed to collaborate with the Cabinet, and though the ultra-Zaghoulites may deny the fact, there can be little doubt that the Constitution elaborated by their united efforts should be representative of the desires and ideals of the best-informed Egyptian opinion. This preliminary success should strengthen the position of the Sarwat Ministry, and, by freeing it from some of its superfluous worries, render it better able to devote its energies to further solid work.

Indian Affairs.

If there be any truth in the adage that no news is good news, last week must be regarded as a happy week for India, for it was marked by the absence of any cablegrams of a disquieting nature. This silence is the more noteworthy, in that we are now nearly in the middle of a period which competent judges in India have spoken of as likely to be the most anxious for the last sixty years, while Lord Meston has warned us in the

current number of the *Asiatic Review* that outbreaks of violence may occur at any time. Too much stress must not be laid on the apparent tranquillity, for the North, which now, as always, is the part of India which matters, is at the moment busy in getting in the harvest, and peasants do not usually leave their business till the season's produce is safely housed; but at the same time we believe it is correct to say that we have reached a point where each week of quiet represents a lasting gain. The steady pressure of the ordinary law is again being exerted throughout the districts which have given most anxiety, and all past experience suggests that its effect is likely to be cumulative.

Centres of Anxiety.

While it is true that almost the whole population has been affected by the temporary weakening of the forces which make for order, it is possible at any given moment to point to a few definite areas where the risk is exceptionally great. When the last mail left India, the two main centres of anxiety were the central Punjab and the West of Oudh, and the forces at work in those areas present a remarkable contrast. In the Punjab the Akali movement, as it is called, among the Sikhs is openly revolutionary; there is talk of a Punjab kingdom, armed bands move in military formation; and, so far as we can discern, there is no suggestion of any grievances which could be alleged as justifying agitation. Its real danger lies in the fact that the Sikh community as a whole has for some time past been very uneasy; it might be set ablaze by the temporary success of the Akali movement, but the same result might follow from drastic methods of repression. So far as can be judged at this distance, Sir Edward Maclagan, who just now occupies the most difficult position in India, is steering a prudent course between these perplexities, and there appears to be some justification for the hope that the worst of the danger is now over.

Aims and Methods.

In Oudh, on the other hand, the declared aims, though not the methods, of the Aika movement make a strong appeal to Englishmen. In form this movement is an attempt on the part of some of the humble castes to resist illegal oppression at the hands of their social superiors. They have been grievously oppressed for many centuries, perhaps ever since the Aryan invaders first entered the country: English attempts to protect them have met with very imperfect success; and one's first thought is to wish them God speed. Unfortunately the movement seems to be directed by some very shady politicians who are using real grievances as tools for their illegitimate purposes; the criminal classes have rallied to the call; and the methods of action are such as must alienate any sympathy which the ostensible objects might arouse. The latest news indicates that the Government of the United Provinces had the movement well in hand, and we have little doubt that in its present form it will shortly collapse, but we trust the upper classes of Oudh will take the warning seriously to heart. The people will no longer stand the oppression to which their forefathers submitted, and if the old methods are not changed, it is as certain as anything can be that in one way or another the oppressors will be deprived of the position they have so long abused.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Monday Evening.

A Confession of Faith.

The Government obtained its vote of confidence in itself without the least difficulty last week. Mr. Lloyd George was not in good form—he never is when there is no real opposition—and his speech was flat and dull. But the mere existence of a confession of faith is, according to ecclesiastical historians, an infallible indication of the presence of heresy; and the same rule seems to hold good in politics. If there had been no doubters in the camp, there would have been no need for a formal profession of confidence.

The Die-Hards had their evening out, as somebody rudely dubbed it, a day or two later. It was a dispiriting performance. They were led by Sir W. Joynson-Hicks, who is a capable solicitor, and an ornament of the Low Church party, but hardly a great political force; but even he seemed a Triton among the minnows when one looked at his followers. Mr. Austen Chamberlain had no difficulty in disposing of them all in half-an-hour; the next day they held a lunch to celebrate their principles.

Genoa.

Meanwhile Mr. Lloyd George is off to Genoa. His press explains that this time he is really going to do the trick; the Opposition version is that this time he is going to trick us again. The general public attitude is rather sceptical. With America entirely out, and France only half in, it does not quite see what the Conference can settle. Only the optimists believe that the reparations question will be finally disposed of; and it is not only the pessimists who doubt the possibility of a satisfactory deal with Russia. The Conservatives still look with gloomy apprehension at any "recognition" of the Bolsheviks; Labour is officially friendly, and Liberalism, as usual, enunciates platitudes on the subject which may mean anything or nothing.

The proof of the pudding, however, will be in the eating; in other words, everybody will wait for the Prime Minister's return before making up his mind what to say. And Parliament is taking a fortnight's holiday, while on its resumption it will be engaged on the Budget, which is to be introduced on 1 May; the betting is therefore slightly against a May election. But at the moment everything is uncertain, and the air is full of rumours, most of which are improbable on the face of things.

Ireland.

The fact that half-a-million gallons of whisky have been poured down the Dublin drains by desperadoes is sufficient evidence that things are far from normal in Ireland; the police were prevented from interfering by

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force. Some very pessimistic advices have been received from the South during the past few days, complaining of the feebleness of the Provisional Government and the fanaticism of the De Valera faction; everything seems to portend a storm, and this despite the agreement between North and South concluded a few days ago. There is no security anywhere in the country, and consequently industry continues to languish.

The Fall of Labour.

The Borough Council Elections have just been held in England. They do not appear to excite very much interest, but everywhere the results were the same; Labour lost seats in every direction. "Poplar finance" has been the ruin of the Labour party in local government.

The County Hall.

The new London County Hall, which the King is to open some time during the summer, is one of the most beautiful in London; indeed, there are some who say that now it is practically completed, it quite outshines the Houses of Parliament across the water, the Victorian Gothic of which buildings is now becoming unfashionable. The interior of the County Hall is quite different from the original plan; but the exterior, which was criticised severely when the first sketch was published some years ago, has more than justified the architect.

Housing and Costs.

There has been rather a pother in the press once more over the housing question. It is admitted that the price of building is falling rapidly, and this has justified Sir Alfred Mond's decision to suspend the housing programme of the Government. That programme was excellent in itself, but both capital and labour took advantage of it to rush up prices; immediately the policy was abandoned, prices began to fall. But partisan opponents of the Government are still criticising it for the shortage of houses, and recently Sir Alfred Mond was unwise enough to make a joke, remarking that newly-married people ought to be so happy that they should not mind living in one or two rooms—a jest that reduced the *Daily News* to an apoplexy of indignation. But Sir Alfred's real crime was not that he ventured to joke, but that he is a Coalition Liberal.

A Lady's Dress Allowance.

How many dresses is a Countess entitled to? A fashionable dressmaker sued Lord Cathcart for several frocks, supplied to his wife's order; he refused to pay, on the grounds that she had exceeded her allowance and was hopelessly extravagant; it appeared from the evidence that she had spent £1,500 in ten days, which was pretty good going even for these times. The case was so important the judge gave a long, considered ruling, which will probably become a legal classic. Judgment was given for Lord Cathcart, and dressmakers will perhaps be more cautious in supplying dresses in future. Or else they will raise prices a little in order to recoup themselves for an increased risk of bad debts.

This case, following on Mr. Justice Darling's recent ruling as to the coercion of a married woman by her husband in the Peel case, suggests that a definite alteration in the law of husband and wife is due. But changes in this department of the law are never accomplished without great difficulty and delay, and a good deal of opposition.

Other Legal Cases.

Apart from this question of a wife's dress allowance, the papers have been full of other legal cases. A Welsh solicitor is being tried by Mr. Justice Darling for the murder of his wife, and the medical evidence is being followed with intense interest; the Hooley trial has—at last come to an end at the Old Bailey; and Mr. Bottomley is engaged in explaining his conduct of the Victory Bond Club at Bow Street. The latter case is now a maze of financial figures, which I at least, have given up any attempt to follow.

The attempt to reopen the Wakeford case, to which I referred a couple of weeks ago, has failed. A largely signed appeal has been presented to the Home Secretary to enquire into the fresh evidence which it is alleged can now be produced, but Mr. Shortt has refused. This unhappy case will presumably now be forgotten.

The End of Hooley.

With the conviction of E. T. Hooley, and sentence of three years' penal servitude, the career of that remarkable and unscrupulous financier may be presumed to be at an end—for he is well on in the sixties, and will be in sight of the seventies before he is released. Hooley came into prominence in 1895 as a company promoter (he was the forerunner of the modern amalgamator and merger) and for some years he lived expansively on these flotations; one feature was common to all—over-capitalisation of stock. With the inevitable fall in values, Hooley's importance waned, and he was down and out as a City magnate when the new star, Whitaker Wright, appeared on the horizon. Although technically a bankrupt, Hooley lived luxuriously in the Midlands; but some ten years ago he was convicted and imprisoned for swindling a young fool out of his inheritance; apparently prison taught him nothing of the need for reform. In the present case the procedure was more complicated.

This kind of shark is well out of the way. Hooley had obviously no moral responsibility; his portrait and that of the evil type to which he belongs, has been well drawn by Mr. H. G. Wells in "Tono-Bungay."

A few years back, at the height of his glory, he gave a service of gold plate to St. Paul's Cathedral, but this was eventually returned by the Dean and Chapter; they felt that the maxim "non olet" was not quite adequate. I remember some ribald wit designated the gift "the Hooley Communion."

The Week's Books.

The second volume of Lord George Hamilton's "Reminiscences and Reflections" (Murray) covers the twenty years from 1886 to 1906. It is even more interesting than the first volume and contains allusions to most of the best-known men of the time. There is a short character-sketch of the ex-German Kaiser, who was at first an "unnoticeable young man except for his curt and brusque manners," and who became eventually a personage with whom "it was pose, pose, pose all day long, until there was not a particle of sincerity, truth or reliability left in his whole composition, but he still retained a certain ability." Even in those rather early days "Lord Salisbury told me that he looked upon him as the most dangerous enemy we had in Europe. He also added that he had never met a man with such a double tongue."

Those who are interested in questions of literary style may be interested in "The Problem of Style" (Milford) by Mr. J. Middleton Murry. It is a painstaking study that was first delivered in the form of lectures at Oxford University; Mr. Murry is one of the younger school of critics, but he is perhaps more famous as the husband of one of the most successful novelists of the day.

OCELLUS.

Wolves have raided the village of Pietroem, in Roumania, and killed five children. The peasants, armed only with clubs and pitchforks, sought to drive the wolves off, but in the conflict six peasants were killed and 38 bitten, while the wolves had only one killed.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

From Our Own Correspondents.

EGYPT.

Cairo, April 1.

Sarwat Pasha's Speech.

Last Sunday was another Government holiday in honour of the twenty-fourth Birthday of King Fuad. Owing to its proximity to the Independence Day ceremonies no reception was held; but large numbers of Egyptians and Europeans went to the Palace to sign the book. The Prime Minister, Sarwat Pasha, took the opportunity of a banquet given at the Continental-Savoy in honour of the day to deliver a great political speech in which, after paying a tribute to King Fuad and Adly and Rushdi Pashas for the share they had taken in bringing about the recent change in the status of Egypt, he dealt with the present situation and the great possibilities which the future holds out. While declaring that he welcomed honest opposition, he affirmed it as his determination to combat any opposition which was based on purely personal considerations. It was a fine fighting speech, and has created a great impression in favour of the present Cabinet, which has every prospect of being able to carry through its programme provided its actions reflect the firmness and determination which Sarwat Pasha has declared would characterise his administration.

The Weakening of Zaghloulism.

One of the latest developments in the political situation, indicative of the way the wind is blowing, has been the complete secession of Aly Bey Maher from the Wafd El Masri. Aly Bey was one of the "four" who came back with the Milner Memorandum in 1920, and he seceded a first time from the delegation last summer, when he found that Zaghloul would not listen to reason. On the failure of the London conversations and the publication of the Curzon Note in December last he joined up again. He now declares that he considers the British declaration to be a great step along the road towards an entente with England safeguarding Egyptian aspirations, which he has always desired to see, and he therefore has resigned from the Wafd because it insists on opposing the new Government. There is now nobody of any importance in the Zaghloul camp, and the Wafd is to-day run entirely by people who politically do not count for anything.

The Kufra Expedition.

An interesting lecture was given last week by Ahmed Bey Hassanein, the young Egyptian who with Mrs. Rosita Forbes made last year the journey to the oasis of Kufra about which so much has appeared in the Home press. Hassanein Bey gave many new facts about the journey, which have not yet been made public. He paid great tribute to the courage and endurance of the lady who shared the expedition with him, but although at no time did he make any reference to his own personal share in overcoming the many difficulties and obstacles which confronted them, it is perfectly clear that without the advantage of the personality, initiative, energy and pluck of a man like himself the expedition could never possibly have won through.

The Mixed Courts.

The Counsellors and Judges of the Mixed Courts have sent in an application to the Egyptian Government for a general increase in their salaries. It appears that since the creation of these Courts no improvement has taken place in the scale of their pay. Under the original arrangement the Counsellors and Judges received annually in addition to their salaries one-fifth of a year's pay as compensation for pension. Recently they were admitted to the application of the Pension Law, their bonus was of course knocked off, but like all other civil servants they had to contribute 5 per cent. to the Pension Fund, so that in many cases the Judges are receiving less than their predecessors in 1876. In view of the fact

that the Mixed Courts recently consented to an increase in the transfer fees which will bring in about L.E. 50,000 per annum, there should be no difficulty on the part of the Egyptian Government in meeting this very just claim, the extra cost of which will not be more than L.E. 20,000.

Death of a Trusted Sudan Official.

All Anglo-Sudanese officials and those who during the past few years have worked in connection with Arabian affairs will learn with the deepest regret of the sudden death of Naum Bey Shoucair, which occurred on Sunday last. Born in the Lebanon, in 1865, Naum Bey was educated at the American University, Beyrout, where he graduated as B.A. At an early age he began his acquaintance with the Sudan, being attached to the Expeditionary Force for the relief of General Gordon. In 1889 he joined the editorial staff of the *Mokattam* but re-joined the Egyptian Army in 1890 and worked in the Intelligence Department with Sir Reginald Wingate. In 1900 he was transferred to the Sudan Intelligence Department and became Director of the Historical Section, a post which he held at the time of his death.

Naum Bey was an author and poet of considerable distinction. Among his publications were a "History of the Sudan" and a "History of Sinai," and at the time of his death he had nearly completed the "History of Arabia." He was a recognised authority on Arabian and Sudan affairs, and his knowledge of the Sinai was of the greatest value to the British Military authorities during the great war. For his services he received the M.B.E., but this was regarded by all who knew him as a wholly inadequate recognition of his work. The large gathering of mourners at his funeral, including high representatives of the British, Egyptian and Sudan

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Governments, the Arab Agent and prominent members of all the communities, testified to the high personal esteem in which Naum Bey Shoucair was held.

The State Telephones.

It is a remarkable fact that amongst the public utility services the telephones show little sign of efficiency and give constant cause for complaint. In fact, since its transfer to the Government from the private company which directed it so well, the telephone system appears to be going from bad to worse and the Administration might well take a leaf out of the book of the two services to which it is affiliated, *viz.*, the Railways and the Telegraphs, which together with the Post Office are run by what is practically an Egyptian staff and continually arouse the admiration of visitors by the efficient manner in which their services are conducted.

SUDAN.

Khartoum, March 20.

The Political Situation.

On Thursday the 16th inst., a salute of 101 guns was fired at noon in honour of the assumption of royalty by Sultan Fuad of Egypt. A large Egyptian flag was flown from the centre flagpole of the Palace for three days, a review of the troops was held on the morning of the 18th, and to-day, the 20th, has been appointed a general holiday. With the exception of that shown by the Egyptian officers there has been very little interest displayed, and the Sudan pursues the even tenour of its way.

Now that the status of Egypt has been defined we are all anxious that the status of the Sudan should be made clear. The country must have money for development, but in present circumstances there are no guarantees to offer to would-be investors. For the future prosperity of the Sudan it is essential that the administration should come directly under the Imperial Government, and that Egyptian influence and control should be terminated. As a Crown Colony the Sudan could offer ample security for much needed loans for interior development. To the resident in this country it is a source of continual wonder that the Imperial Government should have expended money at the rate of some four million pounds per annum on an insignificant piece of territory such as Palestine and have ignored the potential resources of over one million square miles of land which is coveted by every Great Power in Europe. Palestine could be comfortably lost in any of the smaller Sudan provinces, and the money expended in a country about one-sixth of the area of England could have been far better employed in the Sudan.

The Blue Nile Dam.

The Government have terminated the contract for the construction of the Makwar Dam with Messrs. Alessandrini & Perry, who are now handing over to the engineer in charge. Only work of vital importance is now being done, pending the result of the Government's efforts to raise sufficient money to complete the scheme. The probabilities are that the contract will now be put out to tender, and it is to be hoped that one of the big firms will offer immediately. It is unthinkable that the scheme should not be carried through, and the present hold-up for lack of funds will not only put back the completion of the work by a year but will add appreciably to the cost. After each flood, thousands of tons of silt are deposited on the work that has already been done, and before any further progress can be made this has to be removed. The colossal nature of the work and the difficulties to be surmounted can only be appreciated by an expert or by an actual visitor to the site of the Dam, which will be capable of supplying enough water to irrigate the greater part of the Ghezireh, resulting in a comparatively arid waste being converted into a district as fertile as, if not more fertile than, the Delta. There is little doubt that had the Sudan Government advertised the effects of the scheme sufficiently the money would have been forthcoming; but it is easy to see their point of view, that the project was self-evidently sound. It is difficult to realise the gross geographical ignorance of the folk at home, who imagine

that the weary Sudan official can run down to Cairo for a week-end, and that a trip from Suez to Port Sudan is equivalent to a journey from Putney Bridge to Kew. This is possibly due to the fact that the outside world has hitherto had to depend upon spoon-fed journalism for any knowledge of the country or its inhabitants. A great deal of the present financial trouble is due to the unscrupulous way in which the Dam was made use of in the political campaign in Egypt, by stating that it was being constructed in order to cut Egypt's water off in the future. There is ample water for both Egypt and the Sudan, and the ardent Nationalists would do well to recognise that there is far greater danger of a Continental Power obtaining control of Lake Tsana and cutting off the Blue Nile at its source than of their country being starved to the advantage of the Sudan.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Belgrade, March 31.

The Political Situation.

The present situation in Parliament is full of electricity, and the Coalition seems to be in danger. Radicals are blamed for obstinately wanting to break up the present Cabinet. M. Protitch, who is leading a small number of Conservative Radicals, is again flirting with Raditch, whom he still hopes to bring to reason and eventually to have in collaboration with the Radicals. More than half the Radicals are dead against this double-faced game, but the Executive Committee of the Radical party are silent as the Sphinx. M. Protitch is not working with the main body, and he has not yet been expelled from the party. Nominally (and perhaps in reality too) he is a "wild man," but it is still a puzzle to all those who are not behind the scenes what political colour he will take for the elections.

For a quite long time M. Protitch refused to give his oath to the King, and only under the direct pressure of the Speaker, who threatened to cancel his mandate, did he consent to swear loyalty. Having done so he abstained from going to the Skupshtina; but when his parliamentary allowances became doubtful, he readily went to the House—yet only to stir up trouble there. Undoubtedly M. Protitch is a man who deserves much gratitude from his country for the good he has done to it, but unfortunately his behaviour during the last year has been, if not altogether reprehensible, unintelligible to the plain man. And it should be recollected that, although M. Protitch's patriotism during the Balkan and Great Wars was unquestionable, he was an open enemy to any Coalition as soon as the war-danger was over.

Fiume Incidents.

M. Zanella, President of the Free State of Fiume, has addressed a Memorandum to the Premier, M. Pashitch, thanking him for his hospitality, and at the same time explaining why he and the majority of the Fiume Council Members had to cross the border. The *Fascisti*, who are now the sole masters of the town, are said to be forcibly compelling the rest of the Council members to vote for the union with Italy, but luckily more than half of the members are absent, and no decision is considered valid unless more than half the members have voted for or against it. Two days ago four *fascisti* crossed the border near St. Aune's bridge, but as they had no papers and were found in possession of firearms, Yugoslav frontier guards arrested them and took them to St. Aune. The *Fascisti* in Fiume protested, and by way of reprisals raided the premises of some Yugoslav Banks, demanding from the cashiers the keys of the safes, which, however, they were disgusted to find were empty.

The Earthquake.

Immediately after noon, on the 24th inst., Belgrade was shaken by a very strong earthquake, which came on in a series of increasing waves. At 1.28 p.m. the rocking of the earth was so strong that the panic-stricken population fled out into the open. The displacement was 1,200 microns vertically and 820 microns horizontally (two microns = 1 M-M). Walls started cracking and the chimneys came down on some of the

weaker houses. The inhabitants were most frightened by a loud underground rumble, which was followed by a series of weaker waves.

To-day the Observatory issued a warning to all the inhabitants of Belgrade district to get clear of high buildings as soon as they noticed some uneasiness among the animals. It is very interesting to note that horses were very nervous, and some broke loose just before the earthquake came on. The needles at the Observatory are not quite steady to-day, but the shocks are so weak that they cannot be noticed by human beings. The centre of the shock is Mount Avala, about 25 km. from Belgrade, which still bears some signs of an old volcano, and these latest disturbances are largely attributed to the settling down of the subterranean layers of volcanic ground.

Relations with Albania.

According to the latest reports from the Foreign Office in Belgrade, Albania is now recognized as an independent State. The Serbian Consular agents will shortly be replaced by a Minister in Tirana, and normal relations between the two countries will be resumed immediately. Postal and telegraphic services are also established.

General News.

King Alexander has been making a shooting tour, starting in Shumadia district and the Government's estate "Bolje" in Banat. During this tour he was attacked by a wild boar, but three well aimed shots provided safety for himself and his party.

During the recent ploughing season many accidents occurred on the old battle-fields. Near the river Drin, a big shell exploded, killing on the spot two men, a boy, and the team of horses.

On a side line, which was damaged during the War and had since been unused, the trial trains were blown off the track by a shell buried in the bed of the line.

While the Old Royal Palace was undergoing some repairs, a 305 m-m. shell was discovered in the founda-

tions. After some difficulty the shell was removed and safely thrown into the Danube.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, March 31.

Opening of Parliament.

The new Parliament was opened with the usual ceremonial on Monday, March 27. The King, accompanied by the Queen and the Crown Prince, after attending divine service at the Primate's Cathedral proceeded in state to the Chamber, and read the Opening Speech for the first Session of the Third Parliament of Greater Roumania.

After expressing his pleasure in finding himself "in the midst of the National Assembly, whose mission is to give, on sincere, sound and democratic basis, the constitutional foundation expected by the united Greater Roumania," his Majesty continued:

"With great satisfaction I bring to your notice the betrothal of my beloved daughter, Princess Marie, to His Majesty, Alexander the King of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. This union will surely draw even closer the traditional bonds of friendship which have existed for centuries with our neighbours. True to our alliances, we have friendly relations also with the other Powers. Roumania, desirous of work and peace, will support at the coming Conference of Genoa those resolutions which without affecting the independence of the States, can contribute to this economic rehabilitation of Europe on the basis of existing Treaties. We hope that the accord which we have concluded to this effect with Poland, Czecho-Slovakia and Yugoslavia will facilitate the work of solidarity, by which this Conference may ease and strengthen the international situation."

His Majesty went on to say that it was incumbent on the National Assembly to insure the consolidation of national unity, achieved with such great sacrifices during the War. The present session would be too short to carry out such a task; but it was necessary to make a beginning, so that it might be accomplished by autumn. For this purpose it would be necessary to start forming various Parliamentary Committees, which together with the Government shall study the elaboration of the Constitution, administrative and fiscal reform, Church and School reforms, labour legislation, the reorganisation and co-ordination of public services, and other important social and economic problems.

"In this session," the King continued, "you will have to give your foremost attention to the financial situation. The real budget for Greater Roumania cannot be drafted now, for it entails first, the modification of the Fiscal Law voted last year and a systematic reorganization of Public Services throughout the country. For the moment, my Government will ask you, in compliance with the Constitution, to prolong the last Budget with the necessary rectifications—in order to complement the indispensable needs of the State Services—and with the reductions which it will be possible to carry out at present. At the same time, the different Departments will draft out their respective budgets within the limits proposed to Parliament, so that it will be possible to introduce in the course of the fiscal year—with the assistance of the Budgetary Committee—the necessary modifications with a view to establish as soon as possible a regulated Budget."

"The Government will give its close attention to the continuance of the application of agrarian reform in the Old Kingdom, and will immediately begin its execution in Transylvania and Bukovina also, so that the peasants of these provinces shall without delay come into their rights under this law."

The speech ended with a reference to the needs of the Army, "the steadfast shield of Roumania's rights." It was heartily applauded by those present, consisting of the Deputies and Senators of the Liberal Party and of the representatives of the minorities. The entire Opposition, in accordance with its previously announced intention, was conspicuous by its absence. The Diplomatic Corps was well represented.

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Political Situation.

The Opposition, however, made its appearance in Parliament at the next sitting, when the debates on the validity of the seats began, in order to bring proofs of the abuses alleged to have been committed at the elections. On this occasion a leader of each group of the Opposition read in turn a declaration of protest, the gist of which was that they refuse to acknowledge the legality of the present Parliament, and that they will consider as null and void any enactments made by it.

Despite these protests, the future attitude and tactics of the Opposition are not yet clearly defined. These parties are more or less waiting to see what decision will be taken at the Congress of the Transylvanian National Party, which will be held at Alba Julia shortly after the Easter holidays. It may be mentioned, however, that M. Také Jonescu's group, and to a certain extent that of M. Jorga, although condemning the origin of this Parliament, do not incline towards such drastic action as abstention from Parliament, but consider their presence necessary in order to combat and control the Government's activity.

The response to the Opposition's protests was undertaken by the Premier himself, who, while refuting the allegations with regard to the elections, appealed to the patriotic sentiments of the members of the Opposition to work with the present Parliament towards the economic rehabilitation of the country. In conclusion, M. Bratianu made it clear that should the Opposition refuse to co-operate, the Government—with the support of its compact majority—is determined to carry out its task alone, and he reminded his hearers of a precedent, which took place in similar circumstances in 1877 and nevertheless proved beneficial to the country.

Roumanian Delegates for Genoa.

It is now almost certain that Roumania will be represented at Genoa Conference by M. I. C. Bratianu, the Prime Minister, assisted by a committee of 18 experts among whom are M. Oscar Kiriacescu, Director of the Banca Nationala, M. Eftimiu Antonescu, M. N. Stefanescu, Bank Director, M. Gh. Popescu, from the Ministry of Communications, M. S. Rosenthal, a leading barrister, M. Alexander Buescu, Director of the Customs Department, Colonel Ianca Dumitrescu, M. N. Flondor, M. Alexander Lapadatu, three journalists, and others. This delegation will leave Bucharest for Genoa on April 5.

General News.

General G. Mardarescu has been appointed Minister of War, which Department has hitherto been under M. I. C. Bratianu. The latter will henceforth remain President of the Council without portfolio.

The Roumanian Ministry for Foreign Affairs has sent a *communiqué* to the Press abroad, formally refuting the rumours of any aggressive intentions on the part of Roumania against Soviet Russia, and has also denied that this country is supporting or tolerating on her territory anti-Soviet preparations by Petliura. On the other hand, the Roumanian Government declares that it will prevent by all means any action which could be considered as directed against Russia.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, April 3.

Turkey and Bulgaria.

The proposals made by the Allies with a view to settling the Graeco-Turk conflict are not regarded by Bulgarians as likely to establish a lasting peace in the Near East. It is admitted that justice has been done in Asia Minor, and the vexed question of the Straits may be settled for the time being, but the situation in Thrace is likely to give rise to trouble for some considerable time to come. The proposed Graeco-Turkish frontier in Eastern Thrace is to run in a north to north-easterly direction from Ganos on the Sea of Marmora to a point in the Istranja Mountains on the Bulgarian frontier. Bulgaria and Turkey will thus possess a common frontier only along a few miles of mountainous ground stretching inland from Vasiliko on the Black Sea. It appears that the

French point of view which favoured giving Turkey the old "Maritsa" frontier, was overruled by the other Powers, on the ground that it would be dangerous for Bulgaria and Turkey to have a common frontier. The Little Entente are known to view with distrust any signs of Bulgarian-Turkish friendship, and it may well be that their representations were instrumental in influencing the Allies in coming to their present decision.

The determination of the Allies to prevent Bulgaria and Turkey from becoming neighbours is on the face of it perfectly natural, as both nations are discontented with their lot, and are likely to find many points in common. However, even if Turks and Greeks accept the mediation of the Allies, and Eastern Thrace is divided up on the lines mentioned above, it requires only a glance at the map to see the very unenviable position the Greeks will be placed in in Eastern Thrace. The territory left to Greece in Eastern Thrace will be forty miles broad at its widest point. On the East there will be the Turks, always on the look out for frontier incidents and always eager to regain Adrianople. On the West there will be the Bulgarians, thoroughly discontented on account of the Allies having disregarded their claims to Western Thrace, and only too willing to lend a hand to the Turk against the common foe—Greece. Hardly a situation which will conduce to Near Eastern Peace!

Youssuf Kemal Bey's Declarations.

Youssuf Kemal Bey, the Angora Foreign Minister and joint author with M. Franklin-Bouillon of the famous Angora agreement, spent twenty four hours at Sofia at the beginning of last week. Youssuf Bey was on his way from Paris to Angora and stopped at Sofia owing to the inability of all his delegation to travel by the same Orient Express. Youssuf received the leading Bulgarian journalists, and while saying that he could not definitely state the attitude of the Angora National Assembly towards the Allies proposals, he let it be understood that it was improbable that Angora would accept the Allies proposals relative to Thrace. He spoke with warmth regarding Turkish—Bulgarian relations, saying that they were good and that there was no reason why they should not become better. Bulgaria and Turkey had similar aims he declared and "The setting up of an autonomous régime in Western and Eastern Thrace, or the giving of Western Thrace to Bulgaria, would provide certain closer points of contact." The Angora Foreign Minister also referred to the European countries, which he preferred to leave unnamed, who were opposed to Bulgaria and Turkey having a common frontier.

Youssuf Kemal Bey had informal conversations with one or two Bulgarians, but his visit being of a purely informal character was not marked by any official reception. He left Sofia for Burgas on the evening of the 29th, embarking there on a French destroyer en route for Ineboli.

The Genoa Conference.

MM. Stambolisky and Turlakoff, accompanied by financial and economic advisers, are due to leave for Genoa on Wednesday, April 5. The Prime Minister in the course of a recent interview said that he was not going to Genoa with any great feeling of optimism as to the results likely to be obtained. He regards the question of Bulgaria's reparation payments and the economic outlet to the Aegean Sea as being two matters of paramount importance in so far as Bulgaria's economic situation is concerned. These two matters, touching as they do the Treaty of Neuilly, will not be discussed at the Conference, and M. Stambolisky is of opinion that in these circumstances Bulgaria's participation at the Conference cannot be fraught with any real benefit. The Government extended an invitation to the Opposition parties to send representatives to Genoa, but with the exception of the Communists the offer has been declined.

Sofia University Closed.

The long drawn out struggle between the Government and Sofia University has at last reached a climax. At a plenary session held on April 1. The Senate of the University decided to close the University until further

notice. The main reason leading to the closure of the University is the refusal of the Government to reinstate the twenty Professors dismissed on grounds of economy. The action of the Senate recalls the conflict that took place between the Government and Sofia University in 1907. On this occasion the University was closed for six months, and the Government attempted to set up another University by means of enlisting the services of foreign Professors. The attempt did not succeed, and during the course of the conflict M. Pecheff, Minister of Education, was assassinated. Furthermore, in the end the Cabinet resigned, largely owing to the odium they had incurred by their attitude upon the University question. The consequences to-day are not likely to be so serious, as the University has not so much power as formerly. The number of students has considerably diminished, while the average peasant will not be directly affected by the closing of the University. Nevertheless the affair is bound to have a certain effect on the political situation, and cannot fail to embarrass the Government.

The Belgian Minister.

M. Van der Heyde, the retiring Belgian Minister to Bulgaria was received in audience by King Boris last week, on which occasion his Majesty presented His Excellency with the Order of St. Alexander, First Class. M. Maskens, the new Belgian Minister arrived in Sofia on April 2.

TURKEY.

Constantinople, March 26.

The Armistice Proposal.

The Allied proposal relating to an armistice between the belligerents in Asia Minor has not been received here with any very great optimism. Nationalist opinion is frankly hostile on account of the omission of any reference to Thrace, while Government circles are of the opinion that the period of three months is too long. So far as the armistice is concerned, the opinion of the Central Government cannot count for much, and acceptance or rejection of the proposal rests entirely with the Angora Government. The Kemalists have committed many tactical diplomatic mistakes during the last two years, but they are not likely to commit such a crude blunder as to reject the Allied offer without further discussion. On the other hand, unless the Angora Government modifies the policy which has been proclaimed without variation for the last two years, there is no hope of the proposal being accepted as it stands. It is possible that the Allied representatives only intended the proposals to be a basis for discussion, for there is no reason to believe that the Angora leaders have any intention of changing their oft-proclaimed policy. It is probable that the reply which Youssuf Kemal Bey will take back to Paris will make acceptance of the offer conditional upon solid guarantees on the part of the Allies that the evacuation by the Greek armies of both Ionia and Thrace will commence immediately after the signing of the armistice. There will probably be other conditions also, but this condition is almost certain to be advanced. It is also to be expected that the provisional occupation of certain areas by the Allies will be required to be of a very limited period, even if it be accepted at all. The outlook cannot, therefore, be regarded as very hopeful, and the outpourings of the Anatolian press are by no means calculated to weaken the feeling of pessimism. The offer is openly condemned in the official "Anatolian Agency" of Angora as a British manoeuvre with the object of giving the Greeks time to make further preparations whilst the *moral* of the Turks is deteriorating through inaction. False accounts are being published of secret British offers for the conclusion of an alliance between Great Britain and Turkey, and whatever impression Youssuf Kemal Bey may have succeeded in making in London and Paris, it is useless to try to disguise the existence of a most unfavourable atmosphere in Angora. For it must be remembered that the Anatolian press is bound hand and foot, and is the completely passive instrument of the Angora Government.

The Real Issue.

The anxiety of the Allies to prevent the further shedding of blood in Anatolia can be readily understood, but had the Conference not been postponed so long, it would not have been necessary to make this the first point to be considered. In other respects, it is unfortunate that the Allies should have touched upon the territorial side of the problem at the outset; for although the frontier question is of very great importance, the whole problem has extended far beyond the conflict regarding the colour of the flag that is to fly over the government buildings in Smyrna and Adrianople. The Young Turks, who to-day call themselves Nationalists, long ago began to understand the difference between ancient and modern political and international values, and they have their own ideas as to what constitutes "independence."

However important the territorial question may be, this is the vital point at issue, and the Angora leaders have proclaimed in unmistakable language, upon innumerable occasions, that whatever may be the limits of the Turkey of the future, that Turkey shall enjoy "independence" as conceived by the Young Turk Nationalists. If anything, greater emphasis has always been laid upon this point than upon the territorial issue, and it is precisely in this connection that the views of the Angora Government appear to be irreconcilable with Allied interests. It is also precisely in this connection that the Soviet Government has exerted the greatest influence, and has encouraged the Angora Government to adopt a more uncompromising policy in regard to political and economic matters than in regard to territorial questions.

Those who have read and understood all that is implied in the National Pact, the terms of which have already been published in *THE NEAR EAST*, should realise that the Nationalist view of "independence" comprises the complete and unconditional abolition of the Capitulations, together with the complementary juridical powers of Patriarchates which are part of the Ottoman Legal Code; the absolute rejection of any kind of financial control or restrictions in regard to the Army or Navy or safeguards concerning the administration of justice; and the retrospective recognition of the Angora Government as the legal government of Turkey.

Both Turkish and Greek propaganda have helped to obscure the real issue by dwelling almost entirely upon the territorial side of the problem, and the European press appears to have been led thereby into the completely false belief that the withdrawal of the Hellenic armies from Smyrna or Thrace would *ipso facto* put an end to the conflict.

An Autonomous Ionia.

For some time past there have been rumours concerning a movement amongst the Greek population of Smyrna with the support of part of the Greek army, including, it is said, General Papoulas, for the proclamation of the independence of Western Anatolia under the nominal suzerainty of the Sultan. Nothing is more untrustworthy than rumour, particularly in this part of the world, but there is nevertheless reason to believe that on this occasion rumour is not without some considerable foundation, and it is by no means impossible that the Allies may find the ground cut from beneath them before the Angora Government can return a reply to the armistice proposal. How far the Athens Government may be involved in the movement is doubtful, for such a policy would certainly be highly dangerous to the present régime in Greece. On the other hand, if the movement is really as serious as the Venizelist party in Constantinople maintains, it is not easy to see what the Athens Government could do to smother it.

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BRITAIN AND EGYPT.

Some Eastern Views.

In the *Ahram* the Democratic Party, objecting to the British reservations, says that foreign interests are safeguarded by Treaties and the Capitulations. Egypt now has the right to negotiate directly with foreign Powers. She must join in the League of Nations, and it is for the League, not Britain, to protect them. As to Security of Communications, this is also a matter for the League of Nations. There can be no interference with communications to the prejudice of England, as the neutrality of the Suez Canal is guaranteed by treaties of long ago. With regard to the Sudan, England interfered with it in 1899 without right. The Sudan belongs to Egypt, and as for money invested by Britain in public works, etc., Egypt can come to terms with her. Egypt is prepared to treat with England as a friendly Power, after clear proof of good will given, by the immediate abolition of martial law, the release of all exiles and political prisoners, and self-government without any interference whatsoever.

The *Mokattam* speaks in rather a different tone. A writer argues that no apprehension need be caused by the proposed claim of Britain to protect Egypt from foreign aggression. Supposing that some other Power were to attack Egypt, what could she do with an army of 8,000 men, dependent on Europe for all ammunitions?

As regards security of communications, why should there be any objection to British proposals? The presence of troops in the towns is, it is true, humiliating; but if Egypt shows friendliness to Britain, they will probably be withdrawn all the sooner, especially as this will be to the interest of the heavily burdened British taxpayer. As for Egypt joining the League of Nations, this would furnish no guarantee against aggression any more than in the case of Belgium, Tripoli, or parts of Turkey. As regards protection of minorities and foreigners, satisfactory arrangements can be made with England and other nations.

The *Akhbar* (March 19) says that the English must think the Egyptians are very simple people, if they suppose they are deceived by the outward show and firing of salutes, by the King's telegram to King Fuad, and Lord Curzon's to Sarwat Pasha. The Egyptians understand perfectly well that they are not yet independent; and if they keep quiet now, it is because it is their interest to do so. The announcement should have been made not by Lord Allenby, but by the British Government. Egypt is suspicious because promises have not been carried out. The fact that Lord Allenby retains the title of High Commissioner is not compatible

with independence. The Egyptian Government should act independently of him.

A congratulatory telegram has been received from the "Liberal Party" in Tunis, expressing their joy and gratification on the attainment by Egyptians of national aspirations, and of what they have long hoped for for themselves. The *Akhbar* warmly thanks them for the communication, but adds that they must not conclude that Egyptians are yet independent.

A correspondent of the *Akhbar* at Constantinople describes a great gathering at Angora, at the Afghan Embassy, to celebrate the independence of Afghanistan; at which speeches were made. The Afghan Ambassador said that his country had attained its independence under the present Ameer, Aman-ullah Khan. He rejoiced that all Eastern nations were striving to obtain the same status. The new light shone out first from Afghanistan, as its source. The union of his country with independent Turkey would never come to an end. Mustapha Kemal, who spoke next, said that tyrants were keeping some people in chains, but a few here and there dared to oppose them. The Ameer who now ruled in Afghanistan had fulfilled the promise which he made that he would always keep his sword drawn until he had carried out his pledges. The Turkish nation was closely united with Afghanistan by ties of many kinds.

The Russian Ambassador compared Afghanistan to a lion which defends Asia from the South, and said that the independence of Afghanistan was of great value for the East. The celebration was significant, not only in connection with the freedom of Afghanistan, but with that of all Eastern nations who will not cease fighting for their rights, and when they obtain their independence they will unite by treaties to oppose Western aggression. A representative from Bokhara spoke to the same effect. The Afghan Ambassador thanked all the speakers, and in conclusion, addressing Mustapha Kemal, said: "I wish you all success in the present war against Greece."

The meeting ended after midnight, and all present prayed that there might be another celebration, at which there would be more representatives of Eastern and Moslem nations.

FOR MOSLEM REFUGEES.

The Lord Mayor of London, Sir John Baddeley, writes from The Mansion House:—I have received a personal appeal from General Sir Charles Harington, Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Forces of Occupation in Constantinople, and from Sir Adam Block, President of the Ottoman Public Debt in Constantinople, on behalf of the destitute Moslem refugees at present in that city. They number some 60,000, and are, for the most part, women, children, and old men, who have fled to the capital from their ruined villages on or behind the Marmora littoral, and from Thrace. These people are absolutely destitute, and the Turkish relief societies and the Turkish Government are unable adequately to support them.

Little attention hitherto has been given to these unfortunate people, 25,000 of whom are in the greatest misery. The women and children, and a few old men, are herded together, five families in a small room, lying on mud floors or in stables with roofs open to the rain and snow, their only food being a small ration of bread scarcely enough to keep body and soul together. With out assistance, many of them will never return to their homes. A small committee has been formed in Constantinople, which has managed to raise locally some £3,000, and appeals to India and elsewhere are expected to bring in perhaps a similar amount. The committee has been at work since December, and is to-day feeding some 5,000 refugees, but unless further funds are available this relief will have to cease.

Sir Charles Harington and Sir Adam Block when they called upon me a day or two ago stated that the French charitable institutions are already affording generous assistance, and they desire to appeal, through me, to the British public for subscriptions, in order that the British Committee in Constantinople may continue to carry on its good work for some time to come. Little is needed here to accomplish much in Constantinople; £10 will provide food for 25 people for a month. I feel sure that the traditional generosity of the British public, which has been so conspicuously exhibited in the past, will not be withheld from this pitiable appeal, which is so warmly supported by the British Community in Constantinople through their leading representatives.

Contributions may be sent to the National Bank of Turkey, 50, Cornhill, E.C.3., or to the Imperial Ottoman Bank in Constantinople, to the credit of the British Committee for Relief of Moslem Refugees, Constantinople.

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

THE CALIPHATE QUESTION.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—What is the Caliphate question? The British voter, in whose mind the title is vaguely associated with "The Arabian Nights," begins uneasily to enquire; with a disturbing consciousness that the destiny of the British Empire in the East may depend upon the answer. He is told that 250 million Moslems—100 millions being British subjects—resent the policy of the Government towards Muhammad VI, Sultan of Turkey and head of their Religion. It is also said that the question is for Islam alone, and no concern of ours; but, since the Mussulmans have now used it as a lever to force a cleavage in the affairs of Europe, Great Britain, greatest of Mohammedan Powers, cannot play the Gallio.

What are the facts, historical and existing, as to the headship of Islam?

A great Mohammedan, the late Sir Syed Ahmed Khan of Aligarh, repudiated the claim of the Osmanli Sultan to veneration as "Caliph," as being unauthentic and of comparatively modern origin. That title was assumed by consecutive successors of Mohammed as head of the Islamic Faith and Empire, by the first four on nomination, and by the remainder as hereditary. Its authenticity practically ended on the death of Radi the Poet-Caliph in A.D. 940, though it lingered for some three centuries longer in the effete Abbaside dynasty, and was not finally extinguished until the Mongolian capture of Baghdad in 1258. The Turkish Sultan Selim afterwards wrested an apocryphal succession to it from a degenerate descendant of the Prophet during his Egyptian conquest in 1517.

This arbitrary assumption of the Caliphate was, until the nineteenth century, practically ignored by the non-Turkish Moslems; certainly by the unorthodox Persian Shi'is, the Indian Babis and Behais, the Senussi of North Africa, the Barbary Moors, and the Wahabi Arabs of Nejd; and only a grudging acceptance was accorded by the Meccan Sherifs, for reasons connected with this custodianship of the Holy Places: even the Sultan himself signed treaties only as "Emperor of the Ottomans."

The astute brain, however, of Abdul Hamid, who succeeded to the Turkish throne in 1876, saw in a revival of pretension to the Caliphate a means of promoting his ambitions for the Turkish hegemony of Islam, and of consolidating against the encroachments of Western influence all the reactionary elements of the Moslem world. He consequently conceived the policy of Pan-Islamism, which he pursued in subtle conjunction with that of exploiting the mutual jealousy of the European Powers that had existed since the Crimean war. Fortified by the Turkish success in the Greek War of 1897—the first Mohammedan victory over Europeans for two centuries—he was encouraged later by the action of the Kaiser, who, failing to find an outlet for his Imperial *Wanderlust* elsewhere, discovered in Pan-Islamism an instrument for German expansion Eastward, and during his flamboyant Syrian progress identified Germany with the Pan-Islamic policy. In 1905 the Sultan was still further strengthened by the dynamic effect on all orientals of the Japanese victories over Russia.

After the revolution of 1908 the Young Turks, resenting Western aggression in Tripoli and the Balkans, re-organized Pan-Islamism on frankly anti-European lines, but still in paradoxical co-operation with Germany; and on the outbreak of the Great War in 1914 induced their puppet-Caliph to proclaim, in Turko-Teutonic interests, a Holy War against the Infidel.

Non-Turkish Moslems—excepting extremists like Mohammed, elder of the Ali brothers, who was interned as

a pro-German throughout the war—refused to play the German game, and, with the help of Mohammedan troops and the Arab nation, the British defeated "the Caliph's" forces in 1918.

Since the war, however, owing to the economic depression felt throughout the East, to the exhaustion of the Allies, and to vacillating British policy, the extremists have been able to seize on and magnify the factitious Caliphate question as a convenient method of uniting all the elements of anti-western discontent in the East, with effective assistance from the wide-spread and decivilizing organisation of the Bolsheviks, who perceive herein a practicable compensation for their failure in Europe. The "All-Indian Moslem League," permeated from Angora and Stamboul by their sinister intrigues, has entered into an unnatural alliance with the misinformed mass of Hindus who follow the rebel Mahatma Gandhi, and last December hoisted the Bolshevik "Jolly Roger" with a declaration advocating an Indian republic. Their propaganda, which includes the Caliphate agitation, aims at arousing the old militant spirit of Mohammedanism for the disruption of our Eastern Empire. It strikes the ever-responsive chord of religious fanaticism, and unsheathes "the Sword of Islam," the use of which against the Infidel is enjoined by the Koran itself on every Moslem. The horrors of the premature Mopliah rebellion indicated how deeply masses of uninstructed Mohammedans have been already imbued with disaffection.

Such, then, is the Caliphate agitation, which, bred of German-fomented Bolshevism out of barbaric Moslem reaction, has recently resulted in the presentation to the Western Powers, through the Indian Government, of what is practically an Islamic Ultimatum; threatening—unless European Policy be shaped according to its dictates—the Revolt of an insurgent East against a distracted and exhausted West.

The words of that sagacious Western observer Colonel House were indeed prophetic when he warned the Supreme Council in 1919 that—"the Danger of tomorrow for the Victorious Powers will be a possible coalition against them of everything living East of the Rhine as far as the shores of the Pacific."

I am, etc.,

C. P. HAWKES,

March 31st.

Lieut.-Colonel.

GREAT BRITAIN AND GREECE.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—In his letter of March 20, Mr. Nicols displays a strong pro-Greek bias and a remarkable weakness in grammar.

His letter, however, is not without interest, in that it provides a good example of Greek propaganda as practised in the Levant. I refer to the address at the foot of his letter, viz.:—"Smyrna, Greece"; yet the writer must be fully aware that Smyrna is in Turkey. I remember a somewhat similar instance of this mentality. About two years ago the local Greeks in Constantinople distributed post-cards of the Mosque of Santa Sophia with a cross on the top of the dome.

It is propaganda of this kind that does so much to irritate Moslem opinion in the Near East, and that one calling himself British should stoop to such pettiness is indeed deplorable.

I am, etc.

O. H. MATTHEWS.

"Southdene,"

Carlton Road South,
Weymouth.

8 April, 1922.

"CALIPH" and "KHALIFA": A Correction.

We much regret that a misprint—"Khalifat" for "Khilafat"—in the second line of the last paragraph of Colonel Sir Wolsley Haig's letter in our issue of April 6 should have marred the force of the letter. (Ed.)

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CAPE TO CAIRO: THE RAILWAY AND AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT.

Speaking before a meeting of the Central Asian Society held at Burlington House on April 5, Mr. Robert Williams said that in twelve years' time would be seen the completion of the through railway route from Cairo to the Cape, and that only four years would elapse before the Continent was crossed from East to West by a railway from Beira to Benguela. The economic and material changes which would be brought about by railway development in Africa were of a far-reaching character. Africa contained the last and greatest of the world's reserves of raw materials and was a vast reservoir of most magnificent labour. The African native was naturally cheerful, peaceable, imitative and not devoid of ability. He had the heart of a child, was affectionate and had a keen sense of humour. He had unbounded respect for white men of high character. He was a gigantic force for good or evil. The wise or unwise administration by Europeans of their African dominions must have far-reaching influences on the whole world; the black man had begun to think politically and he would long need the guidance of the white. Egypt had been granted the right to manage her own affairs; and the success or failure of the experiment would constitute an extremely valuable object lesson in dealing with future claims on the part of other African peoples. Our duty was to guide and not hurry these along the road to self-determination. A step that should be promptly taken was one towards a federation of British Africa from the Cape to the Nile, with railway connection all the way, so as to co-ordinate as far as possible one policy towards the black races, and establish principles to guide us in meeting any demand for self-determination in the future. It was conceivable that at the end of the present century we should have the United States of Africa under one flag.

In the discussion that followed, Colonel A. C. Yate (Honorary Secretary of the Society) read a letter from Sir Reginald Wingate stating that the last quarter of a century had seen such progress in the Sudan—where the revenue had risen from £8,000 in 1900 to £5,000,000 in 1920—that we need not question the accuracy of Mr. Williams' forecasts as to the future of the African continent.

Sir Frederick Lugard said he endorsed most heartily the lecturer's view both as to the African's ability, and of the limitations which for many a generation would preclude the possibility of his being able to stand alone in industrial and political development. The solution of the colour problem lay in complete uniformity in ideals, absolute equality in the paths of knowledge and culture, equal opportunity for those who strove, equal admiration for those who achieved, in matters social and racial a separate path, each pursuing his own inherited traditions, race purity and race pride; equality in things spiritual, agreed divergence in the physical and material.

Sir Edgar Bonham-Carter said that what was being now done with regard to Egypt could not in any way be regarded as a precedent for the future in the more southerly parts of the Continent.

Sir Lee Stack (Governor of the Sudan) said that the greatest link that remained to be forged in the Cape to Cairo railway was through the Sudan; and if the indications of mineral wealth in the southern part of that country materialised then the inducement to build a railway would be a very great one. Our administration in Africa would be successful if we sought to develop the country in the interests of the natives, not to exploit the native in the interests of ourselves.

Mr. Donald Mellor, speaking of what had been already done in the way of developing communications in Africa, said that it was now possible, travelling by railway and steamboat, to go by a properly printed time-table from Stanleyville on the Congo, to Cape Town in twenty-six days, and to make the journey in the other direction in twenty days.

IRISH GUARDS FOR CONSTANTINOPLE.

The 1st Battalion of the Irish Guards, which has been ordered abroad to Constantinople to relieve two native battalions, is expected to leave this country about the 27th inst., sailing in the *Huntsgreen*. The battalion will proceed under the command of Colonel the Hon. H. R. L. G. Alexander, D.S.O. It is understood that this particular battalion has been selected to go to Constantinople because it stands at the top of the roster for foreign service.

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN INDIA.

At the request of the Bishops in India, the Church at home has, with the approval of the Pimato, promised to send a mission of spiritual help, which will be in India from November 1 this year until March of next year. Three pioneers, the Rev. David Jenks, the Rev. G. C. Lunt, and the Rev. E. Courtenay West went out last autumn to make plans in consultation with the Indian Bishops, and they will return with their report at Easter. The mission will include at least twenty-four clergymen, with six women missionaries. They will address themselves to the English-speaking members of the Church in India, without distinction of race. These comprise the military, Government employees, persons engaged on the railways, and members of large commercial and industrial communities. It is estimated that £5,000 or £6,000 will be needed, and subscriptions should be sent to the Indian Church Aid Association, Church House, Westminster.

EXPLORATION IN PALESTINE.

The Jewish Palestine Exploration Society has recently been formed for the purpose of supplementing the activity conducted by the other Exploration Societies in the Holy Land. It has already accomplished a good deal of valuable work, including the clearing of the site of the ancient synagogue of Hamata, where numerous Jewish objects used in worship and other objects of art have been found; the exposure of parts of the ancient wall of the Sanctuary which date from the time of the Herodians; the discovery of the antique Judæo-Hellenic Cemetery of the second and third centuries, with the tomb of the members of the Synedion or Council of Tiberias; and the discovery of the foundation of the Acropolis of the Kings Herod Antipas and Herod Agrippa II., and of Berenice. Among the works awaiting completion are the excavation of the buildings adjoining the synagogue of Hamata, the discovery of the remainder of the Judæo-Hellenic cemetery, and the excavation of the site of the Acropolis of Tiberias. The Society has secured a concession of the ground surrounding the monument known as the Pyramid or Obelisk of Absalom on the Mount of Olives, and proposes to carry out excavations on this site in the course of the summer. It has also been authorised to carry out soundings near the source of the Siloa in the vicinity of the ruins of the Wall of Nehemiah.

Dr. N. Slousch, the Director of the Society, has just arrived in England in its interest and has brought a letter of introduction from the High Commissioner to Sir Frederick Kenyon. He states that local committees in aid of the Society have already been formed not only in Palestine, but also in Egypt and France, and he is anxious that similar committees should be formed in England, America, and elsewhere. It is hoped to raise £3,000 in this country. Sir Alfred Mond, Bart., M.P., is acting as Treasurer *pro tem*.

At Messrs. Sotheby's on April 7, the camp bed used by Byron at Missolonghi was bought officially by the Greek Minister, to be placed in the Museum at Athens. The price was £54.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE JEWISH PROBLEM.

THE JEWS. By Hilaire Belloc. (London: Constable. 9s. net).

There is no publicist in England to-day whose intellectual influence is so wide as that of Mr. Belloc, or whose political views are of such urgent importance. He both stands and moves for something very definite, and his consistency is as amazing as his energy. Now his attitude towards the question of the Jews was well (but not well enough) known before the publication of this, his latest book; even those who had not read his works had remembered his words at the time of the Marconi case—when he said that the problem of the Jews was one of the world's problems—though they might have thought that his attitude was far more extreme and less reasoned than it is. Those who foolishly called him an anti-Semite will naturally now expect a book of passionate declamation, of magnificent affirmation, and perhaps of reckless assertion.

They will find here nothing of the kind.

Mr. Belloc has pursued in "The Jews" that same impersonal line of Latin logic which informed his "Servile State"—a great and irrefutable work. He has deliberately avoided personalities, entertaining by-paths, individual prejudices, concentrating his power to the one logical end—the solution of the Jewish problem. It is a method of convincing deadliness.

With much of this book, which is intended mainly for Western readers, we cannot deal in this journal. For example, to expatiate upon a denial of the existence of a Jewish problem would be a waste of time to readers of *THE NEAR EAST*, as it would be to enumerate the general and special causes of friction which Mr. Belloc assigns to the Jew and to the nation which feels the friction. Any reader with an historical sense as well as any student of the Near East knows well the recurrent manifestations of that permanent antagonism between Jewry and Christendom and Islam; he knows how the sense of superiority in the one is resented and reciprocated in the other; he knows the story of the miseries caused by non-Jew upon Jew and by Jew upon non-Jew. He knows, in short, that the problem of the Jew is as vital as it is puzzling.

Now, says Mr. Belloc, there have in the past been two ways of attempting to solve the question; elimination and segregation. Elimination may be by destruction—an abominable way and a failure—by excretion—which means exile and is also a failure, and by absorption—which though superficially attractive and possible has failed throughout the past. Of this last method we may incidentally note that, though it is favoured by many Western Europeans, it is repudiated by many of the best Jews. Segregation may take two forms, the first hostile to or careless of the alien body, the second, which the author calls *Recognition*, friendly to it and careful of its good. It is this second kind of segregation that is Mr. Belloc's solution, that is recognition on both sides of a separate Jewish nationality.

An analysis of the various issues that have in the past befogged the problem in Western Europe it is not in our province to make; nor can we outline the causes which have led up to the intensity of feeling now obtaining, in greater or less degree, in so many parts of the world. But we wish to make it clear that Mr. Belloc is no fond anti-Semite who nurses a sterile grievance, no fearful believer in a world-wide Jewish conspiracy, no pro-pounder, but on the contrary a denier, of the ridiculous statement that the Jew is an inferior being, especially that he is guilty of cowardice, of avarice, and of treason. His exposition of the Jewish character is in fact as generous and as just as may be found in any representative work.

We may take three intimate examples of places where the increasing urgency of a solution of this problem is apparent—Poland, Roumania, and Palestine. In the first two countries the rights of "minorities," that is, of Jews, have been protected in the Peace Treaties, but this can only be an imperfect and impermanent protec-

tion. Further, that the policy of absorption will be pursued in the two countries, which, unlike some of the Western countries, recognise the separate character of the Jews, is most improbable. In any case the near future will prove this. To the Zionist experiment in Palestine is devoted a whole chapter, which, however, is concerned only with one point—whether it will tend to increase or to relax the strain created by the presence of the Jew in the midst of a non-Jewish world. Mr. Belloc thinks very decidedly that it will increase it: "it will inevitably emphasize the separation, the individual and alien character of the whole." He considers specifically the position of the many Jews outside Palestine: "if they try under the new conditions to maintain the old fiction that the Jew is at the same time a Jew and yet not a Jew, that he can be at the same time a Jew and an Englishman, or a Jew and a Russian, or a Jew and an Italian, they will be trying to maintain it under conditions quite other than those of the past, and under conditions where the falsehood will break down in practice." Again, he says of the experiment itself, of the construction and maintenance by England of a Jewish State for the Jews: "It is the building of a pyramid upwards from its apex. It is an experiment in the most unstable of unstable equilibriums." It is, in short, a disastrous step, which makes even more prominent and full the fear of "that wretched sequence of ill-use, persecution, reaction, which has marked so many centuries."

"The Jews" is a most timely book, clear, thoughtful, judicial. There are in it many things that we should like to have quoted: the author's description of the Jew's position in Islam, for instance, or his definition of an anti-Semite, or the last paragraph of his book, of which the last line is "But for my part, I say, 'Peace be to Israel.'" It is a real book, dealing with realities. And though some, and many perhaps in this country, will think Mr. Belloc's fears "odd and exaggerated," it is the truth that the perils he postulates are thinly and moderately drawn. Truth, as he says, will always prevail over fiction; let us give up cant, and while there is yet time take his warning to recognize, to respect, and to make friends with the Jew. For there are few questions to which a wrong judgment, either warped or repressed, more often attempts to supply an answer. So sincere a plea for truth and for light as this book contains deserves the widest publicity.

THE KORAN.

THE KORAN: Translated into English from the original Arabic. By George Sale. With Explanatory Notes from the most approved Commentators and Sale's Preliminary Discourse. With an Introduction by Sir Edward Denison Ross, C.I.E. Ph.D., etc. (London: Frederick Warne & Co., 10s. 6d. net).

Whatever we may think about the teachings of Mohammed we are bound to admit that having regard to its inception and production, The Koran is a wonderful book; and though its language and the thoughts it expresses are so vastly different from our own, we must be dull indeed if we fail to recognize their worth and in many cases their beauty, even when presented to us in translation. In the interesting Introduction which he writes for the present edition, Sir Denison Ross says: "Through all the vicissitudes of thirteen hundred years the Koran has remained the sacred book of all the Turks and Persians and of nearly a quarter of the population of India." And he adds, very justly: "Surely such a book as this deserves to be widely read in the West, more especially in these days when space and time have been almost annihilated by modern invention, and when public interest embraces the whole world." At the present time, with an Arab renaissance promising, if not actually begun, and with Indian Moslems coming so much to the fore in world politics, these words come with added weight. Messrs. Warne and Co. have done well, therefore, to provide this well printed and attractive edition of the great work, which should surely find a

large public. Some of the English editions with which we are acquainted have failed lamentably in regard to type and printing: this one is excellent, and nothing better could be desired by any reasonable person.

The Introduction by Sir Denison Ross is short, but very useful. We are glad to have the opinion of such an authority that Sale's "Preliminary Discourse still remains the best Introduction in any European language to the study of the religion promulgated by the Prophet of Arabia." On the other hand, it is disturbing to find that Sir Denison Ross has been "forced to the conclusion that with the exception of Al-Baidhawi, Sale's sources were all consulted at second-hand," and that "his work as it stands gives a misleading estimate of his original researches, and that his tribute to Marracci falls far short of his actual indebtedness." Nor does the editor accept the statement made by Voltaire, in his "Dictionnaire Philosophique," that Sale spent more than twenty years among the Arabs; and the particulars given show that the statement must have been incorrect, unless the twenty years were the first, or nearly so, in Sale's life. But his translation and his Preliminary Discourse remain, and will remain a fine monument to his memory, and we are glad to have them in their present form.

BOOKS RECEIVED

"The Veneerings." By Sir Harry Johnston. (London: Chatto & Windus. 8s. 6d. net.)

"Translations of Eastern Poetry and Prose." By Reynold A. Nicholson. (Cambridge: University Press. 8s. 6d. net.)

"A History of the Arabs in the Sudan, and some account of the people who preceded them and of the Tribes inhabiting Darfur." By H. A. Macmichael. 2 volumes. (London: Cambridge, University Press. £4 10s. net.)

"L'Aventure Kémaliste." (Paris: L'Edition Universelle.)

"The Ballads of Marko Kraljevic." Translated by D. H. Low. (London: Cambridge University Press. 15s. net.)

MUSICAL NOTES.

ON GRAMAPHONE RECORDS.

The Galli-Curci record which the British public is becoming accustomed almost monthly to expect, is this time made from a Chopin waltz; the song is called "Messagero Amoroso," and serves but one purpose, that of displaying Galli-Curci's technique, which is as wonderful as ever. Her scale work is extraordinary in its facile evenness, and she has a marvellous *staccato*, but one could have wished to hear her in something of more moment.

I find no excellence in Mario's "Santa Lucia bentana," which is sung by the Italian tenor, Beniamino Gigli. Its melody is undistinguished, and its poverty is further emphasized by the too abundant use the singer makes of contracted *tempi*, of slurred attack, and of Italian tenors' *clichés* generally.

Peter Dawson, whose artistry has been considerably spoiled by the singing of ballads, is, however, a model of clarity in two songs:—"The Pauper's Drive" and "The Smuggler's Song." They are admirably distinct, and though neither contains any originality, they are made stirring enough by this Australian singer. Incidentally, it may be pointed out that he loses a little in effect by an over-prominence of consonantal attack and an impurity of vowels.

Where I ought to place two songs that Miss Violet Essex has recorded I don't quite know. "I'll be with you in Apple-Blossom Time" is the worst kind of music-hall ditty, with a wholly superfluous chorus, and not a thing in it that is not obvious: "Grannie," on the other hand, which was written by the late J. W. Tate, is a much better kind of ditty, with that homely tunefulness that makes so soft the hearts of our sentimental music-hall audiences.

Jack Buchanan is, I believe, a supreme revue artist: certainly he shows his worth in two songs from "A to Z"—"My Alco Holiday" and "And her Mother came too." These are alike excellent examples of the songs of modern revue, tuneful and "tricky," and with a fresh oldness about them.

The Gresham Singers are an extremely popular male voice quartet, and there are few "effects" which they are not capable of bringing off. But their art is essentially that of the music-hall. Thus their singing of the sixteenth century madrigal "Matona, lovely Maiden" (by Lassus) is, I think, thoroughly bad. They have not the madrigal spirit, the sense of inevitable and consistent unity; they make it rather a series of exploited "points." On the other side of this record will be found a proof of how the art of part-writing declined from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, for here, with all its hackneyed harmonies, is Stainer's "Cupid, look about thee." This, incidentally, demonstrates how good the discipline of the Gresham singers is.

There is a still long road to travel in the recording of choral works, and though the magnificent Sheffield Choir (or rather part of it) under Dr. Coward sings well enough in "Lift up your heads, O ye Gates," "And the Glory of the Lord" from "The Messiah," the physical conditions were all against a satisfactory reproduction. For instance, the presence of the piano-forte is an insuperable obstacle, one which jars all the time; and the altos have come through unaccountably weak.

Fox Trots are recorded in excellent numbers. One grows very fond (if one does not hear him too often) of Mr. Paul Whiteman and his Ambassadors Orchestra. He has the alertest ear for sonorities, and there is uncommon skill in his percussion and brass. "Sweet Lady," for example, is played with a very keen sense of the relative importance of the various instruments, and the way in which the strings are kept in the background is masterly. "Say it with Music" is another of his triumphs, this time over poor material. "South Sea Isles," again has a poor melody, but this fact is compensated for by the intrigues of the rhythm and the catchy tricks of the middle part. But where he simply runs riot is in a syncopated orgy called "Everybody Step," where there is also most interesting instrumental exploitation, the bassoon in particular performing noble work. And he reaches his height in "Canadian Capers," which I heartily recommend to everybody. It is truly excellent fun, and the short drones of the wind instruments are genuinely amusing.

Good as Paul Whiteman's band is, it does not, however surpass the Benson Orchestra of Chicago. There are all its slickness and freshness in "It must be someone like you," and though it misses distinction in "Just Like a Rainbow," it maintains its reputation in "Bimini Bay," in which, by the way, the pianist proves himself to be the backbone of this orchestra.

Other records which may appeal to some are "Mon Homme" and "Linger a Little Longer" by De Groot and his Orchestra, though for myself I find them dull, soon wearying of the overdone *rubato*; "Mimi" and "Rosy Cheeks" by the All-Star Trio, which will attract the simple dancers as having good "go"; "Why, Dear," by Joseph C. Smith's Orchestra, which to me seems a poor tune, with very turgid orchestration; and "Dapper Dan," by the Club Royal Orchestra, which is scored with great ingenuity and played with excellent verve.

Finally, there are one or two records which I wish to mention chiefly for the benefit of lonely oversea readers. They are the sort of thing which we loved to hear during the War, not because they were music, or because they stirred anything worth stirring in us, but simply because they kept us cheerful. And I suppose that people in places like Mesopotamia, or Palestine, or the Sudan, sometimes get that feeling. In any case, here is Will Strong singing "My Sunny Tennessee," "I've got the Blues for my Kentucky Home," "Linger a Little Longer," and "You'll want me before I want you"—all the oldest nonsense, of course, and all interfered with by wholly superfluous female choruses—but good enough tunes all the same to whistle absent-mindedly when one's mind isn't full of Arabs and other pre-occupations. (Into this category I ought to put Jack Buchanan's songs, mentioned above.) And the two orchestral selections from "The Fun of the Fayre" are quite cheering.

ANDANTE.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.**To-day.**

April 13 (New Style).
 March 31 (Old Style).
 Shaban 15, 1340 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
 Nisan 15, 5682 of the Jewish Calendar.

King Alexander of Yugoslavia is in bed with a cold.

Sir Alexander McRobert, Bart, has arrived in England per s.s. "China."

It is stated that the King of Egypt is likely to visit London and other parts of Europe during the summer.

Mr. Robert Vansittart is confined to his bed with a severe attack of influenza.

Tewfik Nessim Pasha, the ex-Premier, has been appointed private secretary to King Fuad of Egypt.

Marshal Izzet Pasha, the Turkish Foreign Minister, has returned to Constantinople.

Lord Manners, who has been in Egypt, is now in the Riviera on his way home.

Princess Bassaraba of Brancovan has given birth to a son at Bucharest.

The Queen of Roumania has arrived at Athens on a visit to her daughter, the Crown Princess Elizabeth, who is ill.

M. Vladimir Milanovitch, Secretary at the Yugoslav Legation, has gone to Belgrade to take up a position in the Foreign Office.

M. D. Ciotori, the Roumanian representative at the League of Nations, has left town to act as an expert to the Roumanian delegation at Genoa.

Lord and Lady Montagu of Beaulieu will arrive in London at the end of this week from Bombay, and will leave shortly afterwards for Beaulieu.

The Afghanistan Legation, at 25, Knightsbridge, was officially opened on April 7, the guests being received by the Counsellor, Sayed Kasim Khan, who afterwards hoisted the Afghanistani flag in the front of the building.

At the London International Chess Tournament India is to be represented by Mr. V. K. Khadilkar, of Sangli, Bombay, who has several times been champion of the Dependency.

Major C. Stefanescu Draganesti, Assistant Military Attaché at the Roumanian Legation, and A.D.C. to Prince Nicolas of Roumania, left London on Sunday for Bucharest.

Reshid Pasha and Madame Reshid Pasha gave a Thé Dansant at Portland Place, on April 4, which was largely attended by the members of the Diplomatic Corps.

The India Office announces that Mr. Dadiba Merwanjee Dalal, C.I.E., member of the Council of India, will join the British Delegation to the Genoa Conference as India's representative.

The engagement is announced of Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Arnold T. Wilson, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., C.M.G., D.S.O., son of Canon and Mrs. Wilson, of Worcester, and Rose, widow of Robin Carver and daughter of the late C. H. Ashton and Mrs. Ashton, of Ellesmere.

Brigadier-General F. C. Nisbet, D.S.O. (formerly of the Gloucestershire Regiment) is engaged to be married to Miss Helen Agnes MacFarlan, daughter of the late John MacFarlan, Indian Civil Service, of Ivermay, Wimbledon.

Field-Marshal Sir William Robertson expects to return to England from India at the end of the month. The marriage of Miss Robertson and Lieutenant Lockett Agnew, R.N., will probably take place in the middle of May.

It is announced that M. Nintchich, the Yugoslav Foreign Minister, left Belgrade for Genoa on April 6. The Bulgarian delegation, headed by M. Stambolisky, the Premier, and M. Tourlakoff, Finance Minister, left Sofia on the same day.

Prince Nicolas of Roumania was the guest on April 6 at luncheon in the Ritz, of M. Titulesco, the Roumanian Minister in London. Captain Hansell and the personnel of the Legation were also invited. His Royal Highness left on the following day with M. Djuvara, for Paris, whence he will travel to Bucharest with M. Boeresco.

The engagement is announced between Brevet Major Hugh Poynton Radley, M.C., Indian Army, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Radley, of Poynton, Wimbledon, and of Ulley, Yorkshire, and Ilma, daughter of Colonel Healey, C.M.G., and the late Mrs. Healey, of 95, Elm Park Gardens, S.W.

The King's Indian Orderly Officers for this year will be Hon. Lieutenant Joseph, Bahadur, 2nd Queen Victoria's Own Sappers and Miners; Subadar-Major Nanjap Bahadur, 64th Pioneers; Subadar-Major Vishram Rao Chowan, 116th Mahrattas; the Hon. Lieutenant Krishna Bhose, Bahadur, 128th Pioneers. They are due to arrive at 49, St. George's Road, Pimlico, S.W.1, on the 14th inst. The British Officer-in-Charge will be Major W. G. Strover, 50th Kumaon Rifles.

The Grand Duchess Marie of Russia, M. A. Rizo Rangabé, the Greek Chargé d'Affaires, and Mme. Rangabé, M. M. G. Yanopoulos, Commander John Bouboulis, Colonel P. V. Vlassis, and many other Greek officers, as well as a large number of members of the Greek colony in London, were present at the Greek Church, Moscow Road, Bayswater, at noon last Sunday, when a Te Deum was sung in commemoration of the anniversary of Greek Independence Day. The Great Archimandrite, Dr. Pagonis, officiated, assisted by the Archimandrite, the Rev. R. Basdekas.

Mr. Bertram B. Benas has been elected President of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Liverpool, the oldest learned Society in the city. Mr Benas, who is an active exponent of the Jewish National Movement, has been a frequent contributor to the literature of Zionism and one of his papers to the Society, "Zionism—the Jewish National Movement" has been reprinted from the published proceedings and issued as a booklet. It is dedicated to Lord Rothschild, who is a life member of the Society. Mr. Benas' father, the late Mr. B. L. Benas, J.P., who held the presidential office thirty-two years ago, visited Palestine and the Near East in 1885 in company with the late Chief Rabbi, Dr. Hermann Adler, and contributed a valuable report on the Jewish Resettlement to the Anglo-Jewish Association, extracts from which are reprinted in Sokolow's "History of Zionism."

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MADRAS FREEMASONRY.

The Duke of Connaught, as Grand Master, has appointed Mr. A. G. G. Campbell as District Grand Master of Madras in succession to Mr. L. E. Buckley. Mr. Campbell, who entered the Indian Civil Service in 1895, after a distinguished career at Cambridge, has been closely connected with Madras Freemasonry for many years, having held the office of Senior District Grand Warden, and he is at present the President of the District Board of General Purposes.

A BISHOP IN THE NEAR EAST.

In an address delivered recently in his Church of St. Anne and St. Agnes, Gresham Street, Bishop Bury spoke of his recent visit to Constantinople. He was invited to tea with the Crown Prince and shown over the Sultan's palace. He was particularly struck with the altered attitude of the Turks towards the British people. They were deeply chagrined, he said, at the part they were induced to take during the war, and were now desirous of re-establishing once more the good relations with British, American, and French nations. As far as he could hear while in Constantinople, the French had exercised their mandate in Syria in a manner beyond all praise.

THE RICHARD CORFIELD MEMORIAL.

The memorial to Richard Corfield, of Somaliland, was unveiled recently at Marlborough College by the Countess Bathurst. It was in 1913 that Corfield performed his glorious service against the Mad Mullah. The memorial is in the form of a bronze bust combined with a truncated obelisk of Portland stone. The bust gives the personal note and the obelisk gives a symbolic representation of power and endurance. On the two sides of the base are panels, sculptured in low relief, representing the work of the Camel Corps, and in the rear is a bronze panel giving in English and Arabic the names of those members of the Corps who died in action with Richard Corfield.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING LEAGUE IN SOFIA.

We are informed that the English-speaking League in Sofia is making great progress. Under the presidency of Lady Colvin the League has taken a great step forward. A ball which it recently gave at the Military Club was not only a brilliant social success but also resulted in a net profit for the League of over 27,000 levas.

THE DANUBE NAVAL BRIGADE.

An encounter on the Danube between British vessels and six Bolshevik Hungarian ships was described in the Prize Court on March 29 when the President made an order for the payment of prize bounty amounting to £2,175 to Captain Vernon Harry Stuart Haggard, and the officers and naval ratings acting under his command in the Danube Naval Brigade. In his affidavit Captain Haggard set forth that on June 26, 1919, he was commanding the brigade operating on the Danube. One of the motor launches patrolling the demarcation line sighted six armed enemy ships going down stream from Budapest. The launch opened fire on them and closed on Baja, where the British squadron was lying. The squadron immediately proceeded up river and engaged the enemy ships, which, seeing that their destruction was inevitable, surrendered. They were boarded and the crews disarmed. With the exception of two of the enemy found dead all the others were taken prisoners and subsequently handed over to the Serbians. In addition to the crews, there were armed men on board, the total number being 435.

THE INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER.

With effect from April 1, says *The Times*, Sir William Meyer, the High Commissioner for India, took over further branches of the "agency" work hitherto carried on by the Secretary of State in Council. They thus pass to the direct control of the Government of India, instead of that of a member of his Majesty's Government in Whitehall. When in conformity with the principles of the Reform scheme, the office of High Commissioner was constituted on October 20, 1920, there was transferred to Sir William Meyer, the work of the Stores Department and the Indian Students Department, together with the supervision of the work of the Indian Trade Commissioner in the City. Arrangements are being made at the offices for the provision before long of a reading-room and a reference library where all Indian Government publications will be available, as well as the fitting up of a show-room of Indian art products. These rooms will be panelled, floored, and furnished with artistic Indian timbers, and they will thus serve as a standing advertisement for what is a developing Indian export trade. Each room will, to speak generally, exhibit the possibilities in these directions of a particular timber—e.g.—paduk, laurel-wood, silver grey, and koko.

A message from Bombay announces that the Bombay to Poona reliability trials and hill-climbing contest resulted in three Rolls-Royce cars finishing first, second and third. The fastest time was made by a Rolls-Royce landaulette, which ran up the Ghauts in 11 minutes. It covered the whole distance of 108 miles on a petrol consumption of six gallons, equal to 18 m.p.g.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Adly Bey Maher has announced his secession from the Zagh-loulit "Wafd" in Cairo.

As from April 1 the postage on letters for 'Iraq (Mesopotamia) will be 3d. for the first ounce instead of 2d.

Unusually heavy rains have filled all but one of the historic reservoirs at Aden.

Aluminium coins of low denomination are to be introduced in Bulgaria.

Mgr. Aelen, Archbishop of Madras, has arrived in Holland and is staying at Roosendaal, near Breda.

Yugoslavia has appealed to France and Great Britain to assist in the restoration of law and order in Fiume.

The Soviet Ukrainian Executive on March 23, ratified the Angora-Ukrainian Treaty already ratified by the Angora Assembly on March 16.

At a general meeting of the Pan-Hellenic Committee of Undeemed Greeks at Athens it was decided to call a mass meeting for Sunday to protest against the Allies' peace proposals.

All international troops are to be withdrawn from Albania, as the Conference of Ambassadors has decided to put an end to the international occupation.

Our Smyrna Correspondent writes (March 15):—H.M.S. Ajax has left Smyrna for Rhodes and Cyprus; H.M.S. Tumult for Constantinople and Malta. H.M.S. Trinidad remains in Smyrna as guard ship.

It is reported from Belgrade that 47 members of the Fiume Constituent Assembly have held a meeting at Kraljevitza (Portoré), in Yugoslav territory, where they will continue to meet during the present deadlock.

Greece has agreed to abstain from searching Italian ships, and the difficulties which arose out of the recent seizure of Italian vessels by the Greek blockading forces off the Anatolian coast have now been settled.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 1922.

GREAT BRITAIN AND THE ARABS.

In the palmy days of Baghdad, the days of El Mansour or of Haroun er-Rashid, the fall of a Minister was apt to be a very serious thing for the Minister himself and to make a great stir, not only in the capital city of 'Iraq and in such other centres as Basrah, Kufa, or Kerbellah, but throughout the Moslem world. It was the subject of discussion in every bazaar, and on such an occasion as the execution of Ja'fer and the accompanying degradation and massacre of the Barmecides it caused not only excitement but grief among most of the Caliph's subjects. The average citizen of, say, Basrah or Mosul probably felt, however, that though such happenings might affect him indirectly, they were not for him to meddle with, or even to express his opinion on too freely. Then Baghdad and 'Iraq fell on evil times, and for some centuries they were ruled by aliens whose only thought was how best to exploit them for their own advantage; and though they were interested enough in the rise or fall of the Vali of Baghdad or the Vali of Basrah, the Arabs, whether of town or country, cared little or nothing about any of the Sultan's Ministers in far away Stamboul, and if they ever gave them a thought at all, it was only to curse them. The advent to power of the Young Turks put a rather different complexion on affairs. 'Iraq returned its representatives to the Turkish parliament, and the inhabitants of the cities at any rate began to take some interest in politics, and to discuss them in the coffee-shops and the bazaars. And to-day, while the finishing touches are being put to the preparations for the establishing of its own first Parliament under the restored Arab rule, 'Iraq already has a Cabinet of its own; and five members of that Cabinet have just given it the novel sensation of a 'Cabinet crisis' of its own as well. What effect the event has had upon the people of 'Iraq we have not yet been told, but it has aroused sufficient interest in this country to give rise to a question in Parliament. Mr. Churchill, who replied, stated that the resignations had been brought about by a divergence of views on the Army Estimates, "and in particular on the question of the steps to be taken to guard against the raids on the southern border of 'Iraq, which have, however, already been satisfactorily dealt with by the Royal Air Force." The rest of his reply was evidently designed to keep the House in good humour over a somewhat touchy subject; and to judge by the way in which it was punctuated by laughter, it accomplished that purpose satisfactorily.

Now, 'Iraq, or Mesopotamia, has so often been used as a stick with which to beat the Government that it is easy to understand the desire of the Secretary for the Colonies to avoid saying more than he had to on the subject. Moreover, enjoying his references to the "non-party or Coalition basis" on which the Baghdad Government is based, with its resultant advantages, we are not inclined to quarrel with his method of gliding off from a dangerous point; although we seem to remember his rebuking another Member quite recently for "an exhibition of levity" in connection with the same topic. But, frankly, we should have been very glad if he had been able and willing to make a fuller statement. According to reports which reach us the situation in 'Iraq to-day is not all that could be desired, although it is not, on the other hand, nearly so bad as those who wish to see us

come out of the country at once would like us to believe. We are told that King Faisal feels that he enjoys but a pale shadow of power, and is restless in consequence; that the Tribesmen dread the curtailment of tribal authority, and resent the taxation imposed on them for innovations which they fail to regard as improvements; and that Kerbellah and Nejef are once more indulging in intrigue to a dangerous extent. The future of the Railways is said to be giving rise to anxiety, and the finances of the country are reported to be in no cheerful condition. Indeed, Mr. Churchill admitted, if smilingly, that "the Chancellor of the Exchequer . . . included among those who have resigned . . . was known to be anxious about his Budget;" and it is not difficult to understand the anxiety. Then, too, the prophets of evil tell us that the inclusion of a slice of Kurdish territory in the 'Iraqian State, although with a special status, is bound ere long to lead to serious trouble; while the reports of a concentration of Kemalist forces on the northern frontier is another source of uneasiness. Finally, the possibility of another wave sweeping up from the South, from the Desert which still retains some of its power to awe and terrify, cannot be ignored. The Akhwan raid in the Nasiriyah district the other day is a reminder of this last possibility, and the fact that it led up to the resignation of five of King Faisal's Ministers indicates that the trouble was real, and likely, it is to be feared, to recur.

Some of these rumours and reports, we believe, have nothing more substantial about them than those mirages with which the traveller in Mesopotamia and Arabia is familiar. Others, though resting on a foundation of fact, have been greatly exaggerated. Yet we should have been glad if Mr. Churchill had seen his way to make a further statement on the situation; and we earnestly hope that the long delay in promulgating the electoral law and in giving 'Iraq its first Parliament will be terminated as early as possible. If it is due to the preparation, or consideration of the Treaty which is to settle our relations with King Faisal, let the Treaty be hurried on; for the continued procrastination in fulfilling the promises made in 1920 is undoubtedly injuring our reputation throughout 'Iraq, if not throughout the East. The raid at Nasiriyah may have been "satisfactorily dealt with by the Royal Air Force"—although we observe that the statement has been received with incredulity at Basrah—but it was a disquieting incident. We have great faith in the honour and good intentions of the Sultan of Nejd, and we have no difficulty in accepting assurances he has given regarding this raid, but we fear that it may indicate that his followers are becoming reckless and to some extent getting out of hand; and if that be so, it must be largely attributed to the delays in settling up affairs in the Arab world. Inasmuch as King Hussein of the Hejaz still refuses to sign the Treaty of Sèvres, in spite of all the representations made to him, it can hardly be said that our relations with him are all that could be desired. What is our attitude towards the Idrissi of Asir, and his towards us? How does British prestige stand in Lahej to-day? And what of Transjordan and the Emir Abdullah? All these questions affect, and are affected by, our position and our policy in Mesopotamia; and accordingly they must be studied by the Middle East Department as correlated. That necessarily complicates the problem of our attitude towards Baghdad; but even so, sufficient time has surely been allowed for its determination. THE NEAR EAST cannot be accused of desiring to hamper the British Government's policy in any way; and it has consistently urged the desirability of fostering good relations with, and between, the Arabs. But those relations do not seem to be improving, and the delays to which we have alluded tend to make them worse. If we are to help the Arabs, and above all if we are to continue paying subsidies in one form or another to many of their rulers, we are entitled to insist that they keep the peace among themselves. We should like to see the Conference at Koweit held soon, and we should like to see our pledges of 1920 redeemed.

MORE THOUGHTS ON BULGARIA IN 1922.

By "C.S.-W."

I find that I unwittingly did some injustice to the new Bulgarian Review *L'Opinion Libre* in my last article. This valuable periodical is, I am now informed, published in Bulgarian as well as in French. I am glad to know that its objects are therefore quite as much constructive as propagandist. Its propaganda side has, as I have already said, been well done, but the constructive side is of infinitely greater importance, and it is agreeable to realise how much the recent decision of the Bulgarian Government to restore the freedom of the Press must necessarily add to the usefulness of its activities in this direction. In their constructional work the directors of the Review have the best wishes of all who desire Balkan peace. Their task will require much thinking, much courage and much patriotism. What I mean by "patriotism" is not to be confounded with the constant cry of "My country right or wrong" to which we have grown so wearily accustomed and which resolutely refuses to take a true perspective of things as they are. Bulgaria is not and has not been, any more than other countries, free from faults and mistakes. The true patriot will not fear to face these mistakes, to acknowledge them and to make them clear to those whose duty it is to avoid them in future, *i.e.*, to those who direct the government of the country, which means after all the whole Bulgarian people. Bulgaria's political education has not lasted much more than forty years and it is not to be wondered if most of her statesmen are still children in political matters. If this is true of the men at the head of affairs, how much more true is it of the people as a whole? It is, therefore, all to the good that thinking men who have made a serious study of such matters should set to work to instruct their fellow-citizens, and very important that this instruction should be on sound lines unhampered by the official censor. Work of this kind will, in the long run, prove to be the most useful propaganda.

The news of the abolition of the censorship gives cause for congratulation to all concerned. One would like to know whether it has been abolished in its entirety and whether the freedom of the Press is a reality. It is to be hoped that this is the case and that two bites have not been taken at a cherry which should have been swallowed more than a year ago. It is everything in a country like Bulgaria, where nearly every one can and does read, that there should be an unimpeded and healthy circulation of ideas, political and otherwise. Arbitrary interference with this circulation has already done very great harm and not least to the Government enforcing it. Free discussion of matters of all kinds is essential for the formation of a useful public opinion and it has been a mistake to perpetuate an evil which was necessary only during the dangerous months succeeding the end of the war. If any form of censorship, avowed or not, still remains, it is to be hoped that it will go at once. Far better to suffer a little from foolish remarks about neighbouring States than to stifle the birth and expression of ideas and so to suffocate the nation both spiritually and politically.

Bulgaria, as is well known, has been making efforts to raise a foreign loan which is badly wanted. Various specious proposals have been placed before her Government, and from what one hears, it would appear that she has had more than once to thank the unwelcome Inter-allied Commission for saving her from being let into a bad bargain. I have already said that most of the Bulgarian statesmen are still in their political childhood.

It seems to have been a fixed idea with them that any foreign loan contracted by them must carry a low rate of interest. Now, though there is money in London, Paris and elsewhere available for loan to Bulgaria, provided that good security is given, it is quite certain that, rightly or wrongly, such money will not be forthcoming, as long as present ideas about the Balkans prevail, at a low rate of interest. If, therefore, a low rate of interest is quoted, this is done because the lender has made sure that conditions or concessions more or less skilfully concealed in the loan agreement free him from all anxiety as to the actual return to himself. It is, of course, far cheaper in the end to pay even a high rate of interest on a perfectly straightforward loan than to carry vague and unpredictable responsibilities which are certain to be very costly. But it wants a grown-up man to see this, and not all the Bulgarian statesmen are politically grown-up. I gather that the Interallied Commission is not likely to prove obdurate about releasing the necessary security for such a loan, but that it rightly demands that the Government shall have nothing to do with a loan which involves anything in the way of concealed or indirect benefit to its organisers. In doing so it is acting in the interest, not only of reparations but also of Bulgaria. When such proposals are being made it is good to know that the pens of the experienced business men of Bulgaria are once more free to criticise and to point out objections which are clear enough to the practised eye but which the layman, even if he is a member of the Government, is apt to pass by without suspicion.

It is greatly to be desired that a satisfactory loan should be arranged as soon as possible, though the size of it would have to depend on the terms demanded. Not only does Bulgaria want a considerable extension of her railway system, but her existing railways require much money to be spent on them before they can be considered economically efficient or even capable of doing, however inefficiently and uneconomically, the work which they are there to do. Inefficiency spells unnecessary expenditure; unnecessary expenditure spells low net income and inadequate return on capital. This again means that money cannot be had on easy terms and so the vicious circle is complete. Bulgaria has one very valuable asset in the person of M. Karakachoff, the Director-General of Railways. Not only is he one of the ablest men in the Balkans, but he is the *rara avis* of his profession in that he is not only an engineer of great skill and experience, but at the same time a first-rate organiser and administrator. He has done marvels with the means at his disposal. These means are lamentably few, and the difficulties before him have been enormously increased by the obligation to transfer much of the already too scanty locomotive and rolling stock to Yugoslavia and Roumania by way of reparation. With a moderate supply of money he could turn the corner and a little more would enable him to build up a good service running on economic lines and giving the State a fair return on its outlay. I should like to see every encouragement given to potential lenders to study the Bulgarian railway question on the spot. Such persons would soon enough realise what a field there is for expenditure likely to be productive almost at once and certain to yield a good return in the near future. Bulgaria for instance, is full of natural riches so far hardly touched. But what is the use of a rich copper mine or of a coal-field if transport facilities to and from the site are wholly wanting and cannot be supplied?

This, however, is a subject which might easily run to far more space than THE NEAR EAST is likely to wish to



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devote to it. So I leave it for the present and pass on to another question of the greatest importance and urgency to the interests of Bulgaria and indeed of the Balkans generally, which moreover directly concerns ourselves. In the course of the peace agreements the Allies definitely promised that Bulgaria, while losing Western Thrace, was to retain access to the Aegean Sea. Bulgaria is still waiting for the execution of this promise. The Allies have been busy, and properly so, in insisting on the fulfilment by Bulgaria of the obligations incurred by her to the Allies in the Peace Treaty. But so far not a word has been heard about performing the one obligation which they undertook to carry out in her favour. Quite apart from the extremely bad political effects of this inaction, the hanging up of this (to Bulgaria) very important question is having highly injurious practical effects. At present all Bulgarian exports and imports (except those in which the Central European States are concerned) have to travel *via* the circuitous route of the Dardanelles, through the mine-infested waters of the Black Sea and through the inadequately equipped ports of Varna and Bourgas. They have to be carried to and from these ports by lines of railway inadequate for any large movement of goods and the cost of carriage, by land and sea, is quite unnecessarily high and is gravely hampering commerce of all kinds between Bulgaria on the one hand and Western Europe and America on the other. Bulgaria is in a cleft stick. If she believed, as she does not, that the Allies would go back on their solemn promise, she could set to work and make the best of a thoroughly bad job by increasing the efficiency of her Black Sea ports and of her railways to them. But, granted that the promise is to be fulfilled, it would be a great mistake to spend money urgently wanted to utilise that promise on works which may well wait till the countries round the Black Sea are more settled. In the meantime she can do nothing. She cannot even make plans, for she does not know what form the Aegean outlet promised to her will take. This outlet is urgently necessary if Bulgaria is to be allowed to develop at all, and expenditure on it would be almost immediately productive. Of all countries likely to gain advantage from the settlement of the question England probably stands to gain most, and surely it is time that she set to work to get her Allies together and to get a definite and early decision. Turkey and Greece have never ceased to give cause for anxiety since the Treaty of Sèvres was signed. Bulgaria has quietly set to work to carry out the conditions of the Treaty of Neuilly. Is it any wonder that the Bulgarians, being human, begin to wonder whether their interests have been best served by their country's scrupulously correct behaviour? After all news circulates. They have heard of Ireland, Egypt and India. Turkey and Greece are their neighbours. They, like us, have heard much recently of the arrangements come to regarding Turkish and Greek interests in Thrace. Is it to be wondered at that they are painfully surprised to find no mention in these arrangements of Bulgarian interests regarding which they hold the pledged word of the Allies?

CHARTING THE TIGRIS.

Under the auspices of the Royal Geographical Society last week Lieutenant-Commander A. S. Elwell-Sutton lectured on surveying work done by a naval gun-boat on the Tigris above Baghdad in 1918. The gunboat journeyed up the river to Tekrit, some 150 miles above Baghdad, and her crew charted the river with some accuracy between Samarra and Tekrit. Describing the difficulties of navigating the shallows, the Commander said that in some places there was little more than three feet of water, the nominal draught of the vessel. A portion of the crew clothed in sun helmets, were sent ahead on foot, and it was possible to tell by the amount of their anatomy showing above water where the deepest channels lay, and the course was directed accordingly. Remains of ancient dams said to have been constructed by Nimrud were constantly encountered. Natives on the Tigris had a peculiar method of catching fish. They laid down a ground-bait of lumps of dough with a small quantity of opium. The fish swallowed that, and becoming stupefied, floated about with their white bellies uppermost. Arabs went in pursuit of them on blown-out sheepskins, which they manoeuvred with their feet, whilst the hands were free to hold the landing-net.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

In consequence of queries, the Editor thinks it advisable to state that the quotation from any article does not necessarily imply that the views expressed are shared by "The Near East." On the contrary, an attempt is made to include as far as is possible in the available space all sides of the various questions discussed.

One View of Paris.

The *Spectator* of April 1 in an article called "The Near East" begins by saying that in the Paris Conference "Lord Curzon was fighting with one hand tied behind his back." After the Angora Treaty the Treaty of Sèvres was done for, and "the only question that remained was how much could be saved from the wreck." It proceeds:—

For our part we have never lost the traditional British feeling that when the Turks have been dislodged from a territory where they have been guilty of persecutions and where they have no right of possession by virtue of racial preponderance, they should not be allowed to return. Although we hoped that this common British feeling might somehow be respected in spite of the Angora Treaty, we have sadly to record that Lord Curzon has been unable to prevent a considerable part of Thrace going back to Turkey. Again, we must express our dissatisfaction with the proposals for securing the safety of the Armenians and with the arrangements for preserving the neutrality of the Dardanelles.

It is something that France and Britain have been able to agree at all, for some people thought the gulf between them too wide to be bridged. Of course, identity of policy is indispensable if any terms whatever are to be imposed upon Turkey. Everybody knows that for generations the one strong diplomatic suit of the Turks was to play off one Power against another. For that reason the old Concert of Europe became a sort of ridicule. Although the very name of the Concert of Europe has disappeared, the Turks ever since the Armistice have been playing the old game with fewer cards. They have been setting off Britain against France and Italy. It was obvious, then, that the Near East could never be quieted unless the European Powers spoke with one voice, and that is why Lord Curzon had to make the sacrifices necessary to produce one voice. We much regret, however, that the sacrifices are as great as they are, and we can only hope that there may yet be an opportunity to reduce them when the new proposals are put into the form of a Treaty after discussion at Constantinople or elsewhere.

It then considers the proposals in regard to Asia Minor and Thrace, and concludes:—

We need not go into the question of Turkish reparations, and we come now to the question of the Straits. Here there has been what we can only regard as an unnecessary weakening of the Treaty of Sèvres. The Straits are, of course, to be neutralized, but the doubt arises whether the neutralization will be satisfactory. The southern shore of the Straits will be in possession of Turkey. It is true that it is to be "demilitarized," but we fear that the Turks will find it easy enough to bring mobile artillery into action there. The neutrality of the Straits will, in theory, be guaranteed by an inter-Allied Commission under a Turkish President, and further, there will be Allied troops in Gallipoli, on the northern shore of the Straits, as over-seers of the Greeks, but these things are not enough. The only satisfactory principle for ensuring the freedom of such a waterway as the Dardanelles is that the owners of the water should also be the owners of both shores.

We cannot end without remarking that the comparatively quiet circumstances in which the representative of France, Italy and Britain met in Paris were greatly to be preferred to the rampaging publicity with which diplomacy has been conducted

for the past three years. We have no doubt that Lord Curzon did all that he could in a cool and effective way. The pity is that he was tied partly by promises which the French had already made to the Turks and partly by the policy of the Government, who assume that Moslem opinion in India has to be appeased. It would be useless to go into this Indian question again, and we shall content ourselves with saying that to do what we hold to be justice, irrespective of the demands of racial or religious sections, is the only safe principle for the British Empire. It is a mistake to suppose that by our present policy we are really making things easier in India. A comparatively few people have worked up specious political arguments, but the feeling, or rather, we might say, the ignorance or the indifference, of most Moslem Indians remains as it was. It should never be forgotten that in the Crimea we carried on an arduous and expensive war in the interests of Turkey and that it was immediately followed by the Indian Mutiny.

"An Advance to Sanity."

The *New Statesman* of April 1 thinks that "the new terms proposed to Turkey and Greece by the Allied Powers mark a considerable advance on the road to sanity," and proceeds to consider specifically the questions of Turkey in Europe and of Bulgaria :—

The hope of an immediate settlement in the Near East seems to depend in the main on whether the Turks will accept the proposed Thracian frontier. The chances are, we think, that they will not. There is no moral argument against them if they refuse. We have simply acted on the principle of *Vae Victis* in confiscating Turkish territory (after proclaiming incidentally, that we had no such intention). The question, therefore, is one of force. If the Turks think they are strong enough they will try to recover their property. How far are we prepared to go in resisting them? Shall we support the Greeks in another conflict? Or are Allied troops to be mobilised for the task? These are matters which, no doubt, Lord Curzon and Mr. Lloyd George and Sir Basil Zaharoff have considered; we hope that the British taxpayer will not presently have to consider them. For the rest, we do not see any clear sign of a *permanent* settlement. It is something, indeed, that the pseudo-Crusader attitude towards the "infidel Turk" is becoming less fashionable in this country, and that the French and ourselves have reached an agreed policy. But we fear the agreement does not go very deep as yet. Behind the Turks and the Greeks there are other troubles—the Arab question, for example, and the French jealousy of British power. And on the other side of the Straits there are the Balkans, where no sane man has ever looked for tranquillity. Bulgaria has hardly been thought of since the war; but Bulgaria is not the least important of the Balkan nations, and she will inevitably play her part again before many years are past. Whether that part will be a tranquillising one or a mischievous one remains to be seen. But it is worth a European statesman's while to try to get Bulgaria on the side of the angels, and a small but useful beginning might be made by ensuring her the proper access to the sea that the Treaty gives her and the Greeks refuse her.

The Little Entente.

To the *Nation and Athenaeum* of April 1, Miss Dorothy Thompson contributes the first of two articles upon "The Rise of the Little Entente." It begins by stating that Mr. Benesh, the Czecho-Slovak Prime Minister, stands with Lloyd George and Lenin, "heads and shoulders above the ranks of contemporary European statesmen." It outlines the differences between the Little Entente and the Great Powers, and sketches Mr. Benesh's programme thus :—"To win a Great Power as an ally; to weld together the non-Russian Slavs; to make Czecho-Slovakia the dominating Power in a federation of Balkan and East European States." After stating that, temporarily at least, Mr. Benesh is making headway in all directions, the writer considers Italian policy in Central South-East Europe, which policy, she says, was :

First, to wean Roumania away from the bad company of her Slav allies; to strengthen Hungary, and break down the animosity between that country and Roumania; and with these two fortified nations to make a wall between the northern and the southern Slavs. Six months ago the odds seemed to be working in favour of the Italian policy. It was the Italian policy which prevented Oedenburg (West Hungary) from being handed over to Austria in conformity with the provisions of the Treaty of Trianon, and so preserved that valuable passage-way between Czecho-Slovakia and Jugo-Slavia to the Magyars. Later (at the time of the *Karl Putsch*), Italy's hand might have been seen in the aloof attitude adopted by Roumania, who, while her allies mobilized against Hungary on two fronts, remained completely reticent.

Italy's policy has been plain. She never for a moment loses sight of "the Pan-Slav menace," sure to obtain, in her mind, as soon as Russia "comes back." She is practically at war with Jugo-Slavia, who grows more and more aggressive in Albania and along the Adriatic coast. The signing of the Treaty of Lana; the military agreement between Greece and Jugo-Slavia; the Conference at Bucharest, including Poland, have all been slaps in the face of the Italian policy, and unquestionably account in large measure for the Governmental crisis in Rome. The Little Entente therefore, seems to have inherited and assumed the burdens and animosities of the old Austro-Hungarian Empire, and in the first diplomatic battle with Italy, Italy has lost. With the demission of the Marquis della Torretta as Minister of Foreign Affairs, it may be taken that Italy has relinquished for the time being, through necessity, her anti-Little Entente policy.

With the addition of Poland, Greece, and Austria as allies, the Little Entente is the strongest military Power in Europe. Jugo-Slavia alone has a hundred thousand more troops than France, if the French black troops be eliminated from the count. The Little Entente as an alliance commands more than a million and three-quarter soldiers. Siding with France, she completes the line of French influence in East Europe straight down from Poland to Macedonia. She is a powerful support for French policy—and a powerful enemy of one country, Hungary.

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The Future of Adrianople.

In the *Morning Post* of April 7 its Constantinople correspondent writes on Adrianople. He describes its picturesqueness, the racial animosities which centre round it, and he speculates on its future:—

The claim to Eastern Thrace is a difficult one to decide, for there are two bases of discussion, as is usual with territorial claims—(1) historical, (2) present occupation and inhabitation. The historical argument is always unsatisfactory. Does conquest and occupation for a number of years constitute an historical claim? How many years' occupation entitle the conqueror to lord it over the conquered—who will, presumably, have the counter-claims of previous occupation, be they based on conquest or gradual penetration. Here in Thrace, for instance, the Greeks will claim historical precedence in claims based on the Macedonian and Byzantine conquests. The Bulgarians will plead that neither Alexander nor Constantine was a Greek, and will base their claims on the Bulgarian occupation by gradual penetration in the Middle Ages. The Turks will claim right by conquest since the fall of Constantinople till the present day.

As regards present occupation, until 1913 the Bulgars were by a long way in the majority. But after the Balkan War the Turks, under Enver Pasha's influence, took the drastic measure of turning every Bulgar out of Eastern Thrace. Two hundred thousand of them in all were turned out at three hours' notice, and sent over the Bulgarian border, where they are at present as refugees on the Bulgarian Government's hands. The Greeks followed suit by "persuading" 60,000 more to leave Western Thrace and return to Bulgaria.

The rights and wrongs of these drastic strokes may be open to discussion. Turk and Greek could both plead historical precedents in all countries of the world, including England and America, and could quote analogous procedure in Ireland at the present moment. But the Thracian question may be said to be simplified by one factor. There are now no Bulgars in Eastern Thrace. That, however, is unfortunate for Thrace. The Bulgarian is eminently the worker of the soil. The Turks sent 76,000 colonists to replace them in 1913, but that is not enough to restore agriculture in Thrace, and many of the colonists perished during the war. The Greeks are trying to import colonies of Greeks from Asia Minor, the Black Sea coast, and the Caucasus. But the Greek is pre-eminently the "Petit commercant." Few of these colonists will take to the land; they will mostly congregate in the towns.

Meanwhile, the greater part of Thrace is a desert. The valley of the Maritza, which as a fruit-growing district alone should be able to beat the Okanagan Valley in Canada, is only half cultivated, and that poorly. One wonders when these people will see that, instead of being naturally antagonistic they are, in fact, complementary. Turk and Bulgar make excellent neighbours in Bulgaria: they both till the soil, and the Greek buys and sells the produce. Perhaps some day they will realise that, together with the fact that, in the eyes of the world, their quarrels and racial jealousy are infantile and absurd. The United States, for example, are faced with the same problem on a far greater scale—only the Americans realised long ago how impossible existence would be under the circumstances, and therefore, have refused to submit to it.

ARTICLES TO NOTE.

"India's Revolt against Christian Civilisation," by W. S. Hamilton; and "Sufism," by Ikbal Ali Shah in the *Hibbert Journal* (April).

"Arab Life and Character," by the Rt. Hon. the Lord Raglan, in the *Nineteenth Century* (April).

"The Ending of the Egyptian Deadlock," by Sir Valentine Chirol; "The Question of the Caliphate," by Kenneth Ledward, F.R.G.S.; and "The Passing of the Indian Civil Service," by Stanley Rice, in the *Fortnightly Review* (April).

"The Present Situation in Egypt," by the Rt. Hon. Sir Rennell Rodd, G.C.B.; "Armenia. British Pledges and the Near East," by Aneurin Williams, M.P.; "The Problem of Indian Discontent," by H. E. A. Cotton, C.I.E., L.C.C.; and "Zionism and Palestine," by J. Ramsay Macdonald in the *Contemporary Review*.

"The Political Reasons for the Continued Occupation of Palestine," by "Auspex"; and "Egypt and Sinai, 1914-1917," in the *Army Quarterly* (April).

"Some Truths about Palestine," by Philip Graves, in *The Times* (April 3, 4, 5, etc.).

TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

The subject headings given are those of the Official Report.

Egypt: British Protectorate (Abolition); Zaghoul Pasha.—Greece:—Requisitions, Salonika; Loan.—Sir Basil Zaharoff.—Palestine (Emigration).—India: Prismatic Binoculars (Government Orders); Provincial Governors (Home Leave).—East India Loans (Railways and Irrigation).—(Wednesday, 29th March.)

East India Loans (Railways and Irrigation) (continuation of Official Report, Wednesday, 29th March).—Peace Treaties: Bulgaria.—Aden.—Disturbances, Kenya.—Massacres, Asia Minor.—Peace Treaties: Bulgaria; Gallipoli Peninsula.—British and Indian Garrisons, Iraq.—East India Loans (Railways and Irrigation).—(Thursday, 30th March.)

India (Lord Reading).—(Friday, 31st March.)

Peace Treaties: Gallipoli; Near East.—Massacres and Outrages, Near East.—Massacres, Asia Minor.—Aden.—(Monday, 3rd April.)

India: Oil Concessions (Burma), Burma (Constitution); Railways (Development); Steamers (Government Service); Constitution (Pension); Constitution, Burma; Civil Service (Conduct Rules).—Palestine (Joint Immigration Board).—Malta (Governor's Salary).—Peace Treaties: Thrace.—(Tuesday 4th April.)

East India Loans (Railways and Irrigation) Bill.—Egypt (Deportees).—Royal Indian Marine (Officers).—Cabinet Crisis in Baghdad: Mr. Churchill's Statement.—East India Loans (Railways and Irrigation) Bill.—Government of the Sudan Loan (Amendment) Bill.—(Wednesday, 5th April.)

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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Greece's Forced Loan.

The failure for the time being of the negotiations for a Greek Loan in this country meant, as I pointed out recently, that Greece would have to rely on its resources and it was assumed that an internal loan would be raised. For some obscure reasons this obvious course—obvious because while Greece as a nation is in financial straits Greeks individually are well able to supply the required funds—has not been followed, and recourse has been made to the extraordinary expedient of a forced loan to cover the Budget deficit. This loan is to be raised through the medium of the notes of the Banque Nationale, which are to be cut in half, one half being left to circulate while the other half will represent a seven cent bearer bond of the loan. According to the last balance sheet the notes of the Banque Nationale amounted to 2,433,638,011 drachmae, and as the amount of the forced loan has been fixed at a milliard and a half drachmae it is obvious that this total would not give the required results. A Bill has, however, been introduced authorising the issue of new notes to the value of 550,000,000 drachmae thus bringing the note issue to roughly the requisite total.

Its Effect.

Explaining the adoption of this expedient the Greek Finance Minister stated that the issue of new bank notes would have resulted in the depreciation of the drachmae to 200 or 250 to sterling, while with the course followed Greek currency would lose nothing of its value. With the first part of this statement I am in full agreement, but it is very open to doubt whether the forced loan will not have in the long run at least as adverse consequences. I have not the space at my disposal on this occasion to enter into the position of Greece's finances at length, and must content myself with pointing out that the effect of the loan is to undermine that part of the Greek currency which is least depreciated.

Rupee Exchange.

At the meeting of the National Bank of India the deputy chairman, Mr. Robert Williamson, dealt in the course of a very interesting speech with the exchange question. He pointed out that while the Government had given effect, on paper, to the Currency Commission's recommendation of a 2s. rupee it had never come into operation, and he urged its replacement by the 16d. rupee. The statutory rate, he stated, had proved a real hindrance to trade "Indian merchants having frequently made use of it as an excuse for delay in taking delivery of goods which had arrived at their destination in fulfilment of contracts previously entered into, which, in their view, might well be ignored until a purchase of exchange at the Government rate of 2s. could be effected." Mr. Williamson's views on the exchange entirely agree with what I have said in these columns on many occasions. It is generally recognised now that a very grave mistake was made in altering the parity of the

rupee, and common sense would suggest that the only sound course would now be *revocare gradus*.

Outlook for Indian Trade.

Mr. Williamson does not take a promising view of the general outlook, though he stated that he had noticed a slight improvement in the finance aspect, and hoped for some further expansion in that direction. He commented also on last year's favourable monsoon, and pointed out that very abundant crops had been secured. In his opinion the prevailing unrest is in some degree due to unsatisfactory economic conditions, and he hopes for "a very marked change for the better to follow on the marketing of these large crops."

Conditions in Eastern Markets.

Sir Montagu Turner at the meeting of the Chartered Bank pointed out that the past year had been one of great difficulties for those trading with the East. Two principal causes, he remarked, had hindered the absorption of old accumulated stocks in India—political agitation, and the maintenance of the rupee at a low level. "The inflexible law of supply and demand, the control on the export of rice and wheat, and the absence of European demand for other Indian commodities resulted in an adverse balance of trade to India, and rendered a high rate of exchange absolutely out of the question." Sir Montagu pointed out that the new rate of exchange had been a blessing to the tea industry and had rendered business possible in other lines of produce. As regards the outlook he takes the view that provided the Government act consistently with firmness and justice there is no reason to view the situation with undue apprehension.

The P. and O. Dividend.

The declaration by the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company of the same interim dividend as a year ago is of considerable interest from the light it throws on the effects of present conditions in the shipping industry. Evidently despite the depression the leading companies are holding their own if they are doing nothing more.

Commentator.

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Commerce and Industry.

REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest March 31.

Recall of Commercial Attaches.

For reasons of economy, besides the temporary closing down of the legations in Portugal, Holland, Spain, Norway, Finland, Japan, and Egypt, the Roumanian Government has decided to recall on April 1 a large number of her Commercial Attachés from abroad. Only the Commercial Attachés at Paris, London, Hamburg, Vienna, Prague, Athens and Budapest will be kept in office.

The New Budget.

M. V. Bratianu, the Minister of Finance, has drafted a temporary Budget showing revenue and expenditure balanced at 10½ milliard lei. M. Bratianu intends to introduce it into Parliament in the course of the next few days, when he is expected to give a detailed survey of the general financial situation of the country.

New Import and Export Regulations.

The Government is now drawing up new import and export regulations, which, however, will not come into force until ratified by Parliament. According to the proposals only raw materials and articles of the first necessity which cannot be produced in the country may be imported. The import of luxury articles will be strictly forbidden, thereby abolishing the present system of special taxes for such articles.

The position with regard to exports will be practically the same as before. The list of exportable goods, however, will be definitely fixed, but increased as much as possible. Those articles which are needed for home consumption and are not produced in sufficient quantities for export will be placed on the list of prohibited exports. Until the new regulations are voted by Parliament, the State will make use of the old system but with such modifications as are considered necessary.

Export Taxes in Gold.

The Ministry of Finance has issued an order to the different Custom-Houses at the frontier that, beginning from April 1, all export taxes for grain and its by-products, leguminous produce, petrol and timber shall be collected either in gold currency or in the currency of the country where the goods are exported to. The parities of these foreign currencies have been fixed by taking the rate of exchange of the dollar as the gold standard, and are subject to alteration every month according to fluctuations in the rates of exchange. Naturally, for exports to countries with a depreciated currency, such as Germany, Austria, Poland, Hungary, Russia and Bulgaria, the taxes will be levied either in gold, or in any one of the dear currencies or in lei at a rate equal to the gold standard. The object of this

measure is to enable the State to obtain foreign currencies which it requires for payments abroad.

Miscellaneous.

As almost all commercial conventions between Roumania and other countries will lapse during the month of April, imported goods from these countries will be subject to the general duty tariff. It is not possible to renew these conventions owing to the fluctuations in the value of the goods as well as in the rates of exchange.

It is reported from Braila that last week several boatloads of maize left for Odessa to be distributed by the International Relief Society among the famished population of Russia.

The Compensations' Department at the Ministry of Finance, in making out a statement of compensation due to the Roumanian State in connection with the evacuation to Moscow of the Roumanian Treasury, jewellery and other valuables, has estimated its total value at 7½ milliard lei.

An international conference will be held on April 1 at Bucharest for the purpose of regulating different questions concerning the Danube navigation. This conference will be attended by the representatives of Great Britain, France, Italy, Germany, Roumania, Austria, Yugoslavia, Czecho-Slovakia, Hungary and Bulgaria, and will be presided over by M. George Popescu the Secretary General of the Ministry of Communications.

It has been decided to amalgamate the two Ministries of Agriculture and Domains into one under M. Al. Constantinescu.

MESOPOTAMIA.

Baghdad, March 17.

Cheaper Oil for Cultivators.

A good deal of interest has been evinced of late in the price of oil in and around Baghdad, and especially in that of the particular grade of kerosine known as *galyan* which is used by the cultivators as fuel for their pump engines. The capricious nature of the rainfall in southern Iraq makes cultivation without irrigation a very speculative proposition, and for some twenty to twenty-five miles north and south of Baghdad there are to be found large numbers of pumps worked by oil engines which act as a supplement to rain in the case of the winter crops and as the sole source of irrigation in the case of the summer crops. During the war when with a big garrison in the country there was a big demand for garden and other agricultural produce, and prices were high the cultivators made big profits, but with the departure of a large part of the garrison, coupled with the big fall in prices which has taken place in almost all countries during the past few months, cultivators are finding it very difficult to make both ends meet, and they have clamoured for a reduction in the price of oil which is one of the principal factors in their cost of production. After several conferences between the Director of Agriculture, the Minister of Commerce and representatives of the Anglo Persian Oil Company in which the present situation was thoroughly thrashed out the Anglo-Persian Oil Company has made a big reduction in the price of the particular oil used by the cultivators, and it is hoped that they will now be in a position to earn a reasonable reward for their labours in spite of the low prices now obtaining for their products.

Bumper Harvest Expected.

Heavy rain a day or two ago has made the harvesting of a bumper crop of wheat and barley almost a certainty and prices of grain continue to fall.

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Commercial Correspondence.

BRITISH TRADERS AND THE NEAR EAST.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—I am writing to draw attention to the deplorable way in which British trade interests in the Near East have been, and are being, neglected, in the hope that I may be able to impress upon our traders through your columns the absolute necessity for cultivating the Near Eastern markets. The idea prevalent among a section of British traders that when enquiries reach them from the Near East they should be turned down indiscriminately simply because they come from that part of the world is a hopelessly mistaken view, and one which is doing very great harm to British interests. A very large business can be done with the Near East with absolute safety, especially if it is done through the medium of local British firms of which there are so many.

I would urge British firms desirous of extending and developing their businesses with centres like Constantinople and Smyrna to make arrangements with British firms to represent them. With the advent of more settled conditions in the near future, to which it is happily possible now to look forward with confidence, a rapid improvement of trade is to be anticipated, and, of course, a much enlarged scope for Great Britain in the Near East, since British manufactures are always given the preference if possible. But if we are to take advantage of the opportunity there must be an end of the proverbial shyness of the Near East, and also of entering the market by the only practical method which I have indicated.

Yours, etc.

Trader.

London, April 7.

"THE COLONIZATION OF PALESTINE."

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—I should be glad if you would again allow me to encroach upon your space to say a few words in answer to the somewhat fiery letter of your correspondent Mr. Myers. While his facts are, in the main, correct, I would like to draw his attention to the fact that he has entirely missed the point I wished to emphasize.

I have the very greatest admiration for the type of Jew to which he refers, namely the original pioneer, who settled in Palestine thirty years or so before the war and developed the country in such a creditable manner. My point was that the right type of Jew, in the main, is not being sent to Palestine. I have seen many intending candidates of which too many were doubtful characters, chiefly from the slums of the big cities of Poland. He will, I feel sure, agree that such people would not improve the country.

Moreover, I have spent four years in Palestine and know what type of Jew is there at the present time.

Of the Jaffa riots I am well aware, and have taken that incident into consideration. The right type of Jew, of which there is a large proportion in the country, undoubtedly lived up to the traditions of his forefathers, but I do not think that the Jew whom I met in Europe would acquit himself in like manner under such circumstances.

If Mr. Myers will carefully read my letter again he will observe that I stated that Palestine owes its prosperity to the pre-war Jewish colonist. I have no doubt that a large proportion of the "haluzim" of to-day are of the right type, and if the bad characters are prevented from spoiling the reputation of the rest, the country will become a real credit to those who are and have been instrumental in its development.

In my letter I urged co-ordination between Jew and Moslem. Mr. Myers will, I feel sure, concede that the Arab must always play an important part in the destiny of Palestine; he may not have done much for the country but he has, nevertheless, a right to live there.

I agree that the Turk also has not exerted himself in developing the country and I did not suggest that he should continue to be allowed to "mismanage" it. What I did say was that he cannot be overlooked in the scheme of things. When a country is conquered it is usual for the conquerors to continue to allow the defeated to live there. The mere fact that the Turk placed no obstacle in the way of the Jews in their foundation of settlements only shows his national characteristic manner. He always prefers others to do the work for him.

In common with many who view the situation from London, Mr. Myers only sees one side of the question.

Yours, etc.,

WILFRED ROSEN,
Late H.B.M. Consulate General,
Frankfurt-am-Main.

London, April 1.

RADIUM MONOPOLY IN CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.

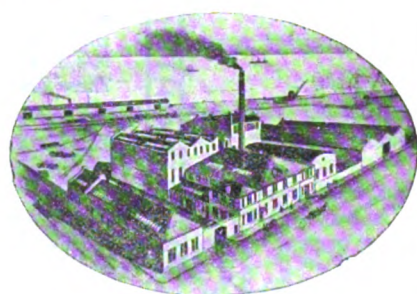
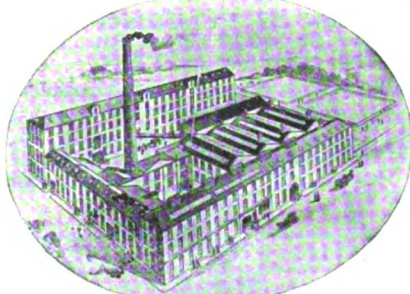
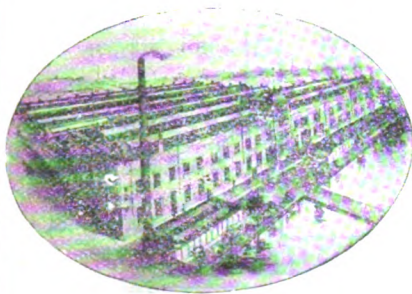
The Czecho-Slovakian Government will shortly submit to the National Assembly a Bill, in accordance with which the State reserves to itself the exclusive right of exploiting the radio-active resources of Czecho-Slovakia. The Bill applies not only to the ores which have already been monopolised, but in a general way, to all those which contain radio-active elements. The State itself will take charge of production, or else will entrust it to private concerns which will undertake to dispose of the manufactured products to the State. The radium produced at Jachymov in Czecho-Slovakia is the purest in the world. It contains very little mesothorium which disappears in less than six years. The mines at Jachymov produced 1.1 grammes of radium in 1919, 2.2 grammes in 1920, and 3.2 grammes in 1921, so that at present Czecho-Slovakia possesses six grammes of radium. The purpose of the monopolisation is to utilise the radium for scientific research and medical uses.

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Stock and Share Markets.

BROADENING OF BUSINESS.

War Loan over 100.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Tuesday morning.

It has been another excellent week for the markets; in fact business has been brighter than for many months. This time it has not been merely a case of buoyancy in Gilt-edged; there has also been a very welcome broadening of business in which Oils, Industrials, and even Rubbers have shared. The factors responsible for this development are those to which I have already referred—expectations of a reduction in the income-tax and a lower Bank rate, and the hope that things generally are beginning to settle down.

Czecho-Slovak Loan Success.

The Czecho-Slovak Loan of £2,800,000 in Eight per cent. sterling bonds, which made its appearance last week, was a most conspicuous success, the lists being closed early in the morning of the opening day Czecho-Slovakia, it may be pointed out, has been able to obtain this accommodation because of the general position in the country. It has been made abundantly evident that those in charge of the destinies of Czecho-Slovakia are concentrating on reconstruction on sound lines, and this has naturally inspired confidence abroad. It is an object lesson for countries who have been trying to obtain loans here in the last few months without success. Another loan for Czecho-Slovakia is on the tapis, this being one for the city of Prague, negotiations for which, it is understood, are now in progress. The result of the failure of the Greek Loan negotiations is to be seen in the forced loan which the authorities have introduced. According to the telegrams this expedient has proved wonderfully popular with the Greeks, but it cannot be said that it has gained any eulogiums in financial circles in this country.

Gilt-Edged Buoyant.

Gilt-Edged have continued their upward movement. Consols are $1\frac{1}{2}$ up at 58 $\frac{1}{2}$, War Loan Fives are now 101, a gain of 1.11-16, while the Conversion Loan at 74.5-8 shows a gain of 11-16. I expect to see the Conversion Loan go still higher. Indian stocks have been very strong, and substantial advances are to be recorded. The Seven per cent. Loan at 111 is 2 up, the 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Loan is $1\frac{1}{2}$ up at 64 $\frac{1}{2}$, while the 3 per cent. Loan at 55 $\frac{1}{2}$ shows a rise of 2.

By contrast with other markets a rather inactive tone has ruled in foreign descriptions, though here and there stocks are the turn higher. French War Loan Fives are $\frac{1}{2}$ up at 45, while German three per cents. are 3-16 up at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Italian Rentes are unchanged at 23 $\frac{1}{2}$. Mexican securities have again been in some request, with the Four per cents. of 1904 3 up at 62. Dealings have commenced in the new Czecho-Slovak bonds which are closing at a premium of $\frac{1}{2}$.

Industrials Better.

After weeks of restricted business considerably more activity

was in evidence in the Industrial group, and a very cheerful tone has prevailed with prices moving upwards.

Textiles have been in fair request with Coats at 3.1-32, a rise of 3-32, while Courtaulds are 1s. 6d. up at 38s. 9d. Iron and Steel securities have continued in good demand. Vickers are 2s. 6d. up at 12s., Armstrongs have gained 1s. 6d. at 16s. 6d., while Guest Keens are 1s. 9d. up at 32s.

A firm tone has prevailed in shipping securities with P. and O. Deferred a feature at 315s., an advance of 18 on the week. By a printer's error I was made to give the price of the share last week at 27s. My attention was drawn to the matter by a humorous correspondent who informed me that he was a firm buyer of them at that price. Cunards are 20s. 3d., a rise of 1s. 6d.

Oils Firm.

Business in Oils has widened considerably during the past week, and all round the market prices have reached higher levels. Burmahs have been in some request, and at 5.27-32 show a gain of 15-32. Anglo-Persian Ord have been a strong spot and close 7-16 up at 4.7-16. Mexican Eagles, after being considerably higher, close at 3.11-32 a gain of 1-16.

Among Egyptians, Anglo-Egyptian B are 1.11-16, a rise of 3-16, while Oilfields of Egypt are 3d. down at 4s. 9d. Roumanians have again been a firm spot. Phoenix at 27s. 9d., a price something like 3s. below the best touched during the week, are 1s. up. Steaua Romanas are 14s. 3d., a rise of 1s. 3d., Dacia Romanos are unchanged at 11-16, while Roumanian Consolidated are 14s. 6d., a gain of 9d.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Inquiries on financial subjects are invited from our readers, and will be answered in this column.

V. Lack of space prevents us from publishing the usual lists of stock and share prices at present, but it is hoped to resume their publication later on. The price of Buckingham and Carnatic Cotton Mill Co. Ord was Rs. 175 on March 8.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest. Quotations.
Alexandria ..	Piastres to £....	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	97.7-16
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$ -99
†Belgrade ..	Dinars to £....	25.22 $\frac{1}{2}$	340-350
Berlin	Marks to £....	20.43	1295-1360
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3-3.16-1.3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3-3.16-1.3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Brussels.....	Francs to £....	25.22 $\frac{1}{2}$	51.70-52
*Bucharest ..	Lei to £.....	25.22 $\frac{1}{2}$	600-620
Constantinople	Piastres to £....	110	625-645
New York....	Dollars to £....	4.86 2-3	4.40 $\frac{1}{2}$ -4.42 $\frac{1}{2}$
Paris	Francs to £....	25.22 $\frac{1}{2}$	47.85-48.05
Prague	Kronen to £....	24.02	220-230
Rome	Lire to £.....	25.22 $\frac{1}{2}$	81 $\frac{1}{2}$ -82 $\frac{1}{2}$
†Sofia	Leva to £....	25.22 $\frac{1}{2}$	030
Teheran	Krans to £....	50	51
Vienna	Kronen to £....	24.02	32,000-34,000
Warsaw	Marks to £.....	20.43	16,500-17,500

*Nominal.

† Sellers.

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12/12/21 FRENCH 5% WAR LOAN(BI)	37	£46½
18/4/21 ITALIAN 3½% RENTES	23	£25

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Engineering Topics.

By Our Engineering Representative.

Victaulic Pipe Joints.

I recently had my attention drawn to the Victaulic pipe joints, made by the Victory Pipe Joint Co., Ltd., and so struck was I with the claims made that I took the earliest possible opportunity of examining the matter for myself in order to form an independent judgment.

Every engineer is aware of the merits of the "U" washer, the most simple hydraulic sealing device yet made, which is used in hydraulic pumps and other machinery, and which has the property of self-tightening. In other words, the greater the pressure applied the greater is the washer's resistance to leakage, up to the limits of its mechanical strength and the strength of its surroundings. The Victaulic pipe joints, under the Hele-Shaw and Tribe system, embody the self-sealing effect of the U-washer without its few shortcomings. It is remarkable in making a perfect seal against any pressure from zero upwards and also against a vacuum. Moreover, it is naturally flexible, and makes provision for either expansion or contraction, and further, is neat, easily applied, readily removable, and does not necessitate expensive machinery, screwing, or special designing of the ends of the pipes with which it is used.

The Victaulic flexible leak-proof ring is surrounded by a retaining shell. The ring has two inturned conical lips which grip tightly on the pipes and as the actual pipes do not meet with an absolutely sealed effect the gas or fluid gains access to the inner portion of the ring and forces the lips on to the surface of the pipe itself. In action it is consequently subjected to compression only, and is never in tension. As the pressure rises this compression increases; it is impossible for tension to be exerted upon it and for rupture to occur. The principle therefore is that the determining factors as to the strength of the joint are the strength of the outer shell and the pipe itself.

A Leak-proof Joint.

I have seen joints of this description subjected to a pressure of many tons to the square inch without the slightest trace of leakage being detectable. The inturned lips exercise an initial grip on the pipe as they are placed in position, and the joint is consequently leakproof at zero as well as when under pressure. There is a further feature which space forbids describing in detail, which gives rise to a perfect self-intensive sealing action at negative pressure and the joint is consequently perfect against a vacuum.

The flexible leak-proof ring permits the introduction of a small clearance between the housing and the pipe so as to give a slight angular flexibility. Pipes with the usual type of joint are generally so rigid that the bolts, bolt holes, or joints will break if the pipe is subjected to any bending strain, as when buried in ground that subsequently subsides, or when heavy vibration is met with. In the case of concrete pipes, with their strong rigid grouted joints this is especially evident; in the event of a subsidence the concrete pipe, which is actually weaker than its joint, fails by cracking. The Victaulic joint has sufficient "give" in it to prevent this, and even should the ground subside to a considerable extent the joint yields sufficiently to prevent damage to the pipe without impairing its leak-proof properties.

From this it will be seen that the new pipe joint, with its flexibility, alters the entire outlook on the concrete pipe system. Moreover, it presents a ready means of

"breaking" a joint for cleaning purposes, the replacement of a section, or the installing of a junction piece with far less cost or work than is necessary in the case of ordinary jointing. This feature in itself appeals to me considerably as I happen to know that a very large number of readers of *The Near East* are more than usually interested just now in the subject of concrete pipes.

Its Flexibility.

The flexibility of the joint, as I have said, also allows for expansion or contraction and each individual length of pipe is free to expand separately. As every engineer knows, with ordinary methods it is necessary to fit an expansion joint at regular intervals, otherwise trouble invariably results. The shortcomings of such a system may be seen in many an existing pipe line in the Balkans where, in certain situations, the pipe expands and increases in length appreciably during the day and contracts and shrinks during the cold of the night. With a pipe line fitted with the joints under review each individual pipe length in a hillside installation is only anchored at mid-length. It forms a separate unit, and is free to expand at both ends, each joint permitting expansion without any movement whatever at the point of anchorage. A further point, which many of my readers abroad will appreciate at its proper value, is that pipes for use with these pipe joints are free from flanges or even screw threads, and are accepted for freight and customs duty as raw material. Moreover they may be stacked into a relatively small space and where, as is usual, several sizes are needed they may be packed one inside the other, which again results in an appreciable saving in freightage costs.

"The Record-breaking A.C."

I have just received a letter from Mr. S. F. Edge in which he says:—"It is with great pleasure and some pride that I write to tell you that for the third week in succession the amazing A.C. Light Car has gone to Brooklands on the day appointed in advance and annexed the records it was asked to do without miss or falter. You know as well as I do, it is not easy to do this on one occasion but to do it three times in three weeks is an unheard of record. The same Sports model of standard chassis and engine type was employed of exactly the same lines as the public buy from the company in the form of Sports, Two Seaters, Coupes or Four Seaters. As usual, Mr. Kaye Don was kind enough to drive for me, and in this latter case he was assisted after the two hours by J. A. Joyce, as Mr. Don was suffering from a nasty motor cycle accident sustained the day before, but he still insisted on driving as he had arranged. It is the A.C. spirit to do things on the day arranged for and in the manner promised that has brought these successes."

As a matter of fact the A.C. has been doing some very remarkable things lately and I shall watch future developments, as will, no doubt, my readers also, with more than usual interest.

A New Switch.

The need for a quick make and break switch for domestic lighting work was not so pressing before the advent of the metal filament and gas filled lamps. Now, however, such a switch, is a necessity, and I note that one has just been brought out regarding which I hope to have more to say in the near future.

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Subscribed Capital - - - - -	£4,000,000
Paid-up Capital - - - - -	£2,000,000
Reserve Fund - - - - -	£2,600,000
Number of Shareholders - - - - -	£2,148

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

ROBERT CAMPBELL, Esq., Chairman.
ROBERT WILLIAMSON, Esq., Deputy-Chairman.

Sir JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.
ROBERT MILLER, Esq.
Sir CHARLES C. McLEOD.

J. D. NIMMO, Esq.
J. N. STUART, Esq.
J. A. TOOMEY, Esq.

General Manager—C. NICOLL, Esq.
London Manager—J. Y. MUNRO, Esq.

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

Branches:

CALCUTTA. BOMBAY. MADRAS. KURRACHEE. CHITTAGONG. AMRITSAR.	CAWNPORE. DELHI. LAHORE. TUTICORIN. COCHIN. RANGOON.	MANDALAY. COLOMBO. KANDY. NEWERA ELIYA. ADEN. STEAMER POINT, ADEN.	ZANZIBAR. MOMBASA. NAIROBI. NAKURU. KISUMU.	Kenya Colony East Africa	ENTEBBE KAMPALA JINJA TANGA DAR-ES-SALAAM	Uganda. Tanganyika Territory
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Agencies:

GALLE, CEYLON		Messrs. Clark, Spence & Co.
EDINBURGH		Messrs. Moncreiff & Horsburgh, 46, Castle-street.
GLASGOW		Messrs. Mackenzie, Robertson & Co., 176, St. Vincent-street.

Dr.	GENERAL BALANCE SHEET, 31st December, 1921.	Cr.
The Rupee Assets and Liabilities have been converted at the rate of rs. 4d. per Rupee.		
To Capital:	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Subscribed, 160,000 Shares of £25 each, £4,000,000		By Cash on hand, at call and at Bankers
Paid up £12 10s. per share	2,000,000 0 0	By Bullion on hand and in Transit
To Reserve Fund	2,500,000 0 0	By Indian Government Rupee Securities
To Current, Fixed Deposit and other Accounts, including provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts and Contingencies	34,295,599 7 9	By War Loan, Indian Government Guaranteed Debentures and other Securities (of which £16,350 War Loan lodged with Bank of England as Security for Government Accounts)
To Bills Payable	1,114,792 5 8	By House Property and Furniture
To Acceptances for Customers	2,003,539 14 4	By Bills of Exchange, including Treasury Bills
To Profit and Loss Account, as under	504,095 12 8	By Discounts, Loans Receivable, and other sums due to the Bank
To Bills receivable, re-discounted, £4,153,307 8s. 2d., of which up to 22nd March, 1922, £3,261,686 10s. 3d. have run off. Forward Contracts outstanding for the Purchase and Sale of Sterling Bills and Telegraphic Transfers £5,242,198 17s. 10d.		By Customers for Acceptances per Contra
	£42,418,027 0 5	
		£42,418,027 0 5

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT for the Year ended 31st December, 1921.

To ad interim dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended 30th June, 1921	£ s. d.	By Balance at 31st December, 1920	£ s. d.
To Expenses of Management at Head Office and Branches, and Bonus to the Staff	200,000 0 0	Deduct—	539,001 17 0
To Balance	660,666 0 3	Dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended 31st December, 1920	150,000 0 0
	504,095 12 8	Amount written off House Property Account	20,000 0 0
		Officers' Pension Fund	20,000 0 0
		Amount carried to Reserve Fund for the Year ended 31st December, 1920	200,000 0 0
			390,000 0 0
		Balance brought forward	149,001 17 0
		By Gross Profits for the year ended 31st December, 1921, after providing for all bad and doubtful Debts	1,215,729 15 11
	£1,344,761 12 11		£1,361,761 12 11

C. NICOLL, General Manager.
G. B. LINTON, Sub-Manager and Accountant.

ROBERT WILLIAMSON,
J. A. TOOMEY,
J. D. NIMMO, } Directors.

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE SHAREHOLDERS.

We have audited the above Balance Sheet with the Books in London and the certified Returns from the Branches. We have obtained all the information and explanations we have required. In our opinion such Balance Sheet is full and fair, containing the particulars required by the Regulations of the Company, and is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Company's affairs according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us and as shown by the books of the Company.

London, 23rd March, 1922.

COOPER BROTHERS & CO.,
W. A. BROWNE & CO., } Auditors.
Chartered Accountants,

Company Meetings.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA.

Trade Outlook in the East.

The Exchange Position.

The ordinary General Meeting of shareholders of the National Bank of India, Limited, was held on April 4 at the Wesleyan Hall, Bishopsgate.

Mr. Robert Williamson (deputy-chairman) presided.

The General Manager (Mr. C. Nicoll) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors, the chairman said:—Ladies and gentlemen, I presume that, as usual, the report may be taken as read.

I much regret that owing to long-continued indifferent health, making it difficult for him to move about either easily or with comfort, our chairman is obliged to be an absentee, and, I need not say, a very unwilling one, from to-day's annual meeting of shareholders. I would like, however, to tell you that he still takes a very keen interest in the affairs of the bank and its welfare, and is quite fit to do so. The telegrams received and dispatched from and to all our branch offices are sent to him every day, so that he is informed of all that is going on, and his advice is at all times at our disposal. We would be greatly delighted to see him in the bank again, and we look forward to having this pleasure by and by.

You will miss to-day our late general manager, Mr. Henry Chalmers, who since June 8, 1920, was also a member of the board, and to our deep regret died in a nursing home in Aberdeen on August 31 last year. He was taking his usual summer holiday during the last days of which he was seized with illness, necessitating a surgical operation—without, unfortunately saving his life. Mr. Chalmers had been connected with the bank for 44 years, for 16 of which he held the important position of manager of our office in Bombay, where his work for us was markedly successful. The last 19 years had been spent at the head office here, first as London manager, and since January 1, 1914, as general manager, both of them positions of great responsibility, and as the chairman has often told you, these burdensome duties were at all times well and ably handled by him.

A suitable expression of sympathy was sent to his widow and family by the directors, and, consequent upon his death, we have made the following appointments:—Mr. Charles Nicoll, who has successfully filled the post of London manager for nearly eight years past, was promoted to the post of general manager, and Mr. J. Y. Munro to that of London manager, whilst Mr. W. J. K. Hegarty, who was manager in Calcutta, has been made an inspector of branches, but is meantime retained in London. These gentlemen are well known to us, have been in the bank's employment since the days of their youth, are experts in business of the type carried on by us, and we feel that our affairs have been entrusted to competent hands in all respects.

Eastern Markets.

When I was addressing you 12 months ago I spoke of Eastern markets being overloaded with supplies of goods of a very miscellaneous character, also of stocks of produce from India and East Africa—skins, hides, cotton, etc.—stored in this country and in America waiting demand from consumers, and I expressed the opinion that the liquidation of these operations would call for the exercise of much patience and require considerable time before it was brought to a close. I am glad to tell you that satisfactory progress has been made in this work and that any losses to us connected with it have been fully provided for.

To-day it will not be out of place for me to refer briefly to some of the figures in the accounts which are in your hands, and in doing so I would draw your special attention to the fact that in view of the lower rate of exchange now ruling we have considered it advisable to revert to our practice of converting all rupee assets and liabilities at an exchange of 1s. 4d. per rupee. Those rupee assets and liabilities appearing in the previous balance-sheet of 1920 were taken at the statutory rate of 2s. per rupee, and this fact must be borne in mind when making a comparison between the figures of 1921 and 1920. The difference of 8d. per rupee pretty well explains the disparity between certain items, and I may say that taking 1920 figures on the same basis as that adopted for 1921 there is really very little difference between them.

The Accounts.

Touching briefly on the principal items, our cash balance of £6,236,423 can easily be augmented from our holding of securities, which total £5,000,000, many of which are short dated, and I may also mention in this connexion that we have a large holding of Indian and Home Treasury short-dated bills, so that a considerable proportion of our assets is in a very liquid form. Our securities, you will be pleased to hear, stand in our books at a figure materially below their present market value.

House property, as I explained last year, is an increasing item at present, but we are pursuing the policy of many years' standing, and are again proposing an appropriation from profits of £20,000 towards the reduction of the cost of same.

As regards bills of exchange and discounts, loans, etc., there is a reduction due to liquidation of outstandings on the other side and to the restriction in exports and imports, which has been a notable feature in the business of the last 12 months. For the same reason, acceptances on behalf of customers show a marked decline.

Turning to the other side of the balance sheet, the only item—and that an important one—which calls for comment is that of current, fixed deposits, and other accounts, and there I am glad to be able to say that an actual comparison on a 1s. 4d. basis shows that the figure of £34,295,599 is within about £400,000 of the figure for 1920, a feature which altogether I look upon with satisfaction.

The final results of the year's business show a profit of £555,063. 15s. 8d. after making provision for all bad and doubtful debts, to which there falls to be added £149,031 17s. brought forward from our last accounts, making a total of £704,095 12s. 8d. No half-yearly statement was issued to you in 1921—that practice is now at an end—but on September 20 last we paid an ad interim dividend of £1 5s. per share, or 20 per cent. per annum free of income tax, which absorbed £200,000. The directors now recommend payment of a final dividend at the same rate, and an addition of £100,000 to the reserve fund, raising it to £2,600,000. They also propose to write £20,000 off house property account and to add £20,000 to the officers' pension fund, leaving a balance of £164,095 12s. 8d. to be carried forward.

I venture to suggest that the results which we have been able to place before you, considering the adverse conditions with which we had to contend, are most satisfactory and encouraging and I feel confident that you also will so look upon them.

Currency and Exchange.

I commented at some length at our last annual meeting on matters of currency and exchange. As regards East Africa, which is also a sufferer from acute depression in trade, a great change has taken place within the last 12 months. The rupee has been demonetized in the colonies of Kenya, Tanganyika, and Uganda, and the coins have already been returned to India. The silver florin—the successor of the rupee—has also been put aside, and the currency is now the "shilling"—a coin applicable to these colonies only. These changes have been made on the authority of the Secretary of State for the Colonies and his advisers, and nothing need be said on the subject. It remains to be seen what effect they will have on the prosperity of the colonies concerned.

As to India, it is sufficient to point out that the statutory rupee remains at 2s. with Rs. 10 the equivalent of the £ sterling. This was a part of the scheme of currency reform, the adoption of which was recommended by the Committee appointed to examine and report on the subject, and although the Government gave effect to it, on paper, perhaps fortunately it has never come into operation and might well now be replaced by the 16d. rupee, with which we were familiar for so many years, and which, moreover, is the basis which the Government have themselves adopted in framing their Budget for the current year.

The statutory rate has, indeed, proved a real hindrance to trade, Indian merchants having frequently made use of it as an excuse for delay in taking delivery of goods which had arrived at their destination in fulfilment of contracts previously entered into, which, in their view, might well be ignored until a purchase of exchange at the Government rate of 2s. could be effected.

Free from Government interference, the sterling value of the rupee is left to find its own level, and to-day's T.T. quotation is 1s. 3.3-16d.; a year ago it was 1s. 3½d.

Rupee Fluctuations.

Fluctuations in rates of exchange, also in prices of silver, have been much less violent than in 1920, and the market price appears to be settling down again to near 1s. 4d.

Exchange.		Silver, per oz.	
Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.
1920.. 2s. 10d.	Feb. 11.. 1s. 4½d.	Dec. 10	
1921.. 1s. 6½d.	Jan. 8.. 1s. 2½d.	March 5	
1922.. 1s. 3 15-16d.	Jan. 3	—	
1920.. 89½	Feb. 11	38½	Dec. 10
1921.. 43½	Sept. 27	30½	March 5
1922.. 35½	Jan. 9	—	

With the Indian mints still closed to the coinage of silver to the public it is strange that the country should continue to import this metal so extensively as is being done, and this, too, in spite of a large trade balance adverse to India.

The figures for 1919 and the last two years compare thus:—

April 1, 1919—March 31, 1920 (12 months), Rs. 88,00,00,000 in favour of India.

April 1, 1920—March 31, 1921 (12 months), Rs. 50,00,00,000 against India.

April 1, 1921—Feb. 28, 1922 (10 months), Rs. 34,00,00,000 against India.

It is clear, I think, that the imports of silver—the figures of which are as follows—are not being paid for by exports of goods, and presumably must be increasing India's indebtedness to Europe, chiefly to this country:—

April 1, 1920—March 31, 1921 (12 months), in value Rs. 11 crores.

April 1, 1921—Dec. 31, 1921 (9 months), in value Rs. 11½ crores.

and, deducting Rs. 6½ crores exported, the excess in imports is Rs. 15½ crores.

In the same period the imports of gold were of the value of Rs. 32 crores, and of the exports Rs. 37½ crores, the bulk going to America and Japan, an excess in exports of Rs. 5½ crores.

(Continued on page 509).

THE CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA and CHINA.

HEAD OFFICE : 38, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON.

Incorporated by Royal Charter.

CAPITAL, in 6,000 Shares of £5 each - £3,000,000. RESERVE FUND - £3,700,000

Court of Directors.

Sir MONTAGU CORNISH TURNER, Chairman.
Sir DUNCAN CARMICHAEL.
THOMAS CUTHBERTSON, Esq.
Sir ALFRED DENT, K.C.M.G.
Sir WILLIAM HENRY NEVILLE GOSCHEN, K.B.E.
The Rt. Hon. LORD GEORGE HAMILTON, G.C.S.I.

The Rt. Hon. Sir JOHN NEWELL JORDAN, G.C.I.E., K.C.B.,
K.C.M.G.
WILLIAM FOOT MITCHELL, Esq.
JAMES MAXWELL GRANT PROPHIT, Esq.
LEWIS ALEXANDER WALLACE, Esq.

Chief Manager : W. E. PRESTON.

Auditors : DAVID CHARLES WILSON, F.C.A.; HENRY CROUGHTON KNIGHT STILEMAN, F.C.A.

Managers : J. S. BRUCE; G. MILLER.

Bankers :

THE BANK OF ENGLAND.
THE LONDON JOINT CITY & MIDLAND BANK, LIMITED.
THE LONDON COUNTY WESTMINSTER AND PARR'S BANK, LIMITED.
THE NATIONAL PROVINCIAL & UNION BANK OF ENGLAND, LIMITED.
THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED.

Agencies and Branches :

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

DIRECTORS' REPORT.

Presented at the Sixty-eighth Ordinary General Meeting, 5th April, 1922.

The Directors have now to submit to the Shareholders the Balance-Sheet and Profit and Loss Account of the Bank for the year ended 31st December last.

These show a net profit, after providing for all bad and doubtful debts, of £997,669 15s. 5d., inclusive of £209,601 9s. 11d. brought forward from the previous year. The Interim Dividend at the rate of Fourteen per cent. per annum paid in September last absorbed £210,000. The amount now available is therefore £787,669 15s. 5d., and the Directors propose to pay a Final Dividend at the rate of Fourteen per cent. per annum, together with a Bonus of Six shillings and three pence per share, making Twenty and a quarter per cent. per annum for the whole year, free of Income Tax; to add £100,000 to the Reserve Fund, which will then stand at £3,700,000; to add £25,000 to the Officers' Superannuation Fund; to write off Premises Account, £50,000, and to carry forward the balance of £215,169 15s. 5d.

Mr. W. Foot Mitchell, Sir Montagu Cornish Turner, and Mr. Lewis Alexander Wallace, the Directors who now retire by rotation present themselves for re-election.

The Auditors, Mr. David Charles Wilson, F.C.A., and Mr. Henry Croughton Knight Stileman, F.C.A., again tender their services.

The Dividend and Bonus will be payable on and after Wednesday, the 12th April.

By Order of the Court, A. S. HEWETT, Secretary.

LIABILITIES AND ASSETS, 31st December, 1921.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Capital, 600,000 Shares of £5 each	3,000,000	0	0	By Cash in hand and at Bankers	6,651,766	18	2
Reserve Fund	3,600,000	0	0	Bullion on Hand and in Transit	486,533	3	2
Notes in Circulation	1,926,922	15	2	Government and other Securities	9,432,796	8	8
Current and Other Accounts, including Provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts and Contingencies	26,301,204	12	2	Security lodged against Note Issue and Government Deposits	1,560,000	0	0
Fixed Deposits	15,648,155	3	9	Bills of Exchange, including Treasury Bills	16,422,953	16	10
Bills Payable :—				Bills Discounted and Loans	22,426,851	17	2
Drafts on demand and at short sight on Head Office and Branches	£3,095,661	11	10	Liability of Customers for Acceptances, per Contra	3,044,390	5	9
Drafts on London and Foreign Bankers against Security, per Contra	165,657	17	4	Due by Agents and Correspondents	119,457	18	1
Acceptances on Account of Customers	3,261,319	9	2	Sundry Assets, including Exchange adjustments	916,838	1	3
Loans Payable, against Security, per Contra	3,044,390	5	9	Bank Premises and Furniture at the Head Office and Branches	706,192	9	7
Due to Agents and Correspondents	986,000	0	0				
Sundry Liabilities, including Rebates	2,071	5	4				
Profit and Loss	2,210,047	11	11				
	787,669	15	5				
	£61,767,780	18	8		£61,767,780	18	8

Liability on Bills of Exchange re-discounted, £7,663,099 8s. 1d., of which £6,709,406 7s. 3d. has run off at 20th March, 1922.

Outstanding Forward Exchange Contracts for Purchase and Sale of Bills and Telegraphic Transfers, etc., £28,445,123 1s. 1d.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT for the Year ended 31st December, 1921.

Dr.	£	s.	d.	Cr.	£	s.	d.
To Interim Dividend at 30th June, 1921	210,000	0	0	By Balance at 31st December, 1920	709,601	9	11
Balance proposed to be dealt with as follows :—				Less Dividend for half-year to 31st December, 1920, on £2,000,000	£140,000	0	0
Dividend, at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, for the half-year to date	£210,000	0	0	Bonus of 6s. 3d. per share on 400,000 Old Shares £5 each	125,000	0	0
Bonus of 6s. 3d. per share	187,500	0	0	Reserve Fund	100,000	0	0
Reserve Fund	100,000	0	0	Officers' Superannuation Fund	35,000	0	0
Officers' Superannuation Fund	25,000	0	0	Bank Premises	100,000	0	0
Bank Premises	50,000	0	0		500,000	0	0
Carried forward to Profit and Loss New Account	215,169	15	5		209,601	9	11
	787,669	15	5				
	£997,669	15	5				
				Gross Profits for the year, after providing for bad and doubtful debts, Excess Profits Duty, Corporation Profits Tax and Bonus to the Staff	£1,613,917	14	5
				Less :—			
				Expenses of Management and General Charges at Head Office and Branches	825,849	8	11
					788,068	5	6
					£997,669	15	5

W. E. PRESTON, Chief Manager.

J. S. BRUCE, } Managers.

G. MILLER, }

CHAS. R. HYDE, } Accountants.

S. JONES, }

London, 22nd March, 1922.

Examined and found correct, according to the Books, Vouchers and Securities at the Head office, and to the Certified Returns made from the several Branches.

M. C. TURNER, }
ALFRED DENT, } Directors.
W. FOOT MITCHELL, }

D. C. WILSON, }
H. C. K. STILEMAN, } Auditors.

Outlook for Current Year.

On this occasion I am not able to describe our outlook for the current year as bright. So far as we have gone we have no reason to complain, but competition is keen and is more felt when the volume of business offering in the different markets is somewhat restricted, as has been the case in past months. Quite recently I have noticed a slight improvement in the finance aspect, both in imports and exports, and I hope for some further expansion in this direction. The balance of trade figures for February are only about Rs.60 lakhs adverse to India, compared with Rs.7 crores in January, and appear to be mainly due to a large falling off in imports. Last year's monsoon was particularly favourable in India, and very abundant crops of wheat, seeds, and cotton have been secured. From a cultivated area estimated at 29,000,000 acres in wheat a bumper yield may reasonably be expected, and after replenishing exhausted stocks in the country a fair supply should be available for export. In Burma, too, the rice crop is good, and shipments are now being made.

As you all know there is considerable unrest and discontent amongst the Indian population in widely separated districts, probably political in origin, but perhaps in some degree due to unsatisfactory economic conditions, extending over a considerable period of time, and I hope for a very marked change for the better to follow on the marketing of these large crops. This implies, of course, that buyers will be forthcoming, and that, again, is largely contingent on something like a settlement of the many difficult problems with which Europe is afflicted—all a legacy bequeathed to us by the Great War—but slow though it is, progress is being made in this direction, and I am not without hope that the troubles now surrounding trade conditions may gradually pass away.

Letters and telegrams to the bank say little or nothing of this unrest and nothing of the political movements in India, but in any case it is not in my province to discuss with you or comment upon matters of that type. Such knowledge of them as I possess is derived mainly from a perusal of our daily newspapers, which are available to you all.

Before bringing my remarks to a close I wish on behalf of the directors to give expression to our appreciation of the good services rendered to the bank throughout the past year under difficult circumstances by our staff both at home and abroad.

I beg to propose:—"That the report of the directors and statement of accounts for the year ended December 31, 1921, be received and adopted, and that a dividend for the six months to December 31, 1921, at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum be paid on the shares of the company registered at this date, the same to be payable, free of income-tax, on and after April 5, 1922."

Mr. Robert Miller seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The retiring directors (Sir John P. Hewett, C.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E., Sir Charles C. McLeod, and Mr. J. A. Toomey) were unanimously re-elected, and the auditors (Messrs. Cooper Brothers and Co. and Messrs. W. A. Browne and Co.) were reappointed.

Vote of Thanks to the Directors.

Mr. A. W. Martin.—Ladies and gentlemen, I beg to propose:—"That a very hearty vote of thanks be given to the chairman and directors for the care and prudence exercised in conducting the affairs of the bank during the past year." I do not think there can be anyone in this room who knows the condition of things existing in commercial affairs, especially in the East, who cannot feel what a deep debt of gratitude we owe to the gentlemen we see before us. We have heard from the chairman the difficulties the directors have had to meet, and we have heard how they have overcome them, and I think that we here must all feel that we owe to these gentlemen a very great debt of gratitude for the manner in which during these very difficult times they have helped and steered the bank to great success.

Mr. J. J. Moore—I have much pleasure in seconding that resolution.

Mr. F. Tomkinson.—Mr. Chairman, I rise to support the resolution which has just been proposed, because, knowing something of India, I do feel that the shareholders of this bank are indebted to the directors and desire to show the great appreciation which is expressed in the resolution. The strenuous times which have prevailed for years past, especially during the war, and in no small degree since peace was declared, have meant that business has been conducted under considerable difficulties. I was very pleased to hear the chairman make a comment on the prospects for the ensuing year. He said that the crop prospects were good, and I do think that if there should be a favourable crop a great deal of the discontent to which he referred and which we all so much regret may be removed. I want heartily to support the resolution, because I feel that we are greatly indebted to the board and also to the managers, not only here, but also in India, where they are working under conditions which are very unpleasant.

The Chairman.—Ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the board I desire simply to return your thanks. We will continue to do our best for you all, and I hope that if we are spared to assemble here next year we shall be able still to show you a fairly good state of affairs.

A vote of thanks to the staff, proposed by Mr. J. Irwin-Davis and seconded by Mr. James Sheriff and carried unanimously, was briefly acknowledged by the general manager, and the proceedings terminated.

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA AND CHINA.

Conditions in Eastern Markets.

The Sixty-eighth Ordinary General Meeting of the shareholders of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China was held on April 5 on the bank's premises, 38, Bishopsgate, E.C.

Sir Montagu C. Turner (the chairman) presided.

The Chief Manager (Mr. W. E. Preston) read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen,—Before dealing with the ordinary business of the meeting, I feel it would be only right to refer to the death, in October last, of our former chairman, Mr. John Howard Gwyther. He first entered the service of the bank in 1805, and was on the court of directors from 1887 to 1904, being chairman for the last eight years of that period. Mr. Gwyther was held in high esteem in the City of London as a banker of wide experience, sound judgment, and of the highest integrity. The bank owes much to Mr. Gwyther's sound, prudent, and able management.

The report of the auditors was then read by the Chief Manager.

The Chairman, continuing, said:—In moving the adoption of the report and balance sheet, I think I am justified in saying that, considering the conditions of trade and commerce which prevailed in 1921, the results disclosed therein may be considered as satisfactory. We have been able to make good use of the increased resources at our disposal consequent on the increase of the bank's capital; we show a moderate profit on our operations, and we give shareholders a reasonable return on their investment. At the same time we can assure them that all possible contingencies have been amply provided for.

Position in India.

The year 1921 has been one of considerable anxiety, of hope deferred, of frequent disappointment, and of unavoidable losses to most of those trading with the East. In India the absorption of accumulated stocks which might reasonably have been anticipated has been hindered by two principal causes. Political agitation, with unfair pressure on innocent traders, has at many points been exercised to prevent consumption of British goods—an agitation which should never have been permitted to assume the proportion it attained. The second adverse factor has been the maintenance of the rupee at a low level.

The inflexible law of supply and demand, the control on the export of rice and wheat, and the absence of European demand for other Indian commodities resulted in an adverse balance of trade to India and rendered a high rate of exchange absolutely out of the question. But this has not been an unmixed evil. A low rate of exchange, a rupee about 1s. 4d., has been a real blessing to the great tea industry of India and Ceylon, and has rendered business possible in other lines of produce. India has had a very favourable south-west monsoon, good winter rains in the United Provinces and the Punjab, and granted a return to normal peace conditions with a good south-west monsoon this year, we may look forward to greatly improved trade conditions in the autumn.

As regards the position in India generally, I am disposed to take the view that, provided the Government of India act consistently with firmness and justice—as I believe they will—there is no reason to view the situation with undue apprehension.

Aftermath of the War.

In all parts of the world, East and West, even in England itself, we have a widespread spirit of restlessness and discontent. There is a craving for change, a desire to attain what is in many cases unattainable, and a tendency to oppose all existing form of government. This is an aftermath of the Great War, and only time, with universal peace and good will, can bring about the contentment and good-fellowship which should prevail between nations and between the component parts of those nations. This is especially applicable to India, and I look forward with confidence to the time when we can say that the people of India are showing that spirit of loyalty, comradeship, and good will which should exist between all members of the British Empire. But to effect this we must have consistency in policy and firmness in administration. I do not deny that there are troubles at some points, serious troubles, in India, but they are partly agrarian, and can be dealt with by a just and firm Government. The conclusion of a peace with Turkey on liberal lines, as recently outlined by Lord Curzon, will also help to alleviate the present strain.

Tea Industry's Recovery.

In China the offtake of imported goods has also been interfered with by extremely unsettled conditions in the interior of the country, and by the comparative low rate of exchange. Serious losses have resulted, but the position has improved of late, and stocks are moving off gradually. Some time must elapse, however, before the position of the import markets, either in India or China, can be regarded with equanimity. It is satisfactory to note that the tea industry has wonderfully recovered from the position of adversity which overshadowed that most important asset in the trade of India and Ceylon.

Rubber, I regret to say, is still in a very unhealthy condition, and a return to paying prices has not yet been accomplished. Tin as a commodity has depreciated in value, and with the failure of these two principal sources of prosperity the financial position of the Federated Malay States and the Straits has suffered acutely.

Summarizing the position of the Eastern markets generally, we may say that, while export markets mainly show very little life, import markets have improved to the extent that accumu-

lated stocks are being gradually worked off, but it would be absolute folly on the part of shippers on this side to pour in fresh supplies which are not needed. The motto for all of us should be "slow and sure" until the dark clouds of depression have disappeared, and the purchasing power of consumers has attained more nearly to normal levels.

The Balance Sheet.

Turning to the figures in the balance-sheet, I think we may congratulate ourselves that, in spite of the heavy decline in the world's demand for raw produce and resultant reduced volume of our Eastern and Far Eastern export trades, our total figures only show a fall of just over £9,000,000 as compared with the corresponding figures for the previous 12 months—viz, from £70,932,744 15s. 10d. at the end of 1920 to £61,767,780 18s. 8d. at the close of 1921, particularly having in view the very considerable fall in Eastern and Far Eastern sterling exchanges which has taken place during that period.

Our total cash and bullion in hand at the close of the year, which amounted to £7,138,300 1s. 4d., represented a ratio of 27 per cent. as compared with our current account liabilities, standing at £26,301,204 12s. 2d., whilst, in addition, we held Government securities to the value of £9,432,796 8s. 8d., as against £3,081,090 10s. 7d. on December 31, 1920, and our policy in thus employing our surplus fund has, by course of events, been fully justified. Above and beyond this, our holdings of bills of exchange, including Treasury Bills, amounted to £16,422,953 10s. 10d., so that our liquid position was most satisfactory. Our bills discounted and loans outstanding, at £22,426,953 10s. 10d., as against our total assets, showed a reduction of about 4 per cent. as compared with the same period of last year—viz., from 40 to 36 per cent.

Our fixed deposits, standing at £16,648,153 3s. 9d., as against £16,628,534 17s. 4d. as at December 30, 1920, show a slight increase, which, in view even of the fall in exchanges, is exceedingly gratifying.

Dividend and Bonus.

As regards the report, it will be seen that the directors recommend the payment of a final dividend at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, together with a bonus of 6s. 3d. per share, making, with the interim dividend, 20½ per cent. per annum, free of income tax, to add £100,000 to the reserve, £25,000 to the officers' superannuation fund, to write off premises account £50,000, and to carry forward £215,169 15s. 5d.

■ We must all congratulate Mr. Preston and his colleagues, Mr. Bruce and Mr. Miller, on the results obtained. We thank them, and every member of the staff at home and abroad, for their loyal and devoted services to the bank.

■ With these remarks, I move, "That the report now presented, together with the balance-sheet and profit and loss account, be approved and adopted," and I will ask Lord George Hamilton to second it.

The Right Hon. Lord George Hamilton, G.C.S.I., seconded the resolution.

A Shareholder's Congratulations.

Mr. Frederick Tomkinson asked whether the British Government securities held to such a large extent by the bank were valued as at December 31 last, or at the lower price at which they were purchased, because in the latter case, that would mean the existence of a very large reserve for which there was nothing shown in the accounts. He added that he wished to express the appreciation which, he felt sure, those who were present must have for the lucid, clear, and very helpful speech which Sir Montagu Turner had delivered to the meeting. It was a great help to them in enabling shareholders to understand the position, and in throwing some light on the work of the bank, which had been so successfully carried on during a very difficult and a very strenuous year. He was sure they all felt deeply grateful to the management and staff, both here and abroad, for what they had been able to do. There was one comment he would like to make. The chairman had touched on the political position, and in that he (the speaker) thought the chairman was quite right. Quite recently he heard a chairman say it was not his mission as chairman of a bank, to make any reference to politics at all. In so far as politics were outside the bank's business, he quite agreed with that, but he was entirely with Sir Montagu, when the welfare of the people and the trade of the country, both of which were intermixed, were dependent on politics, and he thought the chairman was quite right in expressing the hope that firm government would be maintained in India for the good of that great Dependency. The agitators had certainly been somewhat less active since Gandhi's seclusion.

The Chairman, in reply, said that the Government securities appearing in the balance-sheet had been taken at the market price on December 31 last. The only criticism he had had was on a post-card received that morning from a lady, who suggested that the March dividend—he presumed by that she meant the dividend they were about to distribute—should be paid in March. Considering the accounts of the bank had to come right from the North of China, from Japan, Java, Manila, and America, shareholders would understand that it was impossible to expedite the receipt of those accounts more than was done at the present time. The meeting was called, and the dividend paid at the earliest possible moment. Another suggestion was that the interim dividend should be increased. He presumed that the lady shareholder forgot that they paid the same dividend in this half-year as in the first half-year, but in the second half-year the shareholders also received a bonus. They would quite understand that the bonus question could not be decided in the middle of the year, when they had only worked out six months of the full period. The lady very gratefully went on to say

that all connected with the bank deserved the highest praise for the very excellent results shown.

The motion was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

On the proposition of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Thomas Cuthbertson, it was unanimously resolved:—"That a dividend at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended December 31 last, together with a bonus of 6s. 3d. per share, both free of income-tax, be now declared, payable on and after the 12th inst."

Sir Duncan Carmichael proposed the re-election of the retiring directors (Mr. W. Foot Mitchell, Sir Montagu Cornish Turner, and Mr. Lewis Alexander Wallace).

This was seconded by Mr. J. M. G. Proffit, and carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. H. B. Henley, seconded by Mr. W. F. Green, the auditors (Mr. D. C. Wilson, F.C.A., and Mr. H. C. K. Stileman, F.C.A.) were unanimously re-appointed.

A vote of thanks to the directors and staff, proposed by Mr. R. Fergusson Banks and seconded by Mr. Tomkinson, was unanimously accorded, and after a brief acknowledgment by the chairman the proceedings terminated.

SUDAN LOANS.

On the motion for the second reading of the Government of the Sudan Loan (Amendment) Bill on April 5.

Mr. Hilton Young, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, said the Bill did not involve the raising, even by the Sudan Government, of any fresh money, but merely the reallocation of certain moneys which had been already raised. In the past they had passed several Acts authorizing the guarantee of interest on loans to the Sudan Government. In the last Act, in 1919, they guaranteed the interest on a loan of £6,000,000. Of that amount £4,900,000 was allocated to the Gezireh, or Blue Nile, dam scheme, £700,000 to the extension of the Sudan Railway, and £400,000 to the Tokar Railway scheme. The scheme of finance had been somewhat altered by events. The requirements of the Tokar scheme had been met by building a light railway, which had been financed entirely out of the revenues of the Sudan. In consequence, the £400,000 allocated by the 1919 Act was no longer required for that purpose. The funds originally provided for the Gezireh dam scheme, however, had turned out to be inadequate, principally in consequence of the war, and the increased cost of labour and material. The only purpose of the Bill was to reallocate the £400,000 in question to the urgent necessities of the Gezireh dam scheme. Large questions of policy were still involved in the completion of the Blue Nile scheme, both from the engineering and the financial point of view, but the present Bill in no way prejudiced the decisions yet to be taken.

Replying to the points raised, Mr. Hilton Young said, that the scheme was full of the greatest commercial promise for the cotton industry. A vast area could be brought under cotton production by means of hydraulic works. Many big private commercial enterprises had already risked large sums. There had been disappointments, which had made it necessary to conduct a very close and searching inquiry into the whole future of the scheme. A report had recently been obtained on the commercial, financial, and engineering prospects of the scheme and as to what was to be done in the future. That report had been received during the last few days, but it would be premature to make a statement at present.

The second reading was agreed to.

The Royal Exchange Assurance recommends a dividend of 9 per cent., making 16 per cent., less tax for 1921.

The Traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended March 25 amounted to £7,388.

The Minister of Finance has ordered that henceforth all goods imported into Czecho-Slovakia must be paid for in the currency of the country of origin. This order will not affect British merchants who have always insisted upon payment in sterling. It will however affect German and Austrian exporters.

LEGAL NOTICES.

MILTIADES JOHN COSMETTO, deceased,

Pursuant to the Statute 22nd and 23rd Victoria, Chapter 35, intituled "An Act to further amend the Law of Property, and to relieve Trustees."

Notice is Hereby Given that all creditors and other persons having any debt, claims or demands against the Estate of Miltiades John Cosmetto, late of No. 15 St. Mary Axe, in the City of London, Company Director (who died intestate on the 17th day of February, 1922, and Administration of whose estate was granted to Annie Cosmetto of No. 27, Cecil Road, Muswell Hill, in the County of London, widow of the said deceased the Administratrix by the principal Registry of the Probate Division of His Majesty's High Court of Justice, on the 23rd day of March, 1922), are hereby required to send particulars in writing of their debts, claims or demands to us, the undersigned, as Solicitors to the said Administratrix, on or before the 18th day of May, 1922. And Notice is Hereby Given, that at the expiration of that time the said Administratrix will proceed to distribute the Assets of the said Testator among the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the debts, claims and demands of which she shall then have had notice; and that she will not be liable for the Assets or any part thereof so distributed to any person or persons of whose debt, claim, or demand she shall not then have had notice.

Dated this 6th day of April, 1922.

STIBBARD, GIBSON & CO.,

21, Leadenhall, Street, London, E.C.3;

Solicitors to the said Administratrix.

Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Monday Evening.

Sugar.—Home refined has been in good request at unchanged rates. Tate's cubes at 53s. 9d.; mineral water sugar at 49s.; London granulated at 48s. 6d.; and Lyle's granulated at 48s. 9d.; show no change. Steadiness has prevailed in export descriptions. West Indian crystallized is firm at 43s., Czecho-Slovakian is steady at 21s. 4½d., and white Mauritius is unchanged at 44s. Cane sugar quotations are:—April, 15s. 6d.; May, 15s., August, 15s. 3d.; and September, 15s. 3d. White sugar quotations are:—April, 20s. 3d.; May, 20s. 3d.; August, 20s. 4½d.; September, 20s. 4½d.; and October-December, 19s. 1½d.

Coffee.—A variable tone has been prevalent during the week. Costa Rica has gained 2s. 6d. at 146s. 6d., while Indian has shed 2s. at 120s. Nairobi has lost 7s. at 111s., while Jamaica has been firm at 150s. The futures market has been firm. Quotations are:—May, 56s.; July, 57s.; September, 57s. 9d.; and December, 57s. 3d.

Dessicated Coconut.—The demand is smaller than last week, and stocks are still low.

Rice.—A steady demand has been noticeable, and has been exceptionally large for the American Java variety. One or two small shipments of Italian rice of good quality have arrived during the week.

Green Fruit.—Arrivals of oranges have improved slightly, while prices have risen considerably, in view of the large demand for Easter. Messina lemons, for the reason stated last week, have gone further out of favour, and there has been an increased demand for Naples. Large supplies of Australian and Tasmanian apples are expected shortly, at prices much below those of last year. Large quantities of Egyptian onions are still arriving and quotations are high.

Oilseeds.—A brighter tone has been in evidence. Indian linseed has gained 4½d. at 19s. 7½d., and La Plata at 19s. is 9d. up. Rapeseed is lower with Toria 1s. down at 16s. 6d., and bold Ferozepore 4d. down at 18s. 6d. Cottonseed has been variable. Indian has dropped 3d. at 18s. 6d., and Sakellaridis has shed 1½d. at 11s., while Egyptian black at 11s. 6d. has remained firm.

Oils.—Prices are unsteady. Linseed oil has risen 6d. at 36s. 6d. Rape oil is lower with the crude variety, 1s. down at 44s., and refined 2s. down at 46s. There has been no change in prices for cotton oil. Refined is 48s., deodorized 53s., and Egyptian crude 40s.

Oilcakes.—Linseed cake is 20s. down at 320s. ton, and cotton-meal cake has shed a like amount at 300s. ton. Coconut cake has been steady at 180s. ton as also Arachis cake at 200s. ton.

DRIED FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton & Co., Liverpool, report as follows under date April 4:—

Currents.—The firm tone of the market has been well maintained, but the amount of enquiry from the country is insufficient to stimulate buyers into activity. In the early weeks of the period under review samples of Zante fruit were obtainable from the cargo of s.s. Grodno, and these were quickly disposed of, from 58s. to 62s. Later the trade centred mostly round the lower and medium grades, and of these qualities very little is offering, the market being now almost cleared. The sales reported were, Pyrgos 56s., Amalias 57s. to 58s., Patras and Gulf ordinary 60s. to 61s., Zante 58s. to 62s., Vostizza ordinary 61s. to 63s., Vostizza good 68s. to 70s., and Vostizza fine 72s. to 75s. The s.s. Gulf of Suez has arrived with about 100 tons for the market, and s.s. Tyria is due about April 8. Quotations are:—Pyrgos 56s., Amalias and Patras 60s. to 62s.; Zante 58s. to 63s.; Gulf 60s. to 63s.; Panariti 65s. to 68s.; Vostizza 62s. to 75s.

Valencia Raisins.—Retail sales were effected with difficulty from 44s. to 70s. the trade taking very little interest in the article.

Sultanas.—Demand has been most disappointing. The statistical position is undoubtedly strong, and we fail to see how the requirements of the trade for the next five months are to be satisfied if the demand is anything like normal. It would appear inevitable that prices must go considerably higher than those ruling at present. Sales are 120s. to 125s. for fair to good. Coloured varieties 130s. to 137s., and fine up to 142s. 6d., Greeks 112s. to 122s., Afghan reds 92s., yellow 112s. to 115s., Californian soda and oil bleached varieties 105s. to 113s. ex quay.

Figs.—Smyrna bags of naturals move slowly at 62s. for prima, and 60s. for genuine qualities.

CURRENT PRICES.

General Produce.—Bacon: (Continental), 110s. 6d. cwt.; (Canadian), 105s. cwt.; (American), 97s. 6d. cwt.; butter (Danish), 193s. cwt.; (Australian), 155s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 170s. cwt.; cheese (Canadian), 97s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 92s. cwt.; lard, 98s. cwt.; eggs (Danish), 16s. 9d. per 120; Styrian, 12s. 9d. per 120; chillies, 160s. cwt.; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 2d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon good to fine), 92s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 129s. cwt.; (East Indian), 133s. 6d. cwt.; (Central American), 104s. cwt.; (Jamaica), 68s. 9d. cwt.; (Mocha longberry), 106s. 6d. cwt.; (Santos, superior), 67s. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochín), 52s. 6d. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 11½d. lb.; pepper (Singapore Black), 3½d. lb.; (Muntok white), 7½d. lb.; pimento, 2½d. lb.; raisins (Valencias), 75s. cwt.; sultanas (Smyrna), 121s. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 68s. 6d. cwt.; (Amalias), 57s. cwt.; sugar (Tate's cubes), 53s. 3d. cwt.; (Lyle's granulated), 48s. 7½d. cwt.; (Mauritius crystals), 45s. 1½d. cwt.; (West Indian crystallised), 43s. 1½d. cwt.; (centrifugal), 15s. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 1½d. lb.; rice (Rangoon No. 2), 14s. 3d. cwt.; (bran Rangoon), 46 8s. 9d. ton; cinnamon (firsts), 11½d. lb.; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 5d. lb.; tea (common to good common), 1s. 2½d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 6½d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 7½d. lb.; Ceylon (common to good common), 1s. 2½d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 6½d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 7½d. lb.; Java (common to good common), 10½d. lb.; wheat (English white), 54s. 6d. qr.; wheat (Australian), 60s. 3d. qr.; barley (malting), 50s. qr.; barley (feeding), 36s. 6d. qr.; oats (English) 33s. 6d. qr.; oats (La Plata), ex-ship, 25s. 3d. qr.; maize (La Plata), 41s. 6d. qr.; flour, 48s. 6d. sack.

Metals.—Aluminium, £122 10s. ton; Antimony (English Regulis), £30 15s. ton; bismuth, 9s. lb.; copper (standard), £57 13s. 9d. ton; copper (electro), £65 5s. ton; gold bars, 94s. 10d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 90s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 97s. 6d. ton; galvanised sheets (24 G), £16 5s. ton; lead (soft foreign), £21 3s. 9d. ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 1½d. unit; molybdenite, 27s. 6d. unit; nickel, £175 ton; platinum, 360s. oz.; plumbago, £16 ton; quicksilver, £10 13s. 9d. ton; spelter (G.O.B.), £25 8s. 9d.; tin (standard), £144 8s. 9d. ton; wolfram, 10s. 3d. unit; zinc sheets, £35 10s. ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 19s. 1½d. box; silver bars, 33½d. oz.

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Applications for Terms invited.

THE PALESTINE MARKET.

The following extracts are taken from the March report of the Imperial Ottoman Bank on Palestine :—

Imports and Exports.

£75,199 worth of German goods were imported during February *via* Haifa, of which £12,500 worth represented wood and machinery. The general imports during December amounted to £438,201, with Great Britain and Egypt leading (£145,409 and £61,447 respectively). The exports during the same month are valued at £58,004, of which £26,251 went to Great Britain, Egypt's figures being £24,043.

The principal imports are cotton fabrics, clothing, cigarettes, iron and steel manufactures, petroleum, rice, beer, sugar, fish salted, oranges, soap, wine, and lentils.

The Orange Crop.

It is anticipated that the total orange crop for the season 1921,22 will amount to 1,000,000 cases, of which 400,000 cases will go to Great Britain, 400,000 to Egypt, the balance being for local consumption, and supplies to Syria and Trans-Jordan. Prices for the present season commencing November, 1921, were 13s. per case, rising to 19s. by the beginning of February, while during the season 1920,21 the prices averaged 18s. per case, rising eventually to 25s.

Agricultural Prospects.

Prospects of increased areas of cultivation particularly of summer crops are widely entertained. A considerable increase in the output of broad beans and sesame is forecasted.

In spite of the initial unfavourable weather conditions there has been a gratifying advance in tobacco growing in Acre Sub-District where about 4,975 kgs. worth about £3,000 were harvested.

The Cereal Situation.

Cereal merchants and millers are experiencing the results of the general fall in world prices for cereals, and consequently find themselves with considerable stocks on their hands, which they have no alternative but to dispose of at a loss.

On the other hand considerable quantities of foreign flour, principally from Australia, have been arriving, and are disposed of at prices lower than the home-grown variety. The effect of this has at once been felt by a drop in the price of bread and consequently a reduction in the cost of living which is estimated to be at least 175 per cent. above pre-war.

It is hoped that the reduction in the cost of living will cause a corresponding reduction in the price of labour, and thus enable the next harvest to be grown at a cost considerably less than that obtained for the present harvest. The effect of this will be to make it impossible for imported flour (especially from countries like Australia where the cost of labour is high and freights to this country are heavy) to compete with the home grown variety.

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Cotton & Cotton Goods.

MANCHESTER REPORT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Friday.

Although the market during the past week has not been so active quite a large inquiry has been dealt with, and the resultant business is not to be despised. There is a feeling that our leading customers have not yet satisfied their wants. Numerous spinners and manufacturers have obtained relief, and owing to higher prices being insisted upon there has been rather a pause in operations. In view of the experience of merchants during the past twelve months a policy of caution is not unnatural. The wages question is yet to be settled, and traders would welcome a quick fixing of wage rates for a further period. With regard to cloth not much support has been given by the Near Eastern outlets. Advices from Egypt have not been very favourable, and remittances are not coming to hand in a satisfactory manner. Minor transactions have been booked in a variety of fabrics for the Levant and Constantinople. With regard to Egyptian yarns no general flow of orders has been experienced, but at the same time prices have continued firmer. There has been plenty of cloth inquiry about for India, and some transactions have been put through for the several outlets of our Dependency. Buyers for China have only operated within narrow limits. American yarns have continued firm in quotation, and a large part of the demand has had to be turned down owing to the smallness of the offers. In shipping the turnover has not been quite so large as last week.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows under date April 5:—

Trade during the past week has proceeded steadily, but on somewhat quieter lines than before. The tendency on the whole has been for prices to ease slightly here, although, in contradistinction, merchants in Alexandria have shown a marked desire to stiffen prices from that quarter, and this in face of the still heavy receipts which are daily noted there.

The bulk of the enquiry has again been for Sakellaridis, Fully Fair to Strict Fully Good Fair, and prices paid have ranged generally between 13.50d. to 17.00d. There seems at the moment an inclination amongst spinners to experiment more freely with the lower grades, the necessity of discovering a "mixing" which will enable them to turn out yarn at a profit (or at any rate) without loss driving them to do so.

No spinner can afford, these times, to continue to pay fancy prices for a running mark of cotton, no matter how well the particular mark may have suited his requirements in the past. Shareholders are becoming very critical nowadays, and our experience is that spinners are taking far more trouble than ever before to really see what is offering, for themselves. Their views are broadening out and, as we mentioned above, necessity is driving them into hitherto untrodden paths in search of the wherewithal which will enable them to spin at a profit, instead of merely accumulating stock.

A small enquiry has been noticeable for Uppers—Fully Good and a moderate business has taken place at prices which vary between $\frac{1}{4}$ d and $\frac{1}{4}$ d off the official quotations. Sudan is still moving quietly. Brown and White cottons have been neglected, as well as the finer grades of Sakellaridis, for which there has been practically no enquiry this week at all. Manchester reports, while not speaking of any marked broadening in trade, continue to make hopeful reading. The tone keeps very good and prices continue to harden, but Egyptian yarns appear to be lagging somewhat at the moment. Unfortunately, the talk of wage reductions in the trade here has led many foreign merchants to anticipate matters by bidding under current rates, in the hope that manufacturers will "take a view" and meet them in advance. This sort of thing seems to be rather unsettling business at the moment at the Manchester end, but in spite of it it is refreshing to read in one report that some spinners and manufacturers are now beginning to see what is described as a "fractional profit" on their turnover. A meeting between employers and employed is being held as we write, and the latest news is to the effect that the wages reduction question is being discussed in a friendly spirit, which

seems to augur well for the future. The engineering dispute has also taken a turn for the better, and there is no doubt that if this dispute could be satisfactorily settled, a healthier tone would speedily become apparent in almost all trade circles.

The average weekly deliveries to spinners in Great Britain still hovers just below the 6,000 bale mark, and this is by no means an unsatisfactory figure, considering the times we are passing through. We look to the future with confidence, although we can see no immediate prospect of any sharp upward movement in the market, owing to the large stocks of cotton still available. Total sales estimated 1,900 bales (includes 200 Sudan). Quotations of Sakel are reduced $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb., as also are the quotations of Good, Fine, and Extra Fine Uppers; remainder unchanged. Fully Good Fair Sakellaridis to-day 17 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.

LANCASHIRE COTTON SPINNING.

Comparative Dividends.

During the past few days the stocktaking results to the end of February of thirty Lancashire cotton spinning companies have been announced. The mills have an aggregate paid up ordinary share capital of £4,066,047 and a total spindleage of 2,661,146. Seventeen concerns have had to pass the dividend, but the remainder made distributions ranging from 5 to 25 per cent. per annum absorbing a sum of £51,522.

Of the twenty-one companies whose reports cover the quarter ended February 28th and which possess a paid up ordinary share capital of £2,633,547 and control 1,925,462 spindles, twelve could not make any payment, but three declared a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent., two 10 per cent., one 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., two 20 per cent., and one 25 per cent. per annum, accounting for £26,689. The average dividend per company is 5.36 per cent., the same as for the previous three months for the same firms, and for the quarters ended August, May and February, 1921, the averages were 5.83, 7.98 and 11.11 per cent. per annum, respectively.

The accounts for nine of the mills relate to six months trading, and the directors of five of them have been unable to recommend a dividend. Two companies, however, paid 5 per cent. and two others 15 per cent., the average being 4.44 compared with 5 per cent. six months since, and 7.54 per cent. a year ago. These nine firms own 735,684 spindles, the total capital is £1,432,500, and the amount required for the above dividends £24,833.

THE INDIAN MARKET FOR PERFUMERY.

H.M. Senior Trade Commissioner in India has written to the Department of Overseas Trade regarding the demand for perfumery and essences in that country as follows:—

"The principal perfumes for which there is a demand in India are the leading British manufactures, such as otto of roses, white rose, lavender water, etc., and there is also a good demand for French perfumery among the European population; but the latter perfumes, such as eau-de-Cologne, etc., are on sale in London at a much cheaper price than procurable in India. There is a fair demand for Japanese perfumery from the higher-class Indian and Eurasian population in India.

"I have made local enquiries regarding the principal sources of supply of essences, and it appears that practically the whole demand is met by the United Kingdom and that there is a ready sale for well-known British brands, while there is also a certain demand for French flavouring essences which are used in the preparation of icing and confectionery; but these essences are imported direct by the leading confectioners and are not on sale in this market. The consensus of local opinion points to the fact that both perfumes and essences of British origin meet with practically no competition from other countries."

The Palestine Crafts and Industries Exhibition, which is being held at the Citadel, Jerusalem, was opened by the High Commissioner on April 4. The exhibition which will be open till April 30, has been organised in order to maintain and assist local crafts, and contains products of the industries carried on by hand in every district in Palestine.

H.M. Representative at Athens reports by telegraph that an amendment to the Tariff Law submitted to the Greek Legislature provides that, as from March 21, the Greek Customs duties are to be levied in gold drachmae, parity being based on the value of the pound sterling as fixed from time to time by the Consortium. Municipal (Octroi) dues, which are levied in addition to the Customs duties and which were not affected by the measure introduced into the Greek Chamber on July 22, last, will now be calculated on the same basis as the ordinary Customs duties.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

P. AND O. DIVIDEND.

The directors of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co. announce a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the preferred stock, less tax, and an interim dividend at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum on the deferred stock, free of tax, for the half-year ended March 31 last. Warrants will be posted May 18. A year ago the distribution on the deferred stock was at the same rate.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

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

Anchor Line.—S.s. Castalia for Bombay (Liverpool, April 21) ; s.s. Massilia for Bombay (Liverpool, May 5).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Imani for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, April 25) ; s.s. Macharda for Calcutta (Birkenhead, April 29) ; s.s. Mandasor for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, May 9) ; s.s. Magdapur for Calcutta (Birkenhead, May 13).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Lancashire for Rangoon (London, April 19) ; s.s. Oxfordshire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, April 26).

Byron Steamship Line.—S.s. Maid of Athens for Patras, Piraeus, Constantinople, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, April 15).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Ronald for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (Birkenhead, April 20).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Tyria for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Odessa, Novorossisk, Poti, and Batoum (Glasgow, April 21) ; s.s. Phrygia for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, etc. (Liverpool, April 27, and Swansea, May 2).

Ellerman Line.—S.s. Egyptian for Gibraltar, Melilla, Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, April 19) ; s.s. Gerano for Gibraltar, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas and Varna (Liverpool, May 6).

Ellerman's "City" Line.—S.s. Walton Hall for Bombay and Karachi (Birkenhead, April 21) ; s.s. City of Shanghai for Calcutta (Birkenhead, April 25) ; s.s. City of Agra for Calcutta (Birkenhead, May 9).

Ellerman's "Hall" Line.—S.s. Merton Hall for Bombay, Karachi and the Punjab (Liverpool, May 1).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—Steamers sail fortnightly for Malta, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz and Braila.

Glen Line.—S.s. Glenavy for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, May 4) ; s.s. Glenluce for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, May 18) ; s.s. Glenbeg for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, June 1).

Harrison Line.—S.s. Navigator for Port Said, Port Sudan, Aden, Mombassa, etc. (Birkenhead, April 20) ; s.s. Colonial for Calcutta (Liverpool, May 4).

Henderson Line.—S.s. Pegu for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, April 19) ; s.s. Martaban for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, May 3).

Holt Line.—S.s. Cyclops for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, April 20) ; s.s. Eurypylos for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, April 20) ; s.s. Athens for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, April 20) ; s.s. Demodocus for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Swansea, April 26) ; s.s. Phemius for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Swansea, April 26).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Dromore for Piraeus, Syra, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, April 15) ; s.s. Avimore for Piraeus, Syra, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, April 29).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. Cressado for Algiers, Malta, Syra, Smyrna and Constantinople (Liverpool, April 15).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Kaiser-I-Hind for Bombay (London, April 21) ; s.s. China for Bombay (London, April 28) ; s.s. Nagoya for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, May 5) ; s.s. Caledonia for Bombay (London, May 5) ; s.s. Soudan for Bombay (London, May 6).

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. Madura for Bombay and Karachi (London, April 21) ; s.s. Nuddea for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, April 29) ; s.s. Chindwara for Bombay and Karachi (London, May 5) ; s.s. Nardana for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, May 13).

Prince Line.—S.s. Merchant Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria and Syrian Coast (Manchester, April 21) ; s.s. Algerian Prince for Malta, Alexandria and Syrian Coast (London, April 21).

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated April 3 :—

Condition of Crops.—March 31—In Bengal, rain urgently required for sowings. In the Punjab, wheat and gram continue good on the whole, but shortage of rain for the last two months has detracted from the expected yield. In Bihar and Orissa later reports show damage to wheat, and premature heat reduces the estimate of the average out-turn for that Province to 110 per cent. of normal as compared with 115 per cent. reported in the second wheat forecast, 1921-22, published on March 13, 1922. (The normal out-turn, taking the average of the last five years, is 476,000 tons or 5.1 per cent. of the average out-turn of the whole of India, including the Native States. The average percentage of the area under wheat in Bihar and Orissa is 3.9 per cent. of the total area in India under wheat.) Prospects in other provinces are unchanged.

Markets.—March 30—Bombay cotton market steady. Fine M.G. Oomras, Rs. 396 May, Rs. 410 July. Bombay cotton arrivals from September 1, 1921, to March 24, 1922, were 2,107,000 bales as compared with 1,563,000 bales during the same period of the last year. In Bombay imported piece-goods market, general demands have somewhat fallen off, but rupee rates remain steady. The Bombay Native Piece-goods Merchants' Association had under consideration a proposal to re-establish the boycott of foreign piece-goods under penalty of Rs. 100 per bale for violation of the boycott, but the Association has rejected this proposal. April 1—Calcutta Jute and gunny markets firm but quiet. Hessians very firm. March 28—Demands continue for spot T.N. shellac, of which offerings are poor. Closing prices T.N. Rs. 197 spot, at which there are buyers ; Rs. 188 April and Rs. 182 May, at which there are sellers. March 31—Special Straits quality rice, Rs. 495.

Railway Strike.—Strikers on East Indian Railway are returning in coal districts. *Coal.*—Export of coal from India is prohibited except on Government account or under permit from the Collector of Customs for bunkering steamers. *Duty on Cotton Yarn.*—The import duty is 5 per cent. *ad valorem* with effect from March 1, 1922. Formerly it was free. No change in bank rates.

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THE NEAR EAST.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 1922.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Angora and the Armistice.

The incidence of the Easter holidays makes it necessary that these notes should be written earlier than usual, and at the same time, by dislocating to some extent the mail and telegraphic services, leaves us with little or no late news on several important points. Thus, at the time of writing we do not know definitely whether France, Italy and Great Britain have replied to the counter-proposal put forward by the Angora Government. The three Allies, have, however, allowed it to be known that their view is that the Angora suggestion is unacceptable, and that they are in complete agreement on the attitude to be adopted by them in the matter. The latter point at any rate is all to the good ; and unless Angora is much more unsophisticated than we take it to be, it is will hardly be surprised by this reply to its own " first price." The parties are manoeuvring for position, but we hope the process will not be long drawn out.

The "Minorities."

The proposals for the Greek withdrawal from Asia Minor have given rise to much anxiety amongst the friends both of the Greeks and of the Turks, who fear that the very suggestion has been enough to imperil the safety of non-combatants on both sides. Unfortunately we cannot think the fears ungrounded ; on the contrary, as we have indicated already, they seem to us to be only too well grounded. In passing, we cannot but deplore the extraordinary state of mind exhibited by certain Members of Parliament who show the utmost readiness to believe everything bad about one side, no matter whence the reports may come, and at the same time refuse to believe reports discreditable to their protégés even when they rest upon the evidence of men who know far more of the subject than the emotional gentlemen who appear to be ever ready to condemn wholesale all who venture to profess a different religion from their own. Some of the questions asked in Parliament by one particular Member, in connection with these armistice proposals, have shown a bias and a spirit of fanaticism not unworthy of one of the late Mahdi's warriors.

A Suggestion.

Fortunately other Members of Parliament and many of the public take a wider view of the subject ; and there seems to be a very general desire that steps should be taken as quickly as possible to minimize the evils likely to accompany the changes expected. The Under-

Secretary for Foreign Affairs gave an assurance the other day that every measure will be taken to meet eventualities. That is, necessarily, a vague promise, but we hope it will not be forgotten. In the meantime it seems to us that both the Greeks and the Kemalists would enormously strengthen their moral position if they invited either the League of Nations or else some neutral nations to appoint forthwith " special Commissioners " of the kind contemplated in the Paris proposals, to bear witness that they—the combatants—are observing the rules of civilised warfare. Such a suggestion we hope will give no offence. It is intended merely as a proposal for putting an end to rumours and insinuations which must be at least as offensive to every decent Greek and Turk as they are distressing to neutrals.

The Fiume Question.

Yugoslav and Italian representatives met last week to endeavour to settle finally the problem of Fiume and certain minor difficulties connected with the Treaty of Rapallo. The discussions, conducted by M. Nintchitch, the Foreign Minister, on behalf of Yugoslavia, and Signor Contarini on behalf of Italy, are reported to have been marked by a reasonable tone on both sides ; and such good progress was made in the early days that some of the Italian papers already regard the question as settled. The Yugoslavs are not quite so optimistic, though they appear to anticipate a complete settlement of the question this time. According to one report, it is probable that the administration of Fiume will be entrusted to a mixed Commission of Italians and Yugoslavs ; but the ownership of Baross remains to be settled, and details, such as the water supply of Zara, afford material for a good deal of discussion yet. The great thing is that both sides are showing good will in the matter.

The Egyptian Constitution.

The first sitting of the Commission formed to frame the Constitution of Egypt was held in Cairo on April 11, when Sarwat Pasha took the opportunity of putting forward the Government's views on the subject, and of replying to criticisms of its handling of the question. Briefly, he contended that Egypt should not be bound by precedents set by other countries, but by her own requirements and by precedents established in Egypt itself. He observed, very justly, that the submission of the Constitution to the National Assembly would probably lead up to agitation that would be injurious to the country ; and that it was essential for Egypt to

get forward with the negotiations regarding the reserved subjects without any disturbance of the public order. The Commission afterwards began its labours by discussing the definition of Egyptian nationality—a difficult subject always. A satisfactory beginning has thus been made with an undertaking which seemed likely at one time to be long delayed by the tactics of the extremists ; and the Cabinet and its supporters are entitled to congratulate themselves on having faced and overcome yet one more lion in the path that leads to true progress.

The Turco-Bulgarian Frontier.

Our Sofia Correspondent in the letter from him which we published last week gave us the Bulgarian view of the Allies' proposals for a Near Eastern settlement, or for the first step towards such a settlement, and in doing so he naturally referred to the question of a Turco-Bulgarian frontier. We must confess that we are unable to share the alarm felt in some quarters about letting the two countries mentioned have a common frontier. Unless we are to assume that Turkey and Bulgaria are always to be united against the Entente, or against the other nations of the Balkans, it seems to us that such an arrangement would possess at least some compensations for, say, Greece. But without pursuing that line of argument, it is permissible to point out that under the proposals now made, Turkey and Bulgaria are actually to be given a common frontier though a very restricted one ; and that being so, the danger—if any there be—of giving them a longer one alarms us less than ever. In any case, if the Allies are to redeem their pledges regarding an outlet on the Aegean for Bulgaria, that problem is obviously bound up with this other of the common frontier, and it would be wise to consider them together.

Democracy in Teheran.

A message despatched from Teheran on April 11, by Reuter's correspondent, reports that a strong agitation is on foot there against Reza Khan, the War Minister, who is also described by the message as "Military Dictator." Whether the latter title has been formally awarded to, or assumed by, the energetic Minister in question we do not know. It is true that we have seen no announcement regarding it, but news from Persia is so rare nowadays that that is nothing to go by. In any case, it has been clear for some time that Reza Khan was in fact a military dictator, and the designation is therefore a quite natural one. The most significant thing about the message referred to is the indication it gives of the source of the agitation. It is, it seems, His Excellency the representative in Teheran of the Soviet Government who disapproves of Reza Khan, and his disapprobation is due to the anti-Bolshevist sympathies of the War Minister. But may not a Minister in his own country express his views and opinions ? It looks as if the Bolshevik bully thinks he may not—when they happen to be anti-Bolshevist. A choice collection of Democrats is apparently at the Russian Legation, and some fifty of Reza Khan's cossacks have taken refuge at a shrine some little distance from Teheran. The inner significance of the latter piece of news is not clear to us, but the former merely illustrates the truth of the old proverb about birds of a feather.

Enver and the Bolsheviks.

Enver Pasha can have very few friends in this country to-day, but if the latest news regarding him be true, many people here will wish him success in his latest adventure. For, according to Afghan reports, he is at

the head of an anti-Bolshevist movement in Bokhara, and has gained some success. The tribes of Eastern Bokhara are said to have rallied to him—as might be expected after their experience of Bolshevism—and further assistance is reaching him from Ferghana ; and Doshambek, the headquarters of the Bolsheviks, is reported to have been captured by him. Refugees from Bokhara are flocking into Afghanistan, and they give depressing accounts of the state of their country. The Afghan view of the matter, if the Kabul press may be trusted, is that the Bolsheviks have themselves to blame for the business, because they have been interfering in the affairs of Bokhara, whose independence they had professed to recognize. Some pleasing possibilities attach to the situation, but it would be unwise to build any high hopes on it.

British Clubs in the Near East.

The average Briton may not be a very sociable person, but, when he is abroad at any rate, he usually shows a club-able spirit. Our Correspondents in Constantinople and in Baghdad this week report manifestations of this spirit. In the former city the British community is endeavouring to bring to fruition a long-discussed project for the foundation of an all-British club ; in Baghdad the plan is to establish an Anglo-Irakian—or, should we say, Irako-British ?—Club. Both proposals have much to recommend them, and we hope that both will go forward to triumphant success. The British community in Constantinople has long been a very important one, but its position differs little if at all from that of other leading European communities. It is quite numerous enough to support a club that shall be a credit to itself and, besides being a social centre, serve both directly and indirectly, to enhance British prestige in a way which only those with experience of such things can understand. The club proposed for Baghdad would, if run on wise lines, serve other interests, no less important. It could be made an important factor in helping Briton and Arab to understand one another better, and might serve to remove certain war-time impressions not quite favourable to the British reputation, and to make the British status approximate more closely to what it was at the close of the last century.

English High School, Constantinople.

In connection with the above subject we may refer to the position of the English High School for Boys at Constantinople. Ever since it was opened this admirable institution has done splendid work, not only in giving facilities for a good education on English lines to a considerable number of pupils, but by helping to spread British ideals and a knowledge of the English language. These things mean, in their turn, that the School has, both directly and indirectly, been instrumental in furthering British commercial, and even political interests in Turkey and the Near East. At the present time every bit of help in this direction is certainly required, if Great Britain is to hold her own against her active and enterprising rivals, and it is therefore very unfortunate that the School's activities are hampered rather seriously by financial difficulties.

"Come Over and Help Us."

The school was hard hit by the war, when it was, of course, closed ; it is now wrestling, like every other institution and every individual in Constantinople, with the calamitous state of affairs brought about by the depreciated exchange ; and it has had the grievous

misfortune to have its boarding house burnt down in one of Constantinople's famous fires. The school has a claim against the Ottoman Government for material damages suffered in the War, but it is problematical when, and how, it will be met; and the British Government unaccountably makes it no annual grant at present. In view of what the Governments of other countries have done and are doing for similar institutions of their own nationality, it is much to be desired that our own Government would put into practice the professions made about helping British institutions of this kind abroad. Even a small annual grant would be a godsend to the school, and assistance in collecting its claim against the Ottoman Government might surely be given. It is in such cases as this that the "penny wise, pound foolish" policy is most to be deprecated. The British in Constantinople founded and have liberally helped the school. Now an opportunity offers to others who care for British interests in Turkey, to show their interest in practical fashion.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Monday Evening.

The Holiday.

Easter has proved a disappointment. Violent gales, blizzards, snow and hail, and a bitter east wind have made holiday-makers at the seaside long for their own firesides. There was a great exodus from London, but I imagine most of the folk will be glad enough to get back. When April is nice it is very, very nice, but when it is nasty it is horrid.

Genoa.

Every editor in London seems to have gone to Genoa, but they do not appear to have achieved much for their pains; at any rate the reports they have transmitted home are singularly unimpressive, and evoke no enthusiasm. There is an impression here that the Bolsheviks are making most of the running, with the Germans awaiting their opportunity to score a trick or two as occasion offers; Mr. Lloyd George does not seem to have done any spell-binding yet, and there is a plentiful lack of belief in the good results of the Conference. The idea that the European nations shall impose a self-denying ordinance on themselves against war for the next ten years has fallen very flat; after all, the real guarantee against war for the next ten years is that we all had more than enough of it in the last ten years. Idealistic friends assure us that that is a most unworthy and materialistic view of human nature, but I am afraid it is justified. The only country in Europe where war has any votaries to-day is Ireland, which was the only country that had no real war experience in 14-18; and as Ireland cannot get anyone else to fight with her, even England having gone on strike, she is considering a civil war on her own.

Ireland.

It is impossible to follow every move in the tangled game between De Valera and Michael Collins. The theory is that the former is being supplanted by still more extreme politicians of his own kidney; they seem able to prevent free speech, the freedom of the Press, and ordinary railway travelling. This, of course, is anarchy pure and simple. The Provisional Government is full of words, but it seems to have little power to translate them into action. Its authority has again been flouted even in Dublin, where some official buildings have been seized by Republican soldiers.

Parliament.

Westminster is undergoing its usual spring-cleaning, and members are scattered far and wide. Home politics are dead for the rest of the month, and will not revive until Sir Robert Horne introduces the Budget on the first of May. It was rather significant that one of the last questions answered in the House showed that a large amount of income-tax was still unpaid. The banks

have financed a good deal by overdrafts, but I suppose they have some customers who cannot get credit even to pay the tax-collector.

Improving Trade.

However, there is general agreement that trade is at last really improving. The lowering of the bank rate last week will help, and a great deal of the capital which we have exported lately to the colonies will come back sooner or later in the shape of orders for goods. This, and not Russia, is our real hope for the future. Meanwhile, gilt-edged stocks still boom, and War Loan (1917 brand) is now above par. All this is good for the Government and, what is more important, good for our tempers.

The Armstrong Poisoning Case.

The poison trial at Hereford came to an end last Thursday in the conviction of Herbert Armstrong, a well-known Welsh solicitor, for the murder of his wife a year earlier. The defence put forward was one of suicide, but this was impossible; the dead woman was physically incapable of getting at the arsenic during the time at which the fatal dose must have been taken, and, moreover, it was given in evidence that within six hours of her death, Mrs. Armstrong had expressed a strong desire to get well, as "she had everything to live for—husband and children." All the time the husband was slowly poisoning the poor lady. It was a peculiarly heartless case, as the husband kept up an appearance of affection for his wife, and that alone is likely to forbid any of the usual public sympathy for a man about to be hanged. There is to be an appeal on a point of law, but there is another charge of attempted murder—this time on a fellow solicitor in the same town—hanging over Armstrong.

General admiration is expressed for the very able way in which the judge, Sir Charles Darling, handled a very difficult case. It was the first experience of Sir Ernest Pollock, the new Attorney-General, of a prosecution for murder, and I am assured by those who were present in court that he was more affected by the death sentence than the prisoner himself.

A Journalistic Revolution.

An extraordinary change seems to be coming over Fleet Street. There was a time when newspapers existed to sell news and views; now they exhort you to buy them in order to insure yourself. One promises you a thousand pounds if you are killed in a railway accident, another sends you four pounds a week if you tumble downstairs, a third compensates you if the clothes-horse in the kitchen catches fire, and a fourth genially promises something on account if the housemaid has a fit or the cook breaks her neck. (None of them, by the way, insure you against the cook giving a month's notice—I suppose that would bankrupt even the *Daily Mail*.)

I do not quite like the new fashion. It gives me an uncomfortable feeling that I am worth more dead than alive, as I take in a lot of papers; but perhaps that is mere personal prejudice. But I rather doubt whether this gruesome form of body-snatching will be good business in the long-run.

The Early Bird.

Some ridiculous person has been suggesting that we all start work too late, and advocating the opening of banks, shops, and exchanges at eight o'clock, or some such ungodly hour; and from the amount of discussion it has led to, the proposal seems to be taken seriously in quarters which should know better. But I doubt if the early bird would catch the worm. I remember once, torn between hatred of Christmas crowds and the duty of buying Christmas presents, I made herculean efforts and walked into Selfridge's at half-past nine on Christmas Eve; I had the shop to myself, and a charming young lady assured me I should always be safe from the crowd before 10.30. Alas! not even for her could I abandon the habit of a lifetime, and break-fast before ten. But that experience rather indicates that if banks and other places opened at dawn, they would find nothing to do. In the tropics it is different,

but the fact is that in England at least, the beauty of the sunrise is much exaggerated, and most of us don't want to see it. The average man who gets up early is a bad-tempered brute, who revenges himself on society for his own folly.

The Week's Books.

"Einstein and the Universe" (T. Fisher Unwin), by Charles Nordmann, astronomer to the Paris Observatory, is really an exposition of Einstein without tears—in other words, without mathematics. It is brilliantly written, and it does good service in claiming credit for M. Poincaré for his share in the concept of relativity, while it admits that some of the criticisms passed by M. Painlevé are formidable objections.

"Poland Reborn" (Chapman and Hall), by Roy Devereux, is a quite excellent account of post-war Poland written by an observer on the spot. Now that the flood of Polish propaganda has rather died down, an impartial account of the most promising of the Succession States is very welcome. There are a few pictures.

"How to be Useful and Happy from Sixty to Ninety," by Dr. A. L. Smith (John Lane), is a book whose title alone attracts one. The recipe includes abstention from tobacco, alcohol, tea, and coffee, rising at six and bed at ten, no worry, plenty of boiled mutton and no pork; keep thin and work hard till you drop, and above all, take care of your colon. It is rather a drastic programme. But I remember a dreadful story of a reporter who was sent down to the country to interview a hale and hearty centenarian, and in reply to the inevitable question of how he did it, Methusaleh answered that he drank whisky at every meal, never took a bath, and made his wife do all the work. He had used up three wives in the process, but it was understood that he contemplated life with a certain satisfaction, although he probably did not even know he had a colon. In the interests of public morals, this story was suppressed at the time, but I present it to Dr. Smith for his next edition.

Two novels may be mentioned. In "The Veneerings" (Chatto and Windus), Sir Harry Johnston continues the story of "Our Mutual Friend" in the next generation; a daring experiment that is not wholly successful, but is not without interest; while in "The Red House Mystery" (Methuen), Mr. A. A. Milne tries his hand at a detective story. My own private opinion is that there is no such thing as a bad detective story, but Mr. Milne's comes very near the top-notch in that high art. He is an astonishing man. His plays are good; even his jokes in *Punch* are good; and now he has measured himself against the best of all types of fiction, and succeeded, I take my hat off to him. May he write many more!

"The Changing Year" (Hodder and Stoughton), by Anthony Collett, is a nature book by one of the most charming writers of the younger school. Mr. Collett is one of those happy people who seem to have eyes in the back of their heads when he takes his walks abroad, and his touch is unaffected and true.

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RARE INDIAN COINS.

The British Museum has acquired the collection of coins made during the last 15 or 20 years in India by Mr. R. B. Whitehead, I.C.S. Mr. Whitehead, who enjoyed exceptional opportunities of collecting in the Punjab, amassed a remarkable series of coins dating from the period of the Greek kings, successors of Alexander the Great, in Bactria and North-West India, down to modern times.

The coins of the Greek kings are almost the only extant record of the history of the period, and provide not only the name: but portraits, often of considerable artistic value, of a number of rulers from the third century B.C. onwards, says *The Times*. Many of the pieces now acquired are excessively rare, and the Museum series of these coins, already incomparably rich, will be increased by over 400 specimens. Even larger is the accession, amounting to nearly 2,500 pieces, of coins of the Mahomedan period. Mr. Whitehead had, in the course of his collecting, absorbed the famous collection of Moghul coins made by Dr. Taylor, and reckoned in itself one of the finest in India. He had also been allowed the unprecedented privilege of purchasing a large selection from the coins in the Treasury of one of the minor Indian States—the bulk of the treasure being derived from the loot of Delhi by Nadir Shah and Ahmad Shah Durrani. The result is a remarkable collection of over 400 coins of the early Afghans and of Nadir Shah, including many pieces which, by the mint-names recorded on them, provide the sole record of Nadir Shah's conquests of Indian cities. The historical importance of such a series as this, where other records are so scanty, can hardly be over-estimated.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Everest Expedition left Phari for Khimbajong on April 8.

The Swedish Government has recognised Albania, states a message from Stockholm.

A Reuter's message from Bombay, dated April 11, says:—Dr. Mahmud, the Secretary of the Central Caliphate Committee, has been sentenced to six months' simple imprisonment.

Sixty-five Maltese emigrants, all of the agricultural farming class, left Malta on April 11 for Australia. This is the sixth batch of Maltese emigrants who have left for Australia this year.

On April 10 a private meeting was held at the British Consulate in Alexandria to consider the question of the future of British officials in Egypt.

Sanction has been given by the Government of India for the return to British Guiana of 116 East Indians repatriated from that colony and 160 from other colonies.

The new Egyptian flag will be green with a white crescent and three white stars. The Royal Emblem will be the same, with a crown added.

In a wireless message received in Colombo from the Renown the Prince of Wales regrets that it is impossible for him to make any official engagements during the short time the Renown will touch at Colombo on the return journey from Japan.

It is understood that the recently defeated Malta Government has accepted the conditions of the Labour Party for the formation of a coalition for one year only. Two portfolios will be given to Labourites.

The sentences in the recent Egyptian conspiracy case were promulgated last week. The clerk employed in Zaghloul Pasha's house was given two years' hard labour, and the other two prisoners two years and three years respectively.

The Albanian Government sent a telegram last week to the League of Nations at Geneva requesting that the Commission of Inquiry may be allowed to continue its work until conditions are more settled.

A telegram was received in Paris from Tunis on April 13 stating that the French authorities had expelled the manager of a Communist newspaper entitled *Le Cri du Peuple*, which they state has been fomenting Communist agitation among the natives.

Zionism was debated before the Anglo-French Society at Scala House last week. Mr. A. Beverley Baxter took the chair. Mr. Myers, Editor of the *Palestine Weekly*, and Captain Aaronsohn were the principal speakers for the Zionists, while for the other side Mr. Shibly Jamal and Mrs. Rosita Forbes led.

The committee of the London Moslem League has forwarded to Lord Curzon a letter drawing his attention to the recent reports of massacres of Turks by the Greeks in Anatolia, and urging that "immediate steps be taken to expedite the Greek evacuation" under the supervision of Allied officers.

THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

From Our Own Correspondents.

GREECE.

Athens, April 2.

The Allied Peace Proposals.

Although the Greeks—even the most optimistic—were well aware that the Allied peace terms would be pretty stiff, and that sooner or later the Hellenic Army would have to evacuate Ionia, not for a moment did they give a serious thought to the possibility of Smyrna being restored to the Turks and of having to part with an important portion of Thrace. M. Gounaris, who, it now transpires, had a very good idea as to what the Allied proposals would be, continuously fed the people with promises and assured everybody that all was going well. The stringent press censorship exercised proved a valuable ally to the Prime Minister in that respect. No anxiety was, therefore, felt. Everyone firmly believed that Smyrna would become autonomous for a period of five years, at the end of which its fate would be definitely decided by a plebiscite. They did not worry in the least about Thrace, and though much satisfaction was expressed at Mr. Montagu's resignation, that gentleman's efforts in favour of the restoration of Eastern Thrace, with Adrianople, to the Turks were never taken seriously. The Greek people were looking forward to an honourable peace, content that they had done their duty, and glad to know that, thanks to their struggles, their unredeemed brothers had at last secured their freedom. "Why should we worry?" I was asked only a month ago by a Greek Army captain who had been serving on the Asia Minor front from the very first day of the Greek landing. "Will not Smyrna be ours in five years' time?"

And then the bombshell exploded. When on Wednesday morning the papers published the Allied peace proposals people wondered whether they were dreaming. They would not, could not, realise that Smyrna was lost to them for ever and that even a big slice of Thrace was to be given back to their hereditary foe. But their surprise soon gave way to indignation. "Are the Powers joking, or have they taken leave of their senses?" asks the *Embros* in a leading article. Even Great Britain, who up to Tuesday was "the only true friend of Hellenism," is now the object of many uncomplimentary remarks. Lord Curzon is bitterly attacked for giving in so easily to his French and Italian colleagues; and the terms are generally considered as constituting a serious diplomatic defeat of Great Britain. But the target upon which the bulk of the attack is concentrated is naturally M. Gounaris. With the exception of three newspapers, one of which is the Premier's organ, the entire Athens Press (the capital boasts of over twenty-five daily papers) holds the Prime Minister responsible for the fresh misfortunes that have befallen the country. He is accused of utter incapacity and lack of patriotism, and is invited to resign immediately. The next few days will show whether the Premier has taken any notice of these outbursts of public indignation.

The Government Scores Again.

Thanks to the unexpected support of some of the Mussulman Members, and the exit from the Chamber of the eighty-seven Liberal deputies, the Government scored another victory at last night's sitting of the Constituent Assembly, securing 163 votes out of 226.

The Prime Minister, challenged by the leader of the Reformists, M. Stratos, declined to say whether there was any truth in the statement alleged to have been made by Lord Curzon to the effect that M. Gounaris had accepted without any reserve whatsoever the Allied mediation. After M. Emmanouilidis, speaking on behalf of the Thracian deputies, had protested against the proposed re-adjustment in favour of Turkey of the boundaries in Thrace, and declared that no power on earth would be able to wrest even the smallest portion of that country from Mother Greece, the Director of the Liberal Party, General Danglis, violently attacked the Prime Minister, and stated that he alone was responsible for the humiliating peace terms proposed to Greece. In conclusion, the General implored the Assembly to place the country's interests above all party dissensions, and overthrow the Government which had handled the national affairs in so incompetent a manner. M. Gounaris immediately retorted that it was the Liberals, and particularly those living abroad, who by their anti-patriotic actions were endeavouring to neutralize the national efforts of the Government. Whereupon General Danglis and his 86 followers left the Chamber before the vote of confidence was taken. It is generally thought that unless the Premier offers an apology for the accusation made against the Liberals the latter will henceforth abstain from the sittings of the Assembly.

General News.

The Crown Prince of Denmark, who is engaged to be married to Prince Nicolas's daughter, Princess Olga, arrived in Athens last Tuesday. He was received at the station by the entire Royal Family. During his stay in the Greek capital His Highness will be the guest of his prospective father-in-law.

Prince Andrew and his wife Princess Alice are leaving for Corfu to-morrow.

Sir Frederick Halliday, Chief of the British Police Mission to Greece, has left for Corfu.

The situation in Crete has somewhat improved lately. The deportation of the families of deserters adopted three months ago is still in force and has proved very effective.

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YUGOSLAVIA.

*Belgrade, April 8.***The Week in Parliament.**

Parliament had a busy time last week, discussing the King's Civil List. The usual amount of bitterness was displayed by the members on the Left when the Speaker read the new Bill fixing the King's "apanage" at 18 million dinars, with 6 million French francs for expenses when travelling abroad. The present allowance, which is only 1,200,000 gold dinars, was fixed about 35 years ago, and is, of course, altogether inadequate. The Bill was returned for a change in the wording of the second paragraph; and now, after the alteration, the Royal allowance will be, dating from January 1, 1922, 18 million dinars, and the 6 millions will be covered in the currency of the country in which the King intends to travel, or has travelled. This change was made under the pretext that the taxpayer must not lose faith in the national currency.

A striking example of the demagoguery now constantly practised by members of the Left, was afforded a few minutes later, when the Bill authorising the increase of Members' allowances was read and submitted for discussion. Members of the Right and the Centre kept very quiet, but the Left was very truculent and noisy, its members saying that the Government was not attempting to fight the high cost of living, but simply protecting itself, leaving the rest of the Nation to struggle on. A Bosniac member proposed that since the members are of different financial standing the increase should be granted only to those who voted "For." The effect was great, and seemed very soothing to the overheated nerves of the Opposition. It is interesting to note that only a few Democrats and Radicals voted "against" while the rest carried the Bill through with an absolute majority.

Russian Refugees.

There has been much discussion lately regarding the harmful pro-German propaganda now indulged in by the Monarchist party of the Russian refugees in Yugoslavia. *Politika* (the official paper), in a series of articles, made some striking disclosures concerning the subterranean workings of the Monarchists, and went as far as to accuse them of circulating the false rumours that the money subscribed by the public in order to help starving Russia is not going to those dying of hunger, but to the Red Army. A *démenti* was handed in and printed, but it was received somewhat sceptically, as M. Paleologue, its author, confined himself simply to denying the statements, without attempting to prove that they were unfounded. The *Politika* repeated the charges, and warned M. Paleologue that its information came from official documents.

Russians are treated here as unfortunate brothers, and given every right that a born Yugoslav has, but it is very unlikely that the Government would tolerate much longer any pro-German action. The Serbs owe very much to Russia, and they readily recognize the fact; but they would not remain friendly, or even tolerant, much longer if Russia were to become a German colony.

The Old and the New Palaces.

The first time during the Great War when Belgrade was captured, in November, 1914, the Royal Palaces were the first objects of plunder and looting most skillfully conducted by German and Austrian troops. Everything of value was promptly removed: pictures, carpets, silverware, furniture; and even Icons from the Royal Chapel disappeared with the enemy, who had to retire after 11 days' occupation. After the disaster in 1915, the Germans did still more damage to the Royal Houses. The New Palace was turned into billets for Italian and Russian prisoners-of-war, both of whom, with the least possible regard to cleanliness, helped the Germans greatly in completing the destruction of the place. The Old Palace was first occupied by a Uhlan Regiment, but afterwards it was "promoted" to the Officers' Mess. A Hun colonel, a lover of antiquities, admired a very ancient mosaic flooring in the hall, and promptly had it taken to his home in Bavaria! Luckily

his address became known, and the flooring was restored after the peace. Most of the things are still missing, but after very strenuous work both Palaces are now almost ready to receive the new Queen and the King, who are expected to be in residence there about next July.

Visit of the Roumanian Queen.

Almost unexpectedly, the visit of the Roumanian Queen took place last week, instead of early in May, as had been predicted in semi-official circles. The Royal visitor met with a very hearty welcome from all Belgrade. The town was gaily decorated with Roumanian and Serbian flags, and the streets, lined with troops, were crowded with cheerful onlookers.

The Queen was met at the station by King Alexander and the high Officials, and on the same evening a gala ball was given by the King in her honour. On Monday and Tuesday Queen Marie toured the country, and on Thursday, upon receiving news from Athens that the Princess Royal was ill, her Majesty left for Athens.

General News.

The King, who had to attend to various engagements during last week which was very cold, is now confined to his rooms, with a slight attack of influenza.

The Yugoslav Delegation to the Genoa Conference, numbering in all 12 persons, left Belgrade on the 6th instant. The Premier, M. Pashitch, is still detained here, but as soon as his engagements allow him, he will join the Delegates at Genoa.

IRAQ.*Baghdad, March 31.***The Akhwan Raid.**

Further details have now been made known regarding the activities of the Akhwan in the neighbourhood of Nasiriyah. The raiders, under Faisal ad-Dawish, first fell upon the tribesmen at and around the wells of Abu Shar, some distance south of Nasiriyah, and captured all the sheep and camels they found there. From there they proceeded to Shagrah, another oasis, and attacked the newly raised camel corps, inflicting heavy casualties upon it. As soon as information regarding the raid reached Baghdad aeroplanes were sent out to discover where the raiders were, but were heavily fired on, with the result that on the following day bombing operations were carried out, and heavy casualties are said to have been inflicted; and the raiders moved away farther south.

Since then the raiders have returned again and attacked the tribesmen in the area between Tel el-Lahm and Zubeir and carried off considerable booty. Nuri Pasha Said, Director-General of Police, has since gone to Nasiriyah to make inquiries regarding the occurrence and to discuss with local authorities the best manner of dealing with the raiders; and it is to be assumed that Government will make what arrangements it can to meet the situation. The strength of Government in the Nasiriyah division is not very great, and but little revenue has been collected there; and unless something is done to protect the tribesmen who are subjects of this country from raiders from outside, the existing tendency to refuse payment of revenue can but be strengthened.

An Improving Outlook.

The proposals made at the Near East Conference regarding the cessation of hostilities in Anatolia and the terms of peace on which a new peace treaty with Turkey is to be based have created a distinctly easier feeling here. In the first place it has done much to remove the fear of an attack by the Kemalists on the Mosul division—a fear which had of late been very much in people's minds. In Mosul town itself people appeared to have very little doubt that an attack would be made, but these fears are now removed to a considerable extent. Mosul has much to gain from a return of peace conditions to those parts, even apart from the question of invasion. Economically Mosul is much more closely connected with the Jazirah and Anatolia than with Baghdad and Iraq, though the connection with Baghdad

has been considerably strengthened since Mosul has been cut off from her northern markets. Trade in the town is at present completely stagnant, and heavy stocks are being carried by most of the principal merchants. It is known, however, that towns like Nisibin, Mardin, Diarbekr and Saïrt are badly in need of merchandise of all kinds, and it may be safely assumed that with the conclusion of peace with Turkey, provided neither the Government of 'Iraq nor the Government of Turkey places artificial obstacles in the way of a resumption of trade, Mosul will soon regain to a large extent her former connections.

The Electoral Law.

The local papers are again showing considerable uneasiness at the delay in the conclusion of the much-advertised treaty between Great Britain and 'Iraq and at the delay in the publication of the electoral law and in the holding of the elections for the National Assembly. People may well be annoyed at the delay in the publication of the electoral law, for for over a year its publication in the near future has been promised; and there are still no indications that it is any nearer publication now than it was a year ago.

General Haldane's Departure.

Lieut.-General Sir Aylmer Haldane left Baghdad on Tuesday, having made over command of the British Forces in 'Iraq to Lieut-General Sir Theodore Fraser. General Haldane has commanded the troops in 'Iraq through a difficult period, which includes the disturbance of 1920 and the establishment of the Arab Government. His successor is well known in the country and has for the past two years commanded the 18th division at Mosul.

The welcome announcement has been made that Baghdad Municipality has succeeded in raising a loan from the banks to enable it to proceed with the paving of New Street. This is one of the city's most crying needs, and the news that the work is to be put in hand at once has been received with genuine satisfaction.

An Anglo-Iraqi club is being formed in Baghdad where members of the British and Iraqi communities will be able to meet. Such a club is badly needed here and it is hoped that it will serve to draw the two communities closer together. Its institution is largely due to the energy of Raouf Chadirchi.

A serious murder occurred in Baghdad on the right bank last Saturday night, when Mr. Tuckett, of the Military Works Services, was shot in his house by armed burglars. The police are investigating the case and one man has already been arrested. These burglaries by armed men on the right bank are causing considerable uneasiness both among British and among local communities. It is only a few weeks since burglars entered the house of a prominent member of the British commercial community and one of the party stood over the lady of the house with a revolver while the remainder made off with anything they fancied. It is hoped that it will be found possible to take effective measures to put a stop to these occurrences.

TURKEY.

Constantinople, March 26.

A British Club.

In the midst of political and commercial crises, the British colony in Constantinople is at last endeavouring to realise a scheme which has been discussed ever since the Armistice, namely, the formation of a British Club. The scheme for which the support of the British Colony was requested some weeks ago was somewhat ambitious perhaps, but by no means beyond the strength of the Colony. It was proposed to issue 500 shares of £10 each, but of the 236 British subjects approached, only 43 promised to subscribe. These 43, however, were prepared to raise £2,000, and it is inconceivable that the total required cannot be subscribed by the rest of the Colony. The position has been reconsidered and a fresh appeal is to be made in a more systematic manner, which it is to be hoped will produce the required result. The Club will be residential as well as social, and will

provide all the amusements and conveniences enjoyed before the War by the German colony through the Teutonia Club, which was far more than a mere social asset for the Germans.

The organising committee has put forward a very sound scheme, which, if it materialises, should be of great value to British commercial and political interests. All the promoters are well-known business men, who are endeavouring to carry out a plan founded upon innumerable proposals and suggestions discussed during the last three years, and even before the Armistice. The scheme is not, therefore, the arbitrary conception of a small unrepresentative body, but the consensus of suggestions from all sides. Amongst certain newcomers there is a tendency to decry the scheme on the grounds that the club will be "Levantine," and that it is the sole work of a small number of interested people. The first objection is beneath contempt, and nothing could be further from the truth than the second. The Club will be British in every respect, and will exist solely for the furtherance of British interests.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, April 7.

In Parliament.

Practically the whole of last week in Parliament was taken up in debating the validations of the seats, which, with the exception of two or three cases, were voted in favour of the Government's partisans. The Opposition realized that their protests on the way the elections were carried out were fruitless; and in keeping with their previous declarations, the three principal parties of the Opposition—the Tzaraniists, the Transylvanian National Party, and General Averescu's party—began their abstention from attending the parliamentary sittings on the day after the validations were over. As I mentioned in my last letter, the future attitude of these parties will be decided at the Congress of Alba Julia, which will be held shortly after the Easter holidays. The groups of MM. Jorga and Také Jonescu have not withdrawn from Parliament, but have decided to attend the sittings, though in a more or less passive manner.

The Government and its strong parliamentary majority, quite unworried by the Opposition's conduct, are pressing on with their programme of rushing through the two Houses the various urgent Bills intended for the present short session. During the latter part of the week the following ratifications of treaties were passed unanimously through both the Senate and the Chamber: the Treaty of Bessarabia's Union with Roumania, which was agreed between the Allied Powers on October 28, 1920; the definite Statute of the Danube Navigation; and the Commercial Treaty between Poland and Roumania.

The Government has further introduced the House Rent Bill in the Senate and the 1922-23 Budget in the Chamber.

General News.

M. M. Pherekide has been elected President of the Senate and M. M. Orleanu-Galatz President of the Chamber. The Vice-Presidents for the two Houses have been chosen so as to represent the various provinces of the country.

The Roumanian Delegation for the Genoa Conference headed by M. I. C. Bratianu, the Prime Minister, left Bucharest for Genoa on Wednesday the 5th. During the Premier's absence from the country, the Presidency of the Council will be held *ad interim* by General Vaitoianu, the Minister of the Interior.

According to a report from Temeshvar, the Council of Ministers has agreed to the proposal of M. Cosma, Minister of Public Works, and a native of the Banat, to invite the British Government to open a British Consulate also in Temeshvar. Similar invitations will be addressed to Austria, Hungary and Yugoslavia.

The Roumanian Minister of Education has made a request to the competent authorities, through the Roumanian Legation in London, that students who have

matriculated at Roumanian schools, should be admitted to Oxford University.

Queen Marie of Roumania, accompanied by Mme. Mavriody, Lady-in-Waiting, M. Antitch, the Serbian Minister, and M. Mishu, Minister of the Royal Court, left Bucharest for Belgrade on April 2. Her visit to the Serbian Sovereign is in connection with the preparations for the forthcoming royal wedding.

It has since been reported from Belgrade, however, that the Queen of Roumania has in the meantime left Belgrade for Athens, having been informed that her elder daughter, Princess Elisabeth of Greece, is seriously ill with an attack of typhoid fever which she contracted whilst with her husband on the Asia Minor front.

ASIA MINOR.

Smyrna, March 28.

Last evening an Italian shoemaker named Ventura had a quarrel with a Greek soldier about flying a kite. The Italian became so exasperated that he finally attacked the Greek soldier with a knife and stabbed him in the abdomen, whereupon other Greek soldiers rushed to the assistance of their comrade and beat the Italian so severely that he is said to be, like his victim, in a dying condition.

April 4.

The Asia Minor Greeks' Committee is soliciting subscriptions for funds to organize the defence of the Greek zone should the Allies decide to cede this zone to the Kemalists. M. Sterghiades, the Greek High Commissioner, has not so far given his patronage to this movement, and until he does so, it is not likely to reach the sphere of practical politics. In the meantime the Greek civilians in the towns and villages in the environs of Smyrna are being armed and drilled.

On Sunday last the monument erected by the Italian Colony to the memory of their Glorious Dead was disfigured and desecrated by Greek soldiers. They also attempted to damage the French monument. Both the Italian and French Consuls have protested vehemently against these outrages, and M. Sterghiades has promised to find the culprits and have them drastically punished.

THE "TABRIZ COUP."

From an Occasional Correspondent.

Teheran, February 8.

A few days ago news reached here of fresh trouble at Tabriz. A force of Gendarmes numbering, according to most accounts, quite 2,000 men, and headed by a Major Lahouty Khan marched into the town from a small place called Sherif Khaneh, near Lake Urumia, and attacked the garrison. After some fighting, reported to have been quite serious, the Gendarmes were victorious, the garrison was overcome, the Government Offices were seized and occupied, and His Excellency the Governor was arrested.

The cause of the attack is not yet clear, but it may probably be sought in the antecedents of Lahouty Khan. He was dismissed from the Gendarmerie some years ago, and during the war took sides with the Germans, with whom he is even reported to have served. Latterly he has been in Constantinople, where he has been editing the *Pars*—a Franco-Persian journal, but just before the Kavam es-Sultaneh resigned office, he left Constantinople for Azerbaijan and by hook or by crook contrived to get himself reinstated in the Gendarmerie with the rank of Major. He appears to have made use of his authority and official position to make the raid on Tabriz now reported.

As your readers are well aware, no doubt, Azerbaijan has been in a disturbed state for a long time. During the war Russia had considerable forces there, and as a result the Turks stirred up the Kurds in the western districts, who conducted a kind of guerilla warfare against the Russians. The latter thereupon armed the

Assyrians and Armenians, and fighting went on merrily, with victory now on one side and now on the other. In the long run, however, the Christians appear to have suffered most, and the majority of them were eventually compelled to fly to Mesopotamia, where they were looked after by the British authorities.

Recently another Kurd chieftain, Ismail Agha Semitgou, egged on no doubt by the Turks, has been making fresh trouble. He attacked and fought Persian government troops, and a considerable force of gendarmes had to be despatched to Azerbaijan to deal with him.

In addition to this fighting, dangers and difficulties were created by too active politicians and apostles of Pan-Turanianism. The latter creed made a strong appeal to some of the more advanced elements in Tabriz, whilst the Azerbaijan republic across the border was thoroughly imbued with it. Propagandists from Baku were busy in Tabriz, and their activities were only terminated by the appearance on the scene of the Bolsheviks. Out of the confusion thus created there arose an agitation for the creation of an independent Tabriz—independent, that is to say, both of Persia and of Turkey, but what relations it was proposed to maintain with the neighbouring republic I am not in a position to state. The Progressives, who were responsible for this movement, rechristened Azerbaijan "Azadistan" (Land of Liberty). Their leader, who appears to have been a Pan-Turanian of advanced views, was a certain Khiabani. What might have come of the movement it is impossible to say, but, as your readers will remember, the Azerbaijan republic was overthrown by the Bolsheviks; and this fact, coupled with the Kurdish leader, Semitgou's activities, put an end to the Tabriz Progressives' dream of an independent Azadistan. Last year Mukbar-es-Sultaneh was sent to Tabriz as Governor, and at once took active steps to "deal with" the Progressives in quite oriental fashion. Their leader was killed; and the movement terminated abruptly. The Governor next turned its attention to Semitgou, the Kurd, but he was hampered by having insufficient forces at his disposal, and it must be added, insufficient funds, and his efforts were not very successful. The Progressives, therefore, began to take heart again, and when Lahouty Khan appeared in their neighbourhood they entered into relations with him; and appear to have planned the coup which has just been successfully brought off, which, it must be added, was made all the easier by the rivalry between the Gendarmerie and the Cossacks. Now that things have reached such a pass the Government in all probability will be forced to take strenuous action, and the Progressives and their allies are likely to have only a short lease of power. At the same time the Government, like the Governor, is short of money, and it is finding it difficult to send a sufficient force to deal with the trouble. Nevertheless the rebels are not likely to have a very long period of success.

Owing to the refusal of the Government to reinstate the dismissed professors, the Senate of Sofia University has decided to close the University till further notice.

Ten Greeks, who last year tried to embark at Cherbourg for America on the Olympic and Lapland, armed with false papers furnished by a Piraeus agency, have been condemned by the Cherbourg Correctional Tribunal to pay a fine of £60 each.

A message from the "Moslem and Christian Committee, Haifa" declares that "the Moslems and Christians of Palestine refuse every Constitution and scheme based on the Balfour Declaration."

The Association of Industrialists of the Banat have protested to the Roumanian Ministry of Industry against the free importation of such articles as can be manufactured in the country at reasonable prices.

With a view to decreasing the amount of notes in circulation the Czecho-Slovak Government proposes to make it obligatory upon merchants and others to accept bills of exchange at six months for all sums payable above 5,000 crowns.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

In consequence of queries, the Editor thinks it advisable to state that the quotation from any article does not necessarily imply that the views expressed are shared by "The Near East." On the contrary, an attempt is made to include as far as is possible in the available space all sides of the various questions discussed.

Our Task in Palestine.

On April 10 *The Times* published the eighth and last of the series of articles, "Some Truths About Palestine," by Mr. Philip Graves, its correspondent in the Near East. Referring to the series in a leading article, it says: "Our readers, we believe, will agree that Mr. Graves has adopted in his careful inquiry an absolutely independent attitude, and that he has laid bare the heart of the problem which the British taxpayer, hitherto not very carefully consulted upon the matter, has been called upon to face in a country renowned, familiar, but comparatively unknown." The verdict will be supported by everyone who has read the articles, which constitute a most valuable study of a complex question. It would be difficult to give an adequate idea of their worth by quotation in the limits of space here available; but certain passages from the concluding article may be given, because they afford a very clear impression of the causes of much of the present unrest in Palestine. Mr. Graves says at once and quite frankly: "The cause of our present difficulties in Palestine is not the Balfour Declaration, but the interpretation thereof." The interpretation put upon the principal passage by the British Government differs *in toto* from that adopted by the Zionist Organisation and its executive in Palestine. But that organisation and its executive have been recognized by the British Government as an adviser and co-operator with the Administration of Palestine in matters affecting the establishment of the national home for the Jews. But—

The leaders of the Zionist Organization have not realized that, by the Balfour Declaration, and under the terms of the draft mandate, the conquering Power has committed itself to a very delicate and quite unprecedented political experiment—namely, the partial colonization of conquered country with settlers belonging neither to the conquering nor the conquered race, in such a manner as not to injure the political and other rights of the native population.

Their interpretation of the Balfour Declaration and some of the activities of the Zionist Commission have given the Arabs the impression that they are working for an early Jewish domination over Palestine. Hence the growth of what is really a national movement among the Arabs.

The delay in the granting of the mandate has encouraged this movement, for the Arab leaders naturally hope to improve their position by anti-Zionist agitation, which they suppose may result in a modification of the terms of the mandate, or, if these are not modified, will still enable them to make better terms for themselves with the Zionists.

The Arab Government cannot, says Mr. Graves, be truthfully described as anti-British or pro-Turkish. Complete tranquillity cannot be obtained in Palestine, but the present tension would be greatly loosened "if the Mandate were granted, and if the Zionist Commission were abolished and a Jewish Agency more representative of Jewry as a whole than of the extremest Zionists substituted for it. It cannot be said that the Zionist Commission, or the Zionist Organization behind it, are at present 'appropriate' public bodies for the purpose of advising and assisting the Government of Palestine."

After glancing at various Jewish parties, or groups—the "religious Conservatives," the Marxian Jews, the "business-like American Zionists"—Mr. Graves continues:

The Zionist Organization must broaden its basis; Zionists must ease the task of the Mandatory Power, without which they are impotent; they must cease to advocate Jewish predominance; they must

follow the example of individual Palestinian Jews, such as the merchants of Tell Aviv or Mr. Kalvarisky, Baron Edmond de Rothschild's representative in Palestine, and prove to the Arab that they desire to cooperate with him in the commercial and cultural development of Palestine.

And the Zionist Commission must go, and some other Jewish Agency take its place, on the understanding that it must refrain from political activities. Otherwise, even if the Mandate be granted to-morrow the Mandatory Power will have endless friction with the Arabs of Palestine and the Zionists themselves.

The British Empire can honourably work for the realization of the hope of the great philosopher of Jewish Nationalism, Achad Ha-am (Asher Ginzberg), who now lives in the Tell Aviv suburb of Jaffa, and exercises a potent influence in Jewry, that Palestine will be "a national spiritual centre of Judaism, to which all Jews will turn with affection, and which will bind all Jews together; a centre of study and learning, of language and literature, of bodily work and spiritual purification; a true miniature of the people of Israel as it ought to be, so that every Hebrew in the Dispersion will think it a privilege to behold just once the 'centre of Judaism,' and when he returns home will say: 'If you wish to see the genuine type of a Jew, whether it be a Rabbi or a scholar or a writer, a farmer or an artist, or a business man, then go to Palestine and you will see it.'"

But it cannot honourably support a policy hostile to Arab rights and favourable to Zionist political domination over an Arab majority. The Arabs, in turn, must realise that it is only through cooperation with moderate Zionism that they can hope to see Palestine prosper economically and culturally. Only Jewish capital is likely to enter Palestine in any abundance, and though the country may become prosperous it will never be an Egypt. Without Jewish interest in the Holy Land, without Jewish aid, can they hope to play any worthy part in the modern world?

Some of the Arab fears are, in Mr. Graves' opinion, as baseless as the hopes of the extreme Zionists. They are a healthy race, with a rate of increase of at least 14 per 1,000 annually.

And do they realise what it would cost the Zionists to import and settle 50,000 families, or 200,000 souls, on the land in Palestine? At present, assuming that the country could receive and feed them, which it cannot, it would cost £60,000,000, and even then the Jewish population would be less than half as numerous as the Arab.

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Meanwhile the British Government must find a way out of the present situation. We have decided, sooner or later, to withdraw our forces from Egypt into the Canal zone, and we need a better hinterland for these forces than the arid waste of the Sinai. Should our troops, who will guard the most vital point on all our Imperial line of communications, be attacked, either from Egypt or by some Mediterranean enemy, they will need to have a land behind them, not a sandhill. But it must be a quiet land, a military and moral asset, not a liability. By supporting moderate Zionism, we shall gain the one; by supporting political Zionism, we shall be saddled with the other. Our course in Palestine is surely clear.

The Situation in India.

The present situation in India is dealt with from two different points of view, by Lord Meston and Sir Henry Craik, in the April *Asiatic Review*. The former begins his review of the situation by remarking that in their study of the subject the British public are doubly handicapped—by the existing events which are now chasing each other through domestic politics, and by the inadequate service of information of what is really happening in India; and he is of opinion that “we stand badly in need of a dispassionate review of the position from inside knowledge.” After sketching in broad outline the position as he sees it, Lord Meston glances at some of the remedies suggested, and gently rebukes those who put them forward. He then proceeds:—

The true remedy for the present ferment lies not in drastic change, but in patience and a consistent policy on the part both of His Majesty's Government and of the Viceroy and his councillors on the spot. Their first and most urgent duty is the prevention of disorders; and for this task the local authorities must have adequate force available. Its disposition may be safely left to them; all that we can do from this end is to resist any weakening of the British garrison on grounds of economy or otherwise. Sixpence off the income-tax would be a poor compensation for civil war in India. But next to armed force, which no one wishes to see employed, the chief insurance against disturbance of the peace is a steady enforcement of the ordinary law. If seditious meetings and the activities of Mr. Gandhi's “volunteers” are prohibited, the prohibition should be absolute and effective. Once the Government is seen to be in earnest, the sober-minded will soon rally to its support, and the pleasurable excitement of defying the law will steadily wane.

Then will come the harder task, the slow reconstruction of the position which Mr. Gandhi has endeavoured to destroy. His assaults were delivered not only at our scheme of political progress, but through it at our whole mission in India. “India for the Indians” is no new war-cry; there was a well-known revolutionary orator of Lord Minto's time who used to tour Bengal with a banner which bore the sole device “EXPULSION.” But simple patriotism has never been its inner meaning; and if we believe that we have anything of value to leave with India when we finally depart, we must now mobilize and strengthen that section of Indian thought which accepts our ideals of civilization and does not find the words of all wisdom in

the Vedas. To this end we must resolutely pursue our policy of training India in the use of free institutions, and obliterating all colour distinctions which lower the self-respect of Indians. In this way only can the spirit of co-operation replace the fever of racial bitterness.

If there is to be co-operation, however, Englishmen and Indians must each have their allotted share in the work. This is the keynote of the Act of 1919, and the sooner we get back to it the better. Irrksome though the system of dyarchy may be to the impatient or the ambitious, it preserves the balance of duties during the march towards full self-government.

He next refers to the dangers of short cuts, or what Sir Valentine Chirol describes as “skipping dyarchy,” and quotes from the Report of Lord Selborne's Committee, and later, from a letter to *The Times* (of December 23, 1920) by Mr. Bhupendra Nath Basu. The article then concludes as follows:—

Instead of confining themselves to the great administrative and social reforms which lie within their own jurisdiction, the Councils have in several instances been tempted to show themselves—in Mr. Basu's phrase—irresistible, and to assert control over matters outside their sphere. Nothing but confusion and friction can result. Among the merits of the new Constitution, elasticity is not the least, and it would be foolish to imagine that improvements in machinery and procedure will not be devised long before the first decennial stage is complete. But the main principles are the only rails on which the new Constitution can run: abandon them, and a smash is inevitable. If this is recognized when India returns to her senses and the bogey of non-co-operation is laid, her progress will become possible. Conflicts over jurisdiction where the law is clear can end only in the break-down of the Constitution, and a break-down means victory for reaction. Now reaction has two barrels: one is the creed that democratic institutions are unsuited to India, and that she must return to paternal government; the other is the belief that Western civilization is unsuited to India, and that she must get back to her own archaic past. A shot from either barrel is death to all that Englishmen have been trying to do for India in the last 150 years.

“Britain's Responsibility in India.”

Sir Henry Craik's article is entitled as above. It opens with an expression of regret that “Parliamentary debates upon India have become perfunctory and ineffective in recent years. The abolition of the East India Company and that of the Board of Control have led to a gradually dwindling interest in India, and few electors give any thought to the dangers which the changes lately carried out there involve.” The writer then remarks:

Whatever may have been the origin of our Indian Empire, and whatever may be thought of the means by which it was extended and buttressed, there can be no doubt whatever that her rulers came more and more to realize their moral responsibility, and to carry out their vast administrative work in a spirit worthy of the highest traditions of our country, and with all the instinctive genius for dealing with subject races which is inherent in the best type of our countrymen. Whatever may have been the ir-

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regularities of the earlier generations of "Nabobs"—and we now know quite enough to discount the fables which served the purposes of Sheridan, Fox, and Burke, and gave colour to their unscrupulous and ill-informed tirades—yet it is indisputable that long generations of Indian administrators have since carried on a thankless and laborious task in a spirit of unselfish desire to do the best for their charge, and in the discharge of that task had adhered rigidly to the loftiest standard of official rectitude. The taint of selfishness and of self-seeking if it ever existed, had been wiped out. They gave themselves body and soul to their work. Health, family ties, home ambitions—all these have often to be sacrificed. But they found their consolation in the intense interest of their work, in the call it made upon their sense of responsibility, and in the respect and cordiality which they earned in the hearts of those for whose welfare they were labouring. He has known but little, or has formed a very superficial estimate of the Indian administrator, who cannot recall a long line of men who shaped their lives on these ideals. They, by their joint efforts, built up a monument of administration of which the world has never seen the equal.

But it was only natural that those who had the good of India at heart should pass on to new schemes for her advance along the road of self-government. We had to give them some measure of freedom and independence, and, provided due safeguards were taken, those who cared most for the various races of India were not only tolerant of, but zealous in any such attempt. Unfortunately, our national defects of imagination betrayed us then, as they have often betrayed us, into singular errors. We could conceive of no advancement except on Western models; the fetish of representative government was something which, to our minds, formed the very foundation of all political philosophy, and the essential condition of freedom, contentment, or even intelligence.

Sir Henry evidently does not share the view thus expressed, and in any case he thinks that the "schemes of reform were seldom consistent," owing to the short tenure of office by those responsible for them. So we pass on to the Montagu scheme, of which the author is no admirer, to say the least. Of "diarchy" he writes that "it had every practical effect that is likely to appear where pedantic self-complacency takes the place of experience and patient labour." Nor does he approve the way in which the Bill "giving statutory force to the whimsical conception of diarchy, germinated in the pedantic brain of an inexperienced theorist," was passed through Parliament. The whole scheme, he declares again—

is the work of pedantic theorists, who are as lacking in imagination as they are in practical experience, or in that patient and laborious effort which experience would prescribe. They have invented one of those specious paradoxes which delight the shallow brain—that efficient government may be an evil, and that freedom (or what poses as such) is well purchased even at the cost of inefficiency. Sayings like that are schoolboy tags, unworthy of thinking men. The scheme could not work; and if the truth were fairly allowed to be known, it is already proved to be bankrupt of all practical statesmanship. The so-called safeguards are parting like ropes of sand. You have launched a feeble bark, constructed by pedantry, and smiled upon by those who "gave and rub the elbow at the news of hurly-burly innovation," and it has already experienced many forebodings of shipwreck. We have a representative system which, in its utmost extension, could only comprise less than 5 per cent. of the population, and which is a game of hazard even amongst that petty handful out of the millions for whose welfare we are responsible. The frail vessel has to pursue its way amidst all the storms of racial and religious hatreds, and amongst the

hidden rocks of anarchy and disorder of which the uncharted sea is full.

The article then touches briefly upon the changed prospects of the I.C.S., and concludes:—

The dangers of this experiment, so rashly undertaken, so insufficiently considered, and so carelessly put into operation, are undoubted. To retrace our steps in a course of that sort is beyond human power. We must only look forward and trust that those in whose hands the government of India now rests will awake to the responsibility which rests upon this nation for the peace of India. We may be thankful that some of them have recently adopted a tone which shows that, partially at least, they realize the danger. Even Lord Meston recognizes that all is not so absolutely well as once he tried to make us believe, and that the forebodings which he discounted in 1919 show signs of being realized in the near future. Above all, let us hope that the wise words of warning which the Prime Minister felt compelled to utter during the debate on the Address may carry weight with those who were invited to ponder them. Let us trust that India's present rulers may rise to the level of their own words, will show themselves stern and unbending in repressing anarchy. If not, it is not they only who will have to bear the full force of national indignation, but they will have exposed our country to the everlasting shame of having failed in the mighty task which it was her chief pride to have discharged so nobly in the past.

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KALA JAGAHS.

By "Acorn."

In the vernacular of India, *kala jagah* merely means "a dark place." But in course of time the term has come to bear a more special significance. It does not mean any dark place, but a particular dark place which is a feature of Indian dances. It is a secluded sitting-out place, and takes the shape of screened-off nooks in verandahs, or in tents, for the purposes of a solitude *à deux*. It is part of the arrangements of a dance, like the supper or the slippery floor or the band; and a dance without *kala jagahs* suggests a something wanting as in a vegetarian dinner or temperance champagne.

Even a State Ball is not innocent of *kala jagahs*, and *kala jagahs* have not always been innocent of Viceroys. There was a Viceroy once who—but let there be no scandal about Queen Elizabeth. Still there may be no harm in mentioning that Lord William Beresford, when he was Military Secretary and at the height of his impudence, once strolled into a *kala jagah* tent in a dance interval with the remark, "Ladies and Gentlemen, I am about to light a cigarette," and as he blew out the match he added, "As you were." His thoughtfulness on this occasion added to his popularity. And most of us have heard of the two subalterns who, having made themselves *pardah nashin* in a *kala jagah*, kissed the backs of their hands violently whenever they heard the sound of passers-by. From the suppressed mirth inside the tent, it appeared that the boys were greatly tickled with their performance, and it deceived no one but themselves. Indeed, it was quite an item of that particular dance to visit the tent and listen to the subalterns' osculations. But however all that may be, the *kala jagah* is, so to speak, the spice of a dance, the certain indefinable something which relieves it of dull, stale and profitless routine, and to a girl the atmosphere of it induces a not unpleasurable dread like the atmosphere of a Mess where she is led to believe that the most awful orgies are perpetrated.

And beyond all that again, the words *kala jagah* are so inseparably connected with the sights and scents and sounds of Indian dances that they are merged in a maze of recollections. The ghosts of dear, dead days seem to rise and beckon one, the stalwart men in uniforms, the pretty women like so many daintily plumaged birds, the once famous string band of Calcutta, the regimental music, the polished floor like a mirror, the freshness and sparkle of it all after the long, long Indian day. In anticipation we begin to hum our favourite valse; of course it will be played, and it must be danced with—well, never mind. The last time the evening was positively spoilt because the stout major with the cherry-brandy face and policeman's feet claimed it, and we are determined that the disaster shall not occur again. So we plan the campaign, and by the evening have arrived at a perfect programme, nice boys, good dancers, with a few elderly men here and there, as a foil, to add to importance and prestige.

But where was I? Oh, yes; of my first *kala jagah* I have a vivid remembrance. It was not only my first *kala jagah*, it was my first real dance, and to a girl her first dance is an event which is supreme. You, Mr. Editor, will not, I daresay, understand that, but you must try to understand. You may possibly think it an event of no more importance than your first cigar which made you feel so ill. But though my first dance was also upsetting, there is no other comparison. A girl's first dance is, I say, an event, a boy's first tobacco is a vice and it serves him right. It was my first dance, I had been awaked from a siesta for tea, at tea my mother

and I were discussing preparations, and then she coughed.

I knew that cough, it was not so much a cough as a signal, a sort of red danger light, and then she said, "Dear, your father and I think that we would not like you to go into those *kala jagahs*, and sit out there after a dance."

"Why, Mother? what are they?"

"Silly places—where you are likely to catch—'hem—a chill."

"Oh all right, Mums, I'd much rather stay in the lovely ball-room and watch the people. It will be such fun."

"That's right, dear—because your father would be really annoyed if you caught a nasty cold."

With that warning I enter the ball-room in full blaze, pretty frocks, lovely music, perfect floor, and for a time all went well. My first partner suggests a cool place after a helter-skelter valse. I plump for seats in the room opposite the band where we can see all the people passing. "Right O," says the boy, and so for a few more dances; and then I find that in the intervals the room is emptier and emptier, and the air warmer and warmer, so that when a more elderly boy (hereinafter called the E.B.) votes for an exodus, I hear a weak voice, which I can scarcely recognise as my own, murmur, "But where can we go?"

"Oh, out there, where there are the Chinese lanterns and things."

Chinese lanterns sounded nice, and it was nice, it was fairy-land, little tents decorated with gay flags and Indian fabrics and foliage and palms. It was quiet, it was cool, and then there was a thrilling sense of mystery. The E.B. peeps into various tents to be repulsed with grunts and giggles, but eventually he secures a vacant tent, dimly, very dimly, lighted, in fact it was very soon almost dark. "That's the artfulness of these things," says the E.B., "the candles are set to a time fuse, when anyone comes in they go out." Mother was right, I felt too cold to move.

"Jolly here," continued the E.B., "isn't it? I say, we did have a ripping dance. Has anyone told you how perfectly sweet you are?" Continued silence on my part. "Oh, I say, I thought you were going to be nice. What shall we talk about? Shall I tell you all about myself?"

I clutched at that as at a straw. In an almost inaudible voice I said, "Yes, oh yes, tell me about yourself," hoping fervently that he would not dwell too particularly on his lurid past.

"Then give me your hand." I seemed to feel a big gloved paw looming in the darkness, and warded it off with my fan. He closed on the fan. "Little hand," he said.

That was so like a man. A gloved woman is as deft as with her bare fingers, a gloved man has lost his sensory nerves. I notice in England that a man can't take money out of his pocket without taking his gloves off. Put gloves on a man and he does not know a woman's hand from a broomstick. However, the E.B. eventually discovered his mistake, and securing possession of the fan he made play with it so violently that he snapped it in the middle. I felt inclined to cry. It was not an ordinary fan, it was a very beautiful fan, a special present for my first dance, a something to keep in after days to recall "The Land of Heart's Desire." The imbecile had broken it, and with the fracture, as by the touch of a magic wand, fairyland had disappeared. The *kala jagahs* were hateful, they were cold and dismal, their decorations were tawdry, and never was a sound more sweet than the first squeak of the violins in the distance telling that the next valse had begun. I wanted to be back in the ball-room, to dance again, to forget an episode which was gone and done with—done with? Not quite, for leaning against the column facing the entrance, and looking as if he were carved out of ice, was—my Father.

x x x x

Mother was right, I caught a—chill.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE MESSAGE OF THE EAST.

"CREATIVE UNITY." By Rabindranath Tagore. (London : Macmillan, 7s. 6d. net.)

In this collection of essays the celebrated Bengali poet states his opinion that in its understanding of spiritual learning the East has a great message for the West, which it has not yet had the chance of delivering. In the last, longest and most important paper, "An Eastern University," he gives us his views on the unsuitability of European education for the Eastern mind. "Our educated community is not a cultured community, but a community of qualified candidates." . . . "Mind when long deprived of its natural food of truth and freedom of growth, develops an unnatural craving for success; and our students have fallen victims to the mania for success in examinations. Success consists in obtaining the largest number of marks with the strictest economy of knowledge. It is a deliberate cultivation of disloyalty to truth, of intellectual dishonesty, of a foolish imposition by which the mind is encouraged to rob itself."

He puts forward his project for the founding of a University where the lore and culture of all parts of the East—"the Vedic, the Puranic, the Buddhist, the Jain, the Islamic, the Sikh and the Zoroastrian—the Chinese, Japanese and Tibetan will also have to be added"—shall be expounded and which will be sought by Western students, so that they may gain something in exchange for the gift of scientific knowledge, which seems in his opinion to be the only gift of any value which the West has to offer to the East. He naturally has a high ideal of the function of education: it "is to enable us to realise that to live as a man is great, requiring profound philosophy for its ideal, poetry for its expression and heroism for its conduct."

The essay which next to this possesses most interest is that on the religion of the Bauls, a mendicant tribe in India, in which the author finds the same spirit as that contained in the Buddhist teaching. He grows very eloquent over the impression that was made on him by the depth of the spiritual life of these illiterate people, their recognition of the doctrine of the fulfilment of love through sacrifice, their realisation of the infinite in the personality of the individual, and their expression through some of their songs of the need of God for the devotion of man.

"What hast thou come to beg from the beggar,
O King of Kings?

How long will you keep him waiting, O wretch,
who has waited for you for ages in silence and stillness?"

Tagore is filled with dismay at the materialism of the modern age and apparently feels that the motive of the Western world is entirely to gain money and power, and that in its ruthless efforts to fulfil this desire it completely ignores the philosophy of the East, where man is still able to contemplate nature in calm of soul and to feel himself a necessary part in the harmony of the universe. There is an essay full of deep feeling and dignified beauty on the forest hermitages of ancient India, especially as described in the dramas of the great poet Kalidasa. The papers which contain quotations from English poets and which try to define poetry are not so happy. It seems unnecessary to quote some lines of Keats' and then to make the remark: "In this there is a suggestion that truth reveals itself in beauty."

The impression left by this volume is that it is the utterance of a cry of protest against the overwhelming, by the onrush of material greed, of man's sense of unity with all created things and with it his power of creating beauty.

THE SERBS' HERO.

"THE BALLADS OF MARKO KRALJEVICH." Translated by D. H. Low. (Cambridge University Press, 1922. Price 15s.)

Marko Kraljević is the very embodiment of the character of the Dinaric Serbs, and especially of those

of the Shumadia. There is not a single Serb, says Vuk Karadjich, who does not know his name. We may go further, and maintain that scarcely a day passes in the life of a Serbian peasant on which he does not mention the name of Marko, for his tales, like Shakespeare, are "so full of quotations." When a horse strains to pull his heavy load up a bad hill, his owner, with pride, cries out: "In the name of God, he pulls like Marko Kraljević!" When the Serbs beat the Turks at Kumanovo and Bitolj in 1913, and the troops saw Markov Grad at Prilep, Marko's old citadel, they were persuaded that their old hero had arisen from his sleep to help them, and in 1918, were convinced that it was Marko's prowess and strength which was helping to send the Bulgars and Schwabs headlong.

Marko holds a unique place among national heroes. He is not idealised; he is no paragon of virtue; even his military prowess is marred at times by failing nerve; he is associated with no great battle, with no decisive victory or defeat; even his patriotism is questioned, superficially perhaps, but he is constantly depicted as being on friendly terms with the Turks, and even in the service of the Sultan. The secret of his popularity is his humanity. In him the Serb sees a mirror of himself. He is intensely human, with all the passions and appetites of the ordinary man: he is tempestuous and quick to fly into a passion, when he performs acts of sheer brutality; he is not quixotic, but often savage, as when he smashes the teeth of the wife of Philip the Magyar, and cuts off the arm of Roxana the Proud. He is, too, an egregious wine-bibber, a prodigious drinker, quaffing red wine out of twelve-oke goblets: but after all, we all feel respect, and many envy, for the man who can drink everybody else under the table. His physical strength, of course, is tremendous and is constantly insisted on in the tales. He is a simple-minded, great, rollicking Hercules, but endowed with the characteristic Dinaric qualities of high sense of justice, indignation at the wrongs of the oppressed, tender towards the weak and to animals, and a model of filial piety, with a strong vein of humour. He is a hero, not a semi-deified saint, but a very human, very strong *man*, and a thorough Serb. When he drinks wine in Ramazan, to defy the Sultan's order, and what is more, makes the *hojas* and the *hajjis* drink with him, it is from *inat*, that peculiar Serbian characteristic, which might be translated as "pure cussedness."

Mr. Low's translation is very welcome, when Serbia has begun to play so much more prominent a part on the stage of European politics. It is now more necessary than ever to understand the Serbian temperament. Mr. Low quite rightly says, there is no key to the soul of Serbia like a wise and sympathetic study of the ballads of Marko Kraljević.

The historical part of the book, with a critical account of the introduction of the Serbian oral literature, and of this cycle in particular, to European readers, is valuable and interesting, but the bibliography at the end does not seem quite full enough. The translator has overlooked a short article on "The mediaeval Literature of the Serbs" in the *Oxford and Cambridge Review* of 1911, containing a short essay on Marko Kraljević; though he cannot be blamed for the statement that the cycle, as a whole, has never been trans-

HINDUSTANI SELF-TAUGHT and GRAMMAR.

By CAPTAIN C. A. THIMM.

Hindustani Text Revised by J. F. BLUMHARDT, M.A., M.R.A.S.

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lated into English, for a complete and annotated translation made nearly twenty years ago, was never published; but the omission of Dozon's "L'Épopée serbe" is unfortunate.

The translation itself is excellent and well balanced between the Scylla of "fine writing" and the Charybdis of baldness; and it is sufficiently literal to retain something of the atmosphere of the original. There is plenty of unnecessary reduplication in the footnotes, some of which might with advantage have been more comprehensive, while others call for friendly criticism. On p. 9, for instance, *dorat* would be better translated as a bay horse rather than brown. On p. 29, the "cage" in which the maid grew up was probably only the oriental women's quarters, with a grid over the windows. On p. 57, *Njemadia* does not mean the "barren land," but the land of the *Njem-tsi*, the Dumb Folk, that is, non-intelligible, the "Barbaroi," or Germans: the incident occurs in Croatia, where most people are bilingual. On p. 124 the word "*kesedjia*" is derived from *kesa*, a purse: the ordinary Serbian word for pickpocket is not *kesedjia* but *kesarosh*, from *kesa* a purse, while *kesedjia* is surely from another Turkish word meaning "to cut," and should be translated cut-throat. Again in the footnote on p. 9, *chilash* is described as short for *Jabuchilo*, the winged horse: if this is so, there is a pun, for *chilash* is the ordinary word for a roan. In the footnote on p. 1, *zhezhenozlato* means literally "roasted gold" and implies a reference to the cleansing power of fire and the purity of the gold. *White bread* (p. 84) is a luxury for special occasions, which adds point to the story. *Djemo Brdjanin* (p. 135) is translated as *Djemo the Mountaineer*: more probably it should be "*Djemo of the Brda*," that is, the country between *Rashka* and *Montenegro*. On p. 155, *vaistina* reads a servant's name: it is really Old Slavonic, and means "in truth." *Prezime* (p. 180) is a surname, *ime* is the Christian name, while *nadinak* is a nickname. The reference to dry cornel wood (p. 127) would be more vivid to the English reader if it were explained that wood of the *dren* is exceedingly hard and dense, so that the peasants use it for helves for axes and picks. A footnote, too, would be an improvement on p. 177, to explain that "*Vilindir*" or *Hilendar* is the Serbian monastery, foundation of St. Sava, in the monkish republic of the Holy Mountain or Mt. Athos, and that the old tradition of the *Nemanichi* dynasty is carried on there unbrokenly even to-day. Where *Vuk Brankovich* is branded once more as the traitor of *Kosovo* (p. xxvii), it seems a pity not to refer to the other point of view and his able defence by *Kovachevich*. "*Pola pije*," (p. xxix) is an oversight for "*polu*."

The reader to whom the subject is unfamiliar will probably be most struck with the naive humanity of the hero, and the blending of ancient tales of magic, fairies, with flying and speaking horses, with the invention of firearms, and the quaint character of the sultans. Here we may well quote Dozon:—"Nul, en vérité, n'a connu de sultans aussi debonnaire, et dans cette invention des chanteurs, il est permis, ce semble, de voir une sorte de dédommage naïf que le peuple, subjugué, mais encore frémissant, accordait à son amour-propre." But the reader who knows the Balkans cannot fail to be struck by the *oneness* of the country concerned. Here the Balkans are not divided into a number of petty States: the Serbs saw the land as one, their own heritage. Our hero is not from what we call Serbia to-day, but from *Prilep*, and he travelled freely to *Kostur*, *Timok*, *Prizren*, *Kosovo*, *Ohrid* (*Ochrida*), *Kachanik*, *Skadar*, the *Durmitor*, *Belgrade* and the *Danube*—all was the inheritance of the *Nemanichi*; and *Macedonia* was not divided from Serbia. He crossed the *Save* to *Croatia*, to *Karlovat* and *Varazhdin*, but there was not at home. His memory has crossed too, carried by the numerous Serbian immigrants, and there is a mountain in *Croatia* called after him, from a fanciful resemblance in form to a giant's face. His fame echoes even in *Bulgaria*, but *Marko* belonged to the south: he knew Turkish, as most southern Serbs do to-day, and was perfectly at his ease in *Constantinople*, but his home was *Prilep*. He is the favourite of all Serbia's rich *valhalla*.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

To-day.

April 20 (New Style).

April 7 (Old Style).

Shaban 22, 1340 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.

Nisan 22, 5682 of the Jewish Calendar.

M. Radu T. Djuvara, First Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, has returned to London from France.

Mr. Reginald and Lady Margaret Loder have returned to Maidwell Hall, Northampton, from shooting in the Sudan.

Colonel W. D. Waghorn, President of the Railway Board, is leaving India on leave this month. Mr. E. A. S. Bell is carrying on his duties during his absence.

M. Venizelos, who arrived at Washington last week, said that the report that he is returning to Greece to take part in political life is false.

The King of Egypt has conferred the title of Bey upon Mr. Hasib Stephan, Chief Clerk, Dongola Province, Sudan.

The Rev. Geoffrey Browne arrived at Khartoum on March 27. He is joining the Church of England Clergy in the Sudan.

The Minister of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, M. Michel Gavrilovitch, has also been accredited to the Hague.

The Greek Government has sent a message of thanks to Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., for his support in Parliament and in the Press of the Greek cause.

The Earl of Ronaldshay, late Governor of Bengal, who arrived last week by the mail steamer from Bombay, made no stay in London but proceeded immediately to the family seat in Yorkshire.

Bishop Geyer, Vicar Apostolic in the Sudan of the Roman Catholic Church, left Khartoum on March 26 for Egypt, whence he purposed going on to Europe for the summer.

The Council of the Lord Kitchener National Memorial Fund last week announced a preliminary list of thirty Kitchener scholarships awarded to sons of officers and men of his Majesty's Forces.

It is officially announced that the King has been graciously pleased to approve that the dignity of an Earldom of the United Kingdom be conferred upon the Right Hon. Sir Arthur James Balfour, K.G., O.M.

Lady Rawlinson is reported by *The Times* Simla correspondent to be proceeding to England this month.

The engagement is announced of Michael, son of H. E. Sullivan (late Madras Police) and Mrs. Sullivan, The Nook, Broadstairs, and Maude, second daughter of Colonel O. H. Oakes (late Worcestershire Regiment) and Mrs. Oakes, of Nowton Court, Bury St. Edmunds.

M. A. Rizo Rangabé, Greek Chargé d'Affaires, and Mme. Rangabé, left London on the 12th instant for Genoa. M. Rangabé having been summoned by M. Gounaris. In his absence M. M. G. Yanopoulos is in charge of the Legation.

The engagement is announced between Herbert Crawford Laurie, younger son of Henry Montagu Laurie, I.C.S. (retired), barrister-at-law, and Mrs. Laurie, Kenbank, Dalry, Kirkcudbrightshire, and Elizabeth, daughter of A. Leslie Wright of Butterley Hall, Derby.

Lord and Lady Oranmore and Browne have left London for a visit to Austria and Bavaria. They will return to London early in May, when Lady Oranmore and Browne will give a dance for her daughter, the Hon. Kathleen Browne.

A Bombay telegram announces:—Mr. Justice Jamshed B. Kanga has succeeded Sir Thomas Strangman as permanent Advocate-General (Bombay). It is worthy of note that Mr. Justice Kanga, who is the first Indian to hold this position, has not been called to the English Bar.

King Constantine was taken ill last week his indisposition being accompanied by vomiting. A telegram dated April 13 stated:—There is a slight improvement in the condition of the Crown Princess of Greece to-day. She is suffering from typhoid fever. Queen Marie of Roumania is constantly at her daughter's bedside.

The Czech Society of Great Britain proposes to give a dinner on May 18 at the Criterion Restaurant. Lieut.-Col. Sir Samuel Hoare, Bt., M.P., will preside, and Lord Robert Cecil and the Czecho-Slovak Minister will speak. Tickets (12s. 6d.) can be obtained from Mrs. B. Tufnell, Room 289, Kensington Palace Mansions, London, W.8.

The engagement is announced between Captain Lionel George Gray, 18th and 19th K.G.O. Lancers, Delhi, third son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Octavius Gray of Calcutta and Marie Louise, youngest daughter of the late Charles Trotter Thompson and Mrs. Thompson, of 2116, Spruce Street, Philadelphia, U.S.A.

Under the auspices of the East India Association, at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Monday, April 24, at 3.30 p.m., Mr. K. N. Sitaram will read a paper, "Some Aspects of Indian Architecture, chiefly Hinduistic." The chair will be taken by Mr. F. W. Thomas, Librarian of the India Office, and the paper will be illustrated with lantern slides.

Lord Lamington will give away his daughter, the Hon. Grisell Cochrane-Baillie, at her marriage to Lieutenant-Commander Edward Hastings, R.N., which will take place in the chapel at Lamington, Lanarkshire, on April 26. The three bridesmaids will be the Hon. Edith Smith, daughter of Viscount and Viscountess Hambleden, Miss Riette Neilson, and Miss Lillias Baird. The Dowager Countess De La Warr will lend her residence, Easter Duddingston, Mid Lothian, for the honeymoon.

At the School of Oriental Studies (London Institution) Finsbury Circus, on April 26, at 5.30 p.m., in connection with the Ahad Ha-am lectureship in Modern Hebrew, a Public Lecture will be given on "Modern Hebrew" by Mr. Leon Simon, author of "Studies in Jewish Nationalism" and Translator of Ahad Ha-am's Essays from the Hebrew. Mr. James de Rothschild will be in the Chair, supported by Mr. Norman MacLean (Lecturer in Hebrew and Aramaic at Cambridge University). Admission will be free.

OBITUARY.

General Sir George Richards Greaves, G.C.B., K.C.M.G. died at Netherwood, Pembrokeshire, on April 11 in his 91st year. He entered the Army in 1849, as an ensign in the 70th Regiment, which was in the Punjab at the time of the Eusofzai Expedition in 1858; and he served on the Staff under Sir Sydney Cotton, and was mentioned in despatches and awarded the medal with clasp. After distinguished service in the New Zealand War of 1863-66, he took part in the Ashanti Expedition of 1873-74 as

Chief of the Staff, and was present at the capture of Koomasi, as well as several other engagements. Sir Garnet Wolseley in dispatches referred to his zeal and ability. In 1878 he was appointed Chief Secretary and Commissioner at Cyprus, and in 1879 he was appointed Adjutant-General in India. He received the K.C.M.G. in 1881, and was promoted to the rank of Major-General in the following year. He was Chief of Staff to Sir Gerald Graham, in the Sudan Campaign of 1885, when Lord Wolseley mentioned him again in dispatches in very complimentary terms. He was made a K.C.B., and was awarded the medal with clasp and the Khedive's Star. In 1886 he was given command of a division in India, and four years later was Commander-in-Chief at Bombay, which post he resigned in 1893. He retired in 1896 with the rank of General and with the G.C.B., and was two years later made Colonel of the East Surrey Regiment.

Mr. Arthur Bacot, F.E.S., died at Cairo on April 12, from typhus, which he contracted while carrying out research work on behalf of the Egyptian Government. He was well known for his researches into the conveyance of plague by rats.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 1922.

INDIA'S FINANCIAL FUTURE

The immediate financial outlook in India is unquestionably gloomy. The budget discussions which have recently been occupying the central and provincial legislatures have been illuminated by no cheerful ray. The most important provinces have exhausted their accumulated balances, and, under the influence of the demoralising financial system of the past, have looked hungrily for aid to the Central Government, which is not in a position to pay its own way, still less to afford help to others. Nor can this inability be attributed to lack of effort. Heavy additional taxation was imposed a year ago, in the hope of balancing the central accounts, but that hope was disappointed, and the year closed with a large realised deficit. The administration proposed to renew its effort for the year which has now begun, but the legislature has refused a considerable proportion of the extra revenue which was asked for, and has decided to face the future with the prospect of another large deficit, tempered only by the aspiration that it may be possible to effect substantial reductions in expenditure. No one familiar with the position in India will expect any great result from this measure, because there has been very little real extravagance in the past, while the continuous rise in the standard of living, in itself a desirable development, means that increased wages and salaries in the lower grades will quickly counterbalance any savings which may be found possible in other charges. Some legislators indeed profess to believe that large military economies can be effected, but no one who has studied the recent speeches of Lord Rawlinson, the Commander-in-Chief, will share their apparent confidence; to cut down insurance premia is the worst of all forms of economy, and while India is a "danger area," the premia must remain unpleasantly high. Some of the provinces are attempting to increase their revenue within the limited field available under the existing constitution, but a glance at the expedients under trial, which consist mainly of taxes on such luxuries as betting, litigation, and picture-houses, suffices to show the difficulties of their position; and the conclusion appears to be unavoidable that for practical purposes the limits of remunerative taxation have been reached. The country can be restored to solvency by a great recovery in trade, a recovery which is on the horizon, but as yet can scarcely be said to have dawned; but even when temporary equilibrium has been attained, there will remain almost incalculable demands for new expenditure on developments which have been long postponed. For many years to come the needs of education, sanitation, and other neglected activities will absorb every additional rupee which the Administration can find, and the true lesson to be drawn from the difficulties of the moment is that the resources of the country must be permanently and progressively increased.

Happily for India, such an increase in resources is well within the bounds of possibility, but its attainment will call for steady effort on the part both of the Administration and of the leaders of the people. The primary duty of the Administration at this juncture is to concentrate all the available energy on the development of the great national estate which it holds in trust for the community. First to restore, and then largely to increase, the earning-power of the railways; to turn to the most profitable use, whether for power or for irrigation, every available supply of water; to realise the

almost incalculable possibilities of the State forests; to take boldly the full share of the unearned increment of the land, which by the ancient institutions of the country is reserved for communal purposes; these are definite and straightforward lines of policy, leading directly to the goal in view. The task is undoubtedly rendered more difficult by the present financial situation, for, however the facts may be obscured by the devices of shamefaced accountancy, the broad truth remains that borrowed money used for current expenses cannot also be used for development, while recurring deficits must lower credit, and consequently must increase the cost of loans even for productive purposes. The difficulty however must be faced, and its existence should serve to emphasise the call to increased effort. It is perhaps inevitable that the governing and spending departments, whether central or provincial, should of late have overshadowed those whose mission is to earn: the time has now come when the balance should be effectively redressed, when the portfolios of agriculture, industries, and commerce should claim a largely increased share of public attention, and the country should be given the full advantage of its unsurpassed technical services. Earning, rather than taxing, should now be the watchword of every Indian administration.

The Administration, however, cannot restore the situation without assistance from the leaders of the people. The greatest need of all is the application of national brains and capital in increasing measure to productive work. To say this is not, as some Indian critics think, to preach a doctrine of crude materialism. When we urge the paramount importance of increasing the national income, we do so on the definite ground that by this course alone can national aspirations be realised. Educated Indians differ in opinion on many important topics, but the great majority are agreed in desiring to see their country strong and healthy, learned and wise. Such desires invite the sympathy of the world at large, but to realise them requires expenditure on a scale which the national income at present cannot bear; and the most ardent idealist can accept with enthusiasm the gospel of hard work when the object is not to satisfy the material desires of individuals, but to give the people as a whole the chance of rising to a higher plane of life. We recognise that India has made distinct progress in this direction during the last two decades. A long step has been taken, but it is only a step, and there is a real danger in the premature self-satisfaction now so noticeable in Indian political circles. The thing, they say, has been done: the new productive era has already been attained; peasants, weavers, and miners can now be left to themselves; and men of talent can devote themselves with clear consciences to the battles of words which possess such fascination for them. No greater mistake could be made. A start is much, but it is not everything, and the goal is still distant. Continued and persistent effort is now needed. It is true that some long-dormant capital has of late been mobilised for productive purposes, but it is a trifle compared either to the needs or to the resources of the country. It is true also that a few of the best intellects in India have been devoted to industrial pursuits, but the number must be multiplied a hundred-fold. Individuals have done something, but strenuous leadership is now wanted to move the nation as a whole, and to captivate the imagination of all classes, but especially of the rising generation. The times call for a higher standard of citizenship than has hitherto prevailed. No Indian is a good citizen who buries his resources in the ground, or expends them in useless jewellery, however attractive its possession may be. Again, no Indian is a good citizen who allows young brains capable of productive work to be devoted merely to the deadening routine of public administration. Such doctrines as these should now be propagated in each of the numerous centres of intellectual activity. For India, to-day is indeed "the day of the chattel," and the country will be best served by the men who set to work deliberately to increase the national income, looking chiefly not to the personal reward, but to the contribution they may make to the realisation of their national ideals.

THE SAMARITANS.

By Estelle Blyth.

"There be two manner of nations which my heart abhorreth, and the third is no nation: They that sit upon the mountain of Samaria, and they that dwell among the Philistines, and that foolish people that dwell in Sichem."

These, the words of "the son of Sirach of Jerusalem, who out of his heart poured forth wisdom," are typical of the enmity of the Jews towards the Samaritans; an enmity so intense that it led them to class the Samaritans with the Philistines, the age-long enemies of Israel. Pride, tradition, and the inability of the Jew to forgive, are forces that have erected an impassable barrier between the Jews and that sad dying remnant of a people who are also of the seed of Abraham. To this day "the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans," while the Samaritans, on their part, offer a set defiance to the brethren who disown them, and to the world in which they are but a name. Of all Eastern peoples there is hardly one so marvellously consistent, so unbending in character, so blindly and passionately conservative, as the Samaritans. The Jews of the dispersion have intermarried with the Gentiles to such an extent that the blood in their veins is no longer purely Jewish; they have assimilated the characteristics, even the features of the peoples amongst whom they have settled. The Russian Jews are perfectly different from the Spanish or German Jews; but the Samaritans remain absolutely Semitic in every way, and they are dying out because they will not allow intermarriage with Gentiles.

According to their own traditions, the Samaritans are of the Tribe of Joseph, descended through Ephraim and Manasseh. Others among the Tribes of Israel at one time adhered to them, but fell away during the centuries, and the little handful of people now known as Samaritans are of the House of Joseph alone, excepting the High Priest's family, which is of the House of Levi. The sanctity of Mount Gerizim, the home of the Samaritans, is as old as the story of Israel, and we shall find that its history is inextricably entwined with that of the people. Here Abraham encamped, and "built an altar unto the Lord in the place of Sichem." Near-by Jacob bought his field, and erected an altar, "and called it El-elohe-Israel." When the Israelites entered Canaan, the High Priest Eleazer, who was Aaron's son and successor, erected the tabernacle of the wilderness in Mount Gerizim, dwelling himself near-by that he might serve it. Moses commanded the Israelites, when they should be passed over Jordan, to set up the stones of the Law "in Mount Ebal, . . . and there shalt thou build an altar to the Lord thy God"; and after that the blessings were to be pronounced from Mount Gerizim, and the curses from Ebal. The Samaritans say that the altar was to be set up on Gerizim, which name should here be read instead of Ebal, and that Gerizim was always intended as the Sanctuary of God and not Zion, which the Jews only chose after the split. We shall refer to this point again. Joshua held his final Assembly of the People in Shechem, and in Shechem he wrote the book of the Law, and took a great stone and set it up "under an oak that was by the sanctuary of the Lord." The bones of Joseph were buried here, in Jacob's Field, which became the inheritance of the Tribe of Joseph, and Eleazer also was buried in the portion of this inheritance. The Tabernacle remained in Mount Gerizim for six generations of the priesthood, the Samaritans claiming that the priesthood was secured and confined to the family of Eleazer, the son of Aaron, as a reward for the pious zeal of Phinehas, who slew the Midianitish woman and her lover, and thus stayed the plague in Israel.

In the sixth generation after Eleazer, Baasha, being then the High Priest, set Eli over the sacrifices and tithes. Eli was of the family of Ithamar, a brother of Eleazer, but not in the direct line of the priesthood. Aza succeeded his father, Baasha, in office, but he was younger than Eli, whose pride was thus offended. It now came to pass that the Gentiles (the outer peoples

who knew not the Lord), sought to compass the downfall of Israel by subtilty. They fraternized with the Israelites, with whom they probably already had trading relations; they intermarried with them, and turned their hearts to the worship of the heathen gods—for very easily and very often were the Jews turned aside after strange altars. They even went to the length of sending into the lands of the Tribes sorcerers and wizards exceedingly cunning, who by their black arts corrupted many, even amongst the priests. Forsaking the true worship on Mount Gerizim, the perverts crowded to the high places and altars of the gods of the Gentiles; "and the Lord delivered them into the hands of the Philistines forty years." While the people were thus miserably enslaved in soul and body, the priesthood was severed by a terrible feud. Eli, being older than Aza the High Priest, refused to serve him any longer; he gathered about him a little band of friends and relatives and malcontents who, when the inevitable split came (after Aza had rebuked him for carelessness over the Meal Offering), clave to Eli, and followed him to Shiloh. The Tribe of Joseph remained faithful to Aza and the lineal priesthood, but many out of Judah and Benjamin went after Eli. At Shiloh Eli made an ark and overlaid it with gold, and therein he set copies of the Law, written by the hand of Ithmar, the younger son of Aaron, and proclaimed that it was all done by the direct commandment of God.

This is the Samaritan account of their severance from the other Tribes: thenceforward their narrative turns aside from that of the Old Testament, which follows the story of Eli and the priesthood that derived from him, though it tells us nothing of Eli's descent and early years, as it does in the case of Samuel.

Not long after the severance between the Tribes, Aza went into the temple on Mount Gerizim on the morning of the second day, and found it filled with a terrible darkness, blacker than night. Each day he entered in, only to find the awful blackness nothing diminished, and by the fifth day even the walls of the temple were hidden from his sight. Sorrowful and afraid, Aza left the temple, knowing well that it was a sign of Divine wrath, and as he emerged into the sunlight he saw a great cavern, which never before had been there. God made known to Aza that He had created the cave as a hiding place for the High Priest's vestments, the Holy Vessels, and the Ark of the Covenant, wherein they might be safe from the unhallowed hands of the enemies of His Sanctuary. So soon, then, as Aza had placed everything in the cave, it closed; and the next day, all sign of it had vanished.

The Samaritans place the severance of Israel in the year of the Creation, 3055. From this point they trace the history of the other Tribes fairly accurately, though their bias appears in such statements as that Eli instructed Samuel in sorcery, to which they ascribe the misery of Saul, he being completely in the hands of Samuel. They also state that David was withheld from building the temple at Jerusalem, not by reason of his penitence for a life of bloodshed, but because Yare, the High Priest, forbade him to build a temple elsewhere than in Mount Gerizim. David, being equally afraid to disregard the voice of the High Priest, or to displease his people by openly acknowledging the supremacy of Gerizim, relinquished the desire of his life, and laid it as a charge upon Solomon, his son. Solomon's heart was turned aside after many strange women (that is, of outlandish or Gentile nationality), and he built the temple at Jerusalem without fear, not scorning the aid of those dark spirits whom he could summon and bend to his will through the secrets of wizardry transmitted by Eli to Samuel. In their mountain fastnesses, the Tribe of Joseph still followed faithfully the Law as Moses delivered it; and all the glories of Solomon's temple failed to bring them to worship at Jerusalem.

The Samaritan tale hereafter becomes somewhat confused and uncertain, and we will turn back to pick up the links of the Bible narrative, to which it only occasionally adheres.

It was at Shechem that Rehoboam, at a great Assembly of the People, uttered the rough and churlish threat which caused Israel to forsake the House of David. Jeroboam also dwelt there for a time. Omri bought the fair hill of Samaria for two talents of silver, and built there a city which he named after Shemer (from whom he had purchased it), Shomron, meaning the Hill of the Outlook, or of the Watch. The Aramaic rendering, Shamrayin, easily passed into the Greek word, Samaria. The Jews call the Samaritans the Shomronim, the people of Shomron; but the Samaritans have a prouder name for themselves—Shomerem, the Keepers (*i.e.*, of the Law) or, more often simply Israel.

The city of Omri's building remained the capital of the Northern Kingdom throughout the troublous years that followed, until B.C. 722, when Sargon, King of Assyria, captured it after three years' vigorous siege. The whole province was enslaved with it, and Sargon carried into activity it is said, over twenty-seven thousand souls of all ages. In their place he set "men from Babylon and from Cuthah, and from Ava, and from Hamath, and from Sepharvaim," to occupy the cities so tragically emptied, and to restore the wasted land of Samaria. The Bible account of this harsh and imperious action is graphic in the extreme. A visitation of "lions among them, which slew some of them," caused severe searching of heart in the ranks of the settlers. It would be interesting to know whether the lions of the Bible were really such, or the fierce black panthers and leopards which are still seen in parts of Palestine, and are called lions by the people. Whatever the beast that preyed upon them, the Assyrians regarded it as a punishment of the "God of the land" upon strangers who did not worship Him, and in answer to their petition, Sargon recalled from captivity a priest of Israel, whom he charged to teach them the new religion. Nevertheless, the people still followed their own gods, secretly, each man in the shelter of his house.

The Jews aver that from this enforced settlement arose a mixed race of partly pagan blood, whose descendants are the Samaritans of to-day; hence they have done well in hating and shunning them throughout the centuries, even until now. The Samaritans, on the other hand, state that they returned to Samaria after an exile of seventy years, and were exiled again, after one year only, for a hundred and thirty-one years, following the capture of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar. They also claim that it was the representations of their High Priest and the princes of the Tribe of Joseph which induced Cyrus, King of Persia, to permit their return to Palestine. There was a terrible famine for seven years in the Holy Land, and Cyrus sent for the leaders of Israel to enquire of them what means could be taken to restore that fruitful land. The leaders seized the opportunity to expound to him the promises and threats of God, written in the Law of Moses, and the heart of Cyrus was moved to deal uprightly with these mourning and afflicted exiles. He gave orders for their repatriation, and for the rebuilding of the temple—the Bible says, at Jerusalem; the Samaritans, on Mount Gerizim. The Jews desired to return to Jerusalem and to rebuild the temple on Zion, the place chosen by David and Solomon; the Tribe of Joseph contested this, and the strife was sharp between them. The Samaritans say that Cyrus sided with the House of Joseph, and they returned to Samaria under the leadership of Sanballat the Horonite (*i.e.*, of Beth-Horon), and rebuilt their temple on Mount Gerizim. All the fittings and appointments of it were fashioned in exact accordance with the Law of Moses, and when it was dedicated, and a hundred oxen offered

upon the altar, God caused the rain to fall upon the land and made it fruitful once more.

We return to the Bible story here. The Samaritans (Ezra calls them "the adversaries of Judah"), offered to help the Jews to rebuild their temple at Jerusalem, but the Jew's rough answer, "Ye have nothing to do with us, to build an house unto the Lord our God!" angered them, and greatly embittered the feud. In return the Samaritans "troubled them in building," and succeeded in persuading Artaxerxes to stop their work. The breach was widened beyond all hope of healing when Nehemiah "chased" from his presence the grandson of Eliashib the High Priest and son-in-law of Sanballat the Horonite, because he had married a strange wife.

Great bitterness vexes the minds of the Samaritans hereafter, and they do not hesitate to accuse Esther of practising sorceries upon Artaxerxes that he might permit the building of the temple at Jerusalem to be resumed. The Samaritans say that as they had the five books of the Torah, and the Jews knew this, and knew also that the feud prevented them from ever gaining access to the only source of their joint religion—therefore Ezra the Scribe set himself to reconstruct the Law from chronicles and legends, and wrote it in a book in the language of the Assyrians, the Jews of the exile having no great fluency in their own tongue. They say further, that Ezra's copy of the Law, being so compiled, is necessarily very imperfect, and that his bitterness against the Samaritans caused him to interpolate deliberate untruths concerning this much-aggrieved people. He called them Gentiles, and accused them of worshipping a dove (Ashimé), and of meaning *that* when, in their services, they pronounce the name "Sh'meh," by which the Samaritans indicate the unutterable Name of God. The charge is a tremendous one, for it strikes at the very root of the Jewish religion, and, in fact, denies its veracity. In their eyes, Ezra's action was responsible for the final and perpetual exile of the Jews from the land they loved, yet repeatedly brought to misery and ruin—I say a perpetual exile, for that little land can never support the Jewish population of the world, if they desire to return as a whole, even if the people of the land who are the descendants of the Canaanites, conquered by Joshua but never exterminated, could be completely dispossessed of their ancient birthright.

Once only did the Samaritans and the Jews come together again—during the Roman Conquest, when the common peril flung them into a brief and futile alliance. Entrenched on Mount Gerizim, the Samaritans offered a desperate resistance to the disciplined army of Caesar, and the merest handful of them survived defeat. Caesar Augustus bestowed the ruins of Samaria upon Herod, who rebuilt the city and fortified it, calling it Sebaste, the Greek rendering of Caesar's name. It is said that St. John the Baptist may have suffered here, where Herod often held high festival with his "lords and chief estates of Galilee," whereas to Machaerus (generally named as the place of martyrdom), which is east of the Dead Sea, he only repaired in sickness for the Baths near-by.

There are not many references to the Samaritans in the Gospels, but our Lord chose them as the text of some of His most beautiful lessons. He made a Samaritan, an outcast, His example of unquestioning charity, as opposed to the paltriness of Priest and Levite who professed so much and did so little; while by the words, "The hour cometh, and now is, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father," He sought to raise the worship of Samaritans and Jews, who both clung so fiercely to a site, a tradition, a letter whence the spirit had long since fled. In the Crucifixion the Samaritans could have borne no part, for the rigid observance of their own Passover rites kept them far from Jerusalem, and from what they considered the heretical practices of the Jews.

As we study the much-tangled history of the Samaritans we find different place-names figuring therein over

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and over again—Sichem, Shechem, Samaria, Sebaste, Nablus. How are these worked into the pattern?

Sichem, or Shechem, now called Nablus, is one of the world's most ancient cities. The name signifies the Ridge, or Neck (*i.e.*, of a pass); it lies cradled in the rich folds of the valley that divides Mount Gerizim from Mount Ebal. Abraham and Jacob, each in his day, rested here. Joshua appointed it as one of the Cities of Refuge. Abimelech ruled it for three years, until "an evil spirit" of dissension divided him from the men of Shechem. At Shechem the Tribes finally revolted from the House of David, after Rehoboam's folly; and Jeroboam, his successor, built, or fortified, it. We have seen already how Omri transferred his royal dwelling-place from Shechem to Samaria (the modern Sebaste), which name gradually came to cover the whole Province. After their return from exile, the Samaritans rebuilt their temple on Mount Gerizim, recapturing thereby something of Shechem's old proud eminence; but John Hyrcanus destroyed the temple (B.C. 129), and it was never restored, though the site has been jealously preserved by tradition. In A.D. 67, Vespasian conquered the Province, and rebuilt Shechem, calling it Flavia Neapolis, whence came the modern name of Nablus, there being no *p* in Arabic. Early in the Christian era it became an important Bishopric, but the Samaritans do not seem to have got on much better with the Christians than they did with the Jews; in the year 529 they rushed the Christian Quarter, and killed a number of the inhabitants. Justinian proceeded against them with the utmost severity, even closing their synagogues. Numbers of the Samaritans fled to Persia, where it is said, they settled and in time embraced Islam as the price of their safety; a few of those who remained at Nablus became Christians, but the majority, as one would expect from their history, remained firmly rooted in the faith for which they had already suffered so much.

Under the Christian Kings Nablus became a place of considerable importance, and Baldwin II. (following in the track of the Old Testament history), held a Council here in 1120, to discuss the grave question of a general reform in the morals of the Kingdom, then entering on its twenty-first year.* The Bishop of Shechem was suffragan to the Archbishop of Caesarea. The Knights Hospitallers in 1179 founded a hospice at Nablus, which was inhabited by lepers as late as 1890, and possibly later. In 1201 the city crumbled into ruins in a terrific earthquake. On the whole the Samaritans enjoyed more liberty and consideration under the Christian Kings than under any other rule. The Crusaders would hardly tolerate the Jews anywhere, hating them as the murderers of Christ, and the feud existing between the Jews and the Samaritans may have disposed them to regard the latter with a more lenient eye.

The Samaritan settlers in the cities of Palestine often outnumbered the Jewish. Rabbi Benjamin of Tudela, a learned Jew of Spain, who travelled extensively in the Near East from 1160 to 1173, found Caesarea "inhabited by about ten Jews and two hundred Cutheans. The latter are the Samaritan Jews, commonly called Samaritans." "No Jews live here," (at Sebaste) nor at "Nablus, the ancient Shechem." At Ascalon he found about "two hundred rabbanite Jews, and about "three thousand Jews, also two hundred Caraites (a Jewish sect), and about four hundred Samaritans"; the two latter were on friendly terms, but not to the extent of intermarriage. When the Kharezmians, a fierce Persian tribe, overran Palestine in 1244, the Samaritans suffered no less than the other inhabitants; numbers of them fell in offering a futile resistance, and numbers more were carried captive as far as Damascus. Here they seem to have been abandoned by the Kharezmians, and the Samaritan residents helped them as much as they could; but only a very few survived to return later on to their ruined homes at Shechem.

(To be continued).

* "By the reformation of morals in 1120 A.D., appears to have been understood the regular payment of tithes." (Conder, "Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem," pp. 196-7.)

THE MOHAMMEDANS OF YUGOSLAVIA.

THE RELIGIOUS ORGANISATION OF THE YUGOSLAV MOSLEMS.

By Our Zagreb Correspondent.

The following is the outline of the religious organisation of the Yugoslav Mohammedans, as drafted in consultation between the Macedonian contingent, who are Ottomans and Albanians, and the Serbian Moslems of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Vakuf properties have all the privileges as provided in the Bosnian statute: the administrative units are the *dzhemat*, which is the local unit, the *srez* or arrondissement, and the central. State aid is proportionate to the actual needs. A minimum of 200 Mohammedan houses constitutes a *dzhemat* or *jemat*. The *srez* corresponds to the administrative unit of that name, while the central office for the entire kingdom is at Belgrade, with a branch at Serayevo and another at Skoplye. At the head of the organisation is the Nayibul Halifa: shariat courts are at the head of each *srez*, and at the heads of the *jemats* State *imams* divided into three categories according to the size of the *jemat*: these are paid as State functionaries and have their own pension fund. They are appointed by the Minister of Religions on the recommendation of the Niyabet and Vakuf Committee. Their duties in their *jemat* correspond to those of the Christian parish priest, including also the care of the vakufs in the *jemat* as directed by the Vakuf committee of the *srez*.

The shariat judges in each *srez* where there is a Moslem population have the same functions as the *kadis* of Bosnia, and are also chairmen of the vakuf committees of the *srez*. Beyond the chief shariat court at Serajevo there is established a similar one at Skoplye and another at Belgrade.

Muftis are selected by the Niyabet Halifa from his council, who chooses two candidates, of whom the Minister of Religions appoints one. These are senior officials and have a high rate of pay. The chief is the Nayibul Halifa, for whom the Sheriat Senate proposes a choice of three names to the Minister of Religions: the one selected by the Minister is appointed by the King.

The Niyabet is assisted by four *muleshars*, who are experts on education, shariat, civil and religious law; these are appointed by the Minister on the recommendation of the Sheriat Senate and form the *Nayibul Mojliss*. None of these functionaries may be dismissed from his post without proof of fault or as provided by the law.

The Sheriat Senate consists of the Nayibul Halifa muftis of Serayevo and Skoplye, the three senior Sheriat judges and the oldest ex-Minister of Mohammedan religion with the Minister of Religions or his deputy, together with one deputy for every 50,000 Mohammedan electors. These deputies must form at least two-thirds of the total number of the Senate, and are elected for three years. The Senate is convoked before the close of the financial year, and sits alternately at Serayevo and Skoplye; the costs are born by the Central Vakuf Fund.

The Sheriat Senate has the right to elect the Nayibul Halifa, proposing three candidates to the Minister, to elect two candidates for the *muleshars*, the president of the Vakuf Central at Skoplye and Serayevo, to pass the budget and accounts of the Vakuf Centrals in Serayevo and Skoplye, to approve the work of the Niyabet, to decide on questions touching Mohammedan education.

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Y.W.C.A. WORK IN CONSTANTINOPLE. (From a Correspondent.)

A correspondent sends me the following account of Y.W.C.A. work in that inferno of human misery and baleful intrigues, namely Constantinople:—"The newspapers in every country have been full of the distress in Constantinople caused by the refugees of many nations who have thronged there. Particularly pitiful has been the plight of the Russians, who have been unable to leave Constantinople because of passport difficulties, and who in the present state of trade depression, and also through lack of training of the proper sort have been unable to obtain work. This congestion of refugees and would-be emigrants is one of the problems of the moment, so the Y.W.C.A. appointed Miss Ruth Larned to investigate conditions and to make one of the chain of Secretaries who will be serving migrants all round the world. In Constantinople the form of help offered to all travellers, no matter what their destination, is as follows.

"First, educational propaganda work, specially making known the disastrous effects of selling property, and breaking up homes or farms or businesses, before the would-be emigrants can be sure of a welcome or even admittance to the country which they hope to go to: and also providing information about the different routes and the inevitable difficulties which at present migrants have to face.

"Secondly, help in making the necessary preparations for emigration, such as the securing of proper passports and the necessary visas, the buying of tickets and the securing of accommodation, and also, what is equally important, the getting into touch with relations or friends who have gone ahead, or with special societies or people who will help the emigrant when they reach their destination.

"Thirdly, special advice for young girls or children travelling alone, for people needing medical help, and for those who have been rejected on medical or other grounds before they sailed, or deported after they have arrived. All these forms of service are undertaken in co-operation with the Governments, and the steamship or other companies concerned, as well as the social agencies which try to mitigate the hardships of migration. This comprehensive plan tackles the problem from its beginning to its end, and should result not merely in making emigration easier, but in stopping unsuitable migrants, and in building up good citizenship at both ends of the migration trail.

"It may be added that there are many bypaths of service in migration work if one looks at it as a whole, and there are many local Associations in big towns and ports, who if they tried, could get into touch with girls going abroad, and with the many foreign girls to be found in any great city. Many of these are cut off from ordinary life just because they are foreign, and they are also cut off from contributing to a common life their special gifts of foreign art and music. Here is a chance for Association members to make international friendships in their own towns."

THE CHURCH IN INDIA.

An appeal has been issued by the Committee of the Mission of Help to India, signed by Lord Crewe, Lord Curzon, Lord Chelmsford, Sir Arthur Lawley, General Sir Charles Monro, General Sir Claud Jacob, Sir Henry Proctor, the Bishop of Stepney, and Canon Hicks, on behalf of the mission which it is proposed to send out in the ensuing winter months for work among English Church people (military and civil) in India. The missionaries will number, it is hoped, at least 24 clergy (among them the Bishop of Peterborough, the Dean of Manchester, and Father Waggett), and six women. "At no time" (they write) "have the stress and difficulty of their life been greater than at the present. In the words of the Archbishop of Canterbury, 'the stimulating and strengthening of the Church's life is obviously a matter which belongs not to India only, but to the well-being of the Empire as a whole.' We ask all who know and value the moral and spiritual forces of Christianity and the supreme secret of character and efficiency to rally to the support of the mission. The Indian dioceses will bear the expenses of the missionaries in India, but the committee at home has made itself responsible for the very heavy cost of passages, outfit, etc. It is estimated that this will amount to at least £5,000. Arrangements must be made with the missionaries and passages booked at once. We therefore ask for immediate and substantial help. Contributions may be sent to Mr. P. R. Wilson, hon. treasurer to the committee, or to Mr. H. P. K. Skipton, hon. assistant secretary, in both cases care of Indian Church Aid Association, Church House, Westminster."

GALLIPOLI GRAVES.

A party of relatives and friends of officers and men who fell in Gallipoli is being organised to visit the graves there. The pilgrimage will last about 34 days, and July 1 is the approximate date when the party will sail.

Those desirous of making the pilgrimage—the cost will be from £60-£100 each—should communicate with the War Graves Department, Church Army Headquarters, Marble Arch, W.1.

THE JEWISH NATIONAL HOME.

A Reuter message sent off from Washington on April 12 reports:—"Senator Lodge introduced a resolution in the Senate to-day endorsing the project for the creation of a Jewish National Home in Palestine in accordance with the Balfour Declaration.

THE BALFOUR DECLARATION.

The *Palestine Weekly* prints the text of a speech by Lord Milner in reply to representations made to him by the Moslem-Christian Association of Palestine, whom he received at Jaffa. Lord Milner said:—

"I am very happy to see all your members who are here present to welcome me, but, unintentionally, you have put me in a very difficult position, because at present I am not a political man but simply a tourist who has left politics. If I speak to you, I want you to take my words as those of a friend, because I am a friend of the Arabs. When I was a member of the British Cabinet I was one of the greatest supporters of the idea of friendship and good relations between Arabs and Englishmen.

You mention the Balfour Declaration. I was one of the members of the Government which gave the promise, and I am responsible for it, together with all my colleagues in the Cabinet. I find here many people who think that the Balfour Declaration gives the country to the Jews. They forget the second condition of the Declaration, which protects the Arabs' rights. It is not conceivable that we should give the house of somebody to somebody else! The Moslems have here a fatherland. So have the Christians. Then, why not the Jews as well?

You ask for justice, and I think that the Government is trying its hardest to be just with everybody. You must not be misled by extremist demands from the Jews, who ask for things which the British Government would never think of giving—if it is to act according to its own promise and not on the interpretations given to this promise by others.

TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

The subject headings given are those of the official report.

Peace Treaties: Gallipoli.—Egypt (Martial Law).—India: Government Officials (Steamship Fares); Army Officers (Pensions).—Near East.—Greek Loan.—Bombay Municipality Loan.—Black Sea Ports.—(Thursday, 6th April.)

Peace Treaties: Turkey; Gallipoli.—Georgia.—Fiume.—Turkey and Greece.—Egypt.—Surplus Army Officers, India.—(Monday, 10th April.)

British Army: Camelry Corps.—India: Non-Co-operation Movement; Sedition, Bombay; Pensions (Insurance); Punjab Rebellion (Treatment of Officers); British Army Officers (Surplus).—Cotton Pests.—Turkey and Greece.—India: Burma Constitution; Maulana Hassan Ahmed; Political Offenders (Treatment); Afghanistan (Treaty).—(Tuesday, 11th April.)

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NOTES AND NEWS.

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Genoa and Afterwards.

It cannot be said that the commercial and industrial community here is following events at Genoa with any special degree of interest. As a matter of fact the business world is decidedly sceptical as to the probable results of the conference, and this attitude is likely to be strengthened by the report that Genoa is to be the prelude to further conferences. This scepticism arises from the fact that there must be a very great degree of uncertainty in regard to all negotiations with Russia. Unfortunately the fate of the reconstruction of Europe hinges to a very large extent on the relations of the world with Russia, and as the world cannot remain indefinitely with trade and commerce in a state of suspense an attempt obviously had to be made to restore Russia to the body politic at the earliest possible moment. That is the justification of the Conference.

Results of a Successful Issue.

Granted that the Conference is successful it cannot be too strongly emphasised that we stand to gain nothing directly from the re-opening of relations with Russia. As a result of the Bolshevik regime not only is there nothing that that country can export but the transport system and conditions generally are such that it is estimated that ten years must elapse before Russia will again be an important market. The real benefit will arise from the general restoration of confidence in Central and South Eastern European countries which will be able henceforward to devote their attention undividedly to the work of reconstruction the fruits of which should quickly be seen in developing trade and improving exchanges. I am presupposing, of course, that concurrently a settlement will have been arrived at between Turkey and Greece, for if that struggle were to continue it would be hopeless to look for any rapid results in the Near East as the result of an agreement with Russia.

Revival of Trade.

It is fortunately possible to record the fact that irrespective of conferences and meetings British trade is beginning to show distinct signs of reviving. Encouraging reports are forthcoming from some of the principal industries, notably cotton and steel, while there has been a marked development of the coal export trade. As our manufacturers are now in certain cases able to hold their own as regards foreign contracts, and as most of the centres overseas are very short of supplies and cannot stay out of the market much longer it is possible to view the future with a much greater degree of confidence than would have been possible a few months ago. If only no adverse factors present themselves and if the authorities realise the necessity of encouraging trade through the Budget then the next few months ought to see comparatively satisfactory conditions obtaining in commerce and industry. To look for a "boom" would be absurd at present, but a gradual broadening of trade

preparing the way for the "boom" that will certainly come may reasonably be anticipated.

Near Eastern Loans.

It is disappointing that so far none of the attempts to float a Near Eastern Loan here should have materialised. Various reasons are responsible for the failure of the negotiations, not the least of them being the belief on the part of some of the would-be borrowers that they ought to be able to obtain better accommodation. Of course present conditions in the Near East render the raising of loans on a normal basis quite out of the question; but once it becomes clear that things are really moving as regards reconstruction then difficulties as regards the provision of finance would at once disappear.

The Standard Oil Co. in Palestine.

An interesting development in regard to oil has been the decision of Great Britain to grant exploring rights in Palestine to the Standard Oil Company. It may be hoped that America will see in this action definite proof of the desire of Great Britain to give equal opportunities to other countries in regard to the development of oil-fields. The exploration work of the Standard Oil Company in Palestine, it may be added, will be followed with special interest since the prospects in that country as regards oil are so far uncertain.

Aboukir Company's Set-back.

The report of the Aboukir Company, which has just been issued, reflects the unfavourable economic conditions that prevailed in Egypt in 1921. As a result of the depreciation in the price of cotton the demand for land ceased for the time being, and no sales took place during the year. The effect of this has been that while there was a profit of over £85,000 on land sales in 1920 the accounts are this time credited with only £23,992 under this heading, while the total profit for the year amounted to £27,296 as compared with £42,500. An interim dividend of 6 per cent. was paid, and a final dividend of 3 per cent. is proposed making 9 per cent. for the year as compared with 16 per cent. for the previous period.

Commentator.

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Commerce and Industry.

REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

GREECE.

Athens, April 2.

Cigarette Industry.

Considerable progress has been effected in the Greek cigarette industry during the last few years. According to statistics of the last three years, the yearly production of tobacco in Greece amounts to approximately 25-30 million kilograms, of which only 5 million are consumed locally the remainder being exported abroad. Of the 5 million kilos consumed in Greece, nearly 4 millions are made into cigarettes.

Cigarette making machines were for the first time introduced into Greece a year or so before the war. To-day there are over 1,000 such machines in the country producing 100-130 thousand cigarettes *per diem*. Up to 1918 the export of ready-made cigarettes had not attained much importance; during 1919 and 1920, however, marked progress was made in that direction as will be seen by the table below.

Year.	Quantity in kilos.	Value in Drachmae.
1912	1,599	12,490
1913	806	6,300
1914	297	2,320
1915	2,858	33,645
1916	7,661	119,700
1917	—	—
1918	114	1,001
1919	326,445	6,449,050
1920	220,991	3,334,518

During 1919 and 1920 very large quantities of cigarettes were exported to Turkey, Bulgaria and Holland. A new Greek cigarette company with a capital of 10,000,000 drachmae is about to be formed. The company intends spending 2,000,000 drachmae on advertising.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Zagreb, April 8.

Importation of Luxuries forbidden.

In spite of the agreement arrived at between the Succession States not to impose prohibition on any imports or exports, the Minister of Finance has issued a decree absolutely forbidding the importation of a long list of so-called "luxury articles." The object, of course, is to discourage the demand for foreign currency for payment of such goods, and, incidentally, to encourage domestic manufactures. The decree will be vigorously enforced.

Time will show whether it is wise or practical. One minor objection is that it makes the country uncomfortable to live in, for a good many "luxuries" are by now become necessities to many. But a more serious objection is the incentive that it gives to smuggling, which varies inversely with the demand for the articles. During the last prohibition, which was not in force for long, all forbidden goods were really to be had by those who knew how, when and where, at a price. There is danger, too, that foreign producers may reply with reprisals.

It would probably have been better to put on a very high import duty, which would have had a similar effect and brought more revenue to the exchequer. It is probable that a short experience will show that the decree must be amended, and very likely withdrawn again.

Prohibition of Arbitrage.

Alarmed at the constant fall of the dinar, the Minister of Finance finally decided on heroic measures, and prohibited all dealing in foreign exchange except through the National Bank. Whether this desperate and highly artificial expedient will do any real good is very doubtful.

It will cause a great deal of inconvenience to travellers and traders and will probably be successfully evaded by a certain number of determined people. But it will attain at least a substantial part of its object if it prevents the wild speculation in exchange which has been raging in most of eastern and central Europe, but especially in Yugoslavia and above all in Zagreb. Here it had become the chief business of most of the banks, and enabled them to make handsome profits even after paying the heavy impositions to which they were subject. For the business of arbitrage had long since been extended beyond its legitimate sphere, and had degenerated into a mere gamble, with frequent rigging of the market. Dinars were thrown on the market in Trieste, Prague and especially Vienna, millions at a time. Liubiana, with its close connection with Vienna, was especially addicted to this game, and the turnover had run into hundreds of millions of krone, of which probably considerably less than ten per cent. was for the requirements of genuine traders. Belin considers that of dealings in dollars, only one per cent. was for the trifling amount of imports which come from America and the rest nothing but a gamble. As the Yugoslav currency was already in a feeble condition owing chiefly to the small quantity of export business, the effect of this flinging of millions of dinars upon the foreign markets was fatal, and if it can be reduced or absolutely stopped, the poor dinar will have a better chance. One effect of the prohibition will be to restrict the business of the banks to their more legitimate, and productive, sphere: this will affect their dividends, certainly, for the moment, but should be of great benefit in the long run. But it remains to be seen whether the prohibition can be successfully executed, and how long it will remain in force.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, April 3.

Reparation Payments.

It is now possible to form an approximate idea of the Reparation Commission's demands on Bulgaria. The Commission have submitted to the Bulgarian Government a proposal whereby the latter will pay during 1922, 10 million gold francs, and during 1923, 20 million gold francs. On January 1, 1924, the whole situation is to be reviewed afresh. Thirty million gold francs are equal to about 900 million paper levas at the present rate of exchange. In return for the concession the Commission are making, for according to the financial clauses of the Treaty of Neuilly, Bulgaria should pay 2½ milliard gold francs spread over a period of 37 years, they are demanding certain guarantees from the Bulgarian Government.

Great secrecy has been preserved as to the exact nature of these guarantees, but it is believed that they comprise the partial control of customs, a more detailed statement of all sources of revenue, and general supervision of all financial matters. The Government were acquainted last week with the Commission's proposals, and have been asked to give a reply as soon as possible. As both the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance leave for Genoa in two days' time it is obvious that some considerable time must elapse before a reply is given. It is known that the Government has offered to inscribe in the Budget the sum demanded by the Commission, but it is also known that the Government is extremely unwilling to agree to the guarantees. In the absence of definite knowledge of these guarantees, it is impossible to discuss the ability or non-ability of the Government to agree to them.

There is a large demand in India for electric passenger and freight elevators, and all kinds of electrical machinery and appliances, for soapmaking plants, textile machinery, corrugated iron sheets, steel furniture, workshop tools, galvanized buckets, screws and nails.

Engineering Topics.

By Our Engineering Representative.

Donkey Spark Plugs.

A new introduction to the motor world is a double spark plug which, by placing two sparks in series in a single plug, is claimed to give certain advantages which it is doubtful whether it possesses in practice. The current from the magneto is led down a central electrode and sparks across to an inner point coupled to a second point from which the spark jumps to the outer sheath. Probably in practice the spark jumps straight across from the centre electrode to the outer shell—there is no accounting for what sparks do when in a highly compressed medium like air and petrol gas when the piston is about at the top of its stroke. There is one good point about it, however; should one gap be oiled or sooted up, the other gap will be free to carry the spark so there should not be so much trouble as often occurs from that cause.

Motor Ships.

A glance at the financial columns of any paper will show how disastrous a year 1921 was for many commercial undertakings. It was a year of marked depression in the shipping and shipbuilding industries, but in this connection some remarkable facts have been brought out by the *Motor Ship* indicating the superiority of the internal-combustioned engined vessel over the steamer. One would like, by the way, to hear the frank opinions of the latter regarding the modesty of the former! However, it appears that the East Asiatic Co., the largest motor-ship owning concern in the world, whose fleet of 22 large ships, apart from a couple of smaller craft, is composed wholly of oil-engined vessels, was able to pay a dividend of 20 per cent. as a result of last year's working. We are not told specifically that the dividend was due to the cheapness and efficiency of the oil engined vessels; it is quite open to any one to assume that had steam engines been used the returns would have been even greater! That is the worst of *ex parte* statements; one never knows where one is. But the *Motor Ship* says that "this is undoubtedly largely due to the economical operations of the internal-combustioned engine," and as I personally have a good deal of faith in the motor ship I am quite prepared to accept that view.

Vacuum Cleaners.

It is interesting to note that the new White Star liner *Homeric*, is equipped with "Little Glutton" vacuum cleaners, which are a new and successful introduction. I am collecting data regarding electric vacuum cleaners for the purpose of setting out the salient points of each in these columns in the near future, and shall be glad if makers will send along all information they can give in order that I may incorporate the principal points in my article, with due acknowledgments.

Empire Airships.

From every point of view it is to be hoped that the Government will not reject the scheme for an Imperial airship service which has recently been put forward, and which has, so far as its capital is concerned, the strong support of the Vickers and the Shell groups together with other financiers. There is a general feeling in aviation circles that official support may not be forthcoming; for some reason airships are not looked upon with undue favour in military circles, and there would appear to be some reflection of this in other quarters.

It is, however, not easy to see why any objection to airships, based chiefly on their bulk and their consequent suitability as a target for quick firing guns, should be allowed to weigh where commercial services are concerned. There is no question as to the proposed service costing the country any large sum; indeed, under no circumstances would any demand be made on the Treasury until next year, and even then the most that would have to be paid would be well under £100,000. The Indian and Australian Governments respectively

would also pay £40,000 at most, and this obligation would merely take the form of guaranteeing dividends and interest for ten years.

As to public support, seeing that the return would be a guaranteed 6 per cent. tax free, there is little doubt as to that being forthcoming. The capital is placed at £4,000,000, but there would be no necessity to call up that amount at first, and should the scheme prove the success that appears certain it would be only a short time before this was looked upon as being one of the soundest commercial investments provided it were managed with that conspicuous skill and ability which one instinctively associates with the names of Vickers and Shell.

Minerals in Flotation.

Flotation engineers are now paying considerably greater attention to the actual size of mineral particles in flotation, a factor which has hitherto been deemed worthy of but little attention. Engineers who have not specialised in flotation work have wondered at this but have assured themselves that the matter was unimportant or otherwise some regard would have been paid to it. Everyone familiar with the older gravity methods of concentration will understand, as has just been pointed out in an official report, the advantages accruing from close classification of the feed to the concentration. However, it is not logical to assume that classification of feed for flotation will be equally profitable. The following analysis should be of value: The factors controlling the size of a mineral particle that can be floated are: (1) the degrees of oil-mineral, oil-water and air-water absorption which determine the force with which the particle is held to the bubble; (2) the shape of the particle; (3) its specific gravity; (4) the cleanness of its surface, which influences the degree of absorption; and (5) the swirl of the pulp.

Maximum flotation efficiency is obtained by treating the largest particle that can be floated by its first attachment to a bubble or a number of bubbles. When the mineral particle is of such size that it is dropped and caught many times by the rising bubbles before it is entangled in the froth and finally removed for the machine, finer grinding would result in greater recovery and higher efficiency. As Prof. A. W. Fahrenwald pointed out recently, the size of bubble is important. The more numerous and finer are the bubbles, the more efficient will be the flotation. There is no doubt that a good many bubbles actually engage each particle before it is finally floated to the surface of the pulp. For two floatable minerals of equal, or nearly equal specific gravities, it appears that water classification would give a product more adaptable to differential flotation than if two minerals were composed of widely different specific gravities. Water classification of particles of unlike specific gravities would give products consisting of large-light and small-heavy particles. The small-heavy minerals would be greater specific surface and consequently greater total flotative-intensity which would, however, be largely counterbalanced by the greater weight of the small particles.

A New Engine.

I hear that a new engine of the four cylinder type is to be placed on the market very shortly. It will be made in two sizes, one of 6-7 and the other of 9-10 horse-power, the bore of the four cylinders being 55 millimetres. The engine will have a detachable head, and the cylinders will be cast *en bloc* with the crank case. Overhead valves, operated by a ball-bearing cam shaft will be fitted and an interesting feature is that one inlet but two exhaust valves will be fitted to each cylinder. The connecting rod big-ends will have roller bearings and the ignition will be by battery and coil instead of by the usual magneto. The engine will sell at a moderate price and is intended for use in the customer's own chassis, and for export. It appears to be just the thing to suit a number of our friends in the Near East.

Stock and Share Markets.

INCREASED ACTIVITY.

Broadening of Business.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Thursday night.

The attenuated week and the approach of the holiday season have had no influence on the course of the markets and instead of the dullness customary at this period of the year a very strong tone has been in evidence particularly in Gilt-edged descriptions. The further reduction of the Bank Rate to 4 per cent., which I forecasted, was, of course, a bull point for all markets. Obviously we cannot look for the indefinite continuance of the conditions that have ruled during the past few weeks. Gilt-edged, for instance, with some exceptions, are quite high enough; indeed in my opinion the rise has been overdone in certain directions. In other markets, however, the advance has so far been small, and whether it is to develop will depend on economic conditions generally, and on whether the Government adopts a courageous Budget policy. Indications have not been wanting in the last few days that the intention of reducing the income-tax which was so freely mooted early in the year no longer obtains. For more reasons than one the Government will make a great mistake if they fail to remove some part of the burden which is now restricting business enterprise.

Many New Issues Expected.

At the present time the markets generally are decidedly short of stock, but this deficiency should shortly be remedied since as the result of the favourable financial conditions it is understood that a large number of new issues will shortly be forthcoming. They are not likely to include any issues for the Near East, though negotiations are again in progress for Balkan loans, and there seems to be a fair prospect of one for Roumania in the near future. In this case the proposal is to allocate to the loan the unexploited oil lands of Roumania which would revert automatically to the State with the termination of the loan.

Gilt-Edged Strong.

As recorded above Gilt-edged have again improved. Consols are a point up at 59½, and the Conversion Loan at 76 shows a gain of 1.3-8. War Loan Fives eased off a little on realisation, and close 5-8 lower at 100.3-8. Indian stocks have been firm. The Seven per cent. loan is unchanged at 111, the 3½ per cent. loan is the same at 64½, while the 3 per cent. loan is ½ up at 55½.

A rather variable tone has been in evidence in the foreign market, and in some cases dullness has developed. French War Loan Fives are 1½ up at 46½, while German three per cents. are 1-16 up at 2.9-16. Italian Rentes are 24½. Brazilians have been very dull, this being

attributable to the rumours of a new loan. Argentine securities have been firm, and Chilians were also on the up-grade. Chinese have been a good market, while Russian bonds have been in some request.

Industrials Active.

An active tone has ruled in the Industrial group, and business was on a fairly large scale up to the commencement of the holidays. Tobaccos have been in good request, and close at improved rates. Bats are 77s. 6d., while Imperial Tobaccos are 59s. 6d. Dunlops are 8s. Textiles have been a good spot with Coats 3-32 up at 3.1-8, while Courtaulds at 43s. are 4s. 3d. up. Iron and Steel securities have been strong. Vickers at 12s. 6d. show a gain of 6d., Armstrongs are 9d. up at 17s. 3d., while Guest Keens are 6d. up at 32s. 6d.

Shipping securities have been distinctly good with P. and O. Deferred 5 up at 320. Owing to a printer's error this price was given incorrectly last week, a fact to which my attention was drawn by a correspondent. Cunards have been in some demand, and are 1s. 9d. up at 22s., while Furness Withys have also advanced, and close at 29s. 6d.

Oils Strong.

An excellent tone has prevailed in the Oil market, and business has been done on a most encouraging scale. Burmahs have been a steady feature, and at 5.29-32 show a gain of 1-16. Anglo-Persian Oil have advanced smartly to 4.15-16, a rise of ½. Mexican Eagles are 3.15-32 at which they are 1-8 up. Trinidad issues have been in favour with Centrals at 3.3-16.

Among Egyptians, Anglo-Egyptian B are 1-16 up at 1½, while Oilfields of Egypt are 7-32. Roumanians have been variable. Phoenix close at 28s. 6d., a rise of 9d. Steaua Romanas are 13s. 9d., a decline of 6d., Dacia Romanos are unchanged at 11-16, while Roumanian Consolidated are 3d. up at 14s. 9d.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting	Parity of Exchange	Latest. Quotations.
Alexandria ..	Piastres to £....	97½	97.15-32
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	98½-99½
†Belgrade ..	Dinars to £....	25.22½	350-360
Berlin	Marks to £....	20.43	1258-1292
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3-3.32-1.3-5.12
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3-3.32-1.3-5.12
Brussels.....	Francs to £....	25.22½	51.40-51.60
*Bucharest ..	Lei to £....	25.22½	590-610
Constantinople	Piastres to £....	110	620-640
New York....	Dollars to £....	4.86 2-3	4.41½-4.42½
Paris	Francs to £....	25.22½	47.40-47.55
Prague	Kronen to £....	24.02	217-222
Rome	Lire to £....	25.22½	80½-81½
†Sofia	Leva to £....	25.22½	650
Teheran	Krans to £....	50	51
Vienna	Kronen to £....	24.02	32,500-34,000
Warsaw	Marks to £....	20.43	16,500-17,000

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Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Monday Evening.

Sugar.—Home refined has been in moderate demand at unchanged rates. Tate's cubes and mineral water sugar show no change at 53s. 9d. and 49s. respectively; London granulated is steady at 48s. 6d., while Lyle's granulated has been quiet at 48s. 9d. Firm prices have been maintained in export descriptions. West Indian crystallized is unaltered at 43s., Czecho-Slovakian is the same at 21s. 4½d., as also white Mauritius at 44s. Cane sugar quotations are:—April, 15s. 6d.; May, 15s.; August, 15s.; and September, 15s. White sugar quotations are:—April, 20s. 3d.; May, 20s. 3d.; August, 20s. 6d.; September, 20s. 1½d.; and October-December, 19s. 9d.

Coffee.—A variable tone has been in evidence. Costa Rica is now 118s., and Indian 120s. Nairobi is 1s. down at 110s. The futures market has been firm. Quotations are:—May, 56s. 6d.; July, 57s. 9d.; September, 57s. 9d.; and December, 58s. 3d.

Dessicated Coconut.—The position is much the same as last week, and prices have advanced a little.

Rice.—The demand has decreased owing to the holidays, and quotations have been steady.

Green Fruit.—There has been no improvement in the position with regard to oranges. Owing to the bad condition of Messina lemons and the large supplies now on the market prices have declined considerably, while good fruit has been in strong request at high rates. Australian and Tasmanian apples have sold rapidly, the demand being greater than the supply. Large quantities of Egyptian onions have arrived during the past few days the condition of which is exceedingly poor. The demand is also weak.

Oilseeds.—The tone has been good. Indian linseed has advanced 1½d. at 19s. 9d., while La Plata at 19s. has been firm. Rapeseed is brighter with Toria 6d. up at 17s. and bold Ferozepore 2d. up at 18s. 8d. Cottonseed has been firm in all cases. Indian is the same at 18s. 6d., Sakellaridis at 11s., and Egyptian black at 11s. 6d.

Oils.—Prices are higher. Linseed oil has gained 1s. 6d. at 38s. Rape oil has been unsteady with the crude variety 1s. down at 43s. and refined unchanged at 46s. Cotton oil has remained unaltered in all cases. Refined is 48s., Egyptian crude, 40s., and deodorized 53s.

Oilcakes.—Linseed cake has declined a further 10s. at 310s. ton and cotton-meal cake has shed a similar amount at 290s. ton. Coconut cake has shed 1s. at 170s. ton while cottonseed cake has also dropped 1s. at 190s. ton.

EGYPTIAN CROPS.

The following particulars of the crop conditions in Egypt are given in the Bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture for March:—

Wheat.—Weather was, on the whole, favourable and water supply ample. Rust and smut have been reported from several provinces, but damage done is negligible. The crop is doing well and is approaching maturity. Harvesting is expected to begin in Qena and Aswan provinces by the middle of April.

Barley.—Harvesting early-sown crop has begun in Girga, Qena and Aswan provinces. In the other provinces the crop is approaching maturity. Rust and smut have been noticed in several provinces, but have caused no serious damage to the crop. The yield is expected to be slightly above the average.

Beans.—Damage caused by rust and broom-rape (halouk) is slight. Harvesting has begun in Upper Egypt, elsewhere the crop is approaching maturity and harvesting is expected to be general in April.

Helba.—Harvesting is in progress in Upper Egypt and the new crop has appeared in the markets. The yield is an average one.

Onions.—Harvesting is in progress. The yield is expected to be below the average, owing to the fact that many cultivators harvested the crop before reaching maturity as a consequence of the advantageous prices that prevailed.

Lentils.—The hot weather that prevailed towards the end of February adversely affected the crop in Qena and Aswan provinces. Harvesting and threshing are in progress. The yield is a little below the average.

Bersim.—The cold changeable weather has retarded the growth of the crop in some districts. On the whole the crop is free from pests and its condition is satisfactory.

Cotton.—Weather was, on the whole, favourable, though it was somewhat changeable and rainy at the beginning of the month, causing resowing in some places in Lower Egypt. Water supply was sufficient except at the tails of a few canals. Ploughing, ridging, watering and sowing are in progress. The early-sown crop is germinating satisfactorily.

AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS IN IRAQ.

The following extracts are taken from the Agricultural Bulletin of Iraq for the month ended February 15:—

The month was exceptionally mild and an unusual shortage of rainfall this month was recorded in Lower Iraq. In Upper Iraq rainfall has been fairly continuous. The growth of all vegetation has been rapid, and most of the desert is covered with herbage. Wheat and barley, both irrigated and unirrigated have continued to grow at an unusually fast rate owing to the mildness of the weather.

Irrigation.

The Director of Irrigation reports a general demand for water. Much work has been done by the tribes in repairing and maintaining flood bunds on the banks of the rivers. This work is of primary importance owing to the extensive sowing of winter cereals which necessitates every precaution being taken to secure the safety of the crops. The Yusufiyah Canal was re-opened during the month. Further constructional work on the Butera Regulator has been postponed until the next low water season. Foundations have been completed for the combined regulator at the head of the Yusufiyah. Contour survey work is progressing favourably. Silt clearance is in progress on the DIALA Canals.

Early in February the Tigris and Euphrates were in flood for a few days. This facilitated the irrigation by flood inundation of large areas sown with cereals. The unusually large areas sown both to irrigated and unirrigated wheat and barley promises excellent crops. Winter vegetables are abundant, and prices have in many cases fallen so low as to render vegetable cultivation unprofitable, especially by lift irrigation. Prices of turnips and radish near Baghdad are so low as to render the marketing of these unprofitable, except where grown very close to the town. The threshing of rice in the DIALA area was delayed by the frequent rains of December. It is reported that a part of the rice crop in this area has materially depreciated in value owing to damage on the threshing floor by rain. Digging of liquorice root continues in the Kut area. Picking of citrus fruits on the DIALA is being delayed in the hope that prices will rise later.

Fodder Supply and Condition of Stock.

Green fodder is everywhere plentiful. The condition of stock in general is exceptionally good. The Director of Veterinary Services reports that rinderpest amongst cattle continues to be prevalent. Four hundred and ninety seven head are reported to have died from this disease and fifty diseased animals were treated with success. Altogether 2,057 animals were inoculated during the month. One hundred and sixty sheep died at different places from a disease which is under investigation.

Experimental Farms and Research.

The wheat crop on all farms promises well. Land is being prepared for experimental work with cotton. The flax crop at Kut sown in the autumn has made an excellent crop, that at Baquba sown in the early winter is more backward. The data of sowing test with bersim (Egyptian clover) are giving valuable results. Arrangements are in train to grow a relatively small number of trees of numerous imported varieties. In addition a few acres of poplars have been planted as an experiment on a quasi-commercial scale. There has been a large and unexpected demand for these seedlings both from Government Departments and from land owners.

There is a strong demand for cotton seed. The demand from the DIALA area alone exceeds the available supply. A system of rationing will have to be adopted in distributing the seed which is sufficient to sow about 2,000 acres. Bulk distribution of seed is being confined to the DIALA, Saklawiyah and Yusufiyah tracts. Arrangements are in hand for silk demonstration work at Baquba, Qarnabat and one other site on the DIALA. A considerable

amount of interest is already being evinced in this work by the local cultivators who were engaged in the industry before the war.

Some fifty tons of machinery for the use of the Mosul Farms, Limited, have arrived in the country. Another interesting development in estate cultivation is the importation of Egyptian labourers by an enterprising land owner near Basrah. Date gardens have been selected in the Basrah Liwa for purposes of experiment with artificial manures supplied free of charge by a local firm.

The recent heavy fall in prices of most agricultural produce has rendered irrigation by pump a precarious undertaking. Numerous petitions have been received asking that the price of kerosine might be reduced and improved facilities rendered for delivering the oil at more convenient sites. The local agents for the Anglo-Persian Oil Company have this matter under consideration and they have proffered all possible assistance. An early reduction in the price of oil and a river service for delivery at convenient sites are anticipated in the near future.

OPIUM MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Bros., Smyrna, report as follows under date March 31:—

We have to report again a very active month on our opium market resulting in an advance of fully 120 piastres per oke on all grades. The quantity of the drug which changed hands is about 207 cases which is equivalent to 12,420 okes, or 34,776 lbs.

The average sterling prices to-day per lb. are as follows:—Extra Druggists 10s. 6d. per lb. c.i.f.; Soft Shipping Yerli 11s. 6d. per lb. c.i.f.; Lower grades 9s. 6d. per lb. c.i.f.

The above figures are based on an exchange of Ps. 600 per 20s. cheque on London, and the tendency fully justifies our predicting higher figures, as stocks everywhere are depleting, without any hopes of getting adequate supplies from the growing districts to fill up the gap. Besides this, we have passed a very unprecedented 6 weeks of dry weather, which at this season of the year is not in any way conducive to good results as regards the coming crop which at its best, a few weeks back, did not show it would reach the low figure of 2,000 cases.

The vigorous campaign in England and the States against illicit use of the drug has stopped to a great measure the export from here, Constantinople and Salonika, but what about the overland transportation of the article through Siberia, and other Asiatic States? We have been apprised of late that a lot of opium is sold now in our growing districts to dealers who sell to others further east and so on, until it finds itself eventually in China, Manchuria, and other Far Eastern markets. This channel for opium consumption will further develop when hostilities cease in this country and we shall not be at all surprised to see one day that this narcotic, will become a "rara avis" and worth its weight in gold, as far as America and Europe are concerned. The exchange to-day is Ps. 600 per 20s. and 0.67, $\frac{1}{4}$ dollars per Turkish pound. The arrivals are 1,220 cases against 1,245 at same date last year, and our stock in first and second hands is now 1,215.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated April 10:—Condition of Crops.—During the fortnight ending April 8 there was no rainfall in the tea districts of Mysore and Coorg, nor in Madras. April 1.—Local rain in Assam, where prospects of tea improving. Rain fallen in parts of Bengal likely to improve jute sowings considerably. Crop prospects in other provinces are unchanged.

Markets.—April 5.—Bombay cotton market steady. Fine M.G. Oomras Rs. 403 May, Rs. 419 July. Bombay cotton arrivals from September 1, 1921, to March 31, 1922, were 2,248,000 bales as compared with 1,621,000 bales during the same period of the last year. Bombay imported piece-goods market active, though turnover was on decreased scale owing to the falling off to some extent in general wholesale demands. Local rates affected chiefly in bleached mulls. White fancy and fancy prints sold well, but greys moving slowly. Prints and fancy, particularly for Madras and Malabar consumption, show little life. April 8.—Calcutta jute market very strong and rates advanced. April deliveries—Rs. 62 Firsts and Rs. 52 Lightnings. Immediate deliveries—Rs. 61 Firsts, at which there are buyers.

Hessian steady at higher rates and business mostly confined to near-at-hand positions. Heavies quiet but steady. April 4.—Market very active with strong demands for spot T.N. shellac, offering of which is limited. Closing prices—T.N. Rs. 204, at which there are buyers. April 7.—Special Straits quality rice, Rs. 409. No change in bank rates.

TENDERS INVITED.

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

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

Bulgaria.

Concessions for Working State Forests.—The Bulgarian Government are prepared to grant concessions for the working of the State forests in the Vassiliko and Malka-Tirnov districts (Bulgaria). Particulars may be obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture, Sofia, or the British Chamber of Commerce, in that city.

Machine Tools.—The Direction Générale des Chemins de Fer, Bulgares, Sofia, invites tenders for machine tools and equipment. Tenders must be accompanied by drawings, catalogues, and detailed specifications giving particulars of the quality of the materials to be used in the construction of the machines, method of working same, horse power necessary and all other relevant information in connection with the machines offered. A deposit of 1 per cent. of the estimate price must be made as a guarantee, this sum to be increased to 5 per cent. by the firm securing the contract. The price of the various machines must be stated separately, and not quoted in a lump sum for the whole contract, and also all accessories must be included. Local representation is essential. (D.O.T.) April 27.

Egypt.

Type Metal.—The Egyptian Government Press are inviting tenders for the supply of type metal required for the year 1922. The metal required is:—(1) 20,000 kilos of monotype to be made of the purest guaranteed metals, and with the following proportions:—Lead 63, antimony 20, tin 17; to be packed in strong barrels containing 250 kilos. (2) 3,500 kilos of refined soft lead, virgin metal, in pigs of 50 kilos. Tenders on the proper forms, and accompanied by a provisional deposit of two per cent. of the total value of the offer, addressed to the Superintendent, Government Press, Bulaq, Cairo, will be received up to noon on May 20. (D.O.T.)

Boots.—Tenders are invited by the Financial Secretary, Egyptian Army, War Office, Cairo, for the supply of 44,814 pairs of boots, ankle (cavalry and infantry), with laces. May 1.

EASTERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

The Directors announce that, owing to unavoidable delays in obtaining necessary returns from foreign stations and administrations, it will be impossible to issue audited accounts and balance-sheet for the year to December 21, in time to allow of the annual general meeting being held in May; but the directors will convene the meeting as soon as full accounts can be submitted. They have decided to pay on May 15 next a final dividend for 1921 of 2½ per cent., free of tax, on the ordinary stock, making 10 per cent., free of tax, for the year, the same as for the previous year, and the usual distribution at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum, less tax, on the preference stock for the first quarter of 1922 will be paid on that date. Interest on 4 per cent. mortgage debenture stock for the half-year to April 29 will be paid by warrant on May 1.

COMMERCIAL BREVITIES.

The directors of the Egyptian Delta Land and Investment Company recommend no dividend for 1921.

The transfer books of the 5½ per cent. preference shares of the Anchor Line, Ltd., will be closed until April 29.

The ordinary share transfer books of the Cunard Steamship Co., Ltd., will be closed until April 26.

A decree has been published in Athens prohibiting the transfer out of the country of notes issued by the National Bank.

It is announced that a number of American capitalists are intending to build three large mills in Bulgaria for the manufacture of all kinds of paper.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the week ended March 20 amounted to £E.9,612; total for year £E.376,835. For the corresponding period of last year receipts amounted to £E.8,725, total for year £E.472,594.

The export from India of bajra, barley gram, lentils, maize, pulse, wheat, and flour made from any of these, is permitted to the following destinations:—Persian Gulf ports, Ceylon, Jeddah, Mauritius, Mekran coast, East Africa, Seychelles, Portuguese India, Aden, Straits Settlements and Labuan, Siam, Perim, Hong Kong, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji Islands, British West Indies, and British Guiana. Formerly the export to all destinations was prohibited.

Cotton & Cotton Goods.

MANCHESTER MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Thursday.

Although the tone of the market during the past week has ruled firm only a quiet trade has been done. This has been due to holiday influences and also to the uncertainty with regard to the wages question. The deadlock between the masters and the operatives is not treated very seriously in business quarters, and there is every probability of further conferences being arranged next week. The masters themselves are eager for a quick settlement, and now that trade shows signs of improving after a period of eighteen months depression it would be foolish if the whole of the machinery in the industry was stopped. With regard to cloth not very much inquiry has been about for outlets of the Near East. Buyers, generally speaking, are in no hurry to commit themselves to any lines of importance. Some moderate transactions have been put through for the Levant and Constantinople. Users of Egyptian yarns have only purchased sparingly but prices have been well held. The bulk of the cloth demand has again been for India, and some fairly encouraging transactions have been booked for Calcutta in light cloths and shirtings. The political situation in China is still very disturbing, which is naturally affecting the position of buyers and sales have not been of any importance. Home trade buying has been patchy. American yarn quotations have ruled steady.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows under date April 12 :—

Even allowing for the fact that the official sales include a large percentage of Sudan cotton, the turnover for the past week can be described as quite satisfactory. Whilst trade reports indicate a rather less volume of business in yarns than we have latterly been accustomed to, no doubt the proximity of the holidays can be blamed more or less for the shrinkage. Negotiations *re* the wages reduction are proceeding on smooth lines, and, generally, little apprehension is felt by spinners as to an amicable outcome. The enquiry continues to be almost exclusively for Sakel, grading from Fully Fair to barely Fully Good Fair, and several large concerns appear to be running almost entirely on cotton grading about the former quality. The better classes are somewhat neglected, as also are Uppers and Brown. With this market continuing to be much the more attractive for consumers to cover in, only a limited interest has been shown in c.i.f. cottons. Continental spinners appear to be waking up to this fact, and there are signs of more business being sent from this source than hitherto. A large line of Tokar cotton has been put through, approximately 1,500 bales, we understand, at a price somewhere in the neighbourhood of 11.00d, hence the large total of Sudan in the sales referred to above. In our issue of the 22nd ulto. we inadvertently mentioned that our friends, the Commercial Co. of Egypt, had raised their crop estimate to 5,000,000 kantars. In lieu of "crop estimate" we should have written "total arrivals for the season," i.e., crop about 3,750,000 and carry-over in the interior from last season, 1,250,000. Total sales for the week amount to 4,000 bales (including 1,500 Sudan), against 1,900 bales (including 200 bales Sudan) last week. Quotations are reduced 25 points. Fully Good Fair Sakellaris 17.50d.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Commercial Co. of Egypt, in their report for the week ended March 31, state :—

There is again very little to report this week. The market in general has been fairly steady and this can be attributed to a great extent to the good figures of the daily spot sales of Egyptian cotton in Liverpool; the demand from abroad for forward delivery has been rather limited. Speculative dealings are negligible just at present, and this causes the market to be rather narrow and lacking in activity.

So far all official Government assurances for the support of cotton prices have been rather vague and we do not think that the Government would be disposed to buy at the present level of prices. The heavy actual supplies and the poor state of trade all over the world do not warrant, for the time being, much higher prices; furthermore, the cost of producing cotton has

considerably decreased, so the growers have not very serious grounds for complaint at present, although they suffered considerably last year.

The reports of the new crop are more or less normal but all point to a delay in sowing in the important districts. The prospects of water supply during the summer months are not good. With regard to the acreage it appears that the restrictions laid down have been respected, that is to say it will be about the same as last year or perhaps slightly superior.

COTTON PESTS.

In the House of Commons on April 11, last, Mr. Doyle asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in view of the serious loss in the raw cotton crops in America, Egypt, and elsewhere by insect pests, what help had been rendered by the Colonial Office to growers in various parts of the British Empire to counteract the ravages of such pests; what steps were being taken to materially assist the growth of raw cotton in the Australian Commonwealth and other parts of the Empire; and if he would give the sums spent during the past 12 months for this purpose?

Mr. Churchill: I am glad to say that most of the Colonies and Protectorates have escaped the worst ravages of the pests which have done harm in America and Egypt. All imported cotton seed is carefully examined, and insect pests have up to date been kept in check by the efforts of the various Colonial Agricultural Departments. The need for strengthening these Departments, especially on the entomological side, has been appreciated and met to the fullest extent possible, compatible with due economy in administration. The efforts made by His Majesty's Government to foster the production of cotton within the Empire have recently culminated in the gift of £978,215 to the funds of the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation upon certain conditions. When these conditions are fulfilled, the corporation will undertake active measures to promote the cultivation of cotton in the Empire, but I am quite unable to say to what extent its operations will apply to any particular territory.

BULGARIAN BONDS AND COUPONS.

The Bulgarian Government announces that it is prepared to pay to French, British and Belgian bondholders the coupon No. 30 of the Bulgarian Four-and-a-Half per Cent. 1907 loan, maturing on February 1, 1922, at French francs 11.25 each, and the bonds drawn for redemption on that date at French francs 500 each. Holders of bonds which have been in British ownership since August 1, 1914, who are desirous of availing themselves of the offer thus made by the Bulgarian Government, should present the above-mentioned coupons and drawn bonds (to which all coupons due after the date of redemption must remain attached) for payment at the counting-house of Messrs. Stern Bros., 6, Angel Court, E.C.2., between the hours of 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. (Saturdays excepted).

The Czecho-Slovak Government have decided to remove all restrictions on the sale of sugar, but at the same time to increase the tax.

Roumanian export duties on goods going to countries with high rates of exchange are to be paid in future in gold or cheques in foreign money.

At the present time Malta offers a promising market for women's silk hosiery, men's cotton hosiery, cotton shirts, light and heavy cotton and woollen underwear, raincoats, aluminium kitchenware, &c.

It is reported that a company has been formed in Berlin, with a capital of 30 million marks, with the object principally of exploiting the coal mines in the Dragoman region, near the Serbo-Bulgarian frontier.

'BALKAN' NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

FOUNDED 1895

Capital paid up	5,000,000
Total reserves as per December 31st, 1920	53,200,000
Premium Income during 1920	28,300,000
Amounts insured of Life branch exceed	150,000,000
Branches maintained: Fire, Life, Marine, Casualty and Re-insurance of all branches.	

HEAD OFFICE: SOFIA, BULGARIA.

SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

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

Constantinople, April 3.

Sugar.—A firm tendency has prevailed. Some arrivals during the week have caused prices to give way a little, but they are maintained at the close as a result of the high prices ruling in centres of production. The arrivals of the week amount to 132 wagons from various countries. Quotations per ton in transit :—Dutch cubes £27, Belgian £26-26½, Java crystallised £23, American £22, Dutch £23.

Rice.—The market is firm owing to the lack of arrivals.

Oils and Butter.—The position is unchanged.

Flour.—The exports for Russia have assumed some importance during recent weeks, and are imparting considerable activity to this commodity on this market. The market is firm, especially with regard to second qualities which are those sought by Russia. The arrivals amount to 140,000 sacks. Part of that will be dispatched to Russia.

A further report of the same date gives detailed particulars of the movements of shipping at Constantinople. The arrivals of the week with ports of departure have been as follows :—

Rotterdam, Antwerp and Amsterdam.—S.S. Oberpresident Delbruck, s.s. Hector, s.s. Orestis with general merchandise, in particular 400 tons of sugar and various other foodstuffs of the first necessity of the approximate value of £100,000.

America.—S.S. Jacona, s.s. Gafney, s.s. Themistocle with more than 120,000 sacks of flour, and various other products such as sugar, coffee, oils, vegetables and butter of the approximate value of 5,600,000 dollars.

Great Britain.—S.S. Hillouse, s.s. Maid of Delos with 4,400 tons of coal and other material of the approximate value of £10,000

France (Marseilles).—S.S. Andros, s.s. Pierre Loti, s.s. H. Fraissinet with large quantities of fodder, and foodstuffs of little importance.

Italy.—S.S. Bormida, s.s. Palacky, s.s. City of Algiers with cotton goods, ironmongery, and various other commodities of little importance.

Egypt and the Syrian Coast.—Five ships with 4,000 cases of oranges and lemons, 3,000 crates fresh vegetables, 130 tons rice, 30 tons sugar, 35 tons tea, 40 tons potatoes, and 40 tons sesame.

Roumania.—Various vessels. 470 tons oats, 800 tons maize, 780 tons barley, 150 tons oil, 100 tons mineral oil, and 850 cattle.

Bulgaria.—230 tons wheat, 600 cattle, 1,000 cases eggs.

The greater part of the arrivals of flour have been dispatched to the Russian Black Sea ports. So the stock actually existing here would not be more than 150-200,000 sacks, or enough for local consumption for about one month. As regards exports there is nothing of importance to be recorded except for some consignments of tobacco.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

FOUNDED 1863.

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

CONSTANTINOPLE.

L. STEEG, Director-General.

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

Messrs. P. REDON, Director
B. KERESTEDJIAN
J. UNGAR

} Sub-Directors.:

DJEVIAD BEY.
HAMID BEY.
NOURY BEY.

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

LONDON.

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN, C.B.E.
E. W. H. BARRY.
THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH,
C.M.G.
THE EARL OF CHICHESTER, O.B.E.
SIR W. GUY GRANET.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I.,
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JEAN BOISSONNAS.
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HORACE FINALY.
GEORGES HEINE.
ARSENE HENRY, G.C.V.O.
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FELIX VERNES.

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

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Assistant Manager and Secretary : C. E. L. CORTHORN.

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50-60, Cross Street.

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CONSTANTINOPLE.

(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

EGYPT.
Alexandria.
Cairo.
Mansourah.
Minieh.
Port Said.

PALESTINE.
Jerusalem.
Jaffa.
Caiffa.
Ramallah.

CYPRUS.
Famagusta.
Larnaca.
Limassol.
Nicosia.
Paphos.

PERSIA:
Hamadan.
Kermanshah.

MESOPOTAMIA
Ashar.
Baghdad.
Basorah.
Kirkuk.
Mossoul.

SALONICA.

SMYRNA.

TUNIS.

SYRIA.

(Banque de Syrie—Affiliated Bank).

Aleppo.
Alexandretta.
Beyrout.

Damascus.
Hamah.
Homs.

Salda.
Tripoli.
Zahle.

The Bank has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued. Letters of Credit granted.

Exchange and Merchandise operations effected.

KIRGHISKY STEPPES: A FIELD FOR COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISE.

(By a Correspondent.)

It was at Petrograd in the spring of 1915 that the writer made the acquaintance of a Russian official who was commissioned by his Government to visit the steppes inhabited by the Kirghises in order to report upon the fertility, resources and suitability of the region for the breeding of horses, cattle and sheep, also if possible to establish factories for dairy produce. He invited me to accompany him, an offer which I gladly accepted.

The steppes are to be found where the Volga enters the Caspian sea, and stretch away to the North-East of Turkestan. Their area is very often of enormous extent, and provides food for a large number of domestic animals. The Kirghises are a nomadic people, Mohammedans and Buddhists. During the summer they live on the steppes, and when the winter approaches they migrate to their villages. The air of the steppes is very invigorating, and is remarkably beneficial for those people who suffer from consumption, and sanatoriums are established in different parts. The grass grows very high and is exceedingly nutritious, and provides hay of excellent quality, while on some of the steppes enormous crops of wheat are raised, and have formed a profitable export. The soil of the steppes is well suited for the cultivation of lucern (American kinds), and there is no doubt that the quantity that could be raised would be unlimited. A good business was also done before the war in the export of honey, the steppes being well adapted for this industry owing to the luxuriance of flowers. Vast herds of horses roam about the steppes, and the breeding of camels, cattle and sheep is largely carried on, and this would prove a profitable commercial enterprise if carried out skilfully.

In 1918 two Russian engineers went to Berlin with special permission, and laid before the German Government plans for the survey of the Kirghisky steppes with a view to examining their resources and suitability for commercial enterprise. At the same time a plan was also presented referring to the Golodnaja Steppe (Hungary Steppe) in Turkestan, but owing to the prevailing conditions the projects were left in abeyance.

LIBRARY OF THE ROYAL COLONIAL INSTITUTE

One of the most important libraries in London is that of the Royal Colonial Institute, situated in Northumberland Avenue. The report for the year 1921 indicates that steady progress has been made. The library now contains over 150,000 volumes and pamphlets relating exclusively to the Overseas Dominions, Colonies and India, and to problems of colonisation and administration generally. Whilst intended primarily for use of the Fellows of the Institute it is nevertheless extensively used by students and other enquirers; and the Librarian points out that the Council is pursuing the wise and liberal policy of admitting *bona fide* students to its use. Thus all Rhodes scholars are made Honorary Fellows, while Overseas teachers residing in the United Kingdom are made free of the library during their stay, a privilege which is also freely accorded to university and other students making special enquiries. It will thus be seen what an important function the library is performing by facilitating research upon Overseas matters in the centre of the Empire. It is pointed out in the report that students were admitted from such diverse countries as Australia, South Africa, Uganda, Canada, India, and other parts of the Empire, as well as from Texas, Japan, Norway, Belgium, and other foreign lands; and it may be remarked that all of these students were engaged upon some important work of research.

The library is divided into several broad main sections, such as the Parliamentary library containing all the official publications issued Overseas, Parliamentary Debates, Departmental Reports, and material of that nature; the Law Library containing the Statutes and Law Reports of the Overseas Empire; and a very important agricultural and trade section. All the chief commercial products are catalogued upon cards in order to facilitate rapid reference. Although it may justly be claimed that this library performs a unique function in supplying in-

formation and aiding research, which it is enabled to do out of its unrivalled resources, that is only one of the activities of the Royal Colonial Institute of which the library is a part. During recent years great progress has been made in enlarging the scope of the work of the Institute and a feature that should specially appeal to Overseas residents is the attention that is now devoted to giving information upon commercial and industrial matters. Neither the library nor the Royal Colonial Institute itself receive any financial support from the Imperial or Overseas Governments, but they all recognise the value of the work that is being done by supplying their official publications and reports.

THE PRAGUE SAMPLES FAIR.

The Prague Samples Fair, which was held between March 12 and 19, was attended by numerous purchasers from Holland, Scandinavia, France, England, Switzerland, America and Australia, and in certain branches of industry a great deal of business was transacted. This applies in particular to the textile industry, the prices in which were reduced by 20 to 30 per cent. and trade was particularly brisk in the case of linen goods, materials for spring fashions and materials for linings. As regards glassware, there was a great demand for articles of daily use, and the same is true of porcelain goods. Probably the largest amount of business was transacted in the metal and machinery industries, and electro-motors, dynamos, as well as agricultural requisites and utensils of all kinds, were disposed of in large quantities.

The sale of foodstuffs was also considerable, and in particular liqueurs, marmalade and chocolate of well-known varieties were much sought after. Among other branches in which the sales were large may be mentioned surgical instruments which were disposed of extensively to overseas countries. Towards the close of the fair, paper goods and office accessories found numerous customers, while smokers' requisites and musical instruments were largely purchased. The number of exhibitors in the various branches comprised:—building trades 49, metal industry 510, electro-technical, mechanical and optical goods 87, timber industry 76, textile industry 257, clothing industry 139, fancy goods and allied industries 129, leather industry 129, glass, porcelain and artistic pottery 130, glass industry 70, artistic goods 85, chemical goods and hygienic appliances 70, foodstuffs and agricultural products 124, musical instruments 32, paper, writing and drawing requisites, school and office accessories 121, jewellery, gold and silver ware, watches and clocks 21, miscellaneous 34.

PAYMENT OF OTTOMAN DEBT ARREARS.

It is announced that British holders of certain Ottoman loans are given the option of a settlement of the arrears due on unpaid coupons and drawn bonds for the period from December 1914, to May, 1920.

The terms offered by the Ottoman Government are those agreed to on behalf of the French owners by the French Committee of Bondholders—i.e., a certificate representing the full amount in francs will be delivered in exchange for the overdue coupons and drawn bonds, and, at the same time, a payment in francs will be made on account, and the certificate marked to that effect. The payment made on each loan is in proportion to the funds actually collected for such loan. Payment to British holders would be in francs converted into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling on the day when the certificates are received in London.

The Department of Overseas Trade have received an enquiry from Roumania for prices and all information regarding spinning machinery, suitable for a small cotton-spinning mill of 400-500 h.p. (steam) the erection of which is under consideration. The mill would be four storeys high, each floor 160 by 45 feet, with transmission on each storey. The enquirer is also desirous of obtaining information regarding weaving machinery, both for cotton and wool. Further particulars may be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Street, S.W.1.

THE NEW EGYPTIAN COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO HOLDERS OF SHARE WARRANTS TO BEARER.

Dividend of 2s. 6d. per share (16 2/3 per cent.) less Income Tax at 6s. in the £.

Notice is hereby given that Coupon No. 11 will be paid on and after the 10th day of April, 1922, at the rate of 2s. 6d. per share less Income Tax at 6s. in the £. Coupons should be left at the National Bank of Egypt, Ltd., 6 and 7, King William Street, London, E.C., to permit of three clear days for examination.

By Order of the Board.

THOMAS DAY, Secretary in London.
Pinners Hall, Austin Friars, E.C. 6th April, 1922.

Forms for depositing Coupons may be obtained at the National Bank of Egypt, Ltd.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

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

Anchor Line.—S.s. Masilia for Bombay (Liverpool, May 5).

Anchor Broeklebank Line.—S.s. Imani for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, April 25); s.s. Macharda for Calcutta (Birkenhead, April 29); s.s. Mandasor for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, May 9); s.s. Magdapur for Calcutta (Birkenhead, May 13).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Oxfordshire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, April 26); s.s. Lancashire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, May 10).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan MacNaughton for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, April 27); s.s. Clan Morrison for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (Birkenhead, May 4).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Tyria for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Odessa, Novorossisk, Poti and Batoum (Liverpool, April 22); s.s. Phrygia for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, etc. (Liverpool, April 27, and Swansea, May 2).

Ellerman Line.—S.s. Gerano for Gibraltar, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas and Varna (Liverpool, May 6); a steamer will sail from Liverpool on May 18 for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Ancona, Venice and Trieste.

Ellerman's "City" Line.—S.s. City of Shanghai for Calcutta (Birkenhead, April 25); s.s. City of Agra for Calcutta (Birkenhead, May 9).

Ellerman's "Hall" Line.—S.s. Merton Hall for Bombay, Karachi and the Punjab (Liverpool, May 1).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—Steamers sail fortnightly for Malta, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz and Braila.

Glen Line.—S.s. Glenberg for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, May 4); s.s. Glenluce for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, May 18); s.s. Glenshane for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, June 1).

Harrison Line.—S.s. Dictator for Calcutta (Liverpool, April 29); s.s. Defender for Calcutta (Liverpool, May 13).

Henderson Line.—S.s. Martaban for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, May 3).

Holt Line.—S.s. Demodocus for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Swansea, April 26); s.s. Phemius for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Swansea, April 26); s.s. Cyclops for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, April 27); s.s. Calchas for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, May 4).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Aviemore for Piraeus, Syra, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, April 29).

Moss Line.—S.s. Hatasu for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta and Alexandria (accepting cargo for Moroccan, Algerian, Cyprus and Syrian coast ports), (Liverpool, April 27).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. China for Bombay (London, April 28); s.s. Nagoya for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, May 5); s.s. Caledonia for Bombay (London, May 5); s.s. Soudan for Bombay (London, May 6); s.s. Nore for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, May 19).

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. Madura for Bombay and Karachi (London, April 21); s.s. Nuddea for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, April 29); s.s. Chindwara for Bombay and Karachi (London, May 5); s.s. Nardana for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, May 13).

Prince Line.—S.s. Merchant Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria and Syrian Coast (Manchester, April 21); s.s. Algerian Prince for Malta, Alexandria and Syrian Coast (London, April 21).

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at the 31st January, 1922, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes.

Banking Department.

	L.E.
Share Capital	2,925,000
(300,000 fully paid Shares of £10 each.)	
Reserve Fund:	
Statutory Reserve	1,462,500
Special Reserve	682,500
Current, Deposit and other Accounts	11,378,500
Egyptian Government	893,630
Mixed Tribunals	1,625,950
Bankers Accounts	643,746
Cheques and Bills payable	240,418
Sundry and other Accounts	593,192
	20,445,442

Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government

Sundry Securities	7,871,866
Advances on Merchandise	253,495
Advances on Securities	2,372,418
Advances otherwise Secured	2,273,971
Sundry other Advances	378,708
Sudan Government	658,391
Bills of Exchange	84,098
Local Bills Discounted	2,145,246
Buildings and Furniture	132,618
Money at call and at short notice	275,875
Bankers Accounts	1,077,375
Sundry other Accounts	1,061,771
Cash:	66,193
Notes	L.E.
Gold	1,601,391
Silver, Nickel, etc.	20,224
	171,862
	1,793,47
	20,445,442

Issue Department.

Notes Issued	35,500,000
Gold	3,339,573
* British Treasury Bills	14,410,427
	17,750,000
Securities:	
Egyptian Government Securities & Securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government	426,657
British Treasury Bills and National War Bonds	17,323,343
	17,750,000
	35,500,000

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

1155 boats (1,045,274 tons) entered the port of Salonika during 1921.

There is no restrictions on the export of early potatoes from Algeria to foreign countries.

In 1921 over 6,000 acres of ground were tilled in French Morocco, by motor-ploughs against 4,500 acres in 1920.

The free export of barley from Czecho-Slovakia is now permitted.

The approximate gross fields production of the Steaua Romana, Bucharest, for the month of March was 18,300 tons.

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LIVERPOOL TO BOMBAY.

KARACHI via Bombay calling at Gibraltar & Egypt.

LARGE STEAMSHIPS. UPPER DECK CABINS.
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PASSENGER SAILING DATES—

CASTALIA APRIL 21. CIRCASSIA, JUNE 22.

MASSALIA MAY 5 OLYMPIA, JULY 5

Anchor Line (Henderson Brothers), Ltd

16, Gracechurch Street London, E.C.3.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 572—Vol XXI.

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 1922.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Greco-Turkish Position.

On the surface very little appears to have happened recently in the attainment of peace in Anatolia, but that is all the more reason for believing that big decisions are now being taken. Allied answers to the counter-proposals of Constantinople and Angora have been made, differing in no respect but in the assurance given to Constantinople, and couched in courteous terms, on the demilitarisation of Thrace. This is not insignificant, for it shows that the wishes of the Sublime Porte are of more account than some people had thought them, and if it is certain that Constantinople is to remain the capital of Turkey, it may well be that the Allies will treat the present directors of Anatolia with less respect than the legal rulers of Turkey. For the rest, the Italian Government has withdrawn its troops from the Meander Valley, and the Greeks have taken over from them, meeting with but feeble resistance. General Papoulas has issued to his Army in Asia Minor a warning that "an armistice does not really mean peace," appealing to them to remain faithful to the Greek flag, and grimly foreshadowing future events in saying that they are "destined to be the sole protector" of their countrymen in Asia Minor. The General concluded his proclamation by referring to his troops as "the liberators of Asia Minor"—a phrase hardly suggestive of an admission of defeat. It is not an easy problem, this of Smyrna and its hinterland.

A Disaster at Monastir.

A terrible disaster is reported from Monastir, where the entire population has been driven from home as the result of a tremendous explosion of war material, followed by a great fire. The death-roll was at first reported to run into hundreds, although it is obviously too early for the exact figures to have been ascertained; and the destruction of property has been very extensive. The town has been used as a centre for collecting and storing war material, formerly belonging to the Allied Salonika Army and the German and Austrian forces; and it is known that some 400 truck loads of live shells had been gathered there, the greater part high explosives. At noon on April 19 an explosion took place at one of the principal dumps, and in an incredibly short space of time the town appears to have suffered damage by 'shell fire' such as can hardly have been excelled in intensity during the war. Fires broke out in all directions, and churches, barracks and private houses

were soon in ruins. The military and police on the spot are reported to have shown coolness and courage in the emergency, and the Belgrade Government has acted promptly in despatching aid of various kinds to the scene. Unfortunately, the latest reports that we have seen hint that the explosion may not have been the result of pure accident; but no indication is afforded of the quarter to which suspicion is directed.

Bulgaria and Reparations.

At the end of February M. Tourlakoff, Finance Minister of Bulgaria, made a very long speech before the Sobranie, introducing his budget for the year 1922-1923. Most of it was taken up with criticisms of his predecessors, criticisms of the Interallied Commission, accounts of the mineral wealth of the kingdom so far untouched, and laments about the financial state of affairs in the country. He altogether omitted any kind of reference to the details of the proposed expenditure for the year. He did, however, in our opinion, make out an unanswerable case for a real moratorium as far as demands for reparations are concerned, to last for long enough to enable the country to find its feet. It is absolutely essential that any money available should be spent on the country itself for the next few years if anything is to be eventually found for reparations. Too great hurry in collecting reparations can only defeat its own ends. It is, therefore, with disappointment that we learn that immediate demands, greatly reduced it is true, are being made on this account. The consequences, if this decision is upheld, can only be disastrous both to Bulgaria and to the expectant recipients of the reparation money.

The Commission's Difficulties.

What drove the Commission to this decision is, however, clear enough. As remarked above, the expenditure side of the budget is given without comment, and what we see of it in the highly condensed form in which it is presented does not impress us with any conviction of its wisdom. Bulgaria cannot have it both ways. With its acknowledged burden of reparation on its shoulders, it simply cannot afford to spend money as if it were a perfectly free agent. If it objects to the Commission helping it in framing its Budget, it cannot complain that the reply is to demand something for reparation by way of putting a brake on expenditure which is not absolutely essential. It is most unfortunate that a chauvinist spirit seems to be abroad in the country at the present moment. The Commission is to have no say in the budget, it is not even to have any say as to how collections are to be

made. It is notorious that the Pernik Mines are wastefully managed and that the value of a great asset is thus largely lost. The Customs duties are the work of amateurs and the methods of their collection are such as to poison trade at its source. Surely the Government should welcome help in putting these things right. But it resents all such offers as insults to its sovereignty and seems to expect a perfectly free hand in all respects, quite regardless of the serious burden it had to undertake as a result of its interference in the great world war. We cannot believe that a big man like M. Stambolisky will allow himself to be mastered by such a foolish attitude. We also refuse to believe that the demand for immediate reparation will be insisted on if the Bulgarian Government abandon their present untenable position. Before leaving this matter, we should like to express our gratification at the news that the material reparations, in the way of cattle etc., to be given to the neighbouring countries have been practically completed. This is not a little matter, but the neighbours have so far said nothing about it.

The Situation in Syria.

The trouble in Syria at which we recently hinted has now been confirmed, and, too, our forecast of the way in which the French authorities would handle it. But so strict has been the French censorship that we have practically no trustworthy details of the various local insurrections, nor can one be clear upon either the motives of the rebels or the probabilities of the situation. There is talk, vague enough and not wholly credible, of Maronite disgust with France, of Faisalian instigation among the Moslems, of unity among the desert tribes, and so forth; all these, it is true, may play their part, but first of all causes of discontent in Syria, we should place the commercial state of the country. Political dreams of independence, and Moslem irritation at what is considered priority of the Lebanon, have alike fired the populace to act against the Government, but it is rather the fact that the Cilician outlets to the trade of the Syrian hinterland have by the Angora Treaty been closed that has caused common dissatisfaction. Most of the Franco-Arab trade has now to be passed through Syrian ports, and so has devolved upon the French the temporarily unpleasant task of unifying economically the Christian Lebanon with the Damascus and Aleppo Provinces.

The Alleged Cause of the Outbreak.

This unsatisfactory financial state has long been known to Frenchmen themselves, who indeed have made little attempt to conceal it. Now as political grievances out of economic grievances very easily grow, it needed but a pretext for the Syrians to rise against the Mandatory Power. This pretext appears in part to have been supplied by the presence in Syria of Dr. Crane, the President of the American Mission which in 1919 made the not very astonishing discovery that the Syrians would prefer of any one in the world as Mandatory Power the Americans. It is interesting therefore to note that in the second of the two Syrian telegrams from Cairo which we publish elsewhere in this issue the economic situation is given capital place. We can scarcely doubt that when normal trade conditions reappear in Syria—as they are bound to do shortly—these manifestations will die down. In any case the immediate outbreak has been very promptly suppressed by the French authorities, who have adopted that frankly fearless policy towards the disaffected that

characterises their colonial administration. Whether this is to be the end of the trouble it is difficult to say; certainly there will be attempts on the one side, notably in Cairo, to exaggerate and to continue the agitation, and on the other side to minimise it. For ourselves we discount alike the talk by the French of Faisalian intrigues, the rumours of the Emir Abdullah's impotence in Trans-Jordania, and the supposition of a Holy War by Moslems upon the French Mandate. The Syrian Mandate will be one of the most difficult to administer, but, like that for Mesopotamia, it is at least sane and straightforward, and not a heap of contradictions, as that of Palestine. And what an impartial witness on the spot thinks of the potentialities of the Mandate will be found by a perusal of the letter, printed in our "Correspondence" pages, from Mr. Daniel Oliver.

Extremists in Egypt.

The Zaghloulists in Egypt have been keeping comparatively quiet of late, but they have been working hard, if unostentatiously, to undermine the position of the Adly Cabinet. Apart from their constant holding up of Zaghloul Pasha as a martyr, they declare that the present Government has allowed itself to be fobbed off with a shadow instead of the substance of independence; and they further accuse the Cabinet of nepotism. What appeal, if any, the last charge will make to the average Egyptian remains to be seen; but the first, in spite of all the evidence to the contrary, is reported to find some acceptance among the masses, and the "martyrdom" of Zaghloul is still a strong weapon in the agitators' armoury. Lately the Zaghloulists prepared to inaugurate their election campaign in the provinces with a mass meeting at Tanta. The local authorities, fearful of a repetition of the kind of disturbance for which Tanta has acquired such a reputation, took their courage in their hands, however, and prohibited the meeting; and the Cabinet is reported to have decided to prohibit all public meetings in the provinces at present, in the interests of public security. This step has, of course, called forth protests, but it is noticeable that they are not very vigorous.

Egyptian Dynasty and Constitution.

Meanwhile King Fuad and the Egyptian Cabinet have been quietly proceeding with the work of shaping the newly accorded independence of Egypt. The former has issued a Rescript fixing the order of succession, and the latter, through the lately formed Commission, has made progress with the framing of the Constitution. King Fuad's Rescript confirms the principle of primogeniture; it declares the Throne hereditary in the family of Mohammed Ali; excludes the ex-Khedive, Abbas Hilmi; fixes 18 years as the age at which a King attains his majority; makes arrangements for the appointment of Regents when necessary; and decrees that no prince who is not a Moslem, and the son of Moslem parents, may reign. The reception accorded to these and other provisions of the Rescript by the Egyptians, is favourable and it is found especially satisfactory that Parliament is to have an active share in regard to certain points—such as the Regency—which have hitherto been guarded as prerogatives of the reigning prince. The deliberations of the Constitution sub-commission are secret, but it is understood that it has been decided in principle that there are to be two Houses, a Senate and a Chamber of Deputies, the former to be entirely nominated, the latter to have one Deputy for every 75,000 inhabitants.

Indian Affairs.

A superficial observer might say that India is slipping back into the old ways, when the passing of the budget marked the close of the short political season, and the country settled down to the quiet of the hot weather, with nothing to talk about except the prospect of the rains. Such a view would find some justification in the small items of news which have of late reached this country, but we take it that, if there is little talk, there is a good deal of quiet thinking. Most of the really dangerous firebrands are for the time being in seclusion, and among those extremists who have not themselves broken the law, there are signs of a revulsion in favour of constitutional methods, which may possibly result in their transformation from a disloyal conspiracy to a vigorous opposition within the various legislative bodies. If that result should be reached, we may say that the first lesson in the school of democracy will have been learned, but it would be a great mistake to suppose that the old tranquillity would follow. Politics would be and in interest to the spectator, but would become more and more arduous to the participants; and when the legislatures at last face the religious cleavages among the people, we shall witness the crucial test of the new Constitution.

The Punjab.

It is largely this element of religion which has of late brought about a dangerous position in the Punjab. There have, of course, been many cross-currents there as elsewhere, but the central fact has been the growth of a conviction among the Sikhs that the Administration has become hostile to their religious interests. There have been absolutely no grounds for such a view, but, judged by Indian standards, the Sikhs are as a community rather stupid, and their well-known tenacity makes it exceedingly hard to eradicate an idea which has once got into their heads. The latest news seems to indicate a definite improvement in the local situation, in so far that the actual revolutionary movement has been effectively checked by the employment of ordinary administrative methods, and, as time goes on, we may hope to see a diminution of the more widespread anxiety from which that movement drew its strength; but such a revulsion of feeling cannot be expected to take place quickly, and it may be some time yet before the community pulls its full weight in the constitutional boat.

Lord Ronaldshay.

Lord Ronaldshay's departure from India passed almost unnoticed in this country, but his admission to the Privy Council has been made the occasion of a certain amount of recognition of the services he has rendered to the Empire during his term of office in Bengal. Many who looked back on the troubled history of that part of India must have felt great anxiety as to the effect on such a quick-witted and excitable population of a large draught of the new wine of democracy, and as a matter of fact the provincial Council has occasionally shown distinct signs of, shall we say, elevation, but Lord Ronaldshay's presence in Calcutta has had a most important steadying effect, and his admirable relations with practically all sections of the people have given his efforts an exceptional amount of weight. He has throughout played the game and given the new Constitution an absolutely fair chance of working, and in Bengal at least his services are not likely to be forgotten.

THE WEEK AT HOME.*London, Monday Evening.***Genoa.**

At one moment last week it looked as though the Genoa Conference would break up in disorder and a renewal of ill-feeling. So far it has escaped that fate, but the idea that it would achieve anything of substantive value has been practically abandoned. Mr. Garvin has indeed sung its praises in lyric despatches, but the Russo-German Treaty remains.

There is no moral turpitude in making a treaty; Russia and Germany are both sovereign powers, and if they choose to conclude an agreement, even one with secret military clauses, nobody can stop them. It is not that which has convinced the public that no good thing can come out of Genoa; it is the feeling that Europe is again divided into two camps, Russia and Germany on the one side, the Allied Powers on the other. The treaty still stands, and all the notes and exchanges and documents and interviews and despatches cannot disguise the fact. It is a rude disappointment for Mr. Lloyd George, who had conceived great hopes of the Conference; it was in a peculiar sense his conference, in which he hoped to achieve the reunion of Europe. If he should fail, as it now seems almost certain he must fail in that heroic enterprise, the consequences both for Europe and himself may be serious. His enemies at home do not want the Conference to succeed, and it looks as though they will have little difficulty in persuading a disillusioned public that it has failed.

Its Reactions in England.

It would be a mistake to say that the British public were ever enthusiastic over Genoa, or rather what it stood for. They would like to see peace and prosperity in Europe, of course. But they have no belief in the possibility of a United States of Europe, and the three years since the Armistice have made them very doubtful of the prospects of a cessation of international jealousies. The result is that they are withdrawing attention from European affairs. The newspapers, of course, still instruct them on foreign politics, but the desire to intervene diminishes after each conference. Mr. Lloyd George's vision of England leading the new Europe into the paths of peace attracted people for a moment, but if Europe refuses to be so led, there are after all a good many other things that we can occupy ourselves with.

The Overseas Interest.

The City is only mildly interested in Genoa, and the City activities have lately been a reliable guide to the trend of national thought. Borrowers are again appearing in Lombard Street, and prospectuses come out almost every day. I have just been reading a book condemning

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KHARTOUM.

the British investor's ignorance of Poland; but the capitalist is not quite so dense as he is made out to be. He sees that Europe is in a state of instability, and he congratulates himself that he had not sunk so much money in Russia as France; and until Europe settles down, he prefers lending money to British colonies for public works rather than to European States to finance aggressive attacks on each other. Australian and New Zealand loans have been over-subscribed within an hour or two of being offered; and that for two reasons. The capital is safe, and the money will be used to finance British trade with the borrower. If and when any European State can satisfy the investor that it is ready to do business on the same basis, it will have very much the same reception.

The situation in Europe, particularly in the Succession States, is so complete that the ordinary man in the street can hardly be expected to follow it; he does not know the difference between a Yugoslav and a Czechoslovak, and is ready to swear (with some hesitation) that they are both God's creatures. Professed students of foreign affairs, like Colonel Repington, are doing their best to enlighten the public, but like the unbelievers in the Gospels, it waits for a sign, and is rather doubtful of miracles happening in these days. And meanwhile it knows more about Australia than Austria.

One of these days we shall rediscover Europe. Ten years ago our ignorance of the Balkans cost us dear, but we have slipped back into the old paths again, and are busy with schemes of emigration at the other end of the earth, while the Continent again becomes a *terra incognita*.

In another few days we shall know the worst that Sir Robert Horne can do to us. Waiting for the Budget in these times is very much like waiting in Harley Street for sentence of death at the hands of the specialist; we hope for the best, but we are certain that we shall be strictly dieted, and forbidden any expensive pleasures. But even to reduce the income-tax to a mere five shillings in the pound will cost the Chancellor of the Exchequer fifty millions; to reduce beer by a penny a pint will cost about thirty millions. A reduction in the tea and sugar duties is so improbable that nobody has troubled to calculate what that would cost the Treasury.

One idea that is being discussed is a capitalisation of the Pensions Account. At present war pensions are heavy, but the amount falls year by year; in twenty-five years' time that particular vote will have shrunk to very small dimensions. If by some capital operation the amount were equalised over the next thirty years we should gain immediate relief at the cost of posterity, but to do so involves borrowing, and orthodox finance rather shakes its head at fresh borrowing. There is also a surplus of a few millions in the Post Office vote. We had hoped it would be applied to cheaper postage, but it seems likely to be impounded by a hard-pressed Chancellor. Our one consolation is that, bad as the position may be, it is at least better than that of our neighbours. The French and German Budgets, to say nothing of the Polish, are a study in financial nightmare.

Drury Lane.

The new Drury Lane was reopened last week. The whole of the interior has been reconstructed, and it makes a very noble house. The play is the usual sort

of thing—the "Decameron Nights," as it is called, is an episodic affair, trivial as drama, but offering the inevitable spectacle. The place was crowded, and everything is understood to have been successful. The British theatre is in such a bad way that it no longer aspires to have any artistic significance, so one need not say anything about that side of the matter in the new old Drury.

Women's Sports.

The medicoes and other judicious and learned people are apparently becoming anxious about the future of our young women. At any rate, they are going to hold a private enquiry as to the effect of sports and games on their physique. It is suggested that girls' schools rather overdo hockey and other somewhat masculine pastimes: there are even girl's football and cricket clubs. I have not yet heard of a lady boxer, but one never knows. The young damsels themselves laugh at the suggestion that these strenuous exercises do them harm, and say that in any event it is better for them than being tight-laced like their grandmothers. But that does not alter the fact that a woman's strength is not equal to that of a man, and that what is moderate exercise for him is violent exercise for her.

Wireless for All.

The newspapers have been full this week of the prospects for wireless telephony, and some of the more fertile imaginations of Fleet Street have predicted the coming of a day when anybody will be able to speak to you in your own study from fifty miles away. When the evil time arrives that my creditors can get at me as easily as that, I shall emigrate to the South Sea Islands. My own particular thanks would go out to the inventor who can equip me with a silencer that shall automatically shut out taxi-hoots, club snores, babies' shrieks, and other menaces to one's peace. One wants to hear less, rather than more; the excess of noise in our big cities is one of the chief causes of modern nerves.

House and Land Sales.

The auction market seems to be busier than ever. Houses and estates continue to change hands—but at pretty stiff prices, except in the case of large properties which are a white elephant; even profiteers fight shy of them. In London a great many sales are due to rebuilding schemes; one-time residential districts are being turned into office blocks, and the population is being driven further out, all of which puts a greater strain on the suburban and underground railways. These, however, are issuing more capital for enlargement, so that they can cope with the increasing crowds.

The London Season.

In spite of hard times, and the notorious fact that "there is no money about," I hear that the West End dressmakers are doing well, and they prognosticate a better season than last year, which was ruined by the coal strike. Princess Mary's residence as a hostess in London will add gaiety and life to the summer, which is expected to be unusually brilliant.

The Week's Books.

"A Short History of British Expansion" (Macmillan) by James A. Williamson, is an account of British Imperialism from the Norman Conquest to the present time. It is not an original work, but a thoroughly competent digest of the available materials. The subject, of course, is an enormous one, but the author's sense of perspective is sound. The worst of this kind of book is that in these hectic days it wants a page added every month to keep it up to date.

I may add a brief reference to a book of absorbing interest to naturalists—"The Naturalisation of Animals and Plants in New Zealand" (Cambridge University Press) by the Hon. George M. Thomson. It is a scientific work full of curious surprises. The greenfinch, for instance, has flourished in New Zealand, the linnet, a kind of cousin of the greenfinch, has not; the Atlantic salmon has failed, the quinnat salmon has succeeded in establishing itself. Why? It is a more insoluble puzzle than the absence of Jews from Scotland.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

From Our Own Correspondents.

EGYPT.

Cairo, April 8.

The New Constitution.

The Cabinet has not been deterred by the opposition which has been worked up by interested parties from putting into execution the political programme which it laid down for itself when it took up office, and this past week the appointment was announced of a Commission to which has been entrusted the elaboration of a new Organic Law embodying a radical reform in the constitution of the country and of a new electoral law for the two-Chamber Parliament which will be part of the constitutional changes contemplated. Every effort has been made to make the commission as representative as possible of the various currents of political thought, and albeit the "Wafd El Masri" and certain other notables have declined the invitation extended to them, the Commission may truthfully be regarded as representing all the better elements that count for anything in the country.

Its Chairman is Hussein Rushdi Pasha, the former Prime Minister, who so ably carried on during the war and is considered to be a most brilliant jurisconsult and one of the ablest exponents of constitutional and international law and legal draughtsmen the country possesses. With him are several ex-Ministers, dignitaries of the Moslem and Coptic Churches, members of the Native and Mehkemeh Sharieh Bars, delegates of the Legislative Assembly, representatives of the Coptic, Jewish and Bedwin communities, and a number of prominent notables. The Commission has for all practical purposes been given an entirely free hand. The only condition which has been made is that its proposals shall be in accordance with the most modern constitutional ideas and shall be based on the principle of ministerial responsibility.

Combining the absence of any directions from the Cabinet with the representative and independent nature of its members, it seems scarcely likely that, as the Opposition are sedulously trying to insinuate, the Commission will merely deliberate for the sake of form and will submit proposals which will give effect to the Cabinet's alleged intention of endowing the country with a constitution which in reality will give the people no greater control over policy than they possess to-day. The more one considers the question, and the more one takes into consideration the various influences at work, the more convinced must one become that the wisest course was the one which the Cabinet has adopted, *i.e.*, the appointing of a Commission to elaborate the new constitution instead of leaving its drafting, as the extremist element wishes, to the tender mercies of a Constituent Assembly.

Egypt's Flag.

It has virtually been decided to change the Egyptian flag, presumably as a further outward and visible sign of the alteration in the political status of the country. At the present moment the Egyptian flag comprises three white crescents and three white stars on a red background. This was formerly the private standard of the reigning family. On the declaration of the Protectorate it was substituted for the star and crescent on a red background which up to then had been the Egyptian standard and which was only distinguishable from the Turkish flag by the fact that the Egyptian star had five instead of six points. The new Egyptian flag will be a white crescent and three white stars on a green background with a crown superimposed for the Royal standard. The choice of green as the national colour is particularly appropriate, seeing that Egypt is an agricultural country and that green is not only the colour associated with Islam but that it was the colour of the standard of the Fatimite Caliphs who created Cairo.

Death of Prominent Missionary.

The American community in general and the cause of education in particular have just suffered a great loss in the death of Dr. John Giffen, which occurred last Tuesday. Dr. Giffen who was 76 years of age came to Egypt exactly 47 years ago. Throughout his residence he was one of the strongest bulwarks of the American Mission, which has done such invaluable educational work in this country, and he had gained a position in the affection and the esteem of the Anglo-Saxon and Egyptian communities which without exaggeration was unique.

At his funeral the Cabinet was represented by Ibrahim Pasha Fathy, and the composition of the concourse which followed his remains to the cemetery was eloquent of the position which Dr. Giffen held in this country. It was, however, noticed that none of the ex-Ministers of Education attended, nor did the Civil Authorities send the Police escort which is usually delegated for the funerals of important persons. Considering Dr. Giffen's position this is much to be regretted, and although no doubt it was an oversight it has given rise to much comment in European circles.

"The Mikado."

The heartiest congratulations are due to those responsible for the production of "The Mikado" which took place last week in aid of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and Waifs and Strays. Where everyone performed so well it is exceedingly difficult fairly to apportion individual praise, but his colleagues themselves will, I think, agree that the outstanding feature was the Ko-Ko of Major Leslie, who gave a most finished performance and revealed talent which if his present career ever fails him should assure him a prominent place on the professional stage. Mrs. Broatch,

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CAIRO STATION.

Mrs. Dabell and Mrs. Palmer Hall as the three little maids made a very dainty trio, of whom Mrs. Palmer Hall seemed certainly the most at home. Remembering Mrs. Thielman's most recent success on the concert platform one was somewhat disappointed with her as Katisha. Obviously the Opera stage is too great a tax on her singing, though it certainly gave her an opportunity for revealing her histrionic talent. Mr. Greaves as the Mikado was excellent both in voice and in acting. Mr. Hayes, who is an old friend in Gilbert and Sullivan, was in splendid voice and in the dress which suited him admirably, made a most attractive Nankipoo. Mr. Trimman as Pooch-Bah appeared rightly to feel the weight of his many responsibilities and gave a characteristic rendering of his part, while the chorus and concerted work showed how strenuously the performers had rehearsed and how fortunate the management had been in securing the services of Mr. Louis Cowan and Col. Sullivan, who had been responsible for the production and musical direction respectively. No one knows better than your Correspondent how exceedingly difficult it is in a place like Cairo not so much to collect fifty or sixty members of the community for such undertakings as to keep them together well under discipline during the long period necessitated by rehearsals. The successful result of this latest venture on the part of the British community is therefore in the circumstances a personal triumph for everyone concerned.

Reuter's Agent Honoured.

The latest appointments to the British Empire Order include that of Mr. G. C. Delany, Reuter's Agent in Egypt. With characteristic modesty Mr. Delany deleted his name from the cabled list which he published here ten days ago and left us to learn the news from the London papers to hand this week. The honour which has now been bestowed on him is a well-merited though belated recognition of his services to the Empire during and since the war, and has given very great pleasure to his colleagues and friends, who have long admired the ability and impartiality with which he has directed his Agency, particularly during the varying phases of the past four very trying and critical years.

Cairo, April 15.

The Bomb Case Sentences.

The sentences in the Sarwat bomb case were promulgated this week: Two years' hard labour for two of the accused and three years' hard labour for the third. These sentences, without exaggeration, have aroused the greatest astonishment amongst Egyptians as also amongst British residents. The men convicted were accused of conspiracy in that they were members of a secret society having among its objects assassination, and that in furtherance thereof they conspired together to kill the Prime Minister and another official by bombing and revolvers. Having been found guilty of these very serious offences there could on the face of it not be any question of extenuating circumstances, and considering the precedent set up in previous conspiracy and bombing cases and in view of the fact that the Egyptian Courts could give up to penal servitude for life, and certainly in a case like this would have awarded at least fifteen years, the leniency shown by the Military Court is quite inexplicable.

The Political Situation.

There is little change in the political situation. The criticism of the Cabinet in respect of its action regarding the new Constitution continues in the Opposition press, but it has been somewhat disarmed by the appointment of the Commission entrusted with the elaboration of the new Organic and Electoral Laws, the composition of which is generally admitted to be not only representative but also a guarantee that the real interests of the country will be safeguarded. Sarwat Pasha took the opportunity of the opening sitting of the Commission to deliver a speech in which he replied to his critics and appeared to prove very conclusively not merely that they are wrong in claiming that no Constitution can ever be valid if it has not been framed by a Constituent Assembly, but that on the contrary, in advising the King to make

the grant of a Constitution direct from himself, he has acted strictly in accord with precedent in Egypt, where all governmental reforms have emanated from the sovereign. His speech seems to have made an excellent impression.

At the same time there is still a good deal of criticism with regard to the general work of the Cabinet and particularly the appointments that it continues to make. There is no doubt that the Opposition has gained considerably during the past three weeks, and the Cabinet will have to walk very warily and act very firmly if it wants to come off victorious at the elections. The latter, I gather from conversations I have had with members of the Commission, are unlikely to take place before the new year, so that the new Parliament will not meet until next March at the earliest.

A State University for Cairo.

The Commission established in 1917 by the Council of Ministers for the purpose of studying the question of a State University has now issued its report. It is a very voluminous but highly interesting document, and it is unfortunate that the space at my disposal will not permit of an exhaustive review. Briefly, the Commission considers that there is a crying need for the provision of liberal education of a higher level than is at present provided, and recommends the establishment at the earliest possible moment of a State University in Cairo with seven Faculties.

Each of the existing Higher Schools of Medicine, Law, Agriculture, Engineering, Commerce is to be transformed into a Faculty, and two new Faculties of Arts and Science are to be created. Departments of Education, Oriental Studies and Archaeology are to be included in the Faculty of Arts, and in this connection it is interesting to note that the Commission lays stress on the point that owing to its environment, historic associations, and geographical situation, Egypt should be the seat of a flourishing school of Oriental studies, and should provide training for students in Archaeology, in which the country offers possibly a richer opportunity for inquiry than any other country in the world.

The Commission, having regard to the fact that the preliminary general education of the students who enter them is at present insufficient to enable them to follow with profit the professional courses, recommends that the Faculties of Arts and Science should provide intermediate courses of two years in Arts and Science, which would cover all the teaching of the preliminary Arts and Science subjects necessary for other Faculties and would also be regarded as part of a four years' course for Ordinary and Honours Degrees in Arts and Science so as to concentrate the teaching of all the preliminary Science and Arts subjects required for the various Faculties, instead of having them taught in several different places as they are at present, with a wasteful multiplication of staffs and laboratories.

The question of the medium to be employed in teaching in the University found the Commission somewhat divided, and the minority, consisting of the Egyptian members, presented a separate report. On certain points, however, unanimity was arrived at. Briefly, they are the following:—In principle Arabic should be the medium of instruction from the beginning; subjects which will suffer greatly in efficiency if they are taught in Arabic at the opening of the University may be taught in a foreign language for a limited period; immediate steps should be taken to train Egyptian teachers of proved capacity for work in the University; a Translation and Publication Bureau should be formed for the preparation of works in Arabic suitable for University text-books and for the settlement of technical terminology for use in the teaching of Mathematics and Science throughout the country; every student of the University must select one foreign language as his principal foreign language, and this language must be studied through the medium of the language itself.

Of the great need for such an institution there can be no doubt, and the Commission has done most valuable work in the investigations it has made, and in collecting the data which it has put on record. It appears, how-

ever, quite possible that some of its recommendations will have to undergo modification before they are put into operation, as I have heard various criticisms of the details, which appear to be well-founded.

It is not known as yet what view the Government takes of the recommendations made, but from the fact that the Ministry of Finance has opened a credit for the preliminary work in connection with the creation of a University it may fairly be assumed that the adoption of the scheme will enter into the realm of practical politics in the very near future.

'IRAQ (MESOPOTAMIA.)

Baghdad, April 7.

A Week of Excitement.

This has been a week of excitement, crises and disasters in Baghdad. The excitement has been caused by the Akhwan and their raids on 'Iraq, mention of which was made in previous letters. A good deal of excitement was caused when the news of the raids first reached Baghdad, but it had begun to die down after a commission had been sent to Nasiriyah under the presidency of Nuri Pasha Said to enquire into the raids and the amount of damage which had been done and to consider what measures must be taken to meet the menace. On his return Nuri Pasha was interviewed by the representatives of the local vernacular papers, and is reported to have given the most alarming story; that these raids were no ordinary raids but were the beginning of an organised attack on 'Iraq by Ibn Saoud, the Wahabi Sultan of Nejd, and that the raiders had murdered women and children in cold blood, or had left them in the desert to die of hunger and thirst. This gave the vernacular papers every excuse they needed to start a series of alarmist articles about the Akhwan menace and to call on Government to take immediate steps to meet force with force. During the past week articles have appeared pointing out the need of an enormous national army to defend 'Iraq from Akhwan aggression and urging that the 'Iraq army be immediately expanded. One paper went so far as to suggest that the country only wanted three things: an army, education, and agriculture, and that all the revenues of the country should be spent on these three things alone and that everything else should go to the wall.

The Ulema Take a Hand.

Baghdad has, as a result of all this, become thoroughly alarmed; and a day or two ago a meeting of the *ulema* was held at which the position of the Akhwan was discussed, and as a result a *Fetva* was issued declaring that it was the duty of all good Mohammedans to take up arms against the Akhwan, whose position was likened to that of the Kharajites against whom Ali ibn Abu Talib waged war. Nor is that all; the Shiah *ulema* have also entered the arena, and Sheikh Mahdi al Khalisi of Kadhimain has addressed a letter to all the spiritual and temporal sheikhs inviting them to meet at Kerbella on Shaban 10 (April 8) to discuss the steps which must be taken to meet the Akhwan menace. This entry of the Shiah *ulema* and this holding of meetings at Kerbella is a disquieting factor which is causing men of moderate views some anxiety. The Shiah *ulema* have always been prominent in organising movements against Government, no matter what Government has been in power, and Kerbella has too often been the place where their nefarious schemes were worked out; and there are many who fear that the present meeting may produce only the same results as many similar meetings held in the past.

Sir Percy Cox Acts.

Meanwhile the publication of the correspondence which has passed between the British High Commissioner in Baghdad and Ibn Saoud has done much to dispel the alarm which the raids had caused. In reply to Sir Percy Cox's remonstrance Ibn Saoud declared that the first he had heard of the raids was the information contained in Sir Percy Cox's telegram, but promised to make careful enquiries and to take such action as would prevent a recurrence of the incidents. No reply was given, however, to Baghdad's demand that the

property looted in the raid should be restored and that compensation should be given to the relations of the persons killed during the raids. In reply Sir Percy has wired to Ibn Saoud saying that in the urgent circumstances existing it is of vital importance that a temporary boundary be laid down to divide 'Iraq from Nejd, without prejudice to any more permanent boundary which may be decided on later when representatives of the two countries meet at Mohammerah. Sir Percy Cox has therefore laid down a boundary line which the two sides are requested to accept for the present; and both sides are being called on to withdraw their adherents behind the boundary line and to warn them that they will in future cross it only at their own risk. Finally, Ibn Saoud is called on to withdraw Faizal ad Daweish and the other leaders of the raids to Riyadh and to keep them there for the present.

Ministerial Crisis.

So much for the excitement, we come now to the crises. These came partly as a result of the excitement over the Akhwan. No official version of what happened has yet been published, but it is generally believed that King Faisal tried to get the Council of Ministers to increase the army vote in view of the Akhwan raid; this some of the Ministers objected to and Faisal replied that if they would not do as he wished they had better resign. The result was that the Ministers of Interior, Justice, Public Health, of Communications and Works, Commerce and Finance resigned at once; and with the exception of that of the Minister of Finance the resignations were accepted. The action of the Ministers in refusing to submit to the King's dictation has met with general approval, and the King is being very severely criticised for his action. It will be remembered that at the time of his accession Faisal made much of his intention to set up a constitutional democratic government, and it is considered that his recent behaviour ill accords with his declared intentions.

New Ministers have been appointed to the vacant portfolios; Taufiq Beg al Khalidi, until now Muhafidh of Baghdad, to the Interior, Ja'afar Abu Timman to Commerce, Subih Bey to Communications and Works, while the Ministry of Health has been abolished and a Mudirate of Public Health is to take its place. Taufiq Beg was the member for Baghdad in the Turkish Parliament and is a man of moderate views. He has recently done well as Muhafidh of Baghdad, and his appointment is generally approved. Ja'afar Abu Timman is a prominent Baghdad merchant and holds extreme views. He was one of the leaders of the disturbances of 1920. Subih Bey has been away from 'Iraq for some ten years and returned only a few days ago, and his appointment may therefore be regarded very much as an experiment.

Two Disasters.

There remain the disasters to mention. Both of these occurred early on Sunday morning, and the Maude Bridge played a prominent part in both. First of all a barge got adrift and floated down on to the bridge, causing considerable damage. Fortunately it was possible to secure the barge before it carried the bridge away altogether. In the morning a tug came to try to pull the barge off but got jammed between the barge and the bridge and sank. The bridge will be out of use for a week or ten days, and meanwhile all traffic has to use the Kotah Bridge, which is not really equal to the strain, and cross river traffic is being seriously dislocated.

The other disaster happened to a motor launch which was taking seven irrigation officers home in the early morning and ran into one of the hausers holding the Maude Bridge in place and upset. Three of the officers on board, Major Showers, Mr. Gowan-Smith, and Mr. Klinger, were drowned, the other four managing to reach the shore. The accident is the more tragic in that Major Showers and Mr. Klinger were about to leave the country, the former on leave and the latter returning home on expiration of his contract.

"A Flying Visit."

On Saturday King Faisal and his staff together with the High Commissioner and his staff visited Ramadi by air, returning the same day. The party travelled in

one of the big Vickers Vernon troop carrying aeroplanes. In this connection may be mentioned what we hope was unconscious humour in the *Baghdad Times* which headed one of its columns in big letters 'King in the Air,' and another column in the same page 'Cabinet crisis, five Ministers Resign.'

PALESTINE.

Jerusalem, April 9.

The Nebi Musa Pilgrimage.

To-day marks the second anniversary of the outbreak of the Arabs against the Jews in April of 1920. It was the entrance of the men of Hebron into Jerusalem preparatory to their pilgrimage to Nebi Musa that started the disorders, and both last year and this year this entry of the Hebronites was the moment which the Public Security authorities had most reason to fear. Last year there was no disturbance beyond rushing the cordon of Hindu troops, while to-day there has been no trouble of any kind. The Hebronites, several thousand in number, came in this morning at half-past ten, entered the Old City by the Jaffa Gate and so through to the Haram Area. The entire place bristled with precautions: practically all the shops along the route, Jewish and non-Jewish alike, were shut; at the Jaffa Gate were mounted gendarmerie, Hindu troops and an armoured car. The usual speeches were made by the Moslem Leaders, but there seem to have been no provocative cries by the crowds: "Long live Palestine," "Long live the Grand Mufti," "Long live the Moslem-Christian Association," were about all that could be heard.

The main body of pilgrims left two days ago. In the usual way the Jerusalem Town Council organised an official "send-off," with the High Commissioner, the Governor of Jerusalem and the various community representatives present—including the chief Zionist officials and editors of the local Jewish Press. The Sheikh of the Mosque chanted extracts from the Koran, the Grand Mufti blessed all comers, Mr. Storrs made speeches in Arabic on his own behalf and for the High Commissioner, there were calls for cheers for King George, the High Commissioner, Governor Storrs, and the procession of flags was despatched in peace. There may be further nervous moments when the pilgrims return next week, but the general impression is that the obvious precautions taken will check the attempts of would-be agitators.

Zionism and Palestine.

Cabled reports are coming through of *The Times* articles on Zionism and Palestine. Mr. Philip Graves, the Near East correspondent of *The Times*, has been out here now many weeks, most conscientiously going to and fro and up and down the country, cheerfully submitting to talks from everybody with a point of view. The reports we have seen so far are very brief, but they give the impression that Mr. Graves has got a real grasp of the conditions of things and is able to see them in a better perspective than was Lord Northcliffe during his visit to Palestine some two months ago. He seems also to have gauged aright the childish ineptitude that has marked the Zionist Commission in so many of its actions. One stands aghast, again and again, that a people like the Jews, proverbially so astute, should have so mismanaged the greatest opportunity that has ever been put into their hands during the course of their whole history. There is still ample time for them to make good these mistakes, and we hope that, for the good of Palestine, they will be able to do so. But the general impression that tends to be left on the minds of the Gentile onlookers is that the Jew cannot, after all, be the smart fellow he was always supposed to be.

Lord Milner's Visit.

Lord Milner has been putting in some weeks here very thinly disguised as a tourist. He insisted that he was a mere tourist, but nobody thought fit to believe him—not that much importance should be attached to this popular attitude: it is the current local vice to interpret every innocent act or remark in terms of the highest politics. Lord Milner has been "doing" the country fairly thoroughly, receiving public welcomes, making

grateful but perfectly mild replies, and having the deepest political significance read into his most simple statements. One local Arab paper announces that Lord Milner is to take over the thorny duties of High Commissioner when Sir Herbert Samuel leaves next week! But that is the Eastern mind working along its usual familiar lines: the mental process of the Eastern is normally restricted to analogy: Sir Herbert paid an informal visit to Palestine in the Spring of 1920, and was installed High Commissioner the following June; add to this the further fact that the present High Commissioner is to put in the next few months in England, and precedents are curiously numerous of the Palestine official taking English leave and finding that such leave is an immediate prelude to dismissal!

Villages' Miniature War.

Zionism is not the only cause of trouble in the country. We translate the following from the vernacular press:

"The results of the quarrel which broke out between the two Arab villages near Hebron, Dura and Dariya, are: on the side of Dura, nine (mostly youths) killed and forty to forty-five wounded; on the side of Dariya, seven killed and twenty-five wounded, some dangerously. The quarrel broke out on account of mutual hatred and various disputes about pasture-lands and cattle-lifting. The men of Dariya employed two machine-guns left by the Turks, and also made use of trenches—a full-dress military defence—officered by young men who had learned the business in the war. They collected large quantities of ammunition from the neighbourhood and made good use of it in their "war." The men of Dura, who launched the attack, were not so well armed, but succeeded in driving their enemies almost back to their own village Dariya. Some of the Hebron notables and Sheikhs of Beersheba and neighbourhood are trying to make peace and arrange an armistice; the Government has also sent police and three armoured cars and put in prison twenty notables of the two villages."

GREECE.

Athens, April 8.

Independence Day.

The Greek National Fête in commemoration of the War of Independence (March 25, 1821) was celebrated yesterday as usual. The religious service at the Cathedral was conducted by the Metropolitan of Athens in the presence of the King, the Queen and the Royal Family, the Members of the Cabinet, the Roumanian Ambassador, the Foreign Missions to Greece, and many high dignitaries and Members of Parliament; the Crown Prince of Denmark was also present. After the service the King and the Princes proceeded to the University where the customary ceremony was held. The streets were beflagged and all public buildings and banks were illuminated in the evening.

The Genoa Conference.

The Greek delegation, consisting of M. Gounaris, the Minister of National Economy, M. Luke K. Roufos, and M. Mallah, a deputy from Salonika, left for Genoa by the s.s. "Naxos" early yesterday morning. The staff of the delegation is made up of twelve experts, secretaries, and others. The Constituent Assembly has adjourned until the week after Easter.

General News.

Queen Marie of Roumania arrived here from Bucharest yesterday afternoon, for the purpose of seeing her daughter, Princess Elisabeth, who has been indisposed since the beginning of last week. The Princess' medical attendants report that her condition is improving.

The Ministries of Public Assistance and Agriculture have decided to establish a College of Agriculture at Serres for the training of war-orphans.

The pound sterling was to-day bought at 150 drachmae. The Consortium rate is still 98, but it is expected that this too will go up when the Exchange and the Banks are re-opened on Monday.

The Greek Government has conferred upon the Crown Prince of Denmark the Grand Cross of St. George. His

Royal Highness is leaving for Italy early tomorrow morning.

Of the 10 persons charged with the murder of M. Jean Dragounis, 5 were sentenced to penal servitude, 2 to twenty years' imprisonment, 1 to two months' imprisonment and a fine of 300 drachmae, and 2 were acquitted.

Athens, April 10.

Greece and Albania.

A meeting between Greek and Albanian Government officials took place a few days ago on Greek territory, near Florina, with a view to discussing various outstanding questions and particularly those with regard to Korytsa. The Greek delegates demanded that Albania should: (1) authorise the return to Korytsa of the Greek refugees who had emigrated to Epirus when Southern Albania (or Northern Epirus as the Greeks usually call it) was taken over by Albania; (2) restore the Greek schools and churches of Korytsa to the Greek community of that town, and (3) discontinue to enrol the Greek male population in the Albanian Army.

The Albanian representatives readily agreed to the return to their homes of the Greek refugees, but refused to discuss the other questions without previously consulting their Government. The conversation was held in a very friendly manner, and before taking their leave the Albanians informed the Greek Prefect of Florina, M. Calamaras, that the Albanian Government was very anxious that Greece should officially recognize the State of Albania by appointing without delay a Minister at Tirana. M. Calamaras, who is now in Athens, has already seen M. Baltazzi, and it is to be hoped that the *pourparlers* will be renewed on his return to Florina, and that they will eventually lead to an understanding and the establishment of friendly relations between the two neighbouring States. A telegram received yesterday from Genoa says that the Albanian delegate there has had a long talk with the Greek Premier.

The Peace Proposals.

The British, French and Italian Ministers in Athens called yesterday on the Minister for Foreign Affairs, M. Baltazzi, in order to remind him that their respective Governments would be glad to have an early reply to their recent peace proposals to Greece. The Allied representatives added that the reply of both the Constantinople and the Angora Governments had already been received.

M. Baltazzi pointed out that the slight delay in replying to the Allied Note was due to the hurried departure of M. Gounaris for the Genoa Conference; he promised, however, to communicate with the Premier on the subject. A long cable was dispatched to Genoa by the Greek Government last night, and official circles here are of the opinion that the Greek Prime Minister will be obliged to return to Athens before the Conference has completed its work. In any case it is thought that Greece's reply will be handed in within the next week.

General News.

Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Montague Bell arrived in Athens from Egypt last Friday and are leaving for London by the Orient Express to-morrow. Mr. Montague Bell was received in audience by King Constantine.

The Grand Duchess of Hesse, sister of Queen Sophie of Greece, has arrived in Athens accompanied by her two children.

Princess Elizabeth, whose condition had caused some anxiety during the week, is now better. The Crown Prince of Roumania, who is the Princess's brother, is expected here tomorrow.

The new Minister of Czechoslovakia has presented his Letters of Credence to King Constantine.

A well organised Turkish attack on Satran about 30 kilometres N.W. of Afion Karahissar, was repulsed by the Greeks after much hard fighting. There has been much activity on the Asia Minor front lately.

ALBANIA.

Tirana, April 12.

After the Rebellion.

The number of those condemned to death and executed as a consequence of the troubles of last month now amounts to nine. Six others have been condemned to death *in contumaciam* by the Court Martial. The total of deaths in the fighting which took place at Elbasan (between the Gendarmerie and the followers of Halid Lleshi), in the plain (between Kroya and Tirana), and in the capital itself is reported as 60 rebels and 20 soldiers. There are now under arrest and awaiting judgment 142, of whom the greater number seem likely to be condemned. There are also about a dozen people who have sought refuge in Italy in order to avoid justice overtaking them.

The funeral of Meleg Frasheri, the Commandant of Gendarmerie who was killed in the fighting on the plain between Kroya and Tirana, assumed the character of a national ceremony. The body, which had been embalmed and guarded in a village near Kroya, was interred at Tirana on March 23. The ceremony was very impressive. The members of the Government and of the High Council, the religious leaders, the corps of officers and a crowd of over 3,000 people—Moslems as well as Christians—bore witness to the respect for the brave officer who gave his life for his country. It was the first funeral of such an imposing character seen in Albania.

Political Cloudlets.

I reported in my previous letter that calm had been restored, and nothing fresh has occurred to change the situation. Nevertheless, it would be unwise to be too optimistic at present. There are certain factors which may yet produce trouble in the country: Bairam Tsur, Mustapha Kroya, Halid Lleshi and Hassan Prishtina have not yet been captured, nor have they made their submission. There are, therefore, still some clouds in the sky; and there may be another storm.

Two members of the High Council, namely Omer Urioni, who acted as President, and Antoine Pistulli, have resigned, for reasons which are not quite clear.

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Moreover, Fan Noli, who had accepted the portfolio of Foreign Affairs, has also handed in his resignation. These defections are calculated to weaken the position of the Government.

Albania's Foreign Relations.

The new Albanian Minister in London, H. E. Mehmed Bey Konitza, is reported to have presented his Letters of Credence on March 28. At present he is the only Albanian representative abroad with the rank of Minister.

Finland and Luxembourg have officially announced that they recognize *de jure* the Government of Albania. This brings up to 12 the number of States that have thus far accorded such recognition, the others being: Great Britain, France, Italy, Japan (the four States of the Conference of Ambassadors), Belgium, Switzerland, Bulgaria, Austria, Roumania, and Yugoslavia. As to foreign official representatives in Albania, Mr. Eyres the British Minister, remains unique; for Italy's representatives, Minister and consuls, have as yet no official character, and France has not yet sent her Minister to Tirana.

An Autocephalous Church.

There have been by-elections at Scutari, Argyrokastro and Kortcha, to replace the deputies who have abandoned their seats in consequence of appointment to various posts. There were two seats to fill at Kortcha and one at each of the other places. At Kortcha the Christian deputy obtained a unanimous vote. He made the independence of the Albanian Orthodox Church the principal feature of his programme—that is to say the creation of an autocephalous Church; and the Albanian Christians have thus confirmed their will to constitute themselves a community independent of the Greek Patriarchate. By-elections are still to be held for the prefectures of Drin, Hershan, Durazzo and Himara.

A New Journal.

I must salute the appearance of a new Albanian journal at Tirana, the *Dit' e Re* ("The New Day"), the first number of which was published on March 29. Heretofore Tirana has had no political journal: the Albanian newspapers were published at: Kortcha (which has four political journals, one published thrice weekly, the others weekly), Valona (two), Scutari (one), Elbasan (one), Argyrokastro (two) and Fieri (two). Most of those organs were on the side of the Opposition, and stern critics of the Government. It is worthy of remark, however, that in spite of this spirit in the Press, the population of the provinces—especially of Kortcha and of Argyrokastro, where the Press has been most frankly hostile to the Government—was prompt in sending volunteers to Tirana when the troubles broke out.

The Agrarian Movement.

The journal at Fieri (Muzekie), of which mention is made above, is an organ of the Agrarian party, and its title is *Duërsa e Bujkut* ("The Sweat of the Cultivator"). Its object is to safeguard the interests of the cultivators who till the soil of the large landowners and are not themselves owners of land. Thus, it advocates in principle the division and distribution of the land, subject be it noted, to compensation of the present holders. The Agrarian party has its champions in parliament. The movement is but feeble as yet and has not given rise to any militant policy, but it seems to be worth mentioning as we may hear more of it in the future.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, April 11.

Genoa.

MM. Stambolisky and Turlakoff, accompanied by half a dozen experts, left Sofia last week for Genoa. The Prime Minister expects to be back in Sofia by the end of the month, as many matters require his attention. M. Kosta Theodoroff, Bulgarian Minister at Belgrade, and M. Stancioff, Minister at London, will join the Bulgarian delegation at Genoa. Speaking to a Press representative on the morning of his departure, the Prime Minister said that the Opposition parties had been given the chance of sending representatives to Genoa but they had refused. He added that he did not in the

least regret their refusal. Referring to the statement that most of the nations attending the Conference were divided up into Big, Little, or Neutral ententes, M. Stambolisky said that Bulgaria was going to Genoa without any ties and practically without any friends.

Government and the Inter-Allied Commission.

The financial aspect of the Note sent by the Inter-Allied Commission to the Government is dealt with more fully on another page, but the political aspect of the situation is also worthy of regard.

From every point of view Bulgaria is in a most unfortunate position. She cannot resist the putting into force of the Treaty of Neuilly, because she has no "big brother" to stand beside her and comfort her; and she is surrounded by countries that are determined to see the Treaty executed to the last letter. It is understood that the representative of Yugoslavia, Roumania, and Greece on the Reparations Commission at Paris objected very strongly to any concessions being made to Bulgaria regarding the financial clauses of the Treaty. It is in fact supposed that the intervention of the Balkan Powers' representative was the signal for the terms being made more severe than they would otherwise have been.

Bulgaria had looked to France to support her in her effort to obtain easier terms, but she has been sadly disillusioned. She is now in a somewhat bitter mood, and it is safe to say that the Allies have never been more unpopular than they are to-day. The entire Press has been unanimous in attacking the Commission of Reparations, and although no untoward incidents have marked the week, there is no doubt that there is a very strong current of public opinion which feels that the rights and independence of Bulgaria are seriously impugned by the Commission's Note.

The "Organ" of Liquidation again.

One of the duties entrusted to the "Organ" of Liquidation was that of disarming the civil population. It now transpires that the "Organ" have requested the Bulgarian Government to take steps whereby all the swords in the possession of ex-officers and others may be immediately handed over. Unless this tale is untrue—and the authority is an excellent one—it is hard to believe that the "Organ" is composed of Allied officers. From time immemorial, officers, even although belonging to a vanquished foe, have been allowed to keep their swords, and now three and a-half years after the conclusion of the Armistice, we are treated to the spectacle of demobilised officers in Bulgaria being made to deliver up their swords!

New Archbishop for Sofia.

On Saturday, the 8th, Mgr. Stefan, the new Archbishop of Sofia, entered on his appointment. He travelled by special train from the Monastery of Tcheripich to Sofia, being met on the outskirts of the city by M. Tzvetinoff, of the Bulgarian Foreign Office who welcomed him in the name of the Government. Afterwards, accompanied by numerous Clergy, the Archbishop attended a service at the Cathedral. The King, the acting Prime Minister, M. Daskaloff, and others were amongst those present.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, March 28.

The Legislative Council.

On opening the session, the High Commissioner in a short speech referred to several important laws which would come up for consideration. He also alluded to the work of Colonel W. M. Ellis, C.I.E., R.E., who has been engaged in studying the problem of a development of irrigation work in the island. It is hoped that he will be able to submit his report very shortly. Col. Ellis was formerly Chief Engineer in the Madras Presidency. Whatever may be the views expressed, one thing is certain; that it is essential, as Sir Wyndham Dunstan has said, that no schemes for water storage should be decided upon, except on the fullest expert advice.

In an extraordinary *Gazette* of 50 pages the drafts of two laws are published, one to provide for the regulation

of Companies with limited liability, the other for the publication of a collected and revised edition of the laws of Cyprus.

The "National Council."

This body, which the Greek speaking promoters of "union with Greece" have brought into being, began its work on March 16, which is they say to be considered as a "historic day," from which the movement is to enter upon a new phase. The "so-called Legislative Council" is entirely ignored, and the people are told that, the voice of the majority being smothered, the new body is to sever itself from all connection with it! On the opening day Nicosia was beflagged, the Greek schools had a holiday, and church bells were rung. There was a gathering in the Cathedral Church, and in the courtyard of the Archbishop's residence. Banners and the Hellenic flag were carried, and the Archbishop was joined by the Bishops and the Abbot of Kykkou, the principal monastery. An address was delivered by the Bishop of Kition, on behalf of the Holy Synod. At 2 p.m. an opening speech was made by the Archbishop in which the aims of the National Council were set forth. All that was needed, he said, was systematic and increasing work for the cause, in the spirit that inspired their ancestors.

The Holy Synod.

A letter has been received from the Patriarch of Alexandria, in reply to the proposal of the Synod that the Churches of Alexandria and Cyprus should jointly offer mediation with a view to a peaceful solution of the differences which now divide the Churches of Athens and Constantinople, in respect of the election of the Œcumenical Patriarch Meletios IV. While commending the action of the Archbishop and Synod in the cause of peace, the Patriarch considers that in view of the divergent views which prevail in several divisions of the Orthodox Greek Church it would not be expedient to give a definite reply until further information shall have been received from Cyprus, as to the precise steps which it is proposed should be taken. The Cyprus Synod will consider the matter further.

The Population of Cyprus.

The total population on December 31 last was returned as 313,515. That of the four chief towns was as follows:—Nicosia 18,779; Limassol 13,558; Larnaca 9,797; and Famagusta 7,124.

MESSAGES FROM SYRIA.

We have received from Cairo two telegrams, both dated April 14, upon the situation in Syria. The first, which is signed on behalf of the Executive Committee by Rashid Rida, runs thus:—

The situation in Syria is rendered intolerable by oppressive taxes and waste of public funds. The population of Damascus profited by the occasion of the farewell of Dr. Crane, the former President of the American Mandate Commission to manifest their discontent, to set out their grievances against the occupying Government, and to claim their independence. The French authorities arrested the Nationalist leaders, and deported them to places unknown, so provoking great popular demonstrations for independence against the Mandate. French troops attacked the demonstrators with tanks and mitrailleuses; and there were many killed and wounded. All traffic and commerce are suspended, and for eight days the agitation has continued. Martial law has been proclaimed. The Executive Committee of the Syrio-Palestinian Congress, representing all parties for Syrian independence protests energetically against these attempts upon the rights of peoples by the French authorities. It calls the civilised world to witness the sufferings endured by Syria, reiterates its denunciation of the Mandate contrary to the unanimous wishes of the people, and appeals to your conscience to uphold a just cause and to avoid bloodshed.

The second telegram, signed by Michel Lotfallah, Moktar Solh, Jamil Rafy, Nejib Chocair, Assad Daghir, Tewfik Yaza, and Dr. Mohaka, says:—

On the occasion of the visit to Damascus of Dr. Crane, President of the American Commission delegated in 1919 by the Peace Conference to inquire into Syrian aspirations, the populace organised a reception to show their discontent with the political and economic situation, to claim independence and unity, and to reject the Mandate. The French authorities arrested the Nationalist leaders, and Damascus proclaimed its solidarity with them. An armed force dispersed the demonstrators. Syrians gathered together at a meeting to-day to protest against the attempt on individual liberty and the suppression of public opinion, and demand the publication of the report of the American Commission, the despatch of a Commission of Inquiry and a plebiscite under international control.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

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

THE CALIPHATE QUESTION.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—The admirable letter of Lt.-Colonel Hawkes in your issue of April 13 may fitly be illustrated by a quotation from that great authority on Islam, the late Sir William Muir, who wrote:—

"In virtue of Mutawakkil's cession of his title the Osmanly Sultans make pretension not only to the sovereignty of the Moslem world, but to the Caliphate itself—that is, to the spiritual as well as political power held by the Successors of the Prophet. Were there no other bar, the Tartar blood which flows in their veins would make the claim untenable. Even if their pedigree, by some flattering fiction, could be traced up to Coreishite stock, the claim would be but a fond anachronism. The Caliphate ended with the fall of Bagdad. The illusory resuscitation by the Mamelukes was a lifeless show; the Osmanly Caliphate a dream."—"The Caliphate, its Rise, Decline, and Fall," ed. 1892, p. 594.)

I am not aware that it is anywhere authoritatively laid down that none but a member of the Quraish may hold the office of Caliph, but the evidence of history conclusively proves that none but a member of the tribe was ever, until Abdul Hamid attempted to assert the Ottoman claim, accepted by the Moslem world as such.

The carelessness or ignorance of the British and Indian Governments, which permitted, if it did not encourage, certain sections of the Indian Moslems to acknowledge the Ottoman Sultan as their Caliph, and to pray for him as such, produced a situation pregnant with mischief. They have sown the wind and are reaping the whirlwind.

The proclamation of *jihad*, or sacred war, is an undoubted prerogative of the Caliph, and the permission accorded to Indian Moslems to elevate the Turk to this great office was a surrender of the Sovereign's right to say when and in what cause his subjects should fight.

Fortunately all loyal and reasonable Moslems must now perceive the absurdity of their position. Of the rest it may be said "*Noscuntur a sociis*." The disaffected Sunni who uses his spiritual allegiance to a mock Caliph as a pretext for conspiracy against the Government which secures his person and property from the aggression of those whom he formerly persecuted, and whose numbers, unrestrained by authority, would overwhelm him, finds himself leagued not only with the heterodox, but with those whom his faith brands as idolaters. When will he learn that these have nothing in common with the *Mlechchitia*, the devourer of the flesh of the sacred cow, and that when his fancied wrongs have served their turn he will be cast off like an old shoe?

And have the Hindus any reason to congratulate themselves on their alliance with religious fanaticism? Let the "New Moslems" of Malabar answer—and bless Mahatma Gandhi if they can.

I am, etc.,

WOLSELEY HAIG.

April 14.

THE FRENCH IN SYRIA.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—Syria and Cilicia came under the French direction and administration after the world war. Many people thought that, as soon as the country came under an European Government, in a sense, and in a measure, the millenium would arrive. It has not come yet, and therefore there is disappointment in their minds. If more consideration had been given to the economic conditions in Europe, as well as in the whole of the Near East, including Syria, expectations would have been much more moderate and reasonable. Syria was

emerging not only out of the war but out of years of famine and pestilence, in which she lost tens of thousands of her best and bravest sons. Recovery could not possibly be rapid in all these circumstances.

The situation is one to be looked straight in the face. We must try to understand the problems the French have to tackle in the government of Syria, to see how they are attempting to solve these problems, and what success attends their efforts.

The conditions in Syria when the French took over the government of the country were far from easy. The finances were in ruins, and the Exchequer was empty. Everything was more or less in a state of chaos. There was trouble in Cilicia. There was trouble with the Arabs, and there were disturbances in the Shoof district in the Lebanon and elsewhere. The problem of governing Syria never has been easy, and it cannot be easy now. The differences of race and religion are exceedingly difficult for the people to forget or lay aside. In the past it was the Ottoman Government's policy to intensify these differences in order to prevent any unity of action or understanding among the different sects, which might be inconvenient to the Ottoman views. "Divide and rule" was the motto, and alas! it was only too successful, as the year 1860 painfully records. Even in the Courts the religious element had to enter. There had to be a Representative of each sect in the district on the Bench, and the sect in the majority had its member appointed President of the Court, e.g., in the Metn Court there were three Members on the Bench, a Maronite, a Greek-Orthodox and a Druse, and as the Maronites were in a large majority the President of the Court had always to be Maronite. Any one bringing a case before the court would be asked to which religion he belonged, and of course he looked to the member in the court who belonged to the same sect as himself to champion his cause. Even the Administrative posts were all allocated according to a fixed understanding, to the different religions, including the clerkships. In recent years the taxes which were fixed in the sixties were not nearly enough to meet the expenses of the Administration, construction of roads and upkeep of the same, etc., with the result that Government officials, and employees, were paid ridiculously low salaries, which did not attract the best educated and ablest young men to the service of their country. These found far better openings in mercantile pursuits, or in emigration to other countries, where many have risen to eminence and wealth by the sheer force of character and ability.

It must be frankly admitted that the French did not send their best men to Syria in the beginning; and in consequence many took a gloomy view of the future, and among that number I include myself.

That state of things has changed, and the whole outlook has also changed in consequence.

The present Governor-General of the Greater Lebanon, Commandant Albert Trabaud, is a distinguished looking man with a genial, warm, cordial manner which immediately puts people at their ease in his presence, and wins their confidence. He is a man of character and ability, and he loves Syria and is earnestly working for its improvement and progress. He made a tour of inspection recently through the Metn. Thousands of men gathered to meet him at different places, to hear what he had to say, and to see their Governor-General and give him the warm welcome that Syrians know, so well, how to give. There was no unsteady note in the strong voice that addressed the crowds, nor was there any uncertainty in the message delivered. "Unity, and co-operation between the various sections of the population" was urged with great force and clearness. A new and most welcome doctrine. France is here to help Syria to get on her feet, and to aid her to reach the goal of self-government. When the speech ended there was a moment's pause and then the crowds burst into cheering and "Vive la France." There was no doubt of the popularity of the Speaker or of the reception given to his declaration of policy.

What has been done so far? *Much*, as a beginning. First, there is peace and security throughout the country at the present time. There are isolated instances of crime and robberies, but the country as a whole is tranquil and quiet. The evil-doer, the brigand, and the disturber of the peace, knows that he is up against a power that he cannot contend with, and he has either forsaken his old trade, or has moved to distant regions. Even in the Hauran (that land so celebrated for its wonderful hospitality, and kindness to strangers, but utterly independent of law and order in the ordinary sense of these terms) the power of strong, settled government has been felt and appreciated. The constant feuds between Bedouin Arabs and Druses made the roads often unsafe, and it was very dangerous for solitary individuals to sojourn alone. A venerable Druse Sheikh from the Hauran was telling me the other day, "God bless the French Government. There is nothing like good government. We are now really punished when we fight and quarrel, and we cannot do it any more. Now a woman can carry gold on her head from the Hauran to Damascus and no one will dare to speak to her." The latter part of the Sheikh's statement may be too optimistic, but it shows that very great changes have taken place for the better. There is an Arabic proverb which says: "Your Governor is your Lord," and when the Governor is strong, and determined to carry out the law, the people obey and keep the law. Commandant Trabaud has made a determined beginning to appoint the best men to administrative posts irrespective of their religion. Rashid Bey Hamadi, an able educated young Druse, has been appointed President of the court in the Kesrawan district, where only a Maronite would have been appointed in the past. A Metawali Member has been appointed in the Metn, formerly held by a Druse. The Governor-General is trying to get the best men into the service of the country, and to weed out the corrupt and inefficient. He has able assistants in M. A. Privat Aubouard, Counsellor to the Administration, and in Sheikh El-Khasin the Mutesarrif. The work of administration is not easy. Every disappointed hunter after office, every inefficient official dismissed from office, or not prompted, is apt to try to form a "cave of Adullam" and criticise and complain. France has been successful at last in getting the right men to govern this country, and it is to be sincerely hoped that she will not remove them before their work is done, and give the impression of change and vacillation, but that she will back her representatives with all her moral force, and so reap the best results in good and stable government in Syria.

Having lived in Syria for 31 years and having been a close observer of political conditions, I feel very strongly that what the country needs most of all, is firm, steady government, a wide extension of primary education, improvements in the methods of agriculture, and the teaching of industries. Syria must be made a country where there will be no need for her ablest young men to emigrate. It can be done. France is only at the beginning of her constructive work in Syria, and we all wish her, with all our hearts, success in this great mission.

I am, etc.,

DANIEL OLIVER.

Ras-el-Metn, Syria.

March 30.

A "SEMITIC NATIONAL HOME."

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—Political differences especially in the East, where racial and religious questions are involved, are apt to gain in bitterness the more protracted they become.

This seems obvious in the dispute between the Zionists and Arabs in Palestine, who, whilst giving so much importance to the points upon which they are in disagreement, appear to lose sight of their fundamental racial affinity, which should by the laws of Nature constitute a bond between them.

It would be an injustice to lay the blame for this state of affairs more upon one side than upon the other. There are extremists in both parties; there are Jews who claim that all Arabs, even those descended from ancestors honoured for centuries past in Palestine, are but immigrants, whose true home should be Arabia, and there are Arabs, who hold that when Jerusalem was captured by Titus the Jews ceased to be in any way connected with the future of Palestine. Both parties entirely overlook the incontestable fact that Jew and Arab are but different branches of the one great Semitic race.

The domination of the Arab inhabitants by the Zionists, or the modification or even the withdrawal of the Balfour Declaration demanded by the Arabs, could not possibly bring about a peaceful settlement. The only hope of such a settlement seems to be in a coalition between the moderate leaders and parties on both sides, thus giving the Balfour Declaration the meaning not merely of a Jewish National Home but the broader one of "Semitic National Home."

The future Constitution of Palestine must necessarily be a complicated task in view of the many interests involved, but it might possibly be built up somewhat on Indian lines. This would mean that, though certain vital questions would have to be allocated for decision to the High Commissioner, as representative of the Mandatory Power, all others would be dealt with by four Palestinian Ministers, two of them Jews and the other two, one a Christian Arab and one a Moslem Arab, to be appointed by the High Commissioner from among the elected members of the Palestine Legislative Council.

I am, etc.,

ADOLF WALEY.

Aldershot,
Englefield Green, Surrey.
April 20th, 1922.

GREAT BRITAIN AND EGYPT.

Egyptian Views.

While all "Moderates" in Egypt, including many men of wealth and position in the provinces who do not desire to come prominently forward, hope that Sarwat Pasha's Government will bring about an early and lasting settlement, the latest Arabic papers show how widespread is still the anti-Government and anti-British attitude of the less educated masses. The feeling, based on an agitation fomented by Zaghloulists and—it must be added—some Europeans, is that the so-called independence is a sham. The tone of the Press has not altered.

That Adly Pasha has not joined the Commission is not surprising. The Pasha (who is held in the highest esteem on account of his firmness when leading the Delegation in London) though fully in agreement with Sarwat Pasha, is inclined to wait and watch events. Several other persons who were invited to join have declined. Among the opponents of Government policy are a large body of lawyers, none of whom have accepted seats on the Commission. Their influence among the people is very considerable. Thus, at Siout, the capital of Upper Egypt, a protest has been signed by 32 resident lawyers, who deny the right of a minority to impose its will upon the people. At Tanta, that centre of unruly nationalism and focus of extremist views in Lower Egypt, there is a similar, or even stronger, opposition from its numerous lawyers, who refuse to support the Government. There is a "Society of Lawyers," and at a recent meeting of that body it was unanimously held that the right of framing the Constitution belongs solely to the people, and cannot be entrusted to any authority appointed to act in their name. There is still much ignorance and misunderstanding. Many think that the Government programme is bound to end in a fiasco, and that the Zaghloulists will then come into their own.

In the *Mokattam* Mohammed Shakir states that the choice now lies between two days—the day of the Crown

and the day of the People. The one is March 15, 1922, when a royal proclamation of independence by King Fuad was published in a special gazette. The other is March 9, 1920, when 51 members of the then National Assembly met at Zaghloul Pasha's house, and passed resolutions to which the people of Egypt do, and will, adhere. This should be observed as the true anniversary.

In the *Akhbar* the editor writes that the Government should have no hand whatever in working out the Constitution. There must be no drawing back from the position taken by Adly Pasha. Sarwat Pasha's statement of his government's policy is given. He thanks King Fuad for the part he has taken. In a *résumé* of recent Egyptian history he shows that England has never claimed a protectorate over Egypt for her own benefit, but merely as a trustee. Before the War Egypt was virtually independent; England, therefore, took over no rights from Turkey. A genuine Constitution is about to be introduced for the first time in Egyptian history; and the present Government will take full responsibility for all that is done pending its establishment. To the question, "Why is martial law not abolished now?" the reply is that an obstacle still exists in connection with the status and rights of foreigners. It is essential that good order should be maintained at all costs in this transitional and difficult period. In criticizing his opponents Sarwat Pasha says that much more harm is done by the course that many of them pursue than they themselves realize. The real need now is national unity.

In the *Lewa Masri* ("Egyptian Banner"), which has reappeared after suspension, Sarwat's policy is adversely criticised. The British Labour Party is denounced. It has misled small nations, including Egypt. Whatever differences there may be among political parties in England, they are all united with regard to imperial and colonial matters. Labour has given no support to Egypt during her efforts, and has been similarly silent over the Indian movement for freedom. In Ireland, where the question is not yet solved, the British Government supports a small minority under Collins against the people under de Valera, just as Sarwat is supported against the people's leader, Zaghloul. In a long sketch of the relations of Europe with Turkey, it is asserted that for five centuries the former has aimed at the destruction of the Moslem Ottoman Empire. Since the Great War some European Powers, notably France, have recognized that a friendly policy is wiser. England alone has remained hostile; but there is now an indication that some liberal-minded members of the Cabinet see the danger of a hostile policy.

The comic papers show much appreciation of the humorous side of the present situation. The *Keshkul*, with its four large coloured cartoons, has a large weekly circulation. In one of its cartoons Sheikh M. Shakir appears on the balcony of a minaret calling to the Faithful as does the *muezzin*: but the *adan* (call to prayer) is parodied with an irreverence that would surely provoke the rebuke of the *ulema*:—"Allah is most great! Allah is most great! I bear writings that there is no independence save through Mustafa Kemal. Come to Angora! Come to Angora! It is the first and the last. Salvation and peace be on you, O pupil of my eye. I wish to go to my country. I wish to see my son." The last words are quotations from popular songs of the day.

The Smyrna correspondent of *The Times* states that there has been a great response to the appeal of the "League for National Defence" calling upon local Greeks to resist the restoration of Turkish rule.

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MUSICAL NOTES.

IRISH HISTORICAL SONGS:

The passion for folk-song *qua* folk-song has perhaps of recent years died down a little, for most musicians now are sensible and cynical enough to believe that the "folk" can of itself produce no song, and that all tunes attributed to it are actually the work of some unknown genius. But the time is not far past when it was thought that any folk-song was a good song, merely because it had the label. This dreary nonsense is now done with among the discriminating, and you can in many places hear Russian and German folk-songs, for example, discussed at their true value.

There is, however, one country at the songs of which no one, so far as I know, has yet jibed, and that is Ireland. For Ireland indeed are claimed the finest national songs in the world, and I for myself know none better. But it is not only in her folk-songs that her wealth reposes: she has in addition a mass of national, popular, and art songs. These in their different categories have often been collected and arranged, but no one has attempted so comprehensive a scheme as Mr. Herbert Hughes, who has recently published, through Messrs. Metzler, the first few songs of a series called "Historical Songs and Ballads of Ireland." Each song, which is published at 2s. net., contains the Introduction which Mr. Ernest Newman has written to the series, and therein is written such delightful sense in explanation and praise of Mr. Hughes' arrangements that there is nothing to add to it. To expatiate on the beauty, the life, and the wit of Irish melodies would be superfluous, but it is unusual to find in accompaniments such combination of cunning reverence and clever pointing as is to be found in Mr. Hughes' work. Whether it is in the slow, spaciouly-moving "Silent, O Moyle," in the changes in form of the throbbingly beautiful "She is far from the Land," in the light frolic of "The Low-Backed Car," or in preserving the rhythmical inexorability of "General Munroe," his work is everywhere first-class. The remaining songs will be eagerly welcomed.

ENGLISH AND FRENCH LOVE-SONGS

It was with regret that we recently heard what was the last of Mr. John Coates' recitals at Chelsea—the last, that is, of his season's series. This recital, at which I thought Mr. Coates' voice tired, as from overwork, was devoted to English and French love-songs. One had heard the singer in most of them before, and, though this fact generally brings to one's ears an added freshness, it seemed to me that this time he too much imitated himself. Mr. Coates has little mannerisms which either

adorn a great interpretation or are a temporary substitute for it, and I thought—perhaps it was I who was all wrong—that we had a little too much of the latter. In all executive art there is a great deal of bluff, and it depends on the individual condition of the artist how much he shall put forth himself and how much the conventional image of himself. But enough of this commonplace, and to the songs themselves. There were first those songs in which Mr. Coates, bluffing or sincere, ill or well, is supreme: I mean such light fancies as Weckerlin's "Pétronille," Jacques-Dalcroze's "Le Coeur de ma Mie," and the old French "Le beau séjour"—in these things his actor's command always brings him through triumphantly. Next was the one song—there is one of its kind in nearly all his programmes—which we regretted his singing, Elgar's "In the Dawn," that is the worst kind of flapdoodle, tiresome to a degree. And finally were the songs which were songs indeed—Duparc's "Le Manoir de Rosemonde," declaimed magnificently, Bruneau's "L'heureux Vagabond," sung with imaginative intensity, Peter Warlock's "Whenas the rye reach to the chin," and Chabrier's "L'île heureuse," both of which were almost perfectly done. We look forward to Mr. Coates' next season greedily.

THE BACH CHOIR.

The concert which the Bach Choir gave recently at the Queen's Hall was a mixed success, not indeed because of any shortcomings either of choir or of its conductor, Mr. Vaughan Williams, but because of the four things it did two were so inferior to the others. There was first a very lovely six part motet of Byrd—"Christ is Risen Again." It was performed with exquisite musicianship; one could not too much admire the fashion in which Byrd wove his voice and string parts nor the way in which the conductor preserved the beautiful texture of the piece. But it is not only in this old polyphonal stuff that the Bach Choir excels: they were just as much at home in three difficult choral hymns from Holst's "Rig Veda." These hymns are glorious stuff, and were worthily done. It has sometimes been possible to suspect Vaughan-Williams of possessing too placid a scholarship, but such suspicions were for ever banished when we heard the terrific cry that he brought from his choir, "Indra and Maruts, fight for us!" Again, in the second—"To the Unknown God"—he brought out notably the reality of Holst's mysticism. It was this hymn particularly that impressed upon one the fact that the beauty residing in Holst's high and exalted work is beauty of design, and not the incidental beauty of deep thought. Between Byrd and Holst came a Fantasia on two Irish Hymn Melodies "St. Patrick's Prayer," by Charles Burke. Burke, who is now dead, is an unknown musician, and, though this Fantasia contains sound work and very honest, I do not think it will give him a reputation. He probably had more to say than is contained in this Fantasia, for his technique is, for the purpose of his work, poor. And last there was an unsatisfactory performance of Dvorak's "Stabat Mater." It was not merely that of the quartet, known as "The Northern Singers," only one, Mr. George Parker, sang consistently well; it was not the disagreement evinced upon the pronunciation of Latin; it was that besides Byrd and Holst Dvorak seemed but a mediocre musician. "Stabat Mater" is an inferior work, of transient vitality and of fading colours.

ANDANTE.

Hazrat Mohani, the Moslem leader who headed the movement for the separation of India from the Empire at the last Moslem Congress, was arrested at Cawnpore on April 15, and removed to Ahmedabad to stand his trial on a charge of sedition.

It is reported from Cairo that during the recent disturbances at Damascus in favour of independence French troops were compelled to fire on the demonstrators. There was, however, no serious fighting, and in three days the casualties were but two killed and seven wounded.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE ANGLO-PERSIAN MUDDLE.

"RECENT HAPPENINGS IN PERSIA." By the Hon. J. M. Balfour, late Chief Assistant to the Financial Adviser of the Persian Government. (London: William Blackwood & Sons. 1922. 21s. net)

Persia is mainly an arid plateau, 630,000 square miles in area, traversed by mountain ranges which run from north-west to south-east. There are vast saline deserts in the interior, and the south-western provinces form part of the Mesopotamian delta. Persia has no railways, her roads have not improved since the days of Cyrus, and the Karun is her only navigable river. Lack of water restricts the cultivable area, which might be increased many fold if the countless mountain torrents were husbanded by engineering science. The inhabitants, numbering perhaps 10,000,000, have many admirable qualities. Their nimble intellect, wit and courtesy render them charming companions. But fatalism, cowardice and conceit are blots on the national character which explain all the sorrow which Persia has endured in her long and chequered existence.

The aristocracy consists of a clique of Teheran families, and divers tribal chieftains who wield feudal authority over their clansmen. There is no middle class to serve as a buffer between overlords and serfs virtually attached to the soil. The Government was an absolutism tempered by custom, intrigue and fear of assassination until 1906, when the British mania for sowing constitutions broadcast led our representative at Teheran to favour a bloodless revolution. It limited the Shah's authority on paper, and provided for a "Majlis," or elected national assembly on the Westminster model. It is needless to add that this constitution is a complete fiasco. Such central authority as survives is scrambled for by three or four hundred politicians at Teheran. The present Shah, Sultan Ahmed by name, is a *nullité*; but the prestige which his office has inherited from three millennia of dynastic rule makes him an indispensable figurehead in the eyes of his nominal subjects. Administration is rotten to the core in every branch, taxation is most oppressive and based on archaic statistics: provincial governorships are sold to the highest bidder, and serve to line the pockets of the politicians or tribal chiefs who secure them. Finances are in utter confusion, the monthly deficits incurred amounting to £300,000: and the only organized unit in the army is a Cossack Division, 10,000 strong, which menaces the existence of civil government.

Fear of Russia has been the keynote of Persia's policy for two hundred years. Under the Tsarist régime it was amply justified, and her internal weakness alone forbids Bolshevik Russia to continue the aggressions which robbed poor distracted Iran of her fairest provinces. In August, 1907, Great Britain concluded an agreement with Russia which defined the five northern Provinces as the latter's sphere of action. It aroused a storm of protest in the Majlis, and inflicted deep injury on British prestige. So the outbreak of the Great War found Persia disposed to favour the Turkish side. German spies overran the country, the Cossack Division and a Gendarmerie officered by Swedes declared for our enemies, and British officials were imprisoned or forced to flee. Our influence was restored by costly expeditions from India; and the South Persia Rifles organized by Sir Percy Sykes, restored order in the British sphere. When peace returned in November, 1918, the Shah's empire was under our protection. A force at Meshed guarded its north-eastern frontier: Bolshevik attack on the opposite side was countered by another force based on Kasvin; while a third, with its headquarters at Baku, made the southern Caspian sea secure. We had paid Persia £100,000 a month, enabling her to maintain the hostile Cossack Division and Gendarmerie, and by a stroke of Gilbertian humour this subsidy was continued for two years after the Armistice.

In August, 1919, our Foreign Office thought that the time was ripe for a long step in advance. It concluded a treaty with Persia which bound Great Britain to supply her with expert advisers, to grant her a loan of £2,000,000 for carrying out necessary reforms, to co-operate in constructing railways, and in reviving her customs tariff. A trio of politicians who were responsible for this Treaty on the Persian side demanded and received a sum of £131,000! It was universally regarded as a corrupt bargain and a means of securing British suzerainty. In the following year Mr. Armitage-Smith, a Treasury official of great experience—was despatched to Teheran as Financial Adviser, and in May, 1920, the Hon. A. J. Balfour arrived there as his Chief Assistant. They soon found the office a mere sinecure; the Persians being quite willing to pay their salaries, but equally loth to accept advice. Meantime the military situation throughout Persia altered for the worse. Our expeditionary forces were withdrawn or forced to retreat before the Bolshevik armies; and in November, 1920, the Foreign Office cut off supplies and left Persia without money or protection. The Majlis, therefore, rejected Earl Curzon's demands for a ratification of the Treaty which, indeed, had been a dead letter from the outset.

In February, 1920, things came to a climax. A politician named Zia-ed-Din seized the reins of power, denounced the Anglo-Persian Treaty and concluded one of alliance with the Bolshevik Republic. Despite these untoward events, Zia-ed-Din is no Anglophobe, and his brief dictatorship was an honest attempt to reform the administration; but lack of experience and of political wisdom foredoomed him to a speedy fall from power. His successors are frankly hostile to Great Britain. They rejected our proposal that they should take over the South Persia Rifles, which guarded the British sphere of influence and the enormous interests of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company. The little force was, therefore, disbanded, and with it vanished the last semblance of British prestige.

Mr. Balfour resided at Teheran until September, 1921, and acted as Chief Adviser during Mr. Armitage-Smith's absence in Europe. He has devoted much time and study to the Persian puzzle, and has produced a work on recent events in the Middle East which every Briton should take to heart. It is a scathing indictment of our Foreign Office's policy—if the word applies to dealings characterised by ineptitude, bluster and vacillation. "What is the Outlook for Persia's Future?" he asks (p. 283). There are three possibilities—(1) Revolution; (2) a general Break-up; and (3) the continued functioning of the worn-out mechanism of government. In the absence of a Russian—Mr. Balfour might have added an Afghan—invasion, the first two contingencies are highly improbable, and things will follow their normal course, culminating in the disappearance of all central authority. His peroration merits quotation *in extenso* :—

Our future policy in Persia would seem to be that called for throughout the Near and Middle East—namely, firmness where our interests call for it, as in India and Egypt, and the dropping of the wild-cat schemes in which the Cabinet delights. In Persia British interests, whether political or commercial, are confined to the south, while in the north they are non-existent. . . . A clear indication that we meant to maintain our interests in Southern Persia by force if necessary, in the event of the country lapsing into anarchy; but that there our interest ceased; coupled with a refusal to be drawn in future into intrigue and a policy of bribes, would in time cause the Persians to realise that Great Britain had no designs upon their cherished independence and would lead to the condition before the war, when it was said that Englishmen alone could go anywhere in Persia with absolute impunity.

F. H. S.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"A Difficult Frontier (Yugoslavs and Albanians)." By Henry Baerlein. (London: Leonard Parsons, Ltd. 6s. net.).
 "A History of Indian Philosophy." By Surendranath Dasgupta, M.A., Ph. D. Vol. I. (Cambridge: University Press. 40s. net.).

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.**To-day.**

April 27 (New Style).

April 14 (Old Style).

Shaban 29, 1340 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.

Nisan 29, 5682 of the Jewish Calendar.

Field-Marshal Sir William Robertson has arrived from India.

The Viceroy and Lady Reading arrived at Simla on April 17.

The Georgian Chargé d'Affaires, Prince Soumbatoff, has left London for the Continent.

The Afghan Minister, Abdul Hadi Khan, is recovering from his illness, and is now able to go out.

Lord Lytton, the new Governor of Bengal, arrived in Simla last week on a visit to the Viceroy.

Senor Romero, Spanish Minister to Bulgaria, has arrived in London, on a short visit, from Sofia.

Viscount and Viscountess Milner are expected to return to London during this week from Palestine.

M. Take Jonescu, who has been in a nursing home at Rome with typhoid, is reported to have greatly recovered.

Sir Hugh Bell has left London to join Miss Gertrude Bell in Palestine. He will probably be absent until the end of May.

M. Nano, formerly Secretary to the Roumanian Legation in London, has been transferred to the Legation at Washington.

Prince Ismail, cousin of the Shah of Persia, who arrived in London last week from Paris, has now returned there.

M. Alexander Broz, Press Attaché to the Czecho Slovak Legation, has been transferred to the Legation at Washington.

King Constantine has now recovered from his indisposition, but the doctors recommend that he should take a short rest.

M. Ghika, formerly Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, left London last week, with Madame Ghika, for the Foreign Office at Bucharest.

The Belgian Ambassador and Baroness Moncheur, on April 19 entertained the Roumanian Minister and Madame Titulesco at luncheon at 23, Belgrave Square.

The marriage arranged between Mr. C. Lambrinudi, F.R.C.S., and Miss Lily van Maasdyk will take place on April 29, at the Greek Church, Moscow Place, Bayswater.

The Roumanian Minister and Mme. Titulesco have returned to London from Stratford-on-Avon, where they represented their country at the Shakespeare festivities.

Mr. R. V. Bardsley, the old Oxford cricketer, has just arrived in England from the Sudan, where he has been on the staff of the Governor-General. He is home for the summer, and hopes to assist Lancashire.

A Simla message states that Mr. Edward Cook, Secretary to the Government of India, Finance Department, will act as Finance Minister, vice Sir Malcolm Harley, who is proceeding on leave for four months.

The marriage arranged between William T. Fellows Andrews, son of Sidney Andrews, R.N.R., of Malta, and Beryl, elder daughter of Dr. and Mrs. T. Arnold Durrant of 5, Stanhope Terrace, W., will take place in June.

Major-General the Hon. Sir Cecil Bingham has returned to London from Cannes, where he and the Hon. Lady Bingham have been staying with Prince and Princess Christopher of Greece at the Villa Kazbeck.

Captain Matila Costiesco Ghyka, who has been Secretary at the Roumanian Legation at Madrid (now discontinued), and was previously attached here, has arrived in London to join Madame Costiesco Ghyka.

Sir Herbert Samuel, who is returning from Jerusalem on six weeks' leave of absence to this country, is due here on May 1. Sir Herbert has been suffering from a complication of illnesses, culminating in rheumatic fever.

The engagement is announced between Alexander Addis Leslie, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Leslie, of Ballygunge, Calcutta, and Phyllis Winifred, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Horace Walker, of Cook's Folly, Bristol.

The engagement is announced between Captain Hubert Arthur Hamilton, Royal Garrison Artillery, only son of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Hamilton, and Geraldine, only daughter of Cecil Granger Stock and the late Mrs. Stock, recently of Calcutta.

An engagement is announced between Captain W. D. G. Batten, 2/3rd Gurkha Regiment, son of J. K. Batten, I.C.S., and Mrs. Batten, of Nagpur, India, and Eileen Mary, younger daughter of Albert Willson, of Waldegrave Park, Twickenham.

In St. Albans Cathedral, on April 19, Mr. Joseph Seeböhm Rowntree, of The Homestead, York, was married to Marianne Caroline (Carol), daughter of Sir James Thomson, K.C.S.I., and Lady Thomson, of Torrington House, St. Albans.

A Simla message announces that the Committee on the Frontier Province will be composed of Mr. Bray, Foreign Secretary (chairman), Mr. Samarth, and Mr. Abdurrahim, nominated members, Mr. Bolton, Judicial Commissioner of the Province, and a judicial officer from the Punjab.

The Minister of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, who has also been accredited to the Netherlands, left London on Monday for The Hague to present his Letter of Credence to Queen Wilhelmina. His Excellency was accompanied by Mme. Gavrilovitch and M. Fotitch.

The engagement is announced between Lieutenant Patrick W. R. Weir, Royal Navy, second son of Colonel P. A. Weir, I.M.S., of Langtons, Farnham Common, Bucks, and Minna R. F. Fortune, eldest daughter of the late James Brown Fortune and Mrs. Fortune, of Larchmoor, Stoke Poges.

The Simla correspondent of *The Times* states that Lord Lytton, the new Governor of Bengal, who is spending a few days in Simla, paid a visit last week to Peterhoff Hill, where he was shown the room in the old Government House in which he was born in 1876, when his father was viceroy.

The marriage took place on April 20 at the village church of Frankby, Cheshire, of Sir Thomas Royden, M.P. for Bootle, and chairman of the Cunard Steamship Company, to Mrs. Guenalda Mary Williamson, widow of the late Mr. Charles James Williamson, of Rake Hall, Little Stanney, Chester.

Unofficial information has reached Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., that the Municipality of Athens has granted him the Freedom of that city in acknowledgment of his Parliamentary efforts for the protection of the lives of Christians and of Greeks' rights in Anatolia. He learns that the official intimation has been postponed until the return of M. Rizo-Rangabe, the Greek Chargé d'Affaires, from Genoa.

The marriage took place on April 20, at St. Paul's, Knightsbridge, of Captain Donald S. Frazer, 18th Lancers, lately A.D.C. to H.E. the Viceroy of India, son of Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Frazer, of Bedford, and Miss Marjorie Moorsom, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Moorsom, of Norton, Manor, Radnorshire. The Bishop of Chester, the Rev. J. Frazer, and the Rev. A. E. Green-Price, officiated.

The King has been pleased to approve that the Earl of Ronaldshay, G.C.I.E., be sworn of his Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, on the occasion of his retirement from the office of Governor-General of Bengal. It is also announced in the Court Circular that Lord Ronaldshay was received in audience by the King at Windsor Castle on April 20 and invested with the insignia of a Knight Grand Commander of the Star of India.

The marriage arranged between Cyril George Simpson, of Colombo, Ceylon, youngest son of the late Charles Henry Simpson, of Moor Top House, Ackworth, and The Hemploe, Rugby, and of Mrs. Simpson, 6, West Cliffe Grove, Harrogate, and Mary Alice Margaret Bond, only daughter of the late Charles John Bond, late of Trichinopoly, S. India, and the late Alice M. E. Bond, of St. Erith, Dyke Road, Brighton will take place at Colombo, on June 22, 1922.

At the Greek Church, Moscow Road, on April 22, the marriage was solemnized between Miss Nitza Stavridi, eldest daughter of Sir John and Lady Stavridi, of 33, Lennox Gardens, and Mr. Constantine P. Zochonis, only son of Mr. P. B. Zochonis, of Bowdon, Cheshire. The Great Archimandrite Dr. Pagonis, officiated, assisted by the Archimandrites Agathangelos Moscovakis and Callinikos. The bridegroom was attended by Mr. B. G. Zochonis, his uncle. A reception was held at 33, Lennox-Gardens.

The marriage of King Alexander of Serbia and Princess Marie of Roumania will take place in the Cathedral at Belgrade on June 4. Princess Marie, with the other members of the Roumanian Royal Family, will make the journey from Bucharest by water up the Danube. Three ships will go out to meet the Royal party and escort them to Belgrade. The first will be occupied by Serbian girls, dressed in white and carrying flowers, the second by members of Parliament, and the third by citizens of Belgrade. The numerous festivities which are being arranged include military reviews and a State Ball. The news that the Duke of York will attend the wedding has been received with great pleasure in Belgrade, and many preparations are being made to give a fitting reception to the representative of King George.

APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS.

Mr. A. R. Knapp, Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, has been appointed a member of the Executive Council in succession to Sir Lionel Davidson, who has resigned.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Lieutenant-General Sir Joseph John Asser to be Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the colony of Bermuda, in succession to General Sir James Willcocks, who will shortly complete his tenure of office. General Asser, who is fifty-four years of age, has had a distinguished military career. He served in the Nile Expeditions of 1897-98-99, and he was Adjutant-General, Egyptian Army, from 1907 to 1914. In 1910 he commanded the expedition to Southern Kordofan.

OBITUARY.

The death has occurred, at the age of 64, of Pandita Ramabai, a distinguished daughter of India. She was awarded the Kaisar-i-Hind medal in 1919.

The death has occurred at Cadbury, Yatton, Somerset, in his sixty-second year, of Major-General George Douglas Hunter. He was the son of a brigade-surgeon in the Indian Army, and he himself joined the Army Medical Department in 1884, reaching the rank of Colonel in 1913 and Major-General in 1917, in which year he retired. He had served as Commandant of the Royal Army Medical Corps School of Instruction, and was attached to the Egyptian Army in 1905-8. General Hunter saw service with the Sudan Expedition in 1884-5, was with the Sudan Frontier Field Force in the following year, and also took part in the Dongola Expedition in 1896 (when he won his D.S.O.), and the Nile Expedition of two years later.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 1922.

GREAT BRITAIN'S EASTERN PROBLEM.

The position held by Great Britain in the Near and Middle East to-day is certainly less commanding than it was in the first half of 1914. In spite of the great efforts made and the great things accomplished in the War by the land and sea forces of the British Empire, we are confronted by the remarkable, and unpleasant, fact that British prestige is actually lower now in most parts of the area referred to than it was in pre-War days. British soil was nowhere successfully invaded by the enemy, the British Navy swept the seas and held them open for the Allies, and British finance helped the Allies liberally in the early years of the War at least. But, probably because these things were so little advertised, after the British fashion, they seem to have been never understood, or if understood, to have been already forgotten, by many of the Eastern peoples. And it is to be feared that the fall of events since the end of the War has done nothing to increase our prestige or to make our part in the East—Near, Middle or Far—any easier to play. For what do we see, in whichever direction we look? India is in a condition that admittedly causes grave anxiety to the Governments both at home and on the spot. In Persia there has long been a marked Anglophobia, which has lately shown itself openly. 'Iraq appears to be comparatively quiet for a while, but over Arabia there are storm-clouds; while the majority of the population in Palestine is showing quite plainly that it would not regret our departure; and it would not be surprising if the excitement in Syria reacted unpleasantly in the South. In Egypt, the "Moderates" are making a praiseworthy attempt to show that their country is as fit for self-government as it is anxious to secure complete independence, but even some of their leaders appear to consider that Great Britain's views and opinions can be safely ignored, while the attitude of the extremist needs no comment. The harm done to our interests in Turkey—and throughout the Moslem world—by the Franklin-Bouillon-Mustapha Kemal bargain is now too generally recognized to need more than mention. Cyprus, like Malta, has provided little "problems" of its own for our consideration. Roumania, fortunately, shows a friendly spirit, but Yugoslavia displays an inclination to be critical. The Bulgarians think we have changed for the worse since Gladstone's day; and even the Greeks, for the moment at any rate, are inclined to share their opinion.

The state of affairs thus roughly sketched is by no means a pleasant one to contemplate. It will pass—and speedily, we hope—but it is just as well to recognize its existence, in order that we may endeavour to avoid its repetition. It is due, no doubt, largely to the general restlessness caused by the War, and even more largely by the unwise utterances about "the rights of minorities," "self-determination," and so forth and so on which were indulged in all too freely by politicians and, less freely, by statesmen in the days of stress. Some of these utterances undoubtedly served a useful purpose, but others gave rise to hopes and ambitions which cannot be fulfilled or gratified yet, and are unlikely to be so before the Millennium. A good deal of the unrest in the East is directly traceable to such causes. Much of it, again, is due to propaganda, often clever, generally

quite unscrupulous, by our enemies and rivals, past and present, and to the intrigues of our "friends," or their agents. For some of it, in the countries that most closely concern us, we ourselves are undoubtedly to blame. The East is not so unchanging as picturesque writers used to tell us it was, no doubt; but on the other hand it is, we think, not moving quite so fast as some sanguine persons believe; and some modern methods and policies are, perhaps, not suited to its requirements. Then, too, it has to be acknowledged that a good deal of harm has been done by war conditions having made it necessary in some cases to put in authority men of a different type from that which had made the name of "Englishman" respected throughout the East; and in the same connexion, while the conduct of our troops upon the whole was truly admirable, we have to recognise that the somewhat numerous "exceptions" taught the Oriental that not every Firenghi was a sahib. Finally, it is no secret that British interests certainly have suffered greatly by reason of their protection being taken from the trained hands of those accustomed to looking after them, and their manipulation by others, who, wherever they turned for such advice as they deigned to seek, did not turn for it to the right quarter. But for this we might not now have Arab and Jew ready to fly at one another's throats in Palestine, and certainly should not have Greek and Turk as they are and where they are.

We do not for one minute suggest that Great Britain is alone among the Allies in suffering from the causes mentioned. It has become the fashion in some quarters lately to compare French colonial methods with our own, to the advantage of the former, of course; we were invited to contrast the condition of Morocco with that of Egypt; and we were assured that Syria would provide us with another object lesson. We greatly admire what France has accomplished in Morocco, and for our part we are not disposed to quarrel with the methods by which she has done what she has done, but—we have yet to hear that she ever gave any pledge to evacuate the country, and to learn what conditions would be created if she made any such announcement. As to Syria, France has her troubles there, it seems; and if they are the effects of causes very similar to some of those mentioned above as contributing to our own embarrassments, that serves well to illustrate our point. But our Allies' troubles in such cases are their concern alone; and far be it from us to interfere in them. We have perplexities and vexations enough of our own to keep us busy. If we are to cope with them successfully, it seems to us that the first thing to do is to recognize their existence frankly, instead of insisting that they are not there—the Coué method is inapplicable in the case of political ills—and the next step should be to tackle them boldly. But they should be handled by the right Department. In all probability such problems will be dealt with both more expeditiously and more satisfactorily by the trained specialist than by the most brilliant Jack-of-all-trades in the world. Where mistakes have been made, let them be acknowledged, and rectified as soon as possible. Where there is any reasonable doubt that the policy we have been following is at fault, let the case be reconsidered at once, and the policy abandoned or varied if that be found necessary. As to our representatives abroad, with things as they are to-day, we cannot afford to have the wrong man in the wrong place, be he big or little; and all "misfits" should be removed as soon as detected. Above all things, while Great Britain must, naturally, take into consideration the views of her Allies in regard to any questions that closely affect their interest, let us hope that her policy in the Near and Middle East will be henceforth based on the needs of the British Empire rather than on any theory of international brotherhood; that it will be conducted by practical men rather than by idealists; and that when advice is sought it will be asked from our own representatives in the country, or region, concerned, rather than from anyone whose interests are not certainly British.

THE SAMARITANS.

By Estelle Blyth.

(Concluded).

Samaria, the city of Omri's pride, has been identified as Sebaste. "It is situate upon a long mount of an oval figure, having first a fruitful valley, and then a ring of hills running round it." (Henry Maundrell, 1697). The ancient city lies buried some forty feet beneath the accumulated debris of centuries. A church of Crusading days remains in good condition, though numerous fragments of its beautiful carvings have been built into the rough houses of the villagers—not with any idea of adornment, but as being nice large handy stones, already cut and prepared for use. This happened all over Palestine under Turkish rule, and one stone in its time played many parts. Almost the entire outline of the walls can be traced, and in the valley below are the remains of a hippodrome. On the south-west of the mound are the fragments of the Gate of Caesarea of Herod's city, and to the east of this, at some little distance, is the once-magnificent Street of Columns. In the day of its splendour there were two thousand of these grand columns in two parallel rows; now, perhaps a hundred and fifty remain, shorn of their beautiful capitals, whilst others, badly mutilated, lie unheeded in the dust. Even in its ruin, the Street of Columns is a beautiful and imposing spectacle. Samaria was a position of great strategic power, standing as it did in the very centre of Palestine, and commanding the great north and south roads through the land. Harvard University did some excavating here some years back, also at another time, an Austrian archaeological society; but under the Turkish Government research and excavation were beset with many irritating restrictions, and it was not always possible to get a Firman (Imperial permit) renewed when its time-limit expired. Possibly now, under British rule, the secrets of Samaria may be laid bare, and our eyes may rest upon the city of Herod's licentious revels, and the ivory palace that Ahab built.

Of all these once-great cities, Nablus, or Shechem, the most ancient alone retains any importance. Before the War it was a Turkish garrison town of about 27,000 inhabitants, chiefly Moslems, with a reputation for being exceedingly hotheaded and turbulent. At least three of the eight mosques were originally Christian churches, the most important of them, the Jami-el-Kebir, or the Great Mosque, having been built by Justinian and rebuilt by the Canons of the Holy Sepulchre. The Jami-el-Nasir (Mosque of Victory) is a purely Crusading church. The majority of the Christian inhabitants belong to the Orthodox Church, which is the Church of Palestine, under their own resident Bishop. Nablus had an important trade even before the War, in wool, soap and cotton, its principal market being the country east of Jordan, now officially called Trans-Jordania. The country all around is rich and fertile, and is well watered by some two-and-twenty springs, most of which have their source in the Mount of Blessing. It is said that water can be heard running under many of the streets in the little town.

In Palestine the members of the different creeds seem always to band themselves together, and so we find that every city has its Christian, Moslem and Jewish Quarters. The Samaritan Quarter of Nablus is on the south-east round about a little whitewashed synagogue. In 1914 it was reckoned that there were about one hundred and fifty Samaritans left, for nowhere else in the world are

there now Samaritan settlements. Their language is a dialect of Hebrew-Aramaic, and the written alphabet is of very ancient Semitic characters; the people all speak Arabic, but their services are held in their own speech. The office of the High Priest is hereditary in the House of Levi, and the High Priest is also president of the little community. The Samaritans are very poor, and their chief is supported by the tithes of the flock. They hold entirely to their version of the Pentateuch, which they declare must be the only accurate one, since it was the actual work of Abishua the High Priest, the grandson of Aaron. This passionate and unshakable belief forms the basis of their religious and communal life; it sets them above and beyond all authority, save that of God only, Who gave the Law to Moses; it has separated them throughout their long and stormy history from all other peoples, even from those who are their brethren by descent. There are few things more melancholy than the thought of this people, so narrow and yet so devoted, slowly dwindling and dying out of the earth. A little while, and these jealous guardians of the Law will be nothing but a name, an interesting memory; who then will keep the Law and observe the solemn rites enjoined by Moses? This thought is constantly in their minds, clouding their lives, and marking their features with a deeper melancholy than is usual even in a Semitic race.

The Samaritan Codex is, of course, their greatest treasure. They will offer to show it to visitors on payment of a fee, but as a matter of fact strangers generally see another, quite interesting, but considerably less ancient. The real manuscript written on skins of lambs offered in sacrifice, and very old and yellow, and patched in places, reposes in a solid silver case about eighteen inches high, now very dim and worn; it is jealously guarded in an inner room. I think a very substantial charge would be made for seeing this, and one cannot blame them if it were so, for they depend so much on the generosity of travellers. They have the character of being clever, but somewhat importunate, beggars.

The Samaritans accept only the five Books of the Law; the Prophets and the historical books have no place in their Canon, and they have a chronicle of their own. The value of the ancient manuscript is very great, and it is possible that if it should pass into the hands of scholars in time to come, Biblical criticism may be the wider for its use. St. Jérôme in one place at least, considered the Samaritan text as more accurate than the generally accepted Hebrew; Origen and Eusebius also regarded it with reverence. Early in the seventeenth century, Joseph Scaliger (son of Julius Caesar Scaliger, to whom belongs the credit of suggesting the importance of a Samaritan Bible, if any such there were), was in communication with the Samaritans, but died (1609) before the manuscript arrived. The channel was kept open, however, by other Biblical scholars; and Pietro della Valle, a Roman nobleman, purchased two copies from the Samaritan colony at Damascus, which were used in the editions known as the Paris Polyglot and the London Polyglot. Archbishop Ussher took up the matter with zest, but one whole set of manuscripts was lost, the vessel on which they were being captured by pirates, who, one may suppose, had little use for such things. In 1671, the Reverend Robert Huntington, being then Chaplain to the Turkey Merchants Company at Aleppy (he afterwards became Bishop of Raphoe), acquired various interesting manuscripts from the Samaritans at Nablus, which are now, I believe, in the Bodleian. The Samaritans of Shechem wrote at that time to their brethren in



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BY APPOINTMENT.

England, the letter being still preserved in the British Museum. This is the first time we hear of such a settlement in England, however, and I have found no other traces of their presence.* Some sixty years later, Benjamin Kennicott published a pamphlet contesting the authority of the generally accepted text; and in 1759 or 1760 he issued a second pamphlet upholding the genuineness of the Samaritan text. As a result of his efforts a considerable fund was raised by subscriptions, and in a *magnum opus* of some thirty volumes the Hebrew and Samaritan texts were printed side by side, for purposes of comparison and criticism. The controversy hereafter seems to have degenerated into something of a party question, many Roman Catholic scholars favouring the Samaritan text in opposition to the Anglicans, who upheld the Hebrew as being the direct inspiration of God. When it was dragged out of the wide fields of scholarly enquiry into the narrow ways of party controversy the subject lost its original meaning and importance, and soon fell into the background; it is now a matter of speculative interest rather than of serious comparative criticism.

To anyone not a scholar, and therefore unable to appreciate those subtle differences of a word, sometimes even of a letter, which involve so much, the dissimilarities between the Samaritan and Hebrew texts seem often trivial; but is not that a characteristic of the nominally "religious" controversies by which our beautiful world is disfigured? The rivers are too deep to be forded, perhaps, yet so narrow that a very small bridge of human courtesy and charity would span them triumphantly. An interesting illustration of such a difference is found in Genesis xxii, 2, which in the Bible (following the Hebrew text) reads, "Get thee into the land of Moriah, and offer Isaac there for a burnt offering." The Samaritan text gives this as "the land of Moreh," which is the region round Shechem. Each side accuses the other of altering the original to fit its own case. Dean Stanley, in a Note to chapter vi. of "Sinai and Palestine," takes the Samaritan view as being accurate, the height of Mount Gerizim being easily visible at such distance, whereas Mount Moriah would be hidden from the traveller's eye by the hills that stand about Jerusalem until he had actually arrived at the spot. Moriah is always referred to, moreover, as a *hill* and not as a *land*. Dean Stanley writes: "In Gen. xxii, the Samaritans actually read Moreh for Moriah, and the LXX, Aquila, Symmachus, and Jerome, all translate the word by 'lofty' or 'conspicuous,' which would be a just translation of 'Moreh,' not of 'Moriah.'" And, "Abraham was 'in the land of the Philistines.' From the south of the plains he would advance, till on the morning of 'the third day,' in the plain of Sharon, the massive height of Gerizim is visible 'afar off,' and from thence half a day would bring him to its summit. Exactly such a view is to be had in that plain; on the other hand, no such view or impression can fairly be said to exist on the road from the south to Jerusalem, even if what is at most a journey of two days could be extended to three. . . . There is no elevation, nothing corresponding to the 'place afar off' to which Abraham lifted up his eyes." "The vagueness of the phrase *the land of Moriah* and *one of the mountains* (ver. 2) prevents us from fixing on any definite hill, while there is every

* "Copy of a Hebrew Letter addressed by the Samaritans of Shechem to their supposed brethren in England. Written (in the Hebrew character) A.D. 1671." ("Descriptive List of the Hebrew and Samaritan Texts in the British Museum," ed. G. Margolionth, B.A., p. 90. (1893.) This interesting "List" is well worth perusal.

reason to believe that *Moriah* is not the original reading, but is a gloss of late origin, and inserted in order to give the Temple at Jerusalem the credit of the patriarchal narrative." (George Adam Smith, "Historical Geography of the Holy Land," ch. xvi.).

Another fierce battle raged around the passage in Deuteronomy xxvii, "Therefore it shall be that when ye be gone over Jordan, ye shall set up these stones which I command you this day, in Mount Ebal, . . . and there shalt thou build an altar unto the Lord thy God." The Samaritans assert with absolute finality that for "Ebal" should be read "Gerizim." Kennicott follows them in thinking that Moses would hardly command the altar and the stones of the Law to be erected on the mount which he also appointed as the Mount of Cursing; other critics contradict this, and it remains a point fruitful of dispute. Possibly it may be settled when, with the passing into history of the last of its guardians, the Samaritan manuscript is opened to the world of scholars.

In addition to the Pentateuch, and their ancient chronicle (this I believe is not older than the twelfth century) the Samaritans have a scanty literature, chiefly religious. They believe that Messias will come in six thousand years from the Creation, but He will not be "a greater than Moses," for Moses expressly limited his status as "a prophet like unto" himself; but he will have kingly powers, and He will, of course, rule from Mount Gerizim. They believe in good and evil spirits, in the resurrection, and in the judgment after death. Three times every year—for the Feast of Weeks, the Feast of Tabernacles, and the Passover—this small and faithful community repair on pilgrimage to Mount Gerizim. A climb of about three-quarters of an hour brings them to the plateau where the tents are spread for the seven days of the Passover observance; another fifteen minutes, perhaps, and the summit is reached. This is a large plateau, still having on the north the ruins of a castle built by Justinian, and of a church said to be even older. In the centre the Samaritans point out a projecting rock, once the site of their temple, and a little distance below the castle they shew the twelve stones of Joshua's altar. The number of paved terraces, broken cisterns, and other ruins, is proof that the plateau once supported a considerable population. The place of Abraham's sacrifice is to the south-east. Mount Ebal is curiously barren by contrast with the richness of the Mount of Blessing, but the view from it is far wider, for it is 3076 ft. in height, whereas Gerizim is only 2848. The Samaritans, however, believe that Gerizim is the highest as well as the oldest mountain in the world. Words uttered loudly on either mount are easily audible in the valley, or on the opposite height.

Upon Mount Gerizim, year by year, is celebrated the Passover according to the ancient ritual. Nowhere else in the world is this to be seen. The tents are pitched on the plateau, and the Samaritans assemble there, the men in robes of spotless white linen and the High Priest in yellow silk; all wear the red turbans which are a distinguishing mark of this people. At noon the service opens with a hymn, followed by prayers and the reading of the four Passover chapters from Exodus (xii—xv). The seven lambs for the sacrifice are tethered near at hand, and browse in blissful ignorance of their approaching doom. They are all males of the first year, without blemish, and they are carefully examined both before and after the act of sacrifice. At a given signal their throats are cut with one sweeping movement of the hand; the knife must not be used twice on a lamb,

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nor must the victim utter a sound; in either event it would be disqualified for sacrificial purposes. As the blood flows from each, it is deftly caught in a bowl, and a bunch of hyssop dipped in it, wherewith every tent is smeared on the entrance-posts and lintel. Fires have already been kindled in pits under great cauldrons the boiling water from which is poured over the lambs, so as to loosen the wool from the skin; the entrails are also examined and removed. Though all is done so quickly, great care is taken that the skin is not injured, nor a bone broken. The carcasses are salted, the right foreleg of each being cut off and set aside for the priests; after which they are slung on poles and lowered into the red-hot pits to be roasted whole. These ovens which are roughly lined with stones, are closed with a kind of lattice-work of boughs and twigs. Towards sunset the men remove their shoes and get to prayer, kneeling on mats and using very much the same gestures as the Moslems do;* and just before the sun dips, the shout goes up, "God has passed over the Children of Israel, and has smitten the Egyptians!" Rising to his feet, each man girds a towel about him and grips his staff in one hand; and then they all gather round the seven baskets in which the roasted lambs have been placed. The flesh is eaten with unleavened bread and bitter herbs, and each bone, when stripped of its covering is thrown whole into the fire. After a few minutes the baskets are carried into the tents, so that every family may eat the passover together; the women bear no part in the religious ceremony. Anything left over is most carefully burnt. Meeting outside once more in the brilliant light of the Passover moon, the Samaritans bid one another good-night and God-speed; after which each man seeks the quiet of his own tent.

Here, after the service which is the fulfilment of their whole life, religious and national, we, too, may bid these strange people farewell; not refusing them the tribute of our sympathy and respect for the faithfulness with which, through centuries of suffering persecution, and exile, they have kept the Law and followed the truth as they know it.

Books consulted or read.

- The Bible.
- "Historical Geography of the Holy Land," Prof. George Adam Smith.
- "Sinai and Palestine," Dean Stanley.
- "Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem," Col. Conder.
- "Kings of Judah and Israel," (anon.).
- "Jerusalem: the City of Herod and Saladin," Besant and Palmer.
- "Early Travels in Palestine," (Bohn's Library).
- "Land of Israel," Canon Tristram.
- "Descriptive List of the Hebrew and Samaritan Texts in the British Museum," ed. G. Margoliouth, B.A.
- Printed pamphlets on the Samaritans, written by the son of the High Priest, trans. into English. Ed. by Prof. Wm. E. Barton. (Given to Bishop Blyth by the author, Jacob the High Priest's son, who was rather proud of them.)

* It is interesting that the Moslem motions in prayer follow those of Psalm xcvi, 6: "Let us worship (standing), and fall down (prostration), and kneel before the Lord our Maker."

ARMENIAN ARCHITECTURE.

On April 19, at the Royal Institute of British Architects, Professor W. R. Lethaby opened an exhibition of Armenian Architecture. Mr. H. A. Searlas-Wood, Vice-President of the Institute, introduced to the audience Mr. A. Fetvadjan, whose drawings formed the exhibition. Professor Lethaby said Mr. Fetvadjan had systematically studied the architecture of his country, which consisted chiefly of ruined churches, over a period of twenty years, and he had prepared a great number of drawings, in the hope of publishing an historical account of Armenian architecture. Great interest had been evinced in France in the projected work, and he had been interested to find in some of the artist's notes views and opinions held by thinking men all over the world.

Two privates belonging to the Royal Air Force were shot at on April 16 in Cairo. One was seriously wounded. They had been unloading a military truck at a siding and were returning to camp.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

In consequence of queries, the Editor thinks it advisable to state that the quotation from any article does not necessarily imply that the views expressed are shared by "The Near East." On the contrary, an attempt is made to include as far as is possible in the available space all sides of the various questions discussed.

Egypt.

In the *Nation and Athenaeum* of April 15, Captain Wedgwood Benn writes on "Lost Chances in Egypt." After considering the "three separate occasions" on which "the golden moment was lost," he concludes by sketching the actual situation:—

Now, what is the present position? Nationalism, as the Milner Report tells us, has established complete dominance. Government "in the teeth of a hostile people" is not practical politics. The reserved points must be discussed with an Assembly in which, as Lord Milner tells us, the Zaghoulouist Party will have a substantial, if not overwhelming, majority. In these circumstances, what good purpose can be served by advertising the supposed crimes of Zaghoul and his party? Even the lengthy indictment made by Mr. Chamberlain in the House of Commons, and by the correspondent of the *Times*, amounts to no more than this, that from his youth, in the affair of Arabi, in his dealings with Abbas, and throughout, Zaghoul has been sympathetic with the desires of his fellow-countrymen. The worst that can be said is that the organization of which he is the head has attracted criminal elements, but this is really a criticism of the way the situation has been handled by the Government, unless indeed we are now to apply to the Egyptians the argument which was the stock-in-trade for years against the Irish, that they are an incurably disorderly and insurrectionary race. Such a charge must appear ridiculous to anyone who has seen the bent peasants patiently and ceaselessly toiling in their fields.

If the Nationalist Party demands the return of Zaghoul, do the Government intend to oppose it? It is a matter for the Egyptians themselves, and we are pledged to allow them the free exercise of their political rights. Present, Zaghoul is no doubt an embarrassment. Absent, he is a danger. I believe that Egyptian Nationalism is essentially Anglophile. Alienated and sullen, it may become the breeding-ground of anti-British intrigue. Conciliated and dealt with in good faith, it would be a faithful if humble ally of the Empire. All this talk about the first consideration being given to British interests and Imperial communications is as dangerous as it is hateful, for the moral power of Britain has been founded upon its championship of the rights of the weak.

Let us return to the older conception, contemptuously referred to amidst applause in the House of Commons as "the Gladstone tradition." British policy places before all else the rights and welfare of native populations.

It is too early yet to say what the effect of the new offer will be in Egypt. We do not know that the Press is free to voice public opinion. We do know that the Native Bar Council refuses to authorize its members to draw up the Egyptian Constitution. We do know that the celebrations of Egyptian Independence were marred by public disorder. And we do know that troops were sent to El-Azhar. In fact, the future depends on the spirit in which the proposals are carried out by the British Government.

The Little Entente.

In the second of the articles upon "The Rise of the Little Entente," contained in the *Nation and Athenaeum*

of April 8, Miss Dorothy Thompson thus outlines the important position of Hungary:—

Hungary is the one country blocking the forward movement of the policies of Messrs. Benes and Pasitch. She is economically indispensable to a strong Central South-East European alliance; next to Jugo-Slavia she is the strongest military Power in this part of the world, and she lies in the high-road of communication between the capitals of the allied nations. And Hungary has disputes with the whole Little Entente, individually and collectively. She has quarrelled with Czecho-Slovakia over Slovakia and Ruthenia; with Jugo-Slavia over Pecs; with Roumania over Transylvania and the oppression of Magyar minorities; with Austria over the Burgenland.

The case of Hungary in all these quarrels has been greatly prejudiced by her own Government. The Horthy Government's terrorizing of Jews and of the whole liberal opposition has driven Magyars to Vienna to work with Jugo-Slavs and Czechs for the overthrow of the present régime. The Horthy Government's policy of safeguarding freebooters and murderers, if they but freebooted and murdered in the interests of a "Christian and United" Hungary—its complete inability to realize that the world tendency is away from feudalism and autocracy—has exasperated everyone, and completely estranged democratic and liberal sympathies in all countries. Unfortunately, to believe that Hungary has a reactionary Government appears to connote, in the popular mind outside Hungary, that Hungary has no case; that she is a black spot in the midst of liberal and fine-spirited neighbors, and that the sooner she is brought to terms the better.

She proceeds to state that contrary to the usual assumption, Hungary is not a reactionary country, that she is a nation under a cloud, and particularly that she is a "nation which has been grievously wronged by the Peace Treaty."

This is an inescapable fact, and the reactionism of the Horthy régime does not change it. A great, rich country, full of pride, and with a virile national consciousness, has been robbed of an outlet to the sea. Magyar populations have been handed over to the abuse of other Powers. Particularly in Roumania has the treatment of Magyar minorities been shameful. In certain ways the last year has seen an improvement of conditions in Transylvania, but even now Roumanian elections are being held, and obviously the plan is to quell all minority opposition, for all Magyars are disfranchised by a nation-wide disqualification plot, and even the members of the Roumanian Nationalist Party have been deprived of votes. There is not an element in Hungary, be it reactionary, democratic, or radical, which is willing to accept as permanent the present territorial provisions of the Treaty of Trianon.

Now, the Little Entente is determined that she shall accept the provisions of the Treaty. The Little Entente is determined that Hungary shall not sabotage the effectiveness of the whole Central South-East Europe Alliance. The Little Entente, it is increasingly evident, is willing to employ force if need be to bring Hungary into the circle of its influence. And tragically enough, the Horthy Government is constantly furnishing the Little Entente with an excuse for armed intervention. The offences of the Horthy Government smell to heaven; if the Little Entente intervene it will be quite easy for them to pose as liberators and democratizers. But the fact remains that they will intervene not to liberalize Hungary but to enforce the Treaty of Trianon, and the Treaty of Trianon cannot be enforced as it now stands without the subjection, not alone of the Horthy Government, but of the Hungarian people themselves.

The situation is just about as bad as it can be. The Horthy Government, perturbed by the rising

Liberal opposition inside Hungary, is making desperate efforts to maintain itself in power, and by these very efforts is inciting Hungary's neighbors to attack her. The people of Hungary are kept under the heel of the Horthy Government, as far as they are voluntarily kept, by fear of the Little Entente. It is a somewhat similar situation, in externals, to that which prevailed in Russia until recently. The Soviet Government's policy led outside nations to attack Russia, and the attacks reinforced Russian support of the policy.

The writer concludes with the statement of an apparent belief that in Mr. Benesh alone reside hopes of a settled future for Hungary, in which she may be friendly with the Little Entente.

ARTICLES TO NOTE.

"The Life of Lord Salisbury"; "James Bryce," by the Right Hon. Sir Frederick Pollock, Bart.; "The Egyptian Problem," by J. A. Spender; and "Byron's Letters," by Lord Ernle, M.V.O., in the *Quarterly Review*. (April).

The Teheran Correspondent of the *Pioneer* states that the police force at Teheran have gone on strike on the ground that wages had been unpaid for several months. They are being replaced by soldiers, but they, too, are disaffected on account of pay arrears.

It is officially announced that owing to the changed régime in Egypt the anniversaries of King George's accession and his birthday will not be observed as Government holidays.

The *Pioneer* learns that an unsuccessful attempt was made to blow up the bridge on the Grand Chord, East India Railway, north of Asansol.

According to telegrams from Damascus, via Cairo, sentences have been passed in connexion with the recent disturbances there. Dr. Chabandar was condemned to 20 years' detention in a fortress, Hassan Bey Hakim, ex-Director of Posts and Telegraphs, to 10 years' imprisonment, and five others to terms ranging from five to 20 years.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

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Bulgaria's Finances.

In M. Tourlakoff's budget speech, nothing is said about the extraordinary budget. In the year just closing this was concerned mainly with the State Railways and doubtless the same will be the case in the current year. Much money has to be spent, not on increasing the country's railway facilities, but in making up for war wear and tear. It is presumed that the expenditure involved by this budget will be met from the proceeds of an internal loan.

Trade and the Constitution.

In the same speech an interesting admission is made unconsciously. In comparing the balance of trade in a series of years, it is remarked that, for the first six months of 1921-1922 the balance was more against Bulgaria than ever, but that it had largely righted itself in the last half year. This is clearly due to the wise decision of the Government to abandon the Consortium monopoly. Conceived no doubt in the best spirit, the Consortium was never more than a purely idealistic scheme without practical backing. It worked unsatisfactorily, and was becoming a curse to the country. Not the least of the debts which Bulgaria owes to the much abused Inter-Allied Commission is its present freedom from this burden. It is only fair to say that the Commission would probably not have succeeded so easily in getting this monopoly abolished if the best members of the Government had not agreed with it.

Progress at Genoa.

The alarms and excursions at Genoa have no doubt given many good people the idea that if the efforts of all the cooks who have gathered there resulted in the production of a cake at all it would be a very attenuated product. As a matter of fact it was inevitable that there should be surprises and disagreements. Can anyone cite an entirely peaceful conference? And it is through the difficulties at Genoa that success is likely to come. I was sceptical from the first as to the prospects of the Conference, but I am now of the opinion that in consequence of recent developments there is a very real possibility that Genoa may prove a vital landmark in the process of Europe's economic recovery. And for that we have to thank Germany for making a colossal blunder. Up to that time the Conference was being carried on in an air of unreality. The Teuton bluff, another Agadir effort, had the effect of clearing the atmosphere, of bringing men's minds down to realities. It was recognised then that the choice was between a united effort to re-establish trade by promoting the reconstruction of the countries affected by the war or the re-grouping of the Powers with the inevitable resort in the end to the *ultima ratio regum*.

The Prospects.

I should be the last to encourage any undue optimism as to the work the Conference is likely to accomplish. A round table discussion cannot of itself force the exchanges in the direction of parity, and by the development of trade solve the unemployment problem with which Europe is confronted. But it can do much to

ensure the adoption of the only means by which reconstruction can rapidly be pursued. If the financial policy of European states since the Armistice had been on sound lines there would have been no need for a conference except with Russia. The Brussels Conference laid down the essentials for economic salvation, but with one or two significant exceptions the countries concerned have not followed them. Far too much use has been made of the Printing Press, while the drastic measures necessary to make budgets balance have been shirked with the result that many exchanges are now about the same or higher than they were a year ago. If the conference results in an agreement in economic policy, as I think it will, then it must be adjudged a success.

Taxation and Business Enterprise.

Lord Inchcape put the case for a reduction of taxation in the coming Budget forcibly but not one whit too strongly in his speech at the meeting of the Income Taxpayers' Society at the Mansion House on April 24. The crushing effect of the present taxation on business enterprise is unquestioned, but if it were found that there is no alternative the commercial community would no doubt accept the burden uncomplainingly. But we have the report of the Geddes Committee showing the way to ample economies, a report which, drastic though it was might have gone very much further with advantage in some directions, and of which so far apparently little use has been made. In the circumstances it is only natural that commerce should expect at least 1s. off the income tax on this occasion as the first step in the direction of the normal. The effect on trade, now beginning to show the first signs of revival, would be most marked.

The Coming Liubliana Fair.

Particulars have just reached me of the programme for the second Liubliana fair which will be held from September 2 to 11. It is not merely an exhibition of local products, but is open also to all foreign industrial and commercial establishments, and I am given to understand that the participation of British houses is particularly desired. I hope our traders will take adequate advantage of this excellent opportunity (for such it undoubtedly is) for entering the Yugoslav market, and if any who are interested will apply to me I shall be glad to give them further information.

Commentator.

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Athens, April 7.

The Forced Loan.

The event of the week has been the adoption of a Bill brought before Parliament by M. Protopapadakis, the Minister of Finance, for the raising of an internal loan of 1,500 million drachmae. After pointing out to the Assembly that the financial situation of the State was very serious and that there was no immediate prospect of an external loan, the Minister of Finance said that the only way by which the required amount could be raised was by a forced loan. The State, he continued, was in desperate need of money, and must absolutely have 1,500 million drachmae. The Bill brought before the Assembly was as follows:—

1. The Government is authorised to conclude a forced internal loan to the amount of 1,500,000,000 drachmae at six and a half per cent. interest.
2. Those in possession of banknotes issued by the National Bank of Greece, are compelled to contribute towards the raising of this loan a sum equal to half the value of the banknotes in their possession.
3. The banknotes issued by the National Bank of Greece will be annulled, and will therefore lose their value as from a date to be fixed by Royal Decree. The one half of these will be exchanged for banknotes of a new type equal to half the value of the old notes, and the other half for bonds.
4. Pending the issue of the new banknotes and bonds, the banknotes now in circulation will, with the exception of the notes of a lesser value (2 drs., 1 dr. and 50 lepta) which were put into circulation by the State, be cut in two, the one half, bearing the effigy of Georgio Stavrout*, being equal in value to the new type banknote which will be half that of the annulled banknote, and the other half, bearing the crown, constituting a provisional bond, its value being also half that of the original value of the cancelled banknotes.
5. The possessor of these bonds can mortgage them with the National Bank of Greece for half their value at 6 per cent. interest.
6. The circulation as a note of the half banknote bearing the crown is strictly prohibited.
7. Pending the application of the law, and for a period of three months from the date it comes into force, any debt or other liability, apart from wages and salaries, can be discharged by means of the bonds up to half the amount owing. This does not apply to debts to foreigners residing abroad, who will receive the full amount due to them in the Georgio Stavrout half of the banknote.
8. On the day the present law comes into force, the National Bank of Greece is obliged to bring to the credit of the State a sum equal to half the total value of banknotes in circulation.
9. The loan will be paid off within 20 years.

* The founder of the National Bank of Greece.

10. Gradual amortization will be guaranteed by an additional 10 per cent. on all existing taxes, also by the sale of all State landed property.

11. The State undertakes to pay off the loan, either partly or in its entirety, as soon as an external loan is concluded.

M. Stratos and many other deputies, including M. Eftaxias, formerly sub-governor of the National Bank of Greece, spoke in strong terms against the loan which they considered impracticable. Finally, however, after undergoing certain modifications, the Bill passed its first reading by a very small majority, 151 voting in favour and 148 against.

As was only to be expected, the announcement of the forced loan caused a general panic. Everybody commenced buying foreign currencies so as to make certain of his money. The Stock Exchange was promptly closed by the Government, but on the free market the English pound found hundreds of buyers at 140 drachmae, while the French franc reached three drachmae. The small notes (50 lepta, 1 dr. and 2 drs.), also the copper and nickel coins which, according to the new law retain their full value, disappeared completely. It was utterly impossible to buy anything under the value of five drachmae, as the shopkeepers could give no change. There was a tremendous rush on the shops. People were withdrawing their savings from the banks and buying large quantities of foodstuffs and other commodities in order to rid themselves of their paper money before it was "cut" in two. Most of the shopkeepers, of course—though this was realised too late—put their prices up by 30 to 40 per cent. It is estimated that during the two days preceding the adoption of the Bill by the Chamber, over 60 million drs. were withdrawn from the Banks by depositors. The Bill, having finally passed, comes into force this afternoon.

The Financial Statement.

The Budget for the financial year 1921-1922 was introduced by the Minister of Finance and is as follows:—The total expenditure amounts to 3,397,143,914 drachmae, and the revenue totals 1,718,854,903 drachmae, leaving a deficit of 1,678,289,011 drachmae. The revenues include both the ordinary (715,233,460 drs.) and extraordinary revenues (85,096,443 drs.) also the proceeds of new loans (917,925,000 drs.). The total expenditure comprises both the ordinary (1,399,866,980 drs.) and extraordinary expenditure (1,997,276,934 drs.). War expenses which are included in the extraordinary expenditure are represented by 1,611,371,250 drachmae.

Athens, April 16.

Reception of Loan.

The new law in connection with the forced loan came into force at noon last Saturday, and on Sunday morning the half notes made their appearance for the first time. Many shopkeepers announced that they were willing to receive in payment of their commodities both the "Bond" and the "Georgio Stavrout" half of the notes, while many "opportunists" offered to buy the 50 drachma "bond" half at prices varying between 40 and 45 drachmae. A good many people, especially peasants who greatly alarmed at the prospect of parting with a large portion of their savings had come to the capital from the various villages in Attica with their "tagaria" full of paper money, were thus able to rid themselves of their "crown" halves. The police, however, have now put a stop to these transactions and have only authorised the exchange of the "crown" halves at par value.

With regard to the "bond" halves in the possession of foreigners, it transpires that a special convention, concluded over twenty years ago, exists between Greece on the one hand and Great Britain, Spain, Japan, Switzerland, and Persia on the other hand, by which the subjects of these countries are exempted from all extraordinary taxation including forced loans. The Hellenic Government, however, not wishing to make any dis-

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tion, has given permission to all foreign subjects residing permanently or temporarily in the kingdom of Greece to exchange their "bond" halves for "cash" provided that they are *bona fide* their property. The exchange is effected by the various Legations and all claims are scrutinised and, if found in order, are paid on the spot. As regards Greek money deposited in the banks, foreign subjects should hand in to their Legation a written declaration giving the exact amount. These claims will be dealt with at a later date. It is estimated that the total amount of drachmae, including bank deposits, in the possession of foreigners residing in Greece is about 200,000,000.

By order of the Minister of National Economy the export of Greek banknotes is henceforth strictly prohibited.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, April 7.

The Budget.

On Wednesday, M. Vintila Bratianu, the Minister of Finance, introduced in the Chamber the budget for the fiscal year 1922-23. He began his statement by explaining that the present budget is only a provisional one and that a definite ordinary budget can be drafted only after the chief points of financial consolidation have been taken into account. *viz.*, the banknote issue, the reorganization of public services, the debts abroad, and, on the other hand, the war indemnities due to Roumania. He, nevertheless, pointed out that the present temporary budget marks real progress towards more normal conditions, by the fact that both the revenue and expenditure balance without it being necessary to resort to an extraordinary budget, which he intends abolishing entirely. The difference between the total amount of the present budget—estimated at 10,498,283,482 lei—and the figure of 7,708,477,296 lei, representing the total amount of the ordinary budget of last year, arises from the fact that it comprises the necessary sums for the payment of the interest on the internal and external debts, as well as the additional credits for the urgent needs of the Ministries of War and Communications, which were provided for last year by supplementary credits.

The Minister of Finance further laid stress on the encouraging character of the budget, seeing that the ordinary expenditure of the State can be covered by means of the revenues based on the present taxation, and without it being necessary either to forfeit or sell any portion of the country's national wealth by contracting a loan abroad. He concluded by stating that in the course of the present fiscal year the Government would have the time to study more closely the needs of the various Departments, so that for the autumn session he expects to be in a position to bring before Parliament a definite ordinary budget.

The Minister of Finance, in estimating the revenue side, has taken as a basis the collection of taxes in force on January 1, 1922; in other words, he practically based his calculations on the Fiscal Reform Law of M. Titulescu which however, might be modified according to exigencies in the course of the year. The outstanding features of the revenue column are: Direct Taxes 650,000,000 lei—a decrease of about 72 million lei as compared with last year; Indirect Taxes 3,310,000,000, representing an increase of more than one milliard lei; State Monopolies—1,626,500,000 (last year 1,350,000,000); Ministry of Communications—3,125,712,200 (2,340,239,394); Ministry of Industry and Ministry of Labour—309,022,000 (130,500,000); Ministry of Domains and Agriculture—11,175,000 (12,000,000). All the other Departments show a proportional increase as compared with last year.

On the expenditure side the budgets of the different Departments have been estimated, as follows (the figures for last year being shown in brackets):—Ministry of War 1,767,340,724 (925,019,042) lei; Ministry of Finance—2,084,243,847.17 (1,926,600,000); Ministry of Education—954,000,000 (781,000,000); Ministry

of Church and Arts—223,000,000 (215,000,000); Ministry of Interior—709,000,000 (685,000,000); Ministry of Public Works—197,464,736 (202,000,000); Ministry of Justice—219,000,000 (224,724,580); Ministry of Domains—132,668,542.70 (134,297,523.70); Ministry of Industry and Commerce—219,583,069 (93,784,715); Ministry of Foreign Affairs—26,225,396 (32,281,600); Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare—21,382,350 (22,500,000); Ministry of Agriculture—161,400,757.15 (164,263,073.15); Ministry of Communications—3,187,631,999 (2,260,155,457); Council of Ministers—1,231,720 (3,102,200); Fund for difference of rate of exchange and commissions, etc., 593,510,340.98 lei. This last figure and about 200 million lei from the sum allotted to the Ministry of Finance will be used to pay the interest on the debts at home and abroad.

The following amounts are due for the internal debts during the fiscal year 1922-23: 29,664,266 lei interest on Treasury Bonds to the total value of 593,285,339 lei. 32,000,000 lei interest on 12,400,000,000 lei floating debt due to the Banca Nationala. 245,070,652 lei interest on 4,877,006,262 lei representing the consolidated internal debts contracted during the period of neutrality and after the war. 11,250,000 lei on about 250,000,000 lei of the pre-war consolidated internal debt. Therefore, the total amount of interest on internal debts is 317,984,952 lei.

As regards external debts the interest to be paid on Treasury Bonds falling due up to March 31, 1923, totalling 632,053,782 francs, amounts to 53,724,571 francs. In addition there is the interest on consolidated stocks abroad totalling 500,000,000 francs which will amount to 25,000,000 francs. The total amount of interest due abroad is therefore 78,724,571 francs. The Roumanian State possesses, however, for the payment of the coupons abroad various sums in sterling, Swiss francs and French francs, totalling 20,850,000 French francs, which reduces the total to 57,874,571 francs.

Timber Trade.

The timber trade, which was stagnant during the winter months, has restarted with the re-opening of the river traffic, and promises to benefit greatly by the increased railway transport. There is further a good demand on the home market for building purposes and also a healthy demand for export, with enquiries especially from the Balkans and other Near Eastern countries. The price of timber to be obtained to-day for export at Roumanian ports varies from 1,100 to 1,300 lei per cubic metre *f.o.b.*, oriental sizes.

Export of Wines.

For the purpose of encouraging the export of wines the Ministry of Agriculture has now removed all restrictions, and in order further to facilitate trade the export of oak barrels is now also to be free without the necessary guarantees.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, April 11.

Bulgaria's Reparation Payments.

The following are the main points in the Note addressed by the Inter-Allied Commission to the Bulgarian Government at the end of March. (1) Bulgaria is to pay 10 million gold francs during 1922. (2) Bulgaria is to pay 30 million gold francs during 1923, but this figure is liable to reconsideration on January 1, 1923. (3) In return for these concessions, for, according to the terms of the Peace Treaty, Bulgaria should pay 45 million gold francs during 1922 and considerably more during 1923, the Government is asked to give certain guarantees. (4) These guarantees are numerous but the principal are partial supervision of Pernik coal mine and of the Customs. It is to be noted that 10 million gold francs are to-day equal to approximately 300 million paper levas or £400,000.

Although every newspaper, regardless of party, has been insistent on regarding the Note of the Commission as a blow at the independence of Bulgaria, the effect on the commercial and financial world has been negligible.

The leva has not fallen, and there has been no sign of panic. The view held by many bankers is that control of the customs and coal mines does not matter providing that the control does not go too far. If the control is to spread to everything and the governing of the country is left entirely in the hands of the Inter-Allied Commission then the result might well become disastrous. The differences that always exist in Inter-Allied Commissions would have a chance of showing themselves, and would not conduce to the good of Bulgaria. It is in any case good news that the personnel of the Commission will not be increased by the control that is demanded.

The Government's Intentions.

The general view is that the Government will agree to the guarantees. Owing to the fact that both M. Stambolisky, the Prime Minister, and M. Tourlakoff, the Minister of Finance, are absent at Genoa, no decision is likely to be taken till they return. The Commission requested the Government to reply by the end of April, but it is probable that a delay will be granted till the 10th or 15th of May.

By agreeing to the guarantees demanded by the Commission, it is incontestable that the Government will be signing away some of their authority, but the alternative, namely a refusal will probably mean total loss of authority. The Commission are said to anticipate acceptance by the Government, but in the event of the contrary occurring it is imagined that they will insist on Bulgaria conforming strictly to the terms of the Treaty. This, involving as it would, the payment of one milliard, three hundred and fifty thousand paper levas during 1922, could only result in total disaster and bankruptcy. Even as it is, the sum of 300 million paper levas will prove a considerable drain on the exchequer.

ASIA MINOR.

Smyrna, April 15.

The Greek Loan.

The Greek forced loan has caused considerable loss to Smyrna business men. At first it was believed that only Greek subjects would lose half their holdings of drachmae but the Greek Government have announced that they will not repay foreign subjects for their stocks of Greek money. The respective Consuls have protested against this decision and insist on their nationals receiving full value for their drachmae—as has been done in Greece—and it is hoped that the Consuls' protest will receive the support of their respective Governments.

It is reported from Prague that negotiations for the conclusion of commercial treaties will shortly be inaugurated with Holland, Belgium, Japan, Denmark and Australia.

COMMERCIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

The Colonization of Palestine.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—In the issue of THE NEAR EAST dated March 23rd Mr. W. Rosen, after a number of criticisms on the immigrants now entering Palestine, concludes that these are unsuitable for colonization here. The opinions expressed by Mr. Rosen are in complete contradiction with views of British officials who have had direct experience of Jewish labour in Palestine.

At a Conference held at Government House, Jerusalem, last December, to consider the labour question in Palestine, in which the Director of Public Works, the Chief Engineer of the Palestine Railways, and the Chief Engineer of the Army of Occupation in Palestine participated, the question of Jewish labour of the new immigrant or "Haluzim" type, the object of your correspondent's denunciation, was especially considered.

The general opinions expressed were that Jewish labour is as good as, and more intelligent than, other classes of labour in Palestine; that it is likely to become even better as the workers become acclimatized and accustomed to local conditions; though it still remains an open question whether Jewish labour is the most suitable for heavy work, it was agreed that Jewish technical workers could not be surpassed in Palestine. The Director of one department said, "As far as Jewish labour is concerned he had nothing but praise for it," and another, "Jewish technical workers could not be surpassed in Palestine but Jews in his opinion were unfit for heavy unskilled work."

Yours very truly,

M. D. EDER.

Jerusalem, April 5.

British Traders and the Near East.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—I should like heartily to endorse the views expressed on this subject in a letter in your issue of April 13. As soon as more settled conditions obtain—and this is likely to be the case much sooner than most people expect—there will be the fullest scope in the Near East for British trade endeavour. We cannot afford to neglect such a promising field, and those of our traders who have prejudices against it must be urged to abandon them. It is perfectly true that firms may sustain serious losses in the Near East, but with care and provided the market is entered on sound lines the risk is no greater than in any other market.

Yours etc.,

ANOTHER TRADER.

London, April 24.

STAMPING OF BONDS OF ROUMANIAN LOANS.

H.M. Representative at Bucharest has forwarded the following translation of a notice published in the *Official Gazette*, relative to the stamping of bonds of Roumanian loans:—

From 15th April to 15th June, 1922, all Bonds of Interior and Foreign Loans contracted between 1889 and 1913 inclusive must be presented for stamping (estampillage) as also those of the Loan of 250 million lei at 4½ per cent. belonging to Allied subjects since 14th August, 1916. As regards the latter, however, Bonds bought from 1914 to 1916 will be submitted to revision by the Central Commission which will pronounce finally on the question of stamping.

The press states, adds H.M. Representative, that the stamping will take place in Bucharest at the Caisse des Depots et Consignations, at the National Bank, and at the offices of the Financial Administration, by the agency of Commissions consisting of a judge and delegates of the National Bank, Financial Administration, and Ministry of Finance.

Similar Commissions will work in the provinces. The Central Commission referred to above will sit at the Ministry of Finance. Its President will be the Secretary-General of that Ministry, and the members will consist of a Director of the National Bank, the Director-General of the Caisse des Depots and Consignations, the Director-General of the State Accounts Office, and the Director of the Public Debt.

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Engineering Topics.

By Our Engineering Representative.

SYNTHETIC IRON.

The production of synthetic cast iron, which a few months ago seemed likely to be of immediate commercial value now seems to have been relegated to the region of things of academic but no practical interest. There is no difficulty in producing the material in the electric furnace; the material is cheap and abundant, the process by no means complicated. But the production cost is higher than that of producing ordinary cast iron, and unless the price of the latter rises or suitable stock for synthetic iron becomes cheaper, there is little prospect of seeing the latter in common use. Quite sufficient data are at hand, however, to enable the foundryman to keep closely in touch with the situation in every country, and there is no doubt that synthetic cast grey-iron will be on the market the moment prices of ordinary pig shew any appreciable upward tendency. There are ample figures available to enable a prospective maker to work out the production cost per ton of electrically produced synthetic iron, and many firms are keeping a chart of raw material prices in order that they may switch their electric furnaces on to the production of the artificial cast iron as soon as prices render such a course advisable. The cost of operating an electric furnace is at present rather higher than that of cupola melting. At present the cheapest form of scrap suitable for the manufacture of synthetic cast iron is machine shop steel turnings and chips, and as a rule this is not obtainable so cheaply as cast iron borings and scrap; certainly when the cost of the necessary ferro-silicon, which has to be added to the steel to produce synthetic grey iron, is taken into account, the cost of the steel scrap is higher than that of cast metal borings. In connection with this, however, there is a point which has as yet not been taken into consideration at its true value, and that is the use of old tinned steel goods collected from refuse destructors and other sources. Very many thousands of tons of this material can be collected and, during the war, were collected for the purpose of de-tinning work. Before the war Germany used to purchase every possible scrap of this material and, however she treated it, and as to this accounts differ considerably, she was well satisfied with her bargain.

At the moment it is probable that de-tinning would not offer much prospect of financial success, but the baling of the scrap "tins" and other sheet steel waste is not expensive, and undoubtedly this is the ideal material for manufacturing into synthetic cast iron. Given reasonably cheap operating costs for the electric furnace and reasonably cheap rates of carriage for the steel scrap, there should be no difficulty in working up the whole of the present supplies of this material into a high grade cast iron suitable for making any kind of castings and producible at a price below that at present ruling for ordinary pig iron.

Foundry Research.

Comparatively few engineers appear to realise that unless a test reveals some condition which is capable of being modified for the better, it is actually useless as a routine control method in either mass production or the manufacture of parts in small quantities. It has also been pointed out that the ease with which a test can be carried out is also in itself a regulating factor. Considering this in relation to ordinary foundry work, for example, an analysis of pig iron in order to determine its content of those elements usually found in it in appreciable quantities enables the metallurgist to mix the iron in such proportions as to ensure that the metal from the cupola will have the required composition. Following on this, an analysis of the casting produced will show whether the iron has been charged in accordance with the specification. There are practical limits to this, how-

ever, and as the *Foundry* recently pointed out, a test for titanium and other elements, which are occasionally found in small quantities in cast iron, is far too complicated for routine work and would not give any indications which would permit the chemist to modify the mixture. On the other hand, such a test would be essential, or at any rate would be of great value, to any metallurgist who was engaged in actual research work.

Very little real reward is brought in this line of endeavour by superficial methods and it may be said further, without fear of contradiction, that superficial methods actually lead to false conclusions which discredit or tend to discredit research work with many practical foundrymen. This is equally true of many other lines of engineering; in connection with the internal combustion engine a number of tests may be made during the actual work of construction, and relative to the behaviour of the engine under certain imagined conditions which not only carry us very little further but which are of no practical value so far as the life and output of the engine are concerned.

Research in the composition of steel and of secondary and tertiary steel alloys, together with microscopic study of such steel and alloys has shewn us a number of points by which the metal can be controlled in regard to its temperature, the different methods of pouring and its treatment in the rolling mills. But in comparison with the progress made in steel research, little has been done in connection with cast iron and although it may be granted that the microscopic study of malleable iron has been developed by a few metallurgists until we have arrived at a far better understanding of the annealing process, even that has been of very little practical value to the foundry man working with grey cast iron. A glance through the contents of the leading technical journal and through the indices of the proceedings of metallurgical societies shows that quite a number of practical and technical articles have been published and papers read on the microstructure of cast iron, and these give us some idea of the results which might be obtained from a closer and more prolonged investigation of this product by means of high-powered microscopes. The *Foundry* pointed out recently, in connection with this, that while micrographs have been made shewing sulphur spots, no method has been found to enlighten the investigator in regard to the condition in which sulphur exists in the iron; that is, whether it is in more than one form or not; the claim being made that residual sulphur in the iron has a different effect upon it to that of sulphur picked up during the melting operation. Here, of course, is a big field for research and one in which investigation would have a considerable value as it would shew whether it is necessary to prevent any access of sulphur during melting or whether it is sufficient to eliminate it as far as possible from the pig-iron and scrap.

A somewhat similar field for research exists in connection with both carbon and phosphorus content and so far as carbon is concerned this has been gone into thoroughly in the case of steel. The state in which carbon exists in steel has a marked influence on the product, and lengthy and painstaking investigation has been made in that connection, but so far as ordinary grey cast iron is concerned microscopic investigation has been confined, to all intents and purposes, to an examination of the size and shape of the carbon particles. This has told us little or nothing beyond what was already known regarding the effects which produce those different sizes and shapes. The paper quoted, which has gone into the subject thoroughly, aided by exclusive accounts of work done, and voicing the opinions of those most expert in foundry work, considers that research must go deeper and study the graphite formation at higher magnifications.

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Stock and Share Markets.

BUOYANCY CONTINUES.

Further Rise in Gilt-Edged.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Tuesday morning.

Business has been extremely brisk since the holidays. Special activity has ruled in the Gilt-edged market, but almost all sections have shared in the general revival. At one time a slight tendency to dullness was in evidence as a result of developments at Genoa, but it soon passed and the upward movement went on. There is no sign of the volume of business decreasing, and if the income tax should be reduced next week I shall look for increased buoyancy in the markets.

The Outlook.

It would be a mistake, however, for investors to count on the stability of present conditions. Stocks have risen partly because of the improvement in the situation, but also because of the trade stagnation which has closed the normal avenues for the employment of capital. Judged from that standard it is an unfavourable symptom that the markets should be buoyant. When trade really begins to revive in the course of this year investors of Gilt-edged will be among the first to realize it, for the inevitable tendency will be to withdraw money from securities for utilization in industry. These remarks need not be taken as having a much wider application than the Gilt-edged group. Other markets—most of them at any rate—are still far below the pre-war level, and I see small reason why Oils or Rubbers, for example, should be affected by trade development. Here other factors enter into consideration.

Coming Issues.

There is, as might be expected, a marked shortage of stock at the present time, hence to some extent the higher prices. This is likely to be remedied, of course, before long by a large number of new issues, which are promised for the near future. These new issues will include one for the City of Prague, to which I referred some weeks ago. It is understood that this issue will be made in a few weeks time. There is no news with regard to pending issues for the Near East, but I imagine that if things go smoothly at Genoa before very long several loans will be arranged. It is greatly to be hoped that this will be the case because of the important influence on British trade that would thus be exerted. It will have been noticed that some of our trade rivals are apparently proving themselves more ready to give accommodation than we are, and if Near Eastern countries come to look elsewhere than to this country for loans it is only to be expected that our interests will suffer.

Gilt-Edged Buoyant.

A very strong tone has prevailed in the Gilt-edged group, and prices are again higher all along the line. Consols have gained $\frac{1}{2}$ at 60, the Conversion Loan is $\frac{1}{2}$ up at 77 $\frac{1}{2}$, while War Loan Fives are 101 $\frac{1}{2}$, a rise of 1.3-8. Indian stocks have shown a hard tendency. The Seven per cent. Loan at 112 $\frac{1}{2}$ shows a gain of $\frac{1}{2}$, the 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Loan is $\frac{1}{2}$ up at 65 $\frac{1}{2}$, while the 3 per cent. Loan has gained $\frac{1}{2}$ at 56 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Firmness has ruled in the foreign market, and in a number of cases advances are to be recorded. French War Loan Fives have gained $\frac{1}{2}$ at 47 $\frac{1}{2}$, while German three per cents. are 5-16 up at 2.7-8. Italian Rentes are unchanged at 24 $\frac{1}{2}$. Brazilians have been firm, notably the 5 per cent. 1914 Funding, which is 85 $\frac{1}{2}$, and the 5 per cent. 1913 Loan which stands at 64 $\frac{1}{2}$. Chinese bonds exceptionally showed a weak tendency as a result of the unsettled conditions ruling in the country.

Industrials Firm.

Again the tendency in the Industrial group has been towards higher prices, but business has been on a somewhat smaller scale this week. Tobaccos have been in fair request, but are closing slightly below the previous week's levels. Bats are 77s., while Imperial Tobaccos are 59s. 3d. Dunlops are 3d. up at 8s. 3d.

Textiles have been steady. Coats are 3.3-32, a rise of 3-32, while Courtaulds have gained 1s. 6d. at 44s. 6d. Iron and Steel securities have been somewhat affected by the labour situation, but in some cases prices are considerably higher. Vickers are 6d. down at 12s., but Guest Keens at 35s. 3d. are 2s. 9d. up, while Armstrongs are 9d. up at 18s.

Shipping securities have been a specially firm spot during the week on the signs of improvement in trade. The feature has been the rise in P. and O. Deferred which are 20 up at 340. Cunards have been in some request, and close at 23s. 3d., a gain of 1s. 3d., while Furness Withys are considerably higher at 32s. 3d.

Oils Hard.

Oils have been on the whole a very fair market during the week. Burmahs have been in some demand, and at 5.7-8 are about the same as the previous week. Anglo-Persian Oil close at 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ a decline of 3-16. Mexican Eagles are 3.9-16, a decline of 3-32. Trinidad issues have been dull, with Centrals 7-16 lower at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$, while Leaseholds are 1.3-16.

Among Egyptians, Anglo-Egyptian B are unchanged at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$, while Oilfields of Egypt are 4s. 6d. Roumanians have been firm with Phoenix 3d. up at 28s. 9d. Great though the rise in this share has been I shall be surprised if in the next few weeks there is not a further upward move. Steaua Romanas are unchanged at 11-16, while Roumanian Consolidated are 9d. up at 15s. 6d. I recommended a purchase of this last named share some weeks ago, and those who took my advice have made a highly satisfactory profit. I expect the share to go still higher.

Banks Hard.

Banking securities have been very firm with Chartered of Indias at 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd., and National of Indias at 40 $\frac{1}{2}$. P. and O. Banks are 13.

In Egyptian securities Aboukirs are 22s. 9d., Beheras are 8.3-8, Gharbich Lands are 14, New Egyptians are 25s.xd, Sidi Salems are 7-8, and Union Foncieries are 2.

An improving tendency has been in evidence in the Rubber market during the past few weeks, and small advances have taken place in a number of descriptions. The reason for this is that recent reports have shown that results during the past year have not been nearly so unfavourable as was expected as a result of the economies that have been effected.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Inquiries on financial subjects are invited from our readers, and will be answered in this column.

H.L.T.—No, I do not think so.

K.—I cannot recommend a purchase.

York.—You will see above that I rather think they will go higher still.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the week ended March 31 amounted to £E.9,110; total for year £E.385,945. For the corresponding period of last year, receipts amounted to £E.11,082, and £E.483,676 respectively.

ENQUIRY BUREAU.

Merchants, etc., may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau," "The Near East," 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2." It must be understood that "The Near East" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.

114. Importer in Karachi (India) travelling throughout India wishes to get in touch with merchants and manufacturers in England and elsewhere. General merchandise.

115. An import and export firm in Spalato, Yugoslavia, wishes to enter into business relations with British manufacturers, importers and exporters. Specialities:—Exports: Medicinal herbs, dried fruits, hides, timber. Imports: Oils, food products, tarpaulins, mackintoshes, sacks.

116. Import Merchants in Adana, Cilicia, Asia Minor, wish to represent British firms for any kind of British-made goods Own account and commission basis. Good references provided Send catalogues and samples with prices and terms.

117. Importer in Roumania, interested in Jute trade, wishes to get in touch with firms dealing in sacks, new and old Dundee, and Calcutta makes.

121. Exporter of Greek Ores in Athens, especially of purest quality Magnesite and Chromite wishes to be connected with interested British Firms.

122. Merchant in Galatz, Roumania, wishes to enter into business relations with British firms willing to ship goods on consignment terms. Guarantees by Leading Banks given. Full details on application. Correspondence in French.

123. Import and Export Merchant in Beyrout (Syria) invites correspondence with British firms. General Merchandise. Will act as agent, commission basis, or own account.

124. Solicitor in Zagreb, Croatia, open to act for British firms requiring legal assistance in Yugoslavia. Correspondence conducted in French, German, Italian and Croatian.

Cotton @ Cotton Goods.

MANCHESTER REPORT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Saturday.

Although the holidays have somewhat interfered with business in the market during the past week the tone has continued firm, and during the past few days rather more activity has been displayed by buyers. Traders generally are disappointed at the failure to arrange a settlement of the cotton wages dispute, but as the point now to be bridged is only very small, it is confidently expected that no stoppage will occur on Saturday next. Now that business is gradually improving it will be a great mistake if all the mills were brought to a standstill. With regard to cloth not very much business has been done with the outlets of the Near East. Isolated transactions have been put through in a variety of fabrics for Egypt, the Levant and Constantinople. Quotations for Egyptian yarns have continued firm, but the off-take for home use has not been anything to boast about. With regard to the cloth inquiry for the other outlets India has again been the best, and some encouraging transactions have been put through in light cloths and shirtings. Speciality makes have been in request for China, but the political unrest out there is very disturbing. Buyers for the remaining minor outlets both East and West have not been altogether idle. American counts have been steady in price, but home buyers have only taken up small lots. Export numbers have again been sold in fairly encouraging quantities for India and the Continent.

EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Commercial Co. of Egypt in their report dated April 7 state :—

The market has been featureless with a very limited number of transactions passing; the indifferent attitude of speculators and the reluctance of the commercial houses to deal in "futures" has brought about the present dull situation. Orders from abroad for actual cotton have been perhaps larger than usual but this has not influenced the futures market as the export houses have preferred to cover their sales by purchases on the spot market. The continued extensive spot business on the Liverpool Egyptian market has been welcome but has not affected our market; the stocks are still very heavy and it appears that the bulk of this cotton is unhedged. It seems that the stock to a great extent belongs to native merchants or firms who bought the cotton on speculation early in the season.

This week has seen a marked improvement at Minet-el-Bassal and sales amount to about 9,200 bales of which we estimate 7,300 bales Sakellarides, 1,800 bales Uppers and 100 bales Brown, etc. Arrivals continue on a fair scale but exports are also good and the stock shows a slight decrease. Cotton generally is in strong hands and well held and there is no disposition to force sales. *Per contra* spinners are not ready buyers and prices offered are rather low, so that it is not easy to put business through.

Our agricultural expert has now concluded his first tour of the season in Upper Egypt and reports that the acreage of land planted in cotton appears to be, in general, slightly superior to that allowed under the Decree. Minieh districts show conditions more satisfactory than those of the other Provinces but everywhere there is a delay in the preparation of the land and sowing which averages from 5 to 15 days. The scarcity of water is much commented on by the growers and all feel very anxious about the summer supply. The quantity of cotton which will remain in [Upper Egypt] till next season is estimated at about 100,000 Crs.

In a further report dated April 13, the Commercial Co. of Egypt state :—

The market has been weakened by speculative sales and by the fact that arrivals have been heavier than generally expected. The demand from abroad has been moderately good but this has not influenced our futures market as the export houses have again covered their sales by purchases on the spot market. The satisfactory daily spot sales of Egyptian cotton in Liverpool have not affected the Liverpool Egyptian futures market; quotations there are still considerably below Alexandria prices. No support has been given to our market by America, where business appears to be very quiet and dull owing to the strike which shows no sign of settlement at present.

In spite of the fact that prospects for an early revival in business are not very bright and although the existing heavy stocks here, in Liverpool and in America will make their weight felt on the market for some time, yet we do not think there is much fear of a break as holders of cotton in general are in a fairly sound financial situation and the total prospective supplies for next year do not promise to be abundant whereas the consumption should increase.

A fair business has been done during the 4 business days at Minet-el-Bassal this week and sales amount to 5,100 bales of which we estimate 3,600 bales Sakel, 1,300 Bales Uppers, 100 bales brown and 100 bales white. Arrivals continue on a fair scale and the stock shows a small increase.

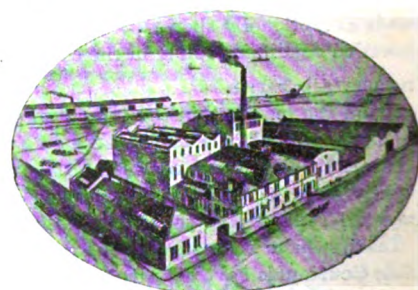
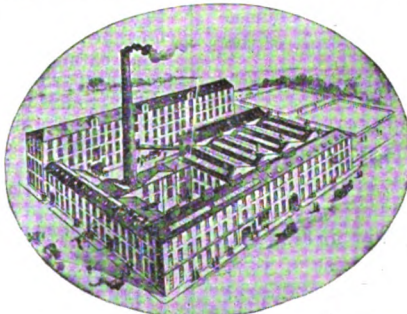
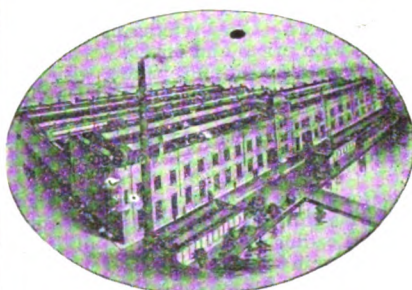
Sowing is practically completed in the Central and Southern districts of the Delta and in a few days time it will also be terminated in the Northern districts. As far as can be ascertained the acreage of land planted under cotton in the Delta appears to be about 10 per cent. more than last year. The germination, so far, has given about average results, resowings generally varying from 10 to 20 per cent.; in some cases, however, they have reached 50 per cent. The progress of the young plant is from 5 to 10 days late. Although there is a slight delay, no forecast can be made on its effect with regard to the pink boll worm attack; in previous years there was the practical certainty that the attack would overtake the plantations and destroy most of the bolls in November, but in consequence of the check in the development of the pink boll worm noticed last year owing to its being attacked by three parasites, this danger does not seem so great. So far nowhere in the Delta has the water deficiency been noticed to such a serious degree as in Upper Egypt.

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also of CALCUTTA SACKS.

Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Oilseeds Higher.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Monday Evening.

Sugar.—Home refined has been in fair request at current rates. Tate's cubes and mineral water sugar are inactive at 53s. 9d. and 49s. respectively, while London granulated has been a firm feature at 48s. 6d., and Lyle's granulated has been steady at 48s. 9d. Unsteadiness has prevailed in export descriptions. West Indian crystallized has shed 6d. at 42s. 6d., while white Mauritius has lost 9d. at 43s. 3d. Cane sugar quotations are:—April, 14s. 6d.; May, 14s. 6d.; August, 14s. 6d.; and September, 14s. 6d. White sugar quotations are:—April, 20s.; May, 19s. 9d.; August, 20s. 1½d.; September, 20s.; October-December, 19s.

Coffee.—Prices have risen in all cases. Costa Rica is 4s. up at 122s., and East Indian has gained 10s. at 130s. Nairobi has advanced 6d. at 110s. 6d. The futures market has been firm. Quotations are:—May, 60s.; July, 61s.; September, 60s. 6d.; and December, 60s.

Dessicated Coconut.—Spot stocks are low, while prices have shown a firmer tendency. Lower prices are anticipated for further shipments.

Rice.—Brisk business has been done during the week. American Java rice has been in good demand. A small shipment of Italian rice of good quality has just arrived.

Green Fruit.—The orange season has practically finished. Shipments are small, while supplies of fine fruit are low. Messina lemons are still in poor request while the price of the better conditioned fruit has advanced. Abundant quantities of apples have arrived and an excellent demand has been maintained. Further shipments of Egyptian onions are proving to be of better quality.

Oilseeds.—Prices are harder. Indian linseed has gained 1s. 9d. at 21s. 6d., while La Plata is 2s. up at 21s. Rapeseed is higher with Toria 1s. up at 18s. Cottonseed has advanced with Indian eighteenpence up at 20s.; Sakellarides 1s. up at 12s.; while Egyptian black has risen 4½d. to 11s. 10½d.

Oils.—The tone has been quiet. Linseed oil has increased 4s. 6d. at 42s. 6d. Rape oil is unchanged with the crude variety at 43s. and refined at 40s. Cotton oil has been a firm feature, with refined at 48s.; Egyptian crude at 40s., deodorized at 53s. and technical at 42s. 6d.

Oilcakes.—Linseed cake has declined a further 10s. at 300s. ton, and cotton-meal cake has shed a like amount at 280s. ton. Coconut cake and cottonseed cake have both shed 1s. at 160s. and 180s. ton respectively.

ASIA MINOR FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended April 8:—

Sultanas.—The total estimated arrivals to date amount to 169,935 bags, while the sales are 164,735 bags, the estimated stock unsold being 5,200 bags.

Markets.—There has been slightly more demand for sultanas. Sales this week total about 5,000 boxes of which about half the quantity is against U.K. orders and the balance for shipment to the Continent. Prices in local currency are unchanged, but the weakness of foreign exchanges on rumours of a probable political settlement in these parts, considerably increases sterling quotations. Market values of all commodities just now are in a very chaotic state as we have again entered a period of sensational exchange fluctuations.

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Capital paid up	5,000,000
Total reserves as per December 31st, 1920	53,200,000
Premium Income during 1920	28,300,000
Amounts insured of Life branch exceed	150,000,000

Branches maintained: Fire, Life, Marine, Casualty and Re-insurance of all branches.

HEAD OFFICE: SOFIA, BULGARIA.

PROMISING ROUMANIAN CROP OUTLOOK.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, April 7.

The latest official news on the crop outlook is very encouraging, as a result principally of the copious rains which have recently fallen throughout the country. It is now taken for granted that, thanks to the present favourable conditions for tilling the soil, the spring sowings of wheat, oats, barley, maize and other cereals, will compensate to a large extent for the limited area sown in the autumn.

CURRENT PRICES.

General Produce.—Bacon: (Continental), 122s. cwt.; (Canadian), 112s. 6d. cwt.; (American), 97s. 6d. cwt.; butter (Danish), 185s. cwt.; (Australian), 163s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 172s. cwt.; cheese (Canadian), 99s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 80s. 6d. cwt.; lard, 68s. cwt.; eggs (Danish), 15s. 6d. per 120; Styrian, 11s. 3d. per 120; chillies, 162s. 6d. cwt.; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 2d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon good to fine), 90s. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 131s. 6d. cwt.; (East Indian), 132s. 6d. cwt.; (Central American), 104s. cwt.; (Jamaica), 68s. 9d. cwt.; (Mocha longberry), 105s. cwt.; (Santos, superior), 67s. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochin), 52s. 6d. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 11½d. lb.; pepper (Singapore Black), 3½d. lb.; (Muntok white), 7½d. lb.; pimento, 2½d. lb.; raisins (Valencias), 60s. 6d. cwt.; sultanas (Smyrna), 121s. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 70s. cwt.; (Amalias), 57s. cwt.; sugar (Tate's cubes), 53s. 3d. cwt.; (Lyle's granulated), 48s. 7½d. cwt.; (Mauritius crystals), 45s. 1½d. cwt.; (West Indian crystallised), 43s. 3d. cwt.; (centrifugal), 15s. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 1½d. lb.; rice (Rangoon No. 2), 13s. 7½d. cwt.; (bran Rangoon), £6 2s. 6d. ton; cinnamon (firsts), 11½d. lb.; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 6½d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 6½d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 7½d. lb.; Ceylon (common to good common), 1s. 2½d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 6½d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 7½d. lb.; Java (common to good common), 10½d. lb.; wheat (English white), 54s. qr.; wheat (Australian), 59s. 6d. qr.; barley (malting), 50s. qr.; barley (feeding), 35s. 6d. qr.; oats (English) 32s. qr.; oats (La Plata), ex-ship, 22s. 7½d. qr.; maize (La Plata), 30s. 9d. qr.; flour, 44s.

Metals.—Aluminium, £122 10s. ton; antimony (English Regulus), £30 15s. ton; bismuth, 9s. lb.; copper (standard), £59 6s. 3d. ton; copper (electro), £65 10s. ton; gold bars, 93s. 5d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 90s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 97s. 6d. ton; galvanised sheets (24 G), £16 5s. ton; lead (soft foreign), £22 10s. ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 1½d. unit; molybdenite, 27s. 9d. unit; nickel, £175 ton; platinum, 300s. oz.; plumbago, £16 ton; quicksilver, £10 18s. 3d. bottle; spelter (G.O.B.), £22 12s. 6d.; tin (standard), £151 12s. 6d. ton; wolfram, 10s. unit; zinc sheets, £35 ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 19s. 4½d. box; silver bars, 33.3-8d. oz.

Chemicals.—Acids: Boric, 61s. cwt.; oxalic, 8½d. lb.; citric, 2s. 1d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 3½d. lb.; ammonia (sulphate), £16 11s. 6d. ton; arsenic (white powdered), £35 5s. ton; benzole (standard), 2s. 5d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £12 15s. ton; borax crystals, 20s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 110s. 6d. cwt.; Potassium Bichromate, 7d. lb.; chlorate, 4½d. lb.; caustic, £33 10s. ton; nitrate, £38 ton; permanganate, 9½d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 1½d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £15 5s. ton; Sodium: Crystals, 130s. ton; bi-carbonate, £11 5s. ton; bi-chromate, 5½d.; alkali (58 per cent.), £8 13s. 9d. ton; chlorate 3½d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £23 ton; hyposulphite, £15 10s. ton; prussiate, 9½d. lb.; nitrate, £15 1s. 3d. ton; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £75 ton; glycerine (industrial 1200 per cent.), £100 ton; lemon oil, 3s. 6½d. lb.; quinine, 2s. 10d. oz.; red lead, £34 ton; white lead, £37 15s. ton; white ground lead, £48 7s. 6d. ton; sulphate of copper, £27 5s. ton; sulphate of iron, 75s. ton.

Hides and Skins.—Ox and Heifer (first) 90 lbs. and up, 7½d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 5-7-8d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 7½d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 6-7-8d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 6d. lb.; (second) 90 lbs. and up 6-5-8d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs. 6½d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 6½d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 5-7-8d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 4½d. lb.; Cows (first), 60 lbs. and up, 6-1-8d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 6d. lb.; (second), 60 lbs. and up, 4½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 4½d. lb.; Bulls (first), 4½d. lb.; Kips (first), 6½d. lb.; (second), 3-3-8d. lb.; (third) 3d. lb.; Calcutta Market. Prices in rupees per 20 lb. Arsenic hides (cows): Agras, 9 to 13; Durbhangas, 7 to 9.8; Patnas, 5.8 to 6.12. Salted Cows, 4 to 7.8. Arsenic hides (buffalo), 3 to 8. Skins: Calf, 8 to 10 per 80 lb.; goat, 225 to 250 per 100 pieces.

Miscellaneous.—Cotton: (American), 10,40d. lb.; (Egyptian Sakel), 16.20d. lb.; Oilseeds: Linseed (La Plata), £19 2s. 6d. ton; palm kernels, £18 9s. 3d. ton; castor seed (Bombay), £16 17s. 6d. ton; Sesame seed (China), £24 10s. ton; soya beans, £12 12s. 6d. ton. Oils: Linseed, £37 7s. 6d. ton; olive (Levant) £70 ton; rape (crude), £43 10s. ton; soya, £37 7s. 6d. ton; petroleum, 1s. 4½d. gallon; petrol, 2s. 1d. gallon; fuel oil (ex-tank), 70s. ton; coconut (Ceylon), £39 5s. ton; cotton (crude), £40 10s. ton; ground nut, £44 5s. ton; Rubber: Plantation (No. 1 crepe), 8d. lb.; smoked sheet, 8d. lb.; fine hard Para, 1rd. lb.

MOTOR TRACTORS IN EGYPT.

The tractor trials held some time ago in Egypt were a great success as regards the number of entries, and the tests that were held have enabled much valuable data to be obtained as to the type of tractor most suitable for the country. The conclusions arrived at are given in the "Report on the Motor Tractor Trials," recently issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, from which we give the following extracts:—

The land of Kafr Bata, on which the tractor trials were held, represents the type of free soil of the Delta, fairly light and easy to work. The land, however, was wetter than one would normally have it in the first ploughing for cotton, and this made the work harder than usual. We are of opinion that, for this country, it is in the cultivation of the land that tractors will find their first use. Secondary to this, they may be counted on for such work as pumping, threshing, milling, transport, etc. But considering the light nature of most farm produce, we think that the cost per ton per kilometre will work out higher for tractor than for animal transport. Not only so, but several of the tractors shown were not well adapted for haulage work. With the exception of five, all machines were provided with turn-over ploughs. But in Egypt the irregular and deep cracking of the soil that takes place under atmospheric influence removes the need for the vertical and horizontal cut necessary to the turning over of the furrow. There are other reasons why this turning over may not only be useless but often harmful. In many cases, even with fertile land, the subsoil is so impregnated with salt that it should be left quite untouched. But even where the subsoil contains no salt and might be stirred and brought to the surface with no fear of consequences from this cause, subsoiling remains an operation that ought to be performed gradually, if one wishes to avoid shortage of crop from land which is less fertile, because less aerated, less active, etc.

The soil at the time of working is generally quite moist; and in being turned over forms into large blocks which, when exposed to the sun's rays, run the risk of drying rapidly and becoming hard as stones, especially if the soil is of a clayey nature. Ordinary pulverisers, which serve to crumble blocks so raised, have scarcely given practical results, and not infrequently, instead of being disintegrated, the lump gets harder with the passage of implements of the type of the native "zahafa."

Lastly, the rapid succession of crops in an irrigated country and on lands for the most part strong, does not permit of deep tillage with upheaval of the subsoil, for the density of the lower layers makes their weathering difficult, and the ordinary finishing implements help little.

For all these reasons turning over of the soil is not practised in Egypt, except in some localities where the land is light or medium, and where the berseem "alb," or temporary berseem, is commonly ploughed in by mould board ploughs of "Brabant" or balance type, which leave a flat surface, splitting to right and to left, and so preserving the level of the land—a matter of the first consequence in an irrigated country like Egypt. Even with these ploughs one must be careful to keep the furrow narrow, precisely to avoid the larger lumps of which we have spoken.

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Native ploughing, all said, is on the principle of the work of a grubber or cultivator. In one, two, or three turns it pulverises the land to a depth of 15 to 19 centimetres without overturning it. Makers should model their implements to produce work of this type, better and deeper if possible. There were, indeed, two outfits furnished with cultivators, or, more properly, scarifiers (*i.e.* fixed teeth), but the distance between the teeth was in both cases too great and the depth of the billage insufficient.

The report states that in no case was the work entirely satisfactory. The attachment of the plough to the tractor was in most cases satisfactory. But a few remarks on the special needs of this country may not be out of place. Attachment may be by bar or chain. If by the latter, without two crossed chains, there is a constant movement to right and left which makes for irregular work. Attachment by bar would seem to us preferable, provided that there is an easy means whereby the driver from the seat can alter in either direction the exact point of attachment. The use too of shock absorbers, with means for complete detachment in the case of violent shocks, seems to be recommended especially in the heavy lands of the north of the Delta and when attachment is by bar.

Projections attached to the driving wheels cause a varying pressure in the land according to their shapes, blades and T-bars, less than spuds and sprockets. In all the tractors classified the adhesion was good and effected in most cases by bars, placed square or more or less obliquely, and often projecting. We noticed with regret that with two exceptions, the tractors ran one of their wheels in the furrow with a resulting compression of the bottom layer, simply obscured by the covering earth. This is a serious drawback, for the earth lies so compressed for a long period and the effect is so much the more in Egypt, where the soil is mostly clayey and more or less moist. It is patent, too, that the mere passage of the tractor on the land girds and compresses the soil to a certain depth, and as this compression is a function of the pressure exerted, per square centimetre of the wheel or tract in contact with the land, the tractors where this ratio is high are not suitable for this country, and makers should seek to obtain maximum power and adhesion for minimum weight.

Among the tractors disqualified, there were some of the track-type called Caterpillars. This type, though attractive at first sight, seems to us not to be recommended for this country, on account of the rapid wear and tear and the consequent high upkeep of the numerous joints of the track.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated April 18:—

Condition of Crops.—Week ending April 15—Bengal: situation improved by further showers; Bihar and Orissa: useful showers have fallen in Purnea, where rain was badly required for jute sowing. In Assam, local rain has fallen and prospects of tea and spring rice are fair. In the tea districts of Mysore and Coorg there was no rain. April 17—Madras: local thunder showers in Malabar and Tenasserim.

Markets.—Cotton.—April 12—Bombay Cotton market steady. Fine M.G. Oomras Rs. 397. 8 May, Rs. 414. 8 July. Piece-goods.—Bombay Imported Piece-goods market steady. Wholesale enquiries weak, but good retail enquiries in most styles. Prints continue discouraging: local goods moving well. Jute.—April 12—Calcutta Jute market very strong with good demands from shippers and mills. Firsts Rs. 63, at which there are buyers; Hessians firmer, with a few orders from consuming markets; Heavies quiet but steady. Heavy C's Rs. 39. 12 ready, Rs. 40. April 12—June. Shellac.—April 11—Market quiet but steady. Later, owing to pressure by sellers to effect sale for forward deliveries, market declined for May business, for which deliveries prices were Rs. 198 to Rs. 199. For spot there was small demand. Closing prices T.N. Rs. 200 sellers. Rice.—April 13—Special Straits Quality Rice Rs. 485.

BARSI LIGHT RAILWAY.

The interim report of the Barsi Light Railway states approximate results for the year to March 31 are: Gross earnings, Rs. 14,35,800; working expenses, Rs. 7,25,200. It is estimated that the net revenue (after providing for probable taxation in India) will amount to some £43,600 from which has to be met the interest on debenture stock and interest and sinking fund instalment on "Latur Extension" debentures, totalling £11,249. Interim dividend of 3 per cent. and bonus of 2 per cent.

OIL NOTES AND NEWS.

THE "STEUAU ROMANA" COMPANY.

An article in the Roumanian financial journal *Bursa* of April 16 gives the following particulars of the Steaua Romana Company:—

The Steaua Romana pursue their vast drilling programme. They are provided with all the necessary material and have also constructed dwelling houses for their workmen. The construction of the Electrica power station at Floresti will permit them to carry on their work without interruption by supplying sufficient electrical current. Outside the drilling provided in their programme, the Steaua Romana are also extending their activity to the wells of the I.R.D.P. Company and to 10 wells of the Credit Minier Company.

The Steaua Romana have resumed all their old commercial relationships with the neighbouring countries and with the West, where they possess sales organisations. These organisations suffered through the war, but have been completely restored. Their sales offices at Smyrna, Constantinople, Salonika and Bulgaria are in full progress, as well as their organisation in Budapest. The results are satisfactory. Through their relations with the Steaua Francaise and the Steaua Romana (British) Limited they have obtained important openings in France and in Great Britain. It should be noted that the activity of their great refinery at Campana is once more in full operation. By obtaining material purchased before the war in Germany, which has hitherto been retained in that country, the installations will be still more increased as well as the factory, which has also been started again. The mechanical workshop of the Company will be completed by modern tools and machines, which will allow the manufacture of materials necessary to exploitation.

PROPOSED PIPE LINE FOR ROUMANIA.

H.M. Consul at Cluj (Transylvania, Roumania), reports that the Municipality of Cluj is endeavouring to arrange for the construction of a pipe line for the supply of natural gas from the Kissarmas district (60 k.m. distant) for domestic, commercial and industrial purposes in Cluj (previously known as Klausenburg or Kolozsvár), and it is probable that tenders will shortly be called for. It is possible that the extension of the electric power station and the introduction of an electric tramway system may be combined with this project.

PERSIAN MARKET FOR LACES AND EMBROIDERIES.

The Commercial Secretary to H.M. Legation at Teheran (Major B. Temple) has made the following report on the market for laces and embroideries in Persia:—

Many sorts of laces are in great demand in Persia at present. They are mostly imported from France, a preference, so it is stated, solely to do with price. The laces are packed in lengths of about 12 yards. Such packets are sold retail at 4 to 5 Krans each, according to quality (the present rate of exchange is 54 Krans to £1 sterling). Three samples of lace accompanied the Commercial Secretary's report. He states that these samples show the most popular kinds and patterns and although variety is esteemed, he is of opinion that United Kingdom manufacturers should be cautious at first of departing from established tastes unless by previous acceptance through pattern books.

There is a good demand for embroideries, preferably linen. This demand is so assured that dealers have a saying among themselves that linen embroideries are as good as solid cash. Patterns should vary generously, as novelty of pattern assists sale. Three patterns of embroideries accompanied the report; all three are popular and easily saleable in Persia. Embroideries up to one yard width also have a use for dressmaking.

WIRELESS SERVICE BETWEEN OXFORD AND CAIRO

The Anglo-Egyptian wireless service via the Imperial Wireless stations near Oxford and Cairo commenced on April 24. Telegrams will be accepted at any post office for Egypt, Palestine and Syria for transmission by wireless, and a corresponding service will be available in the opposite direction. The rates of charge will be 3d. a word less than the corresponding cable rates for full-rate traffic and 1½d. a word less than the corresponding cable rates for deferred traffic.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended April 8 amounted to £6,595.

TENDERS INVITED.

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

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

Bulgaria.

Oil.—The Directorate of Railways and Ports, Sofia, invites tenders for the supply of 900 tons of machine oil; 150 tons of wagon oil; 400 tons ordinary cylinder oil; 60 tons special cylinder oil; 10,000 cases of petrol. The total estimated value of this contract is 17,630,000 levas. The material must be supplied in barrels, and not otherwise. Delivery time: three months for 300 tons machine oil, 50 tons wagon oil, 150 tons ordinary cylinder oil and 5,000 cases petrol; five months for 400 tons machine oil, 100 tons wagon oil, 150 tons ordinary cylinder oil, 60 tons special cylinder oil and 5,000 cases of petrol, and seven months for 200 tons machine oil and 100 tons ordinary cylinder oil. The contractor must pay a tax of 300 leva for every analysis on acceptance of the different kinds of oil and petrol. Tenderers must deposit a sum equal to one per cent. of their estimate, which must be increased to five per cent. when the contract is placed. Payment terms are not specifically mentioned, but they are probably the same as for previous adjudications. The methods of payment in the previous adjudications were half against documents, the suppliers putting up a bank guarantee against this sum, which will be freed against arrival and final acceptance, the balance also being paid on final acceptance. (D.O.T.) May 10.

The Sudan.

Cane or Beet Loaf Sugar.—The Director, Commercial Intelligence Branch, Central Economic Board, Khartoum, invites tenders for the supply of four thousand metric tons net of cane or beet loaf (Ras) sugar to the Sudan Government c.i.f. Port Sudan. Tenderers must be accompanied by samples and must conform to the specifications and conditions of tender set forth in the special form on which tenders must be submitted. Copies of this form may be obtained on application to the Sudan Agency, War Office, Cairo. The Sudan Government is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender. Tenderers should be in double sealed envelopes clearly marked "tender for sugar." May 10.

Egypt.

Drugs.—The Director of Stores, Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of drugs required for the period of six months from October 1, 1922. June 15.

General Stores, etc.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lights Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of the following articles required for the second half of the financial year 1922-1923: Category A.—general stores such as belting, files, electric gear, chemicals, etc. Category B.—bunting, ropes, canvas, hoses, etc. Category C.—oils and paints, tar, and soap. Tenderers should only apply for conditions of tender and lists of the category of stores for which they intend to quote, from Stores Department, Arsenal. Samples of oils and paints which require testing should be submitted to the Stores Department not later than May 15, 1922, otherwise the offer for same will not be considered. Offers will remain valid for a period of twenty-five days from June 1, and delivery effected within two and a half months from date of order.

Gymnastic Shoes.—The Egyptian Ministry of War invites tenders for the supply of white gymnastic shoes. Further particulars can be obtained from, and pattern seen, at the office of the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1. May 2.

Cummerbands.—The Egyptian Ministry of War invites tenders for the supply of cummerbands. Particulars can be obtained from the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1. May 5.

Duck Linen.—The Egyptian Ministry of War invites tenders for the supply of white duck linen. Particulars can be obtained from the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1. May 2.

Web Braces.—The Egyptian Ministry of War invites tenders for the supply of web braces. Particulars can be obtained from the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1. May 1.

G.S. and Hospital Blankets.—The Egyptian Ministry of War invites tenders for the supply of G.S. and hospital blankets. Particulars can be obtained from the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1. May 4.

Cotton Khaki Handkerchiefs.—The Egyptian War Department invites tenders for the supply of khaki cotton handkerchiefs. Particulars can be obtained from the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1. May 3.

RECENT ADJUDICATIONS.

Messrs. W. and T. Avery, Ltd., Birmingham, were the successful tenderers to the Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, for the supply of cast-iron weights.

Messrs. Arthur Smart and Sons, Ltd., Manchester, were the successful tenderers to the Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones (Stores Department) for the supply of 100 metric tons of coloured cotton waste.

SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

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

Constantinople, April 8.

The market position is showing a slight improvement as a result of the prospect of approaching peace in Anatolia and of some transactions with the ports of South Russia. All the same the financial crisis continues making payments difficult.

The resumption of relations with some Russian ports has enabled the dispatch of some consignments. Prices are weak here, being influenced by the fall in sterling which has dropped 25 piastres in the space of a week.

Sugar.—Firmness prevails in producing centres. There is an active demand for all European ports. Here there has been some falling off in prices following the large arrivals of the last few days. Quotations: American, 9.30—9.40 dollars per 100 kilos, Dutch, £23-24 per ton; American, £21 per ton, Dutch, £22 10s. per ton; in customs, American, £26 per 100 kilos, Dutch, £27 per 100 kilos.

Coffee.—A steady tendency rules in Brazil and Europe. Here, the demand being weak, the last arrivals have not been absorbed, and prices are quoted below those of Rio. Quotations:—In transit, Ps. 52-55 per oke, in customs, Ps. 72-75 per oke.

Rice.—As a result of the strength prevailing in all markets rice has somewhat increased in price.

Constantinople, April 10.

Butter and Oils.—The stagnation of the market has brought about a new fall in the prices of raw materials.

Rice.—The arrivals of the last two weeks have been 2,000 sacks from Alexandria, and 1,100 sacks from New York.

Flour.—Despite the large arrivals our market has continued firm in consequence of the continued demand for South Russia, which absorbs very large quantities. Consignments to Russia are made in small lots of 2,000 to 5,000 sacks, the collection of which is entrusted to the Trieste Lloyd Company which makes a special feature of this service. Prices per 63½ kilos:—Marti and Co., £T8.80, Durun £T7, Arazona £T7.70; Kirma, £T9 per 72 kilos. The stock amounts to about 200,000 sacks.

Among the shipping arrivals during the week ended April 10 have been the following:—From Antwerp and Copenhagen:—S.s. Loppertum and s.s. Helène with 500 tons of ironmongery, 110 tons of coffee, 100 tons of window glass, and 35 tons of empty sacks.

From America:—S.s. Latania and s.s. Sahale with 5,250 tons of *mazout*, 3,550 tons of flour, 550 tons of sugar, 140 tons of mineral oil, and 120 tons of cotton tissues.

From Great Britain:—S.s. Maid of Hydra, s.s. Maid of Chios, s.s. Hugues, and s.s. Gerona with 650 bales of cotton and 4,500 tons of iron material.

From Marseilles:—S.s. Souirah with 470 tons of flour, 140 tons of bricks and tiles, and various other commodities.

From Italy:—S.s. Bolsena, s.s. Monténégro, s.s. Bukovina, s.s. Canaro, s.s. Costantinopolis, s.s. Trento, and s.s. Dalmatia with 150 tons of cotton tissues, 110 tons of pasteboard and paper, 30 tons of potatoes, and 40 tons of haricots.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

FOUNDED 1863.

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

CONSTANTINOPLE.

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

Messrs. P. REDON, Director
B. KERESTEDJIAN
J. UNGAR

} Sub-Directors.

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NOURY BEY.

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(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

EGYPT.
Alexandria.
Cairo,
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Jerusalem.
Jaffa.
Caiffa.
Ramallah.

CYPRUS.
Famagusta.
Larnaca.
Limassol.
Nicosia.
Paphos.

PERSIA:
Hamadan:
Kermanshah.

MESOPOTAMIA
Ashar.
Baghdad:
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Mossoul.

SALONICA.

SMYRNA.

TUNIS.

SYRIA.

(Banque de Syrie—Affiliated Bank).

Aleppo.
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Beyrout.

Damascus.
Hamah.
Homs.

Salda.
Tripoli.
Zahle.

The Bank has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of Credit granted.

Exchange and Merchandise operations effected.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

COMMERCE OF CONSTANTINOPLE.

The following statistics regarding the commerce of the port of Constantinople during 1921 have been received from the offices of the Federation of British Industries there:—

The total imports passing through the Constantinople Customs House during 1921 amounted to £T.121,329,543. as against £T.179,396,266 for 1920, and are thus 32 per cent. below those of the preceding year. The value of exports and re-exports amounted to £T.30,379,813 during 1921, as against £T.47,625,870 for 1920.

Taking the countries of origin of imports the United Kingdom heads the list with £T.27,431,417, being over 22 per cent. of the total imports; the U.S.A. is second with £T.19,182,763, or 15.8 per cent.; Italy was third with £T.13,407,380, or 11 per cent.; and France fourth with £T.11,787,400, or 9.7 per cent.

As regards exports, the largest share of Turkey's exports went to Roumania to the value of £T.5,236,294, or 17.2 per cent. of the total, and second comes Batoum with £T.4,442,303, or 14.6 per cent.; a large portion of the latter would probably consist of re-exports. The United Kingdom received commodities from Turkey valued at £T.2,140,613, or 7 per cent. of the total. Of the imports during 1921 fuel amounted to 95,787,252 kgs., cotton and cotton goods 12,987,525 kgs., paper and paper goods 10,334,500 kgs., wool and woollen goods 2,662,902 kgs., glass and chinaware 14,052,401 kgs., metals 20,378,898 kgs., oils, greases, candles and soaps 38,751,109 kgs.

SHIPPING AT THE PIRAEUS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, April 16.

There were 511 arrivals of various steamers in the port of Piraeus during March (O.S.) of the following nationalities:—

Greek 416, British 34, Italian 32, French 7, German 6, Dutch 5, Swedish 1, Belgian 1, Roumanian 1, Yugoslavian 1, Norwegian 1, Bulgarian 1. The number of sailing vessels which entered the port during the same month was 478, of which 476 were Greek, 1 Italian, and 1 Yugoslavian.

The receipts of the Piraeus Customs during March last (O.S.) amounted to 14,182,106.95 drachmae. Compared with the receipts during the corresponding period last year (6,830,024.05 drachmae) there is an increase this year of 7,352,082.90 drachmae.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

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

Anchor Line.—S.s. Massilia for Bombay (Liverpool, May 5).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Macharda for Calcutta (Birkenhead, April 29); s.s. Mandasor for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, May 4); s.s. Magdapur for Calcutta (Birkenhead, May 13); s.s. Holywell for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, May 16); s.s.

Masirah for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, May 27); s.s. Mangalori for Calcutta (Birkenhead, May 27).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Yorkshire for Rangoon (London, May 4); s.s. Lancashire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, May 10); s.s. City of Boston for Rangoon (Middlesbrough, May 10).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan MacNaughton for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, April 27); s.s. Clan Morrison for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (Birkenhead, May 4); s.s. Clan Ogilvy for Bombay and Persian Gulf, (Birkenhead, May 8).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Phrygia for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, etc. (Liverpool, April 27, and Swansea, May 2).

Ellerman Line.—S.s. Gerano for Gibraltar, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas and Varna (Liverpool, May 6); s.s. Flaminian for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Ancona, Venice and Trieste (Liverpool, May 18).

Ellerman's "City" Line.—S.s. City of Shanghai for Calcutta (Birkenhead, April 28); s.s. City of Agra for Calcutta (Birkenhead, May 9); s.s. City of Chester for Calcutta (Birkenhead, May 22).

Ellerman's "Hall" Line.—S.s. Merton Hall for Bombay, Karachi and the Punjab (Liverpool, May 1); s.s. Trafford Hall for Bombay, Karachi and the Punjab (Liverpool, May 12).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—Steamers sail fortnightly for Malta, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz and Braila.

Glen Line.—S.s. Glenbeg for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, May 4); s.s. Glenluce for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, May 18); s.s. Glenshane for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, June 1).

Harrison Line.—S.s. Dictator for Calcutta (Liverpool, April 29); s.s. Defender for Calcutta (Liverpool, May 13).

Henderson Line.—S.s. Martaban for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, May 3); s.s. Henzada for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, May 17).

Holt Line.—S.s. Cyclops for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, April 27); s.s. Calchas for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, May 4); s.s. Demodocus for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, May 4); s.s. Phemius for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, May 4); s.s. Eumacus for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, May 18); s.s. Glaucus for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, May 18).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Aviemore for Piraeus, Syra, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, April 29); s.s. Wingate for Piraeus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, May 13); s.s. Incemore for Piraeus, Syra, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, June 3).

Moss Line.—S.s. Hatasu for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta and Alexandria (accepting cargo for Moroccan, Algerian, Cyprus and Syrian coast ports), (Liverpool, April 27).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. Bavarian for Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, May 5); s.s. Gerano for Algiers, Malta, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas and Varna (Liverpool, May 20).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. China for Bombay (London, April 28); s.s. Nagoya for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, May 5); s.s. Caledonia for Bombay (London, May 5); s.s. Soudan for Bombay (London, May 6); s.s. Noie for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, May 19).

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. Madura for Bombay and Karachi (London, April 28); s.s. Nuddea for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, April 29); s.s. Chindwara for Bombay and Karachi (London, May 12); s.s. Nardana for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, May 13); s.s. Matiana for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, May 26); s.s. Mandala for Bombay and Karachi (London, June 2).

Prince Line.—S.s. Stuart Prince for Tunis, Malta and Alexandria (Manchester, May 5); s.s. Soldier Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria and Syria (Manchester, May 15); s.s. Cyprian Prince for Malta, Alexandria and Syria (London, May 15).

ANCHOR LINE

First-Class Passengers only.

LIVERPOOL TO BOMBAY.

KARACHI via Bombay calling at Gibraltar & Egypt.

LARGE STEAMSHIPS. UPPER DECK CABINS.

FITTED WITH ELECTRIC FANS.

RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

PASSENGER SAILING DATES—

MASSALIA MAY 5 CIRCASSIA, JUNE 22.

OLYMPIA, JULY 5

Anchor Line (Henderson Brothers), Ltd

16, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.3.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS.

CUNARD STEAM SHIP.

The accounts of the Cunard Steam Ship Company, Limited, for the year ended December 31, show that after providing for depreciation of ships and other properties, income-tax, corporation profits tax, Debenture interest, and proportion of discount on Debenture stock, and including £169,075 brought forward, there remains at credit of profit and loss account £669,106. Dividends amounting to £135,000 have been paid on the Preference stocks and a dividend of 7½ per cent. on the Ordinary shares, including the Government share, from which tax will be deducted is recommended, leaving a balance of £199,890 to be carried forward. The £1,000,000 5½ per cent. Mortgage Debenture stock, which was due for repayment on December 31, 1921, has been extinguished. There has been paid during the year £130,000 to the sinking fund for the redemption of stock established under the Government agreement. The directors state that the services of the company, both for freight and passenger business, although considerably interfered with by labour disputes from time to time, have been maintained with a greater degree of regularity than was possible during the preceding year; while not yet normal, owing to the protracted delay in the delivery of new tonnage, they will be materially strengthened in the course of the next month or two.

SUGEI CHOH RUBBER

The report of the Sungei Choh Rubber Company, Limited, for the year ended December 31, states that the estate working account shows that the crop for 1921, which was on a heavily restricted basis, amounted to 576,119 lbs. of dry rubber, and that the gross profit therefrom was £4,974 5s. 7d. The profit and loss account, after providing for the usual charges, including income tax, etc., discloses a net profit for the year of £1,795 11s. 7d. The balance sheet shows that, with the amount of £13,328 17s. 9d. brought in from 1920 (after deduction of Corporation tax for that year), and the profit and loss balance of £1,795 11s. 7d., the credit balance is £14,483 12s. 4d., which amount the directors propose to carry forward to 1922 accounts. The directors have considered most carefully the question of making a small dividend distribution, but they have been forced to the conclusion that, having regard to the continued depression in the market for rubber, and the poor outlook in prospect for that article for possibly a considerable length of time to come, it would not be in the interests of the company to pay away money which may at any time be required for the maintenance of the capital value of the property. The cost of producing the crop was 5.84d. per lb., f.o.b. Port Swettenham, and the net price realized was 7.91d. The low cost of production was mainly due to cheaper rice and the most stringent economy in the working of the estate. This rigid economy has so far, the directors are glad to state, not been attended by any serious going back in the condition of the property, but it has only been possible owing to the excellent state of cultivation and upkeep of the estate in previous years. The visiting agent in his last report says:—"The general condition of the estate is very satisfactory. It has been well and economically worked. Thanks to the previous good state of sanitation it was found unnecessary to embark on a large scheme of pest work during 1921. The estate appears very free from either pests or diseases." The expenditure on capital account during the year amounted to £442 11s. 8d. in respect of non bearing areas. The estimated crop for 1922 is 700,000 lbs. of dry rubber, which is on the basis of restriction by rather more than 25 per cent. on a normal yield.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended April 15 amounted to £0,334.

COMMERCIAL BREVITIES.

An express direct train service has been arranged from Prague to Zagreb-Agram via Hungary.

It is announced that one of the largest Czecho-Slovak tanning concerns is about to lay down plant at Kishineff, Bessarabia.

Leather belting is in great demand in Bucharest at 200 lei per kg., even for the home produced article which is below English quality.

A fair quantity of German silk shirts is now sold at Colombo at prices very substantially below those of similar materials from other sources.

At the recent Ceylon Industries Exhibition the Ceylon Agricultural Society exhibited some fine Manila cigars made of Havana tobacco grown at Peradeniya.

Orders for electrical plant amounting in value to £500,000 are being placed with British engineers by the Calcutta Electricity Corporation, under a Trade Facilities Act guarantee.

The negotiations over the Anglo-Austrian Bank have resulted in the formation of the 26 branches in Czecho-Slovakia into an independent Anglo-Czech Bank, with a working capital of 150 million crowns.

The contract made by the former Roumanian Government with the "Syndex" concern, established last year for the purpose of the purchase and export of wheat and other cereals, has been cancelled by mutual agreement.

In addition to the ordinary import and excise duties, a permit fee of 3 annas per gallon has been imposed in the Bombay Presidency on beer, Indian made as well as imported or manufactured locally.

An announcement is made by the Ports and Lighthouses Administration, Cairo in the *Journal Officiel* notifying mariners to the effect that the Red Sea Sanganeb Lighthouse will operate in future, when necessary, a mechanical foghorn, giving a 10-second blast every five minutes.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting	Parity of Exchange	Latest. Quotations.
Alexandria ..	Piastres to £	97½	97.15-32
Athens	Drachmae to £ ...	25.22½	98½-99½
†Belgrade ..	Dinars to £	25.22½	205-275
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	1180-1190
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3-5.32-1.3-7.32
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3-5.32-1.3-7.32
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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 573—Vol XXI.

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 1922.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Greece and Asia Minor.

Under the steady influence of King Constantine and his present Prime Minister, M. Gounaris, Greece shows signs of trying to reconcile herself to the inevitable in regard to the evacuation of Asia Minor. The King, it will be remembered, was opposed to the despatch of Greek troops to Smyrna at the time when M. Venizelos subordinated his undoubted statesmanship to the petty squabbles of the Allies, and deliberately involved his country in an impossible venture, because it was desired at the time in London and Paris to put a spoke in the Italian wheel. Naturally all sections of the Hellenic world are anxious to ensure that those of their fellow countrymen who are left behind in Asia Minor shall have real and adequate protection against Turkish reprisals and against oppression in the future; and it will surprise no one if the more hot-headed elements in the Ionian Army of Occupation have not discussed the establishment of a Greek Angora at Smyrna. They will have no support from any real patriot in Greece, and, as is now apparent, cannot count on the approval of General Papoulas, their local Commander-in-Chief. The Allies, however, must not ignore the intense feeling that exists among all Greeks on the subject of safeguards for minorities in Asia Minor.

Safeguards for Minorities.

Unfortunately this problem of providing adequate safeguards for minorities in Turkey does not, from its very nature, lend itself to a satisfactory solution. As far as we are aware, the only solution that commends itself to Greek public opinion is the retention of armed forces on Turkish soil, and that scheme is out of the question. Between it and the only suggestion that the Allies can make, which amounts to "Trust the Turk—under threats," there is no middle course. If that is so, it is not difficult to see who of the Greeks and the Allies must in the long run give way. No one can fail to sympathise with Greek qualms. It has not been the fashion in the past for subject races in South-Eastern Europe or Asia Minor to be handled leniently, and the Turks have had more opportunities than others to indulge their instincts in this respect. But as the Christian nations have acted to a minor extent in the same reprehensible way from the promptings of self-preservation, there is no reason why the Turks should not be credited with a similar motive. If the motive be removed, there is at least a chance that a different policy will be pursued.

"Trust Turkey."

For more than a generation now Turkey has been fighting with her back to the wall, and acting under a perverted view of things has imagined that she has assisted her cause by ridding herself of as many of her alien subjects as she conveniently could. During the late war Germany encouraged her to continue the same practice; but there is ground for supposing that the Angora authorities contemplate a Turkey that will conform more or less to Western standards in time of peace. So long as the Turks have the excuse of being at war massacres and oppression may be expected. The experience, therefore, of the last few years need be no criterion of what will happen, if the Greek troops are withdrawn everywhere from Turkish territory and the Turks are confirmed in the land which they can reasonably consider their own. This at least seems to be the best consolation that can be offered to the Greeks, although we should like to see the Allies agreed that, if, when entirely freed from any shadow of provocation, the Turks do not treat minorities properly, Europe or the League of Nations shall be called upon to deal finally with this particular menace to the world's peace. It must, however, be remembered that Turkey cannot be expected to adopt a higher standard than that which prevails in the neighbouring Balkans. If oppression or suppression is persisted in there, no European country can presume to lecture the Turks.

The Question of Frontiers.

In a recent speech that Mr. Lloyd George made to British and American correspondents at Genoa, there was much evidence of that lack of conviction that has for the past few years characterised the foreign policy of this country. The Premier seems to alternate extraordinarily between obstacle-jumping and obstacle-making. On his ability in jumping this is no place to expatiate, but in raising difficulties in the Near East at any rate he has been uncommonly constructive. At the moment he is enormously impressed by the force of Russia, and it was this impression, we presume, that prompted the foreseeing of war in the following words:—"Practically the whole of the frontiers of Eastern Europe are unsettled. There is hardly a line there which is accepted by Europe as a whole. From the Baltic to the Black Sea there is hardly a line which is not contested, and every one of those lines involves the possibility of a terrible conflict in Europe." These words, we imagine, might, *mutatis mutandis*, have been uttered at almost any period in Modern European History. (One has only to think, for example, of the

submergence of Poland, throughout the Nineteenth Century.) But it is scarcely pleasant for the Roumanians to have thus implied the impermanence of their Bessarabian frontier. Political justice is admittedly a rough and ready thing, but it is a poor statesmanship which one year constructs a peace and the next fearfully points out its imperfections. Vision is a grand and essential gift, but, unless it be based on knowledge, it is wasted.

The Future of Palestine.

In the remarks recently made by Lord Milner to the Paris correspondent of *The Times* on the subject of Palestine there was a welcome strain of sober level-headedness that has not always characterized public references to that country. Lord Milner has returned from his visit an optimist with regard to Palestine, and he rightly praises the policy of the Administration. Perhaps the weakness in the situation is the Government's own lack of confidence in its own policy. Instead of realising with Lord Milner that it is acting on sound lines and that in due course it can "win through," it is inclined as far as one can make out, to despair of seeing daylight, and to take refuge in such consolation as it can derive from living through any particular day without a riot or other form of trouble. In the event of Sir Herbert Samuel recovering from his recent illness sufficiently to resume his post in Jerusalem, we shall hope to find that the optimism of Lord Milner and other observers is reflected in the highest circles, and will enable Government House to wear less of the aspect of a military camp.

The Struggle of Georgia.

The fight for independence in what were once the outlying provinces of Russia still continues, and notably in Georgia. There is no doubt that in this country, which cherishes proud memories and fine traditions, the yoke of Bolshevism is extremely severe, intolerable, in fact, to the cultured and highly civilized members of this race. Yet, frankly, we see no hope for its freedom without the assistance of foreign troops, successful as this or that local rising may be; and any external steps to this end are most improbable. It was rather pathetic to read the letter addressed by Ambrose, the Georgian Patriarch, to the Genoa Conference; pathetic, because that Conference had already decided to deal only with European States. We fear, indeed, that the future of Georgia lies in partial or complete incorporation with Russia or Turkey. Russia, in particular, who is thoroughly aware of the wealth of the Caucasus, is keeping a very sharp eye on this region, and intends to preserve it to herself. Moreover, she classes the Menshevik government of M. Jordania with the "bourgeois," labels all its schemes as "capitalistic," fears that any diplomatic assistance given to it may be followed by military invasion, and is therefore, as M. Trotsky recently said, "redoubling her vigilance." We repeat, we see little hope of the re-establishment of the Social Democrats in Georgia.

Egypt and the Capitulations.

The Government of the United States has recognized the independence of Egypt, but only—if Cairo reports are correct—subject to the retention of the Capitulations. The condition thus attached to the recognition may seem to the more ardent Egyptians to rob the act of much of the importance that would otherwise attach to it, but to others it can hardly come as a surprise, and still less as a disappointment. The Egyptian view regarding the Capitulations has never since the Armistice

been any too clear. The extremists seemed at one time bent upon treating the point merely as one to be turned to use in embarrassing—or endeavouring to embarrass—the British Government. If the Egyptians are wise, they will now allow the question to rest for a while, and devote all their energies to proving that the country is so well able to look after both itself and the stranger within its gate that the Capitulations may safely be abolished. When that day comes there will surely be no doubt about the reply that will be given to Egypt's request for the change.

Persia in Difficulties.

Affairs in Persia are drifting if not certainly from bad to worse—which would, perhaps, be difficult—at least from bad to no better. The Shah's Government is still as hard pressed for funds as ever it was, and the only question is: How long can this state of things last? Many of the Departments are reported to have had no pay for six or seven months; and though their Heads succeed in persuading them to "carry on" from week to week, that process cannot, obviously, be continued indefinitely. The Teheran correspondent of the *Pioneer* reported last week that the whole police force of the capital had struck, and that the regular troops who had been called on to replace the police were also disaffected, the reason in both cases being that the men's pay was some months in arrears. Of course, these things are no more a new experience in Persia than they are in several other Oriental countries; but whereas it was usually possible in the old autocratic days to surmount the difficulties, by methods and devices well known, it is to-day, in democratic Persia a far more difficult feat.

Bolshevism in Teheran.

The Prime Minister, the Mushir ed-Dowleh, appears to have found the difficulties confronting him too great to be overcome without help; for he is reported to have appointed a commission, comprising representatives of all parties, to assist the Cabinet in hammering out a new policy for Persia. He is understood to be in favour of the development of the oilfields in the North, and of the engagement of foreign advisers, measures to which the Mejliss is, or was, opposed. Probably he hopes that recent experiences will have convinced the objectors that his views are sound, and it is even possible that the Commission may justify his hope; but the Persians, and especially their parliamentary representatives, have lately shown such a lack of ability to grasp political facts that for our part we cannot feel sanguine on this point. The only satisfactory news from Teheran is that the Persians are at last waking up to the true character of Bolshevism and to the dangers with which it threatens their country and their religion. For this belated enlightenment they have to thank the Bolshevik representative in Teheran, M. Rothstein, and a number of his agents who have been lately very actively working to bring about changes in the Cabinet, and especially to secure the removal of the Sardar Sipah—Colonel Riza Khan. These agents are reported to have been stirring up dissension between the various creeds in the country, and meddling quite openly in internal politics. Fortunately the crudeness of their methods has opened the eyes of the Persians to some extent, and Bolshevism is unpopular to-day in Teheran.

A French Yellow Book.

The French Government recently published an important diplomatic document containing the intimate history of France's efforts for peace in the Balkans

during the years 1912—1914. This Yellow Book shows conclusively that from 1912 down to the armistice of Chatalja the French Government preserved its aim then as it is pursuing it to-day of maintaining the *status quo*, that is, of keeping the Ottoman Empire intact, and at the same time of securing better conditions for minority races. That these conditions were not secured was due to circumstances outside France's control. This Yellow Book is instructive for us to-day, because it shows well the realist policy of the French Government, and its difference from our own; for whereas it might not be untrue to say of France that she puts the integrity of the Ottoman Empire above anything else in the Near East, it would appear that the British Government is less realist but more moral in putting above other things reforms and security for minorities. It is the nicest of questions, a workable balance between expediency and justice; we fear that in the Near East at any rate the former will for long just prevail. In other words, the French policy of seeing things nakedly and brutally as they are succeeds better than the British policy of seeing things adorned and clouded as they might be.

The Situation in India.

The news from India continues to bear out the view of the situation which we have put forward in these columns. The ordinary law of the land is being quietly but effectively enforced; most of the really dangerous revolutionaries are in prison; those of the extremist party who have not asked for "martyrdom" are casting about for a programme which shall be more serviceable than that which has collapsed; and the North is still interested chiefly in the harvest. On this last point the most recent official information is thoroughly satisfactory, and it appears to be certain that the country has now food enough and to spare, while the long-looked-for fall in the price of wheat has made definite progress during the last few weeks. Critics who occupy the urban standpoint naturally assume that a large fall in food-values will of itself go far to restore contentment among the people, but on the other hand it must be remembered that there are many more sellers than buyers, and we cannot suppose that the Sikhs, for instance, would be pacified by a depreciation of the wheat which is their most important source of income. On the whole, then, there is reason for satisfaction in the fact that the fall is likely to be less spectacular than India appears to expect.

The Future of Food Prices.

In this matter Indian expectations are based on experience gained before the war. In those days a good harvest following on a bad one meant glutted markets, because all food-growers were pressed for money at the same time. This pressure for money is now much less heavy than it used to be, because prices are much higher than they were, while rents have risen comparatively little; consequently immediate demands can be met by selling less produce, and though the markets will be adequately supplied, they will not be so completely glutted as of old. The peasants will take the surplus grain into store, and either eat it themselves or sell it off gradually as new needs arise; and the final result will be a somewhat higher level of prices than Indian cities like, a most desirable replenishment of depleted stocks in the villages, and in our opinion a healthier economic situation than has existed since the War. At present it seems doubtful whether much Indian

wheat will be seen in Europe this year, but the country has plenty of other produce for sale, and we fear that the restoration of the balance of trade is still a question of finding customers, rather than offering additional goods for sale.

An Indian Leader?

The full reports of Mr. Sastri's speech at Delhi show that the cabled extracts did something less than justice to a pronouncement of real interest, and they are certainly calculated to remove the mistaken impression that the speaker's balance had been more or less upset by his success in London and Washington. Taken as a whole, the speech is the clearest and strongest lead which an Indian has yet given to his fellow-countrymen to make good and justify their position in the British Empire, and its perusal inevitably suggests regret that the legislature in these early days has heard so little from a man who can place such gifts at its disposal. We wish Mr. Sastri all success in his tour of Canada and Australasia, as well as in his courageous undertaking to counter anti-Imperialist lies by lecturing in the United States; but when these labours have been accomplished, we hope that circumstances will allow of his settling down to political work in India itself. The leadership of the nation is still vacant: there is no one now before the public who could seriously dispute Mr. Sastri's claim if he decides to make it.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Monday Evening.

The Genoese Imbroglia.

The proceedings at Genoa provide a curious commentary on the amount of Christian feeling in international politics. So far from loving one's neighbour as oneself, everybody appears to hate his neighbour like the devil. The results are unfortunate. Statesmen show frayed tempers, experts contradict each other, the press snarls, and politicians and leader-writers talk gloomily of another war, in which what remains of European civilisation will finally disappear. The correct note is one of inspissated gloom; we are all pessimists nowadays, and every self-respecting journalist, like the fat boy in *Pickwick*, does his best to make our flesh creep.

At the risk of striking a discordant note while the newspaper orchestra tunes up for the funeral march, I must point out that the public do not take this kind of thing quite so seriously as they should. Mr. Garvin cries death, Mr. Crawford Price forebodes disaster, and Mr. Wickham Steed foretells damnation; the man in the street says he has heard this kind of thing before, and turns to the Stock Exchange quotations or the first articles on the cricket season—which begins to-day. All this is very sad for the prophets, proverbially without honour in their own country. But it has a basis of stubborn fact which even prophets overlook. Europe may decide to cut its own throat, but we propose to be spectators and not participants in the drama. If people cannot or will not agree, then they must quarrel and, if necessary, kill each other, but we are emphatically not batting in that match. We have had enough of Continental adventures for the present.

There is a school which tells us that isolation is impossible; to which the correct answer is that nothing is impossible if you put your foot down and refuse to budge. If Europe will agree we are ready to help; if not, not. At the moment the chance of any real agreement seems far more remote than a month ago.

Retrogression in Ireland.

If Genoa is bad, Dublin is worse. The latest conference between the Provisional Government and the Republicans has broken down, and there seems no prospect of any agreement in that quarter. Murder and

outrage also continue; not a day passes but five or six deaths by violence are chronicled. Last week there was a one-day general strike by Irish Labour as a protest against the continuance of these factions; the strike itself was successful, but it has had no effect whatever as a warning. Freedom of speech, like security of life, seems to have vanished; the Republicans apparently have a particular objection to printed criticism, which gives some support to the contention of the other side that the Republican element is really a minority which endeavours to rule by terror. Every week sees Ireland a step nearer anarchy than before, and no assignable period can be put to the process.

The Reaction in England.

These disturbances on either side are having a definite reaction on England. Quarrels in Europe and anarchy in Ireland are influencing the elector here, not merely to keep indoors out of the storm, but to have a Government that stands definitely for order and authority. When people are in this mind, it is a good wind for the Conservatives, and I fancy the trend of events is not overlooked by the strategists at Westminster.

Labour Sheds its Skin.

A distinct change is to be noted in the Labour Party's attitude towards internal policy. Hitherto it has stood generally for nationalisation of industry, but most people saw the weakness of that method during the War, and the failure of the enforced experiment put Labour in a difficulty. It is all very well to talk about the promised land, but some of us had been there, and found that, so far from its flowing with milk and honey, its leading line was officials and red tape. The Easter Labour Conferences have discovered this for themselves, and there are signs that they are altering their ideas in consequence. The gospel according to Sidney Webb is to be superseded or supplemented, and a gospel according to Cole, the advocate of Guild Socialism, is coming into fashion.

It is impossible to say how far the rank and file will adopt the change of faith; those who know Labour politics from within assure us that there is a fairly strong anti-Cole element, but this may be because Guild Socialism is relatively novel and is not fully understood. At least it does away with the element of bureaucratic control, which is the weakness of nationalisation; Guild Socialism implies that those who are actually engaged in an industry run it for themselves.

It seems to have no inherent hostility to capital as such, although of course it contemplates a very different position for capital in industry; but it postulates an industrial parliament, to which members shall be elected by trade, not by geographical areas; as at present. (Something of the kind already exists in a manner; thus Mr. Thomas is not so much the member for Derby as for railwaymen, and it is a poor profession or trade that has not its representative, although he may sit nominally for Clackmannan or the outer Hebrides.)

The real difficulty with Guild Socialism and its altered doctrines is that it seems to contemplate that old heresy, a State within a State; an industrial State within a political State. This raises very awkward questions of sovereignty. There is a rather large literature of this problem being published in America; where the federal form of the Republic and the size of the country make

them less dogmatic as to the unitary State than we are. I doubt if the Labour intellectuals have really thought out this problem; although Lord Haldane, who is now a kind of Nestor to the Labour chiefs and who writes prefaces for obscure Labour authors in the intervals of contemplating Relativity, has drawn their attention to it.

County Cricket.

It was thoughtless of Sir Robert Horne to arrange to introduce his Budget to-day, when the cricket season officially begins. That is the worst of Scotchmen whose minds have been corrupted by golf; but at the moment the laugh seems to be on their side for the weather feels more like snow than cricket. It is to be a domestic season, without colonial visitors; but I hear rumours that the trouble between the County and the League clubs may come to a head. In the North of England at least the town league club is buying up the county professionals and keeping them strictly to their contracts; the question is not so acute in the South. If this led to a strengthening of the amateur element in the county teams, no harm would be done; but in these days the amateur of means who can give up the summer to county cricket is a rare bird, and the three-day match, although interesting, takes up a lot of time. The regular eleven cannot get along without its professionals.

Professionalism in Sport.

One does not want cricket to become as professional as football, where they buy and sell men openly like slaves; far less does one want to see it ruined like boxing, which is now simply a speculation in seats and cinema rights, and under grave suspicion that the results are arranged by the management. The amateur remains the backbone of cricket, but the amateur as a rule can only play one day a week, and so makes for the local club.

In the Courts.

Mr. Bottomley sprang a surprise on the public on Saturday by calling no witnesses for the defence in the charge of using money subscribed for Victory Bond Clubs for his own purposes; he was committed for trial after making a long and emotional speech about his services to the country during the war. The Armstrong murder appeal has been postponed for a few days, and the arguments in the case raise an important point of law, as to the right of the judge to admit evidence on another charge which was unproven and which is still hanging over the prisoner. The lawyers are awaiting the case with some interest.

The Wakeford Case.

I notice that the refusal of the Home Secretary to reopen the unsavoury Wakeford case has led to a perfect deluge of Correspondence in the *Guardian*, the leading Church newspaper. I generally look upon the *Guardian* as second only to the *Spectator* as the foundation for an after-lunch snooze, but the virulence of its clerical correspondents on this particular issue, and the vigour with which they are denouncing the Bishop of Lincoln, and his unhappy Dean and Chapter, have been a revelation to me; it is the nearest thing to hearing a parson swear that I have struck.

Apparently the diocese of Lincoln is a rather unhappy place just now, and the life of the Dean cannot be quite a bed of roses. I know nothing about the morals of his clergy—as I am only an innocent layman, it is perhaps just as well—but this mud-slinging is rather rough luck on him, as he has work enough on hand in raising a fund for the restoration of his cathedral. It is in a bad state of repair, and second only to Ely for beauty.

The Week's Books.

"Bantu Beliefs and Magic" (Wetherby) by C. W. Hobley is a real contribution to anthropology and the study of primitive religions. It deals with the very interesting native cults of East Africa, and covers some new ground in this particular science. The book has an introduction by Sir James Frazer.

Mention may be made of "Mr. Prohack" (Methuen). Mr. Arnold Bennett's new novel, which is being well reviewed. It deals with a Civil Servant who comes into money.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

From Our Own Correspondents.

EGYPT.

Official Holidays.

Cairo, April 22.

The abolition of the Protectorate and the recognition of the independence of Egypt have resulted in an alteration in the list of official holidays. Henceforward March 15 will be celebrated as a holiday in honour of the declaration of independence, and in exchange the holidays fixed for May 6 and June 3 in celebration of the accession day and birthday of King George V have been suppressed.

The Order of Succession.

As a natural consequence of his having assumed the higher title, King Fuad this week issued a rescript fixing the order of succession. According to this document the Throne remains hereditary in the dynasty of Mohammed Aly. On the death of the King it passes to his direct and legitimate male descendant by order of primogeniture. If the King should leave no such direct descendants the succession will go to his brothers, according to priority of age and to their direct male legitimate descendants, and failing any brothers or their heirs the Throne will pass to the dead King's uncles and their direct heirs, and so on.

The rescript establishes that the present heir is King Fuad's only son Prince Faruk and that whosoever succeed to the Throne begins a new house and the succession follows in his direct line as laid down above. It excludes the ex-Khedive Abbas Hilmy, but without in any way prejudicing whatever rights his direct male and legitimate descendants may eventually acquire to the succession. All female members of the house as well as their descendants are also excluded from the succession, and no Prince may ascend the Throne unless he is mentally fit, a Moslem and the son of Moslems.

According to the rescript, the King with the assent of Parliament can deprive of his right to the Throne any Prince who marries without his consent, or who is declared to be unfit to belong to the Royal family, and by similar procedure this deprivation of rights can be annulled. The coming of age of the King is fixed at eighteen years, and if he should be a minor on ascending the Throne a Regency Council will be appointed. This Regency Council is to be composed of three persons nominated by the reigning sovereign in a document which is only to be opened and made public on his death in the presence of Parliament, which will be called upon to confirm the King's nominations. In the event of the King dying without having signed any such document Parliament will nominate the Regency Council, the members of which must in any case be selected from amongst Princes of the Royal Family, Prime Ministers, Ministers, and Presidents, present and past, of whatever representative chambers exist. In the event of the King becoming mentally unfit to reign the Council of Ministers will convoke Parliament and will recognise the claims of the next rightful heir.

It is to be noted that this act of succession replaces the Firman which Ismail Pasha obtained from the Sultan of Turkey, against substantial consideration, in 1873 and under which the Throne of Egypt was vested in his family by order of primogeniture. Also it is to be noted that this rescript contains the first surrender of Royal prerogatives to the Parliament of the people.

The Question of Mining Concessions.

The Minister of Finance, Ismail Sidky Pasha, has just paid a visit to the Red Sea, where accompanied by Mr. E. M. Dowson, the Financial Adviser, he has been making a thorough study of the conditions and prospects of the mining industry. It is understood that this visit has enabled him to come to certain definite conclusions with regard to the policy which the Government should follow in the matter of mining, including petroleum concessions, and that a statement on the subject will shortly be made public, very probably in the form of a paper which His Excellency intends to read before the Royal Geographical Society of Egypt.

A Revenue "Windfall."

During the war the British Military authorities made enormous use of the Egyptian State Railways, both as regards their workshops, which rendered invaluable services in the matter of repairs, etc., and as regards the carrying of troops. In the latter connection payments were made by the War Office for the transport provided, but they were effected at the rates current when the war broke out and the Military began to make use of the Egyptian Railways service. As, however, the Egyptian Government was compelled to raise all its rates to the public owing to increased cost of working it continued to accept payment at the old rate in order to facilitate matters, and opened a special suspense account for the difference. Recently it put in a claim for L.E.159,000, but the War Office declined to agree to this figure and the matter had to be referred to a special arbitration Board under the presidency of Judge A.C. MacBarnet, C.B.E., Counsellor to the Mixed Court of Appeal. The Board has awarded L.E.900,000 to the Egyptian Government; which has since been paid by the British Government, and it is understood that a substantial portion of this unexpected addition to the revenue will be devoted to capital and repair expenditure, which is so badly needed on the State Railways and had hitherto been postponed owing to insufficiency of funds.

Attacks on Englishmen resumed.

The series of murderous attacks on Englishmen has recommenced. On Easter Sunday evening two men of the Air Force, who had brought a waggon-load of material down from Palestine were escorting it to Abbassia when they were fired at near the Railway station and both were seriously wounded. The assassin as usual got away. It is significant that these attacks on Englishmen ceased during the period when the recent bombing case was being dealt with and that they have recommenced so soon after the sentences were promulgated. Bearing in mind what took place in the case of previous similar trials it certainly looks as if the passing of the recent extremely light sentences has encouraged the band to resume their murderous attacks, and the indignation which this surprising clemency aroused at the time has not been in any way abated by the latest cowardly outrage.

'IRAQ (MESOPOTAMIA).

Baghdad, April 13.

The Provisional Frontier.

This week has been much quieter than last, though the tone of extreme anxiety has been heard throughout. Ibn Saoud has accepted the provisional frontier laid down by the High Commissioner, and has withdrawn the raiders well away from 'Iraq. Indeed, it is said that none of them are now within 80 miles of the frontier. The Government of 'Iraq has presumably accepted this frontier too, though no official announcement of its doing so has yet been made. The immediate fear of external aggression has, therefore, been removed, but the internal situation continues to give cause for anxiety.

The Kerbella Conference.

The Conference at Kerbella, to which reference was made in last week's letter, was held this week, and though it was announced that the deliberations would be con-

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fined to the Akhwan and what must be done to oppose them, they were very few in number who dared to hope that this would actually be the case. To-day's vernacular papers, however, publish telegrams from their correspondents at Kerbella which say that the conference has been held, and that the result was a unanimous vote that the Akhwan must be opposed, but that it is the duty of King Faisal and his Government to decide in what form the opposition is to be made. No further details have yet arrived, and as things stand, they may be considered satisfactory.

In the absence of any further details there is a tendency to give the credit for this good result to Taufiq Beg al Khalidi, the new Minister of Interior, who attended the conference in person; and if this is really so, he has scored a very great personal success, and bids fair to justify the hopes which have been placed on him. If the conference now breaks up without any secret sessions all should be well, but the anxiety will not be entirely dispelled until it is known that the members of the conference have all gone home and some information is obtained regarding their less public discussions.

Ministerial Vacancies.

It is reported that Ja'afar Abu Timmak has refused the portfolio of Commerce and no new appointment has yet been made. Similarly no new Minister of Justice has yet been appointed, and the British Adviser is acting as Minister.

An Arab Holiday.

Sha'ban 9 (June 2) was the anniversary of the declaration by King Hussein of his independence from the Turks, and orders were issued that the day should be a public holiday in 'Iraq and known as the "Yaum an-Nahdheh." The town was decorated, and there were some illuminations at night, but it cannot be said that the Baghdadi really showed any enthusiasm or any proper appreciation of the occasion. In the morning there was a reception on the parade ground of the 'Iraq Military College, at which the King, the High Commissioner, and all the leading members of the local and the British communities were present. Speeches were made and odes recited. This was followed by a march past of the Arab army stationed in Baghdad. Cavalry, infantry, artillery, medical units and transport were all on parade, and considerable surprise was evinced at the very creditable showing they made. Few people had any idea that the army had yet advanced beyond the crudest stage of recruit drills; but in point of fact the arm drill and movements were far above that level.

The University of 'Iraq.

After the reception and inspection of troops and scouts the King proceeded to Muadhdham, where, in the presence of a large and appreciative assembly, he laid the foundation stone of the future University of 'Iraq. The first building of which the actual foundation was laid is to be the School of Religious Law and Teaching, but it is to be followed by schools of Medicine, Engineering and Arts.

General News.

On Wednesday evening a concert was held in Maude Gardens in aid of the Salam Library. Sir Percy and Lady Cox were present, but the King was unavoidably absent. A noteworthy feature of the concert was a performance by four small girls, who played their parts with perfect composure, none of them showing the least sign of nerves. The band of the Norfolk Regiment was also present, and played several selections.

His Majesty paid a visit to Kut during the week and was well received.

The Maude Bridge has now been repaired and is in use again. The accident to the bridge has served to emphasize the urgent need of another sound bridge capable of taking all the traffic if the Maude Bridge is out of action. The Kotah Bridge is old and weak and cannot take heavy lorries at any time, and when reliance had to be placed on it alone cross river traffic was seriously dislocated.

PALESTINE.

Jerusalem, April 16.

Economies and Changes.

An odd end-of-the-age kind of atmosphere is brooding over the country; the curtain seems just due to drop on Act I, Scene 2, of the piece "British Palestine." . . . the play has not yet sufficiently developed to tell whether it is tragedy or comedy. There are several things which combine to give this end-of-the-chapter feeling: there is the heavy hand of economy obliterating posts and dismissing a considerable number of highly placed English officials; certain posts, created at the beginning of the Civil Administration as avowedly temporary expedients, cease automatically at the end of the coming June—e.g., the posts of Financial and Legal Secretary; the Prince of Wales' Volunteers, the regiment that has mounted guard over the peace of Jerusalem this past year, leaves us in a week or two, and no other English regiment is to replace it; the present week sees the departure of the High Commissioner and family, and also of Mr. Storrs—though only for a few months' leave; and in the last week we have been receiving cables repeating rumours from the English Press that General Tudor replaces Sir Herbert Samuel as High Commissioner of Palestine. That rumour has been promptly contradicted, and nobody here took it quite seriously, but it all helps to add to the prevailing "full-stop!—another-line" kind of impression. Then, too, the "Black and Tans" are due to arrive in force any day—we believe that our new Palestinian British Gendarmerie is not really and identically the original force, but the name has been applied to them already in advance and will doubtless stick as a convenient label to differentiate them from the half-dozen or so other bodies necessary to guard the peace of the Holy Land.

Whether the next chapter will continue the tale to the advantage of Jew or of Arab, or whether it will open up a story of peace or of trouble, nobody quite knows. Neither side is very hopeful. Lord Milner has been refreshingly irresponsible and "unofficial" in his outspoken replies to tearful and protesting Arab delegations, discouraging their slightest hope of a fundamental change in the application of the present British Palestinian policy. And the Jew is by no means happy: the Mandate would seem to be held up till the end of time; and though he is now allowed a limited use of his "National Home" no amount of insistence on his part can secure for him yet all the rights of a latch-key voter (whatever he may suppose these ought to be), let alone the use of a latch-key. His expectations of being able to pay the rent or even to buy up the entire premises have not been fulfilled: he can fill the country (if only he were allowed) with idealists with no money, but the root of the trouble is that the idealistic East-European majority-Jews cannot, to their sorrow, secure the confidence and control of the moneyed American-Jewish minority. There is a vicious circle: those who would invest their money in a some-day-to-be-somewhat-Jewish Palestine will not do so till they note symptoms of a slightly more flourishing present; and there will never be any such symptoms until the investor can be persuaded to show the initiative.

An Exhibition and Some Reflections.

In view of the need—from the Jewish point of view—of wooing foreign capital and introducing a measure of commercialism and modernised industry, to raise the country out of its two thousand years' stagnation, the following episode is not without interest. There is at present showing in the Citadel an "Exhibition of Palestine Crafts and Industries." Everybody interested in the industrial possibilities and the commercial future of the country will naturally seize the opportunity thus offered, and go prepared to make elaborate notes on recent developments and the possibilities of large scale production. But the visitor finds nothing but specimens of primitive handicraft, and when he would examine further to find what he wants, he is met by this note in the catalogue:—

"If in concluding this catalogue, which sums up the results of Palestinian endeavour in crafts and industries, the Commission are justified in drawing comparisons between the Traditional and the Modern, they would like to say this. The country is still young and the effort of modern workmanship slender. Next, the exhibition tends to show that the producers are more at home in the forms, designs and processes that have been carried on from time immemorial. Further, that success, in the opinion of the Commission lies rather in developing traditional processes and national and local forms, than in copying Western, and more particularly Western machine, methods. Palestine must remain an agricultural country, and its greatness will be in its three religious traditions. Both for agriculture and religion, the personal and the human methods will, with few exceptions, always mean more, and be of more real value in the national life than the methods of Western industrialism."

The effect of these remarks on the would-be investor in Palestine appears ultimately to have dawned on the Committee responsible for the Exhibition. They pasted an advertisement over the offending paragraph, thereby manifesting their uneasy conscience, attracting wholesale attention (of course everybody promptly unstuck the advertisement!) to their censured though doubtless sincere convictions, and demonstrating once more that persistent kink in some of our officials that Palestine is not to be considered anything more than a museum of antiques and curios.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Belgrade, April 20.

The Political Situation.

Parliament is now very quiet. The routine work is going on as usual, but the members do not display any political passion whatsoever. Their behaviour is now very different from what it was a fortnight ago, for the news from Genoa has acted magically on everybody. Once again the members are getting together to maintain a united front.

The news from Rome regarding the discussion between M. Ninchitch, the Yugoslav Foreign Minister, and Signor Schanzer, stating that the Yugoslavs are ready to alter the Treaty of Rapallo has caused great indignation in Belgrade. The tendency is very obvious, and the results are already seen in some separatist papers in Zagreb. In a wire from Genoa, M. Ninchitch explains that not only did he not consent to any alterations in the Adriatic Treaty, but that he had already protested to the Italian Minister against the suppression of his statement. The Treaty of Rapallo is regarded as a very hard one for the Yugoslavs as it is, and is looked on as a piece of political blackmail; any further concession would, therefore, be deemed a direct crime against the Nation. Yugoslavia has already sacrificed 200,000 people, who are none too happy in Italy, in order to preserve peace in Europe, but now it seems that the state of affairs in Yugoslavia would permit the country to ignore any "at-the-point-of-revolver" settlement of differences. The Italians are still holding the so-called "Third Zone," and are trying to make political capital of that fact, but they are playing a dangerous game. The latest news from the Government states that M. Pashitch is going to appeal to the League of Nations Tribunal to obtain possession of the Third Zone, since the Italians are obstinately refusing to fulfil their obligations under the Treaty of Rapallo.

General News.

King Alexander has been staying over Easter at Topola, the home of the Karageorgevitch Dynasty.

A collection was made on Good Friday for starving Russian children, and some 620,000 dinars have been handed over to the Relief Committee.

A truck load of explosives exploded at Monastir station, causing great damage and loss of 32 lives. The

number of injured is very small, for those caught within the air displacement radius were killed instantly. Buildings in the vicinity are still burning, and according to the latest reports there is a certain amount of danger of some ammunition dumps catching fire. Troops from Prilep have been ordered to Monastir.

Belgrade, April 27

The Split in the Cabinet.

A bitter dispute recently broke out between the Minister of War and the Yugoslav Moslem Organization, resulting in a vote being taken on whether the Mohammedan members should remain in the Government or not. The Minister for War was blamed for having supplied the Government with news of disloyal activity on the part of Yugoslavia's Moslem subjects, and of an alleged cooperation between Kemal Pasha and the Yugoslav Moslem Organisation. An explanation was called for in the Skupshtina, and General Vasitch, with the facts in his hands, proved that he had received the information from Asia Minor; but, beyond passing it on to the Council of Ministers, no further steps have been taken, since the Government has no real reason to doubt the good faith of its Moslem subjects. Moreover, General Vasitch placed himself at the disposal of the Moslem Ministers to explain more confidential matters, but the Ministers did not seem too ready to avail themselves of the opportunity of learning a few more probably very interesting truths.

However, after a strong campaign and some speechifying in Serayevo, where the extreme Moslems obtained a slight majority, it was decided that the Moslem Ministers should discontinue to work with the Government, and their resignations have been consequently delivered. These resignations have not been dealt with because the Skupshtina is not sitting, but it does not seem probable that the matter will be brought before Parliament, for, according to the latest information, the two Ministers have decided to withdraw their respective resignations until the Congress of the Moslem Party takes place. Once again M. Pashitch has succeeded in getting the Coalition safely between Scylla and Charybdis, and now since the Parliamentary Chart has not been altered, the Coalition is within the margin of safety until some fresh trouble develops.

One cannot help thinking what a narrow escape the Government had this time, because if the Croatian Bloc deputies came down to Belgrade and voted against the Government it would be compelled to resign.

The Monastir Disaster.

This unfortunate town, which has suffered so much during the war, is plunged once again into misery. After the first explosion, which occurred on the 19th instant, a series of fresh explosions followed, causing a very serious outbreak of fire. The panic-stricken people fled out to the country, but unfortunately many, more calm, remained under the ruins of the shattered town. Most of the higher buildings collapsed immediately, thus increasing the list of casualties, which up to the present is still uncertain, but the lowest estimates are allowing as many as 60 dead or seriously wounded.

The streets of Monastir look as though they had been swept by the war fury; glass is smashed to pieces and mixed with *débris* of all kinds, and shell fragments give the town the appearance of having undergone a strong bombardment. The streets are literally blocked to all traffic by destroyed houses, and one can hardly see a living creature walking through them. The fire assumed very serious dimensions, and the main dump containing about 250 waggon-loads of explosives was expected to blow up at any minute. Luckily an R.E. officer with a company of sappers succeeded, only just in time, in piercing the embankment of the Drago River, which immediately flooded the area of the fire, thus bringing the situation more or less under control. When the fire was localised the same officer attempted to remove some of the explosives, and while doing so two of his men

dropped a case containing ecrasite and the whole party was blown up. No trace could be found either of him or of his five men.

The Government has granted a credit of two million dinars to be distributed to the population, and a special committee of enquiry has gone to Monastir to ascertain the cause of this sad disaster. Competent authorities state that the cause of explosion is that the ammunition was made for use in the last war, and no safety provisions had been made for a long storage.

General News.

The Roumanian Queen on her return from Athens was met at Belgrade by King Alexander, who joined the Royal Party on their way to Bucharest, where he will spend a few days. Afterwards the King will proceed to Paris. No political reasons are attached to this visit to Paris, which is stated to be of a private nature.

Two days ago the motor-car in which M. Pashitch was travelling collided with a tramcar, and the Premier is now in bed with an injured rib and leg. This unhappy incident will definitely prevent him from attending the Genoa Conference.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, April 20.

Closing of Parliament.

During the last days of the recent short sitting of Parliament—which closed on April 12, to reassemble in November—besides the Provisionary Budget for 1922-23, referred to in my last letter, and the debating on the King's Opening Speech, which, owing to the non-participation of a large portion of the Opposition, was this time a very short affair, the Government was principally occupied with the passing of a series of secondary laws, of which the following are worth mentioning: the Amalgamation of the Ministries of Domains and Agriculture; the Abrogation of the most favoured nation clause granted to the United States in 1912; the recognition of the Roumanian Woman's League, whose aim it is to strive for political and civil rights; the Direct Taxes Law, which suppresses the tax on capital and reinstates a large portion of the old taxes, pending the voting of the New Fiscal Reform promised for the autumn session; the abrogation of certain articles of the New Dobruja Law of 1921, which are replaced by the original Law of 1914; and last, but not least, the House Rent Bill.

The last two laws caused the Government a certain amount of unpleasantness. The New Dobruja Bill was introduced into the Chamber by M. A. Constantinescu, the Minister of Domains and one of the mainstays of the Government, who asked urgency for it. This urgency however, was rejected by 100 votes to 82, and M. Constantinescu, considering a vote as directed against him personally, threatened to resign. To avoid a rupture within the Party, this incident was smoothed over at the following sitting, when the question of urgency was again put to the vote and admitted. Although the incident passed over without leaving any visible traces, it appears that even within the ranks of the well-disciplined Liberal Party there are counter-currents and rivalries, which only needed the temporary absence of its Leader abroad to manifest themselves. That the opposition towards the Minister of Domains came from the parliamentary majority is proved by the fact that the Opposition parties are practically non-existent in Parliament, there being about a dozen representatives in the Chamber and about half-a-dozen in the Senate.

The Government encountered a good deal of opposition also during the debating of the House Rent Bill, especially from the independent spirit of a certain section of the majority—generally called the "Young Liberals"—who expressed the wish that Bills before being brought into Parliament should be studied more thoroughly by the respective Departments.

Genoa and the Bessarabian Question.

The news from Genoa is being eagerly followed by the local press and public. The incident provoked by the Soviet Delegates' at the preliminary sittings accusing Roumania of having unjustly and forcibly appropriated Bessarabia has naturally given rise to comments in the local press, which took this opportunity of putting the Bessarabian question in its true and historical light. It is pointed out that up to the year 1812, when Russia, following her victorious war over Turkey, annexed Bessarabia, this province was part of the Principality of Moldavia, and as the Roumanian principalities were at that time under Turkish suzerainty, they were helpless to oppose this dismemberment. Despite the long period of separation under foreign yoke and the assiduous efforts at russification on the part of the Tsarist Government, the Bessarabian population, the bulk of which is essentially Roumanian or Moldavian—as it generally styles itself in this particular province—has steadfastly stuck to its traditions, customs and language; and at the first opportunity afforded it by the recent Russian revolution, it hastened to rejoin the mother-country of its own free will and on the principle of self-determination. The fact was also emphasized that this re-union has been sanctioned by the Allied Powers. The local press further expressed its satisfaction at the dignified and categorical manner in which M. Bratianu refuted the Soviet Delegates' allegations, when he also reminded them of the question of the Roumanian State Treasury at Moscow, which according to all appearances seems to have been misappropriated by the Soviet Government.

Russian Monarchist Plots.

The Roumanian Secret Police has recently discovered a vast organisation of spying supported by the Russian Monarchist party with Germany's help. A traveller of a German firm was found at one of the Roumanian-Hungarian frontier stations to be in possession of a trunk with a double bottom, containing cuttings from Roumanian papers referring to Army movements, political information, pamphlets of a military character, maps and a number of compromising letters. On further investigation it was established that the firm, "Bus," (these three letters probably representing the first initials of Bessarabia, Ukrainia and Siberia) was founded by a number of well-known Russians, among whom were General Brussiloff, Colonels Krasnoperoff, Seledevnichev, Olepnicov, Paultzer, etc., who under this camouflage of a commercial undertaking were carrying on a spying organization with very active representatives in the various countries but especially in those contiguous to Russia. So far the Police have been successful in arresting in Bucharest six representatives of this organization in Roumania; and on cross-examining them it was made clear that Germany's help is very considerable in the work of this organisation. It is further suspected that it is very closely connected with the attempted murder of Miliukoff.

Football Match between Belgrade and Bucharest.

On Sunday last an Association football match took place between the Belgrade team "Beogradsky" and a representative team of Bucharest in the presence of Prince Carol, Princess Marie, M. Antitch, the Yugoslav Minister at Bucharest, M. Corbescu, the Mayor of the Capital, and many others. Over 6,000 spectators were present, the record for a football match attendance in Bucharest. Princess Marie kicked off. The match was a very exciting one, for the two teams were very evenly matched, as was proved by the result: a draw, each side scoring two goals. After the match Prince Carol made a fitting speech, which was responded by M. Milosh Radoilavitch, President of the Beogradsky Club. Princess Marie, the future Queen of Yugoslavia, then gave every member of the visiting team a souvenir, and at the same time, offered a cup to be played for every year between Belgrade and Bucharest. The Mayor of Bucharest also presented the Belgrade team with a banner bearing the emblem of the town of Bucharest on one side and the monogram of the Roumanian

Federation of Sports Clubs on the other. The guests were then entertained by the Federation to a dinner presided over by Prince Carol, who is the Honorary Secretary of the Roumanian Federation of Sports Societies.

General News.

According to the latest news from Athens, Princess Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of the King of Roumania and wife of Prince George of Greece, who was seriously ill of typhoid fever, is now out of danger and on the way of recovery.

The Crown Prince of Roumania left Bucharest for Athens on Friday, April 14, to join his family.

Prince Nicolas arrived in Bucharest from London to spend the Easter holidays with his family.

A telegram from Rome announces that M. Také Jonescu is laid up with typhus. The first news of his condition were very disquieting, but according to the latest reports, the crisis is over, and no complications are feared.

Captain W. W. Jervis, the well-known Professor of Geography from Bristol University, is now in Roumania to study important economic and political problems of Greater Roumania. Captain Jervis is specially interested in the physical geography of the Dobruja and Bessarabia, and of the influence of the soil, vegetation and climate, on the population, etc.

ALBANIA.

Tirana, April 14.

The Genoa Conference.

Albania's first delegate to Genoa is Mehdi Frasheri. The Government thinks that for the economic relief of the Balkan countries a strict collaboration between all the States (Serbia, Bulgaria, Albania, and Greece) is urgent, especially for the construction of railway-lines and in port-facilities. It is to this end that the Albanian delegate has been instructed to work, and the Tirana Government has requested the League of Nations for its assistance in the work of economic relief and in the launching of a loan abroad.

The State of Siege.

The state of siege, which was proclaimed a month ago, is still in force, but it is not heavily felt, for no censorship has been set up over the Press or telegraphic correspondence.

The trial of the accused is actively proceeding. Up to the present there is no fact worth mentioning except that concerning Halid Lleshi, the notorious agitator, who has just been invited by the Serbs to Dibra.

Scutari and Kortcha.

The Conference of Ambassadors at Paris decided at its session on April 4 on the withdrawal of the Italian troops still at Scutari, and on the evacuation by the Greek troops of a small district to the south-east of Kortcha, which was still occupied by them. The Italian withdrawal is now completed, and no Italian soldiers remain on Albanian soil. As for the region south-east of Kortcha, the Greeks occupied it in May, 1920. While waiting for the fixing of the frontier the Conference has just demarcated a neutral zone which will soon be evacuated by the Greeks.

The Frontier Commission.

The International Commission continues its work at Scutari, and already it has marked out the frontier from the sea to a point east of the town. Numerous deputations from the mountain clans have been presented to the Commission, begging it not to sacrifice purely Albanian territory to Serbian greed.

GREECE.

Athens, April 22.

Germany's Duplicity.

In reviewing the international post-war political situation, the Venizelist organ, *Eleftheron Vema*, reminds its readers that Great Britain has tried very hard to create a powerful Greece in the Levant. Since the last elections, however, it continues, she has lost all

faith in Hellas and the vitality of the Greek people. Moreover, the policy adopted by the various Greek Governments has in no way contributed towards increasing the friendliness of Great Britain or towards dispelling the many misunderstandings which arose with France. The Greek journal goes on to say that the secret agreement between the Germans and the Bolsheviks affords Greece a good opportunity to escape the destruction with which she is threatened, and adds that a really capable Government inspiring confidence among the Powers and adopting a policy in conformity with Allied interests, could take advantage of the just indignation felt, as a result of the new German treachery, and thus not only regain England's lost confidence but also dispel France's hostility.

From a Greek point of view the announcement of the secret agreement between Germany and the Soviets is regarded as the best piece of news the country has had for a long time, and the Greek is wondering whether the Allies will now realise what a huge mistake they are making in giving Asia Minor back to the Turk. That Kemal was backed by the Bolsheviks and that the latter were on very intimate terms with the Germans was of course no secret, but with the exception of a few French diplomatists who openly condemned both the British and the French policy of conciliation and reasonableness adopted towards the conquered foe, no one suspected Germany of foul play. The Allied interests, it is argued here, would probably be served far better if the Greek Army were allowed to remain in possession of the territory it is now occupying in Asia Minor, until all danger of a new "made in Germany" bridge to India is, at least for the time being, averted.

Meanwhile reports are reaching us from Smyrna to the effect that the "Committee for the Defence of Asia Minor" which has been formed there is extremely active. Instructions have been issued to all the Christian communities of the territories occupied by the Hellenic forces to send representatives to the General Assembly

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of the "Micrasiates" which will be convoked shortly in Smyrna. The object of this Assembly is to enlighten the Christian population of Asia Minor on the real situation and to decide which would be the best way to safeguard their interests. It is reported that all male inhabitants of Ionia between the age of 18 and 36 will be called up before the evacuation of the regular Greek forces.

Greece's Reply.

The Prime Minister is leaving Genoa to-day and is expected in Athens next Tuesday, in which case the National Assembly will be convoked on Thursday. According to rumours originating from well-informed Government circles, it appears that the Government will endeavour to avoid a parliamentary debate on the question of the Greek reply to the Allied peace proposals. It is understood, however, that the various Opposition leaders, especially General Danglis and M. Stratos, are determined that the whole question shall be thrashed out in the National Assembly, which alone can decide whether the reply formulated by the Government is in conformity with the nation's wishes. Next Thursday's sitting, therefore, promises to be full of interest, and will very possibly result in a fresh ministerial crisis.

The Orthodox Easter.

The Easter holidays passed off quietly, and the capital has once again resumed its normal aspect. All official business has ceased for six days, and the theatres, picture houses and other places of entertainment remained closed by order of the police from Holy Thursday until midnight on Saturday. Despite their enormous number, every church in Athens was crowded throughout the week. The Orthodox Greek is very religious, and it would weigh heavily on his conscience if he did not attend the services on Holy Thursday and Good Friday, and fast during the whole week. On Good Friday it is practically impossible to buy meat, as all the butchers' shops remain closed. There is only a very small quantity available which is reserved for the better class hotels and for the foreign residents or visitors who are not fasting. Even dishes prepared with olive oil are prohibited by the Church during Holy Week, so the poorer classes have to content themselves with boiled vegetables, olives (strange to say though oil is banned the fruit which produces it is included among the permissible dishes), a peculiar kind of sweetmeat called *halva* which is made from the oil of sesame and sugar, and fruit. The wealthier classes consume large quantities of caviare (a very expensive delicacy in Greece nowadays) and tinned lobster or crab.

Owing to a slight indisposition, the King did not attend the midnight Resurrection Service at the Cathedral on Saturday, but the Queen and the Royal Princes and Princesses were there. His Majesty was also unable to pay his customary visit to the barracks and military hospitals on Sunday morning to wish the officers and men *Christos Anesti*.

The usual Easter Service was held in the English Church on Sunday morning. The Church, which was tastefully decorated, was crowded, and included among its congregation, Queen Marie of Roumania.

Miscellaneous News.

Prince Carol of Roumania arrived in Athens last Monday. Princess Elizabeth's condition is gradually improving.

The Chief of the British Naval Mission to Greece, Admiral Aubrey Smith, has returned from Constantinople.

A resolution was passed by the Municipal Council of Athens conferring the freedom of the city of Athens on the philhellene British Member of Parliament, Mr. T. P. O'Connor. Mr. O'Connor is expected shortly in Athens.

Fifteen of the National Defence officers who sought refuge in Constantinople after the last elections, have proceeded to the Asia Minor front and placed themselves under the orders of General Papoulas.

Two fatal cases of plague are reported from Patras.

M. Stergiadis has arrived from Smyrna and attended a Council of Ministers held on the following morning. The Greek High Commissioner was also received by the

King and subsequently called on the British and French Diplomatic Representatives.

The leader of the Reformist Party, M. Stratos, addressed a letter to M. Baltazzi, the Foreign Minister, pointing out that the Government had no right to discuss the peace proposals without previously consulting the National Assembly. M. Baltazzi replied that no decision would be taken until M. Gounaris' return.

An official telegram from Smyrna states that the Mussulman population of Kutahia held a meeting to protest against the decision of the Allies to restore that town to the Kemalists. A protest meeting was also held in Salonika.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, April 19.

The Military "Organ" of Liquidation.

A great deal has been written in the local Press regarding the attitude taken up by the Organ of Liquidation in the fulfilment of its duty. It is alleged that the Organ, instead of liquidating the work of the Control Commission, is commencing a thorough revival of the military clauses of the Peace Treaty. In view of these allegations it is interesting to reproduce certain passages of M. Poincaré's letter to the Bulgarian Government last February. The President of the Conference of Ambassadors wrote, under date of February 15, as follows: "The Military Commission, owing to circumstances over which it had no control, has not been able to finish off certain matters such as, demobilisation of certain Gendarmerie, disarmament of the civilian population, and the handing over of war material. In order to lighten the burden that military control places on Bulgaria, the Conference of Ambassadors has decided to replace the Commission by an Organ of Liquidation, which shall possess a very restricted personnel. The Bulgarian Government will be responsible for the entire cost of upkeep of the Organ of Liquidation." It is of course possible that further instructions have been sent from Paris to the Organ of Liquidation, but if so they have not reached the Bulgarian Government. The situation as it is to-day is highly anomalous. The Inter-allied Control Commission, after an eighteen months' sojourn in Bulgaria, departed declaring that the work was all but finished. The Organ has begun to work on lines which assume that the military clauses of the Peace Treaty are far from being completed. The personnel of the Organ, which according to M. Poincaré's letter was to be much restricted, consists of 6 officers, 7 N.C.O.'s performing the duties of officers, and 23 other persons. This is a grand total of 36, not falling very far short of the number of persons employed by the Interallied Commission, which is fulfilling a far more important role. The salaries paid to the members of the Military Organ are very considerable, the Chief receiving 35 times as much as the Chief of Staff of the Bulgarian Army, not to mention free quarters and motor cars. The Organ has now been functioning for over two months, but it shows no signs of closing down. What is required is a ruling by the Allies as to the status of the Organ of Liquidation. During March, the Organ requested the Government to draw up a Law dealing with "Military Justice." Admitting that this subject comes under the purview of the Organ, although even this is open to doubt, it is hard to understand the reasoning which prompted the Organ to insist that no military lectures may be given in schools, and that no meetings at which military subjects are discussed may be held. The view held by the great majority of both foreigners and Bulgarians is that the Organ of Liquidation is performing its task in a manner likely to lead to trouble, and is not befitting the nations it represents.

Democrats and Narodniaks.

The Democrats and Narodniaks have concluded a working agreement very similar to the one made a year ago. The previous agreement was arranged by M. Liaptcheff on behalf of the Democrats, and M. Bourouff on behalf of the Narodniaks. Owing to the machinations of certain party politicians the agreement concluded

last year did not continue, but this time the agreement is on a more solid and stable basis. Democrats and Narodniaks represent about 25 per cent. of the present Sobranье.

Bulgaria and Russia.

In her relations with Russia, Bulgaria finds herself in a very difficult position. Last week, a Note was received from the Ukrainian Government which accused the Bulgarian Government of intriguing with Wrangel against Soviet Russia. The Note stated that any move by Wrangel against Russia would be considered by the Soviets as a hostile act of the Bulgarian Government. On the other hand, certain critics of Bulgaria, some of whom reside in Fleet Street, write that Bulgaria is only biding her time in order to make a definite alliance with Moscow.

M. Yaneff, the acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, declared last week that the policy of the Bulgarian Government lay neither with Wrangel nor with the Soviet. This is true.

The Balkan Committee.

The Memorandum prepared by the Balkan Committee for the Genoa Conference has been reproduced and warmly commented on, in nearly all the Bulgarian newspapers. It is noted that the signatories of the Memorandum are numerous and that several new and influential names appear. As Genoa is not to deal with Peace Treaties, it is doubtful whether the Memorandum will have any great effect, but in any case it goes to show that there is a current of public opinion in England that is not forgetful of Bulgaria's claims.

A New Newspaper.

A new newspaper has been started in Sofia. It goes under the name of *Slove*, which signifies, "word." The paper calls itself non-party, but it is only fair to say that the promoters and collaborators are for the most part members of the Bourgeois parties. The general get-up and style of the paper are considerably in advance of any other Sofia paper, and the news service promises to be both comprehensive and exact. If the standard of the first few numbers is maintained, the *Slove* should prove a very valuable addition to the Bulgarian Press.

Easter.

The Easter holidays are over, and shops and banks are open once again. On Easter eve, the usual service was held in the old Cathedral, but the King was not present, having gone away to his shooting box at Critchim near Phillipopolis.

Personal.

Major Neate, for some time a member of the British Military Mission at Sofia, has arrived to take up his duties as British member of the Organ of Liquidation, *vice* Major Milner, who is returning to England.

M. Charles Maskens, the new Belgian Minister, presented his Letters of Credence to King Boris on Tuesday, March 11. M. Maskens was formerly Counsellor at the Belgian Legation at London.

TURKEY.

Constantinople, April 15.

Angora's "Acceptance."

Now there has been time to examine carefully the nature of the Angora Government's reply to the Allied proposal for an armistice, it should be clear that the Press announcements which described that reply as an "acceptance" were erroneous. The complete evacuation of Anatolia by the Greeks would, *ipso facto*, bring about an armistice, for the simple reason that the two belligerents would be unable to get at each other! The reply of the Angora Government provided additional evidence in support of the contention that the Nationalists have no intention of negotiating until the Allies have completely discarded every weapon they possess, which would enable the Angora Government to dictate its own terms. By describing the reply to the Allied proposals as an acceptance, the European Press has once again fallen into a trap, for although the Angora Government never had any intention of accepting the Allied proposal, it realised the imperative necessity of avoiding

all appearance of returning a blunt refusal as compared with the Greek reply. Hence the reply was couched in terms to the effect that the proposal was accepted—but the Allies must discard their weapons first. In reality the reply was to the effect that the proposal was not accepted, and another completely different proposal accompanied the refusal. In view of the repeated declarations of Nationalist leaders, and in the absence of any reason to warrant the assumption that the Angora Government has not every intention of acting in conformity with those declarations, there should be no grounds for surprise at the nature of the Angora Government's attitude.

As a matter of fact, the attitude of Angora in the matter was clear from the outset, for the publications of the Anatolian Agency, which are directly inspired, chiefly by Mustapha Kemal himself, left hardly any room for doubt as to the nature of the reply that would be made. For instance, shortly before the Allied proposal actually reached Angora, the Anatolian Agency published a report to the effect that the British Government had made secret overtures to the Angora Government for the conclusion of a 25 years' agreement upon the condition that the Angora Government should terminate anti-British propaganda in return for the evacuation of Anatolia by the Greeks. The announcement terminated with the sneering comment: "The British seem to think that this country is Egypt." Neither has there been the slightest respite from the vicious anti-British propaganda campaign in Anatolia, and in such circumstances it was impossible for careful observers on the spot to share the optimism that was expressed in Europe on the strength of Angora's "acceptance."

The Peace Proposals.

Although the Angora Government has not yet replied to the Allied peace proposals, the reply communicated by the Sublime Porte has aroused the utmost indignation amongst the Nationalists. Once again Izzet Pasha has been the subject of venomous attacks both in the Assembly and in the Anatolian press, and the Anatolian Agency has expressed the opinion that it is high time to prove conclusively to the whole world that the only government possessing the right to voice the desires of the nation is the Great National Assembly. The Sublime Porte's reply is violently condemned as a betrayal of the country to its enemies, and Izzet Pasha is openly accused of having come to a secret arrangement with Lord Curzon. Seldom, indeed, has the Angora press exceeded its present outburst of hysteria, the essential reason for which is clearly the persistence of the Sublime Porte in maintaining its status as the official Government of the Sultan as recognised by the Allies and the rest of the civilised world.

Under these conditions, it is hardly logical to expect a very satisfactory reply to the peace proposals from the Angora Government, and the objections already formulated in the Angora Press are not of a nature to induce optimism. It has been pointed out in previous letters that the Turkish problem long ago emerged from the stage of a mere territorial dispute, and that the real issue rather involves the Angora Government's conception of "independence." This view is being fully borne out, for while the territorial question is given due prominence, equal emphasis is being laid upon the necessity for securing the "political, economic and financial independence of the nation." Unless the Nationalists make eleventh hour concessions of an extensive nature in these respects, it is difficult to see how their views can be reconciled with the legitimate interests of the Allies, even when allowance has been made for the most generous concessions by the latter.

The Capitulations.

Emphasis needs to be laid upon the question of the Capitulations, the complete and unconditional abolition of which will alone satisfy the Nationalists. No fair-minded foreigner who knows anything about the question will deny that in many respects the Capitulations stand in urgent need of alteration, in that they give foreigners in Turkey certain undue advantages over

Ottoman subjects. There are very few foreigners, however, who would care to risk residing in Turkey without the essential guarantees for security of life and property which the Capitulations provide; and it would be an unwarrantable betrayal of both honour and interest for the Allies to consent to the unconditional abolition of the Capitulations. Carefully shepherded foreigners have written glowing accounts of the Kemalist administration, but it is less than twelve months ago that a British subject was fiendishly tortured and done to death by slow strangulation in the streets of Angora after a mockery of a trial. He was highly educated and cultured man being a graduate of Edinburgh and Heidelberg Universities, but in spite of the obvious preposterousness of the charge of espionage that was brought against him and in spite of his being an Indian Moslem he was barbarously done to death for political reasons. Similar treatment has been meted out to thousands of unfortunate victims of Kemalist "justice" during the last two years and it is this "equality of treatment" that the Angora Government guarantees for both foreigners and Christian minorities, as well as for its political opponents amongst the Turks themselves. What has taken place in Cilicia since the evacuation of that country by the French is a sufficient testimony in itself. The question of the Capitulations is thus one that touches the vital interests as well as the honour of the Allies, and it is to be hoped that these considerations will not be set aside, whatever other concessions may be made in the interests of peace.

The Position of the Central Government.

The attitude of the Angora Government has become a source of serious embarrassment to the Cabinet, and another crisis is in prospect. The resignation of the Minister of Finance, Faik Nuzhet Bey, was brought about by certain differences between that Minister and the Allied Financial Commission established during the administration of Damad Ferid Pasha, and it is possible that the next holder of that most difficult office at the present moment will be a member of the new Administration. The Allied proposals appear to be producing the result of bringing the relations between the Central Government and Angora to a head, and it is doubtful whether the present Administration can remain in power if the proposals in question produce any results.

Constantinople, April 24.

The Allied Proposals.

The nature of the Angora Government's reply to the Allied Note of April 15 should be ample proof of the mistake made by the press of Europe in describing the Nationalist reply to the Allied armistice proposals as an "acceptance." It would have been equally logical—or illogical—to have described the European armistice

of 1918 as having been accepted by the Allies! For the attitude of the Angora Government is frankly that of victors towards the vanquished. According to the Angora point of view, the bayonets of the Kemalist army have forced the Allies to bow their heads, and the "vanquished" must therefore withdraw, afterwards the Angora Government will—dictate peace! Those who signed the Treaty of Sèvres have been forced by the Kemalist army to "lick away their signatures," in the inspired language of the Anatolian Agency, and will be forced to endorse the National Pact on their knees by signing a new treaty drawn up by the Grand National Assembly.

Although the tone of the replies of the Angora Government to the Allied Notes is blander than that of the Anatolian Agency, both are inspired by the same spirit of cast-iron intransigence. There is nevertheless reason to believe that some of the Angora leaders are beginning to lose their nerve, for the resignations of the Commissioners for Finance and War, Hassan Bey and "Keup-rulu" Kiazim "Pasha," are plainly connected with the financial and military situation of the Angora Government. The explanation given by Nationalist circles in Constantinople for the resignation of these two Ministers, namely their disagreement with the "conciliatory" nature of the Angora Government's reply to the Allied proposals, cannot be accepted, for the simple reason that the reply in question is uncompromising. It has been no secret for a long time that the Angora treasury is in very low water, and that the number of desertions from the army has reached a serious figure. There is also very good reason to believe that in spite of the inflated verbiage of the Anatolian Press, the unbending attitude of the Angora Government is not a true reflection of the sentiments either of the mass of the population or of the army in general. The Young Turks are notorious gamblers, but among them there are a few who realise that the longest run of good luck must come to an end sooner or later, and the reasons for the resignations of the Commissioners for Finance and War are undoubtedly connected with their realisation of the extreme improbability of increasing the already very heavy Turkish winnings by continuing to stake everything on "swords."

If there were no outside influences at work in Angora, there might be some hope of breaking down the uncompromising policy of Mustapha Kemal to a certain extent, but it is unfortunately certain that the policy of the Angora Government is being shaped by Russian counsels. There is also reason to believe that the Kemalists have received some clandestine encouragement from the French, and it is exceedingly unfortunate, to say the least, that the Allies should not have been able even yet to establish complete harmony and unity of purpose among themselves. The obvious contradiction between acceptance of the "totality of the peace terms" and the qualification "subject to discussion of particular points" was a serious flaw in the Allied Note, and clear evidence of incomplete union and sincerity amongst the Allies themselves. It is inconceivable that any of the Allied chanceries acting independently would have made such an error of diplomacy as to have used the bizarre term "particular points" instead of "matters of detail." The Angora Government naturally utilised the loop-hole which one cannot help concluding must have been designedly introduced into the Note.

The Angora Government's Reply.

Stripped of all verbiage the Angora Government's reply to the Allied Note of April 15 amounts to a rejection both of the armistice proposal and of the general peace conditions, which are described as not being of a nature to satisfy the national desire to be rid of "political, economic and juridical chains." This particular passage of the Angora Government's reply is in reality the most important part of the whole communication, and amply confirms what has been pointed out in previous letters to THE NEAR EAST regarding the Nationalist Young Turk interpretation of the term "independence." The offer to send delegates to discuss matters at Ismidt is obviously merely a manoeuvre with the object of throwing upon the Allies the ostensible responsibility for breaking off the tentative negotiations.

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

A "SEMITIC NATIONAL HOME."

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—Your correspondent, Mr. Adolf Waley, has put forward a suggestion for the solution of a very difficult problem, the problem of reconciling the Arabs of Palestine to the trying of the Zionist experiment in that country; and it would be a happy thing if the two parties, Arab and Zionist, would act upon the suggestion. But is there any probability of their ever doing so? Family feuds, we know, are always more bitter than those between parties who are unrelated, and it always seemed to me when I was travelling in the East that, though Arab and Jew might tolerate one another up to a point, they could never be real friends. They have many characteristics in common, though, no doubt, their points of unlikeness are far more numerous than the points of any likeness between them; but I, for one, fear that they are never likely to settle down peaceably in Palestine. Yet Mr. Waley's letter opens up an alluring prospect, and it is to be wished that the Arab and Jewish leaders could be persuaded to consider this suggestion with care, and, if possible, together.

I am, etc.

HALER.

London, April 29.

PARTY POLITICS IN GREECE.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—In the lexicon of the newspaper world accuracy and impartiality are the fundamental concepts.

This thought came into my mind when reading the notes of your Athens Correspondent in the issue of your Journal of April 6.

Many statements not quite in accordance with fact are made therein. He states that there were present in the Chamber of Deputies 303 Deputies at the time the vote of confidence in the Government was asked for. The exact number was 263, and of these 10 refrained from voting, M. Gounaris obtaining the votes of 164 of the remainder. It will readily be seen, therefore, that the majority in favour of the Greek Premier was 89. Your Correspondent also states that the Mussulman Deputies did not even appear at the sitting of the Chamber—I myself, who was present throughout the entire sitting, counted nine, and spoke to five.

Your Correspondent's explanation of a second crisis being averted is crude and misleading. To those who were not in direct touch with the political pulse of the moment it appeared that there was a certain danger of the Government falling, but to others who had fully realised and appreciated the finer diplomatic points of the situation it was apparent that there was no possibility of a ministerial crisis. M. Gounaris was assured of a sound working majority before he replied to his critics, who after all, did little more than once again traverse well-beaten tracks in their criticisms, and this assurance became a conviction before the Premier concluded his speech.

The truth of the position is that Greece possesses no other man who could adequately fill the position of M. Gounaris, a position fraught with much care and anxiety, chiefly because of the chaos that prevailed in the country's internal and external affairs when he was first called upon to assume office. His personal sacrifices of time and labour would also have availed him little had he not the attribute of obtaining the closest loyalty and unstinted support of his ministerial colleagues.

Criticism is easy; generalisation in speeches is easy, but the outstanding fact overwhelms the opposition to which M. Gounaris had been subjected, that not one

of the Leaders of the several small parties against him in the Greek Chamber had the pluck or the grit to take the Greek Premiership when it was offered to them. They preferred displaying their gifts of empty criticism to their few listeners who, themselves, failed to appreciate the situation in its depth of seriousness—they preferred, when tested, to reign in the snug security of their own little parties than to brave the uncertain and stormy elements of higher and better things. I do not know the Greek Premier personally; I have little interest in local politics, and I nurse no brief for the present Government, but the moral courage displayed by the Premier intrigues me, and my admiration is readily given to him as a Man who for the sake of his country carries on in the face of all difficulties, and who displays such a kindly forbearance towards the obvious weaknesses of his detractors.

I am, etc.,

J. B. HARRIS.

43, Kehayia Street,
New Phaleron. April 14.

THE BALLADS OF MARKO KRALYEVITCH.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—I am indebted to your reviewer for a very friendly notice of my translation of the Marko ballads, but some of his criticisms seem to call for a word of comment. He says, for example, that the omission of Dozon's "L'épopée serbe" from the bibliography is "unfortunate." If he turns to page 189 he will find the name of this book in its proper place under the heading "Auguste Dozon."

At the same time the list makes no pretence to be exhaustive. It consists almost entirely of books either read or consulted by me, and I admit that the short essay on Marko in the *Oxford and Cambridge Review* of 1911 had escaped my notice.

Again he says: "'Pola pije' is an oversight for 'polu.'" He is mistaken. Then the phrase 'josh ono shlo zhezhenno zlato' was troublesome because of the vagueness of its application. My difficulty was with the words 'josh ono shlo' and not with 'zhezhenno zlato' as the reviewer appears to think. 'Iaistina' is the name given to Marko's servant in one of the ballads, and I did not think it necessary to write a note on its etymology. I felt there was a real danger that my modest craft might founder beneath an overload of annotation and I therefore strove to dispense with notes as far as possible. Thus Mount Athos was not commented on; sufficient information can be found in any encyclopaedia.

Njemadija according to your reviewer, is equivalent to the land of the "N jem-tsi" or Germans. He is in good company, for Vuk is of the same opinion. My Serbian referee, however, thought the obvious derivation a very dubious one, and in deference to his opinion I struck out "Germany" and substituted the "N jemadija" of the original. I agree that "Brđjanin" means "of the Brda," but I allowed myself, on this occasion, to use an English word, which, less crabbed in appearance was yet reasonably descriptive. With regard to "kesedjia" I relied on Vuk's definition: 'ein türkischer Strassenrauber: turcicus equo vectus,' and after weighing the claims of 'highwayman' and 'outlaw' decided finally on the latter.

The word *prezime* is a mistake which had been overlooked and I am glad to have had it pointed out.

It is most interesting to learn that an annotated English version of Marko has existed in MS. for twenty years. If I had been aware of the fact I should assuredly not have attempted the task. I am conscious of a thousand shortcomings and imperfections in the very limited scope of my essay, and am correspondingly grateful for the suggestive and helpful criticism contained in your review.

I am, etc.,

D. H. LOW.

42, Kersland Street, Glasgow.
April 22, 1922.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

AN ASIATIC ANTHOLOGY.

"TRANSLATIONS OF EASTERN POETRY AND PROSE." By **Reynold A. Nicholson, Litt.D., LL.D., Lecturer in Persian in the University of Cambridge.** (The University Press, 1922. 8s. 6d. net).

The literatures of Arabia and Persia are the growth of a thousand years: they reflect every phase through which man's intellect has passed, and have idiosyncrasies which pass the average Westerner's comprehension. Professor R. A. Nicholson stands foremost in a little group of European scholars who have mastered the languages of Hither Asia; he has added to a great reputation by giving the world an anthology which preserves much of the elusive flavour of the original works. Poetry, being the supreme expression of a nation's soul, almost defies translation, especially into a language so poor in assonants as English: and the renderer's task is further complicated by the fact that the metres used by Arabian and Persian poets differ widely from our own. The following specimens prove that Professor Nicholson has triumphed over the difficulties that beset him:—

From **Abū Nuwās**, a boon companion of the Caliph **Harun-al-Rashid**. (780-809 A.D.)

Make the most of Youth, it stayeth not for ever.
Let the wine flow round from morn to eve—one river!
Pour into thy cup a sparkling ruddy vintage
That will melt to ruth the miser's hardest vintage,
Sought and chosen out of old for Persia's ruler,
Dowered with twin delights of fragrancy and colour.
Seest not that I have pawned my soul for liquor,
Kissed the mouths of fair gazelle and foaming beaker?
'Tis because I know, full well I know and fear it,
Far apart shall be my body and my spirit.

A truly catholic spirit inspires this quotation by the illustrious mystic **Abi'l Khair** (967-1049):—

Not until every mosque beneath the sun
Lies ruined, will our holy work be done;
And never will true Musalman appear
Till faith and infidelity are one.

Jalāl u' d-din Rumi (d. 1273) is Persia's greatest mystic poet: but he seems to have anticipated Darwin's epoch-making doctrines by singing:—

I died as mineral and became a plant,
I died as plant, and rose to animal,
I died as animal—and I was Man:
Why should I fear? When was I less by dying?
Yet once more I shall die as man to soar
With angels blest; but e'en from angelhood
I must pass on: all except God doth perish.

The quintessence of mysticism is to be found in a poem on the Creation by **Jāmi** (1414-92) who was Persia's greatest genius. It begins:—

From all eternity the Beloved unveiled
His beauty in the solitude of the Unseen;
He held up the mirror to His own face,
He displayed his loveliness to Himself,
He was both the spectator and the spectacle,
No eye but His had surveyed the universe.

Of equal interest are Professor Nicholson's extracts from the copious prose literature of Arabia and Persia. Some of them are tinged with quaint humour, which

rarely appears in Asiatic poetry, e.g., "An Ass that died of love," recounted by the historian **Mas'ūdi**, who died A.D. 976:—

The Caliph **Mutawakkil** said to **Abu'l 'Anbas**: "Tell me about your ass and his death and the poetry which he recited to you in a dream." "Yes, O Prince of the Faithful, my ass had more sense than all the Cadis together; 'twas not in him to run away or stumble. Suddenly he fell sick and died. Afterwards I saw him in a dream and said to him, 'O my ass, did I not keep thy water cool and thy barley clean, and show thee the utmost kindness? Why didst thou die so suddenly?' 'True,' he answered, 'but on the day you stopped to converse with so-and-so, the perfumer, about such-and-such an affair, a beautiful she-ass passed by: I saw her, and lost my heart, and loved so passionately that I died of grief, pining for her.' 'O my ass,' said I, 'didst thou not make a poem on the subject?' 'Yes,' he answered, and then chanted—'I was frenzied by a she-ass at the door of a perfumer. She enthralled me, smiling coyly, showing me her lovely side-teeth, charmed me with a pair of soft cheeks coloured like the *Shaikurani*. For her sake I died and had I lived, then great were my dishonour.' I said 'O my ass, what is the *Shaikurani*?' 'This,' he replied, 'is one of the strange and uncommon words in the language of asses.'" **Mutawakkil** was delighted, he ordered the minstrels to set the ass's poem to music and sing it on that day.

The poet **Jāmi** tells the following story regarding **Amr** the son of **Bahr**, nicknamed **Jāhiz**, the "Goggle-eyed":—

Jāhiz said: "I never felt so much ashamed of myself as one day when a woman laid hold of me and led me to a brassfounder's shop, and said to the master—'Like this!' I was at a loss and begged him to explain. 'She bade me make for her an image of the Devil,' he replied; 'and when I said that I did not know what it should be like, she fetched you as a model!'"

It is to be hoped that future editions of this fascinating book will give the Arabic and Persian originals side by side with Professor Nicholson's translations.

F. H. S.

INDIAN UNREST.

"ABDICATION." By **Edmund Candler.** (London: Constable. 7s. 6d. net).

Mr. Candler has given us in this successor to "Sir Ram," which he published some years ago, a brilliant and many sided study of the present state of discontent in India. When we ask as **Skene** asks **Riley** "What's your remedy?" we do not find an answer here. The author does not show us whether his opinions are those of **Riley**, with his arguments for giving India complete self-government, or those of **Skene** when he says: "You do not think about our responsibility to the masses."

Riley is the editor of the *Thompsonpur Gazette* (**Thompsonpur** and its purity native half **Gopalpura** are described as being situated in the "New Province"), and scandalises the official population by his views. But he is able to see the danger of **Baraktullah**, an unscrupulous Mohammedan journalist, a great supporter of the Hindu-Moslem entente, who distorts **Ghandi's** words and persistently incites the people to violence chiefly because "poison pays," and to realise that his form of extremism is not any more likely to help matters than old **Colonel Hobbs** to whom "Indians were still children to be meted out reward or punishment according to the convenience or inconvenience of their conduct as it affected British interests. He was convinced that the Reforms were part of some Hun-inspired Semitic intrigue to undermine the British Empire, for which sole purpose Mr. Montague has been treacherously appointed Secretary of State." **Riley** is not a practical politician but an idealist who is haunted by the magic of the East, and when the pro-

THE JEWS

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prietors of the *Thompsonpur Gazette* finally dispense with his services—after his refusal to open a Dyer fund in the paper—he learns how to operate for cataract and wanders away to Tibet.

All Mr. Chandler's characters, the Englishmen and the Indians of many types, are splendidly drawn. Banarsi Das, who was a friend of Siri Ram, is the central figure amongst the Indians. The greatest achievement of this powerful book is the portrayal of his vacillation between adherence to Ghandi and to the British Raj which has so often befriended him, of his easily roused enthusiasm, of his hopeless cowardice and of the unrelenting grimness of his end. There is so much humour as well as such tragedy in his story that he is a figure who will not easily be forgotten.

The book gained an additional topical interest by being published just after Ghandi's arrest. There is a most arresting description of Ghandi's visit to Gopalpura, which really does give an idea of the extent of his influence. We feel we can almost see the Mahatma sitting "cross-legged on the folded hood of the motor like a diminutive Buddha," so vivid is the scene.

One chapter in which Mr. Chandler lets us see more of his great gift of humour without introducing any touch of caricature is that in which he tells us about the luncheon party given by Amba Pershad, an extremely clever cultured Brahmin, to introduce Sir Anthony Greening, a globe-trotting Labour M.P., to the leading Indians of the city. It is delight to read it, from Amba Pershad's rescue of the M.P. from the egregious Barak-tullah, who always addresses him as "Sir Greening" to the last sentences "on the whole Sir Anthony had been a success. The Nawab's son up aloft in his camel carriage was thinking: 'What a wonderful people they must be, if even their coolies are like that.' It was the only reflection that disturbed his tranquillity during the afternoon."

Apart from the tragic history of Banarsi Das, that pathetic product of European education working on an Eastern mind, the book has no plot and is really a representation from many angles of the problem now facing the Government of India. The author sometimes leaves this subject to write of Riley's love of the East, which was not killed after three years of war in Mesopotamia. He is haunted by a vision of Orguné in "Sohrab and Rustam," and there is real romance in the description of his wanderings in search of this magic place.

This is most distinctly a book that is well worth reading, both for its political interest and its very real literary merits.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Cambridge History of India." Volume I. Ancient India. (Cambridge University Press. 42s. net.)
 "Via Triumphalis." By Edward J. Thompson. (Oxford University Press. 6s. net.)

MUSICAL NOTES.

BEETHOVEN AND THE L.S.Q.

It is a common practice to hail the return from abroad of any musician or body of musicians with such a remark as "fresh from Continental triumphs," and in speaking of the London String Quartet, who have toured practically the whole world, it has become a universal cliché. As a matter of fact, it is, like most clichés, a lie: foreign triumphs do not make musicians fresh, but only their Press agents. We know very well the deterioration which the L.S.Q. underwent last year, and we put it down then, perhaps wrongly, to their undoubted successes in America. But it was a different matter this time, and it is a great pleasure to welcome a notable improvement in their playing: our pride in them is once more installed.

They played during their recent visit to London the whole of Beethoven's seventeen Quartets, and though

I heard them in the first nine only, I dare swear that the interpretation of the last eight also, the most difficult, has vastly improved. Their tone, collectively and individually (but for the viola) is still far from being a Flonzaley tone, their rhythm just as distant from a Léner rhythm, but they have a directness, a technical finish, and a unanimity that make their readings at the least enjoyable and at the best moving. For me their highest playing was in the third movement—the Andante with variations—of the Fifth Quartet: here they launched and floated the themes with superb craftsmanship. But their lightness and grace made nearly all the fast movements a pleasure, and their slips in intonation were but few. In the slow movements of the first nine quartets, those great conceptions which so surely foreshadow the Beethoven of the third period—you can trace even in the Andante I have mentioned the master who later gave us the Arietta of Op. 111—there was a dry beauty of expression that scarcely compensated for richness and depth of tone, a correctness of feeling that came rather from scanning than from plumbing. And one peculiarity of the L.S.Q., a peculiarity in which they on all possible occasions indulged was an over-sharpening of attack, amounting almost to a stab, which, wanted in some places, became monotonous in others. However, in technique and scholarship generally the L.S.Q. is equal to most quartets in the world, and where, as in the early Beethoven Quartets, soundness is the virtue most required, their readings are hardly surpassable.

ON GRAMAPHONE RECORDS.

Among the vocal records recently issued by "His Master's Voice" Company, here are some of the most prominent:—

First in musical importance is Chaliapine, in Rimsky Korsakoff's "The Prophet." The great Russian is in good voice, and gives a magnificently intense rendering of a song that is peculiarly suitable for his dramatic temperament. All sorts of tone-colours he puts in against the suggestiveness of the accompanying background.

Walter Hyde brings two tenor works of Wagner: "Winter storms have waned," Siegmund's Love Song, from "Die Walkure," and "My Trusty Swan," Lohengrin's Farewell. They are good singing, without being distinguished, with clarity as perhaps their chief virtue.

Rosina Buckman is heard in "Thou art flown," from Offenbach's "Tales of Hoffman," and in Mendelssohn's "On Wings of Song." The first is rather uninspired, and sung with fitting mediocrity; but the smooth rhythm of the second is spoiled only by the orchestral accompaniment.

Those interested in the season of the British National Opera Company, which began this week at Covent Garden, will be glad to have the record which Clarence Whitehill, the American baritone, has made of "Mein Vater," Amfortas' Prayer from "Parsifal." Whitehill has been specially engaged to sing in the "Ring" cycle in London, and this record shows well the qualities of his voice, though there is perhaps too little variety in his tone-colour.

There is very beautiful singing indeed in "Vien, Leonora, a piedi tuoi," as sung by Battistini. This excerpt from Donizetti's "La Favorita," is sung with real vocal mastery, which Londoners may hear demonstrated this week, when Battistini visits us; the phrasing is delightfully smooth, the rhythm firmly elastic, the tone graded and coloured as of a stringed instrument.

I confess to not being moved at all by Tetrizzini's singing of "Ah! non giunge uman pensiero," from Bellini's "La Sonnambula." Possibly I am spoiled for all these purely technical things by the Galli-Curci records, as which I can conceive nothing so perfect. There is something marvellous in all such pyrotechnical displays, but Tetrizzini's tone seems to me poor enough, far less excellent than that of several less well advertised sopranos.

ANDANTE.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

To-Day.

May 4 (New Style).
April 21 (Old Style).
Ramadan 7, 1340 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Ayar 6, 5682 of the Jewish Calendar.

Sir Herbert Samuel, High Commissioner of Palestine has arrived in England.

For reasons of health the Marquess Curzon left town this week for the seaside.

M. Benesh, Secretary to the Czecho-Slovak Legation, left London last week for Prague.

Sir Dhunjibhoy Bomanji has taken his departure from town for Paris.

The Greek Chargé d'Affaires and Mme. Rizo Rangabé have returned to town from Genoa.

The Afghan Minister, Abdul Hadi Khan, has left London to make a short visit to Paris.

Mr. R. Storrs, District Governor of Jerusalem, is coming home and is expected to arrive in England in the course of this week.

Prince Christopher of Greece, brother of King Constantine accompanied by his wife left Cannes on April 29 for Paris.

Major-General the Hon. John and Lady Isobel Gathorne-Hardy and Miss Gathorne-Hardy have returned to 17, Radnor Place, from Egypt.

Major-General Sir Charles Townshend has notified his intention not to contest his seat for the Wrekin Division of Shropshire at the next General Election.

Colonel de l'Etat-Major Georges Ostitch, Military Attaché at the Legation of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, has left town for Belgrade on leave.

King Alexander of Serbia arrived in Paris on April 30 from Belgrade. His Majesty's visit is of a purely private character it is understood and he is travelling strictly incognito.

The engagement is announced between John Keith Wallace Arden, of Rossett, Ceylon, and Froxfield, Hants, and Alice Joyce Liberty, elder daughter of the late R. D. Vernon, J.P., of High Wycombe, Bucks, and Mrs. Vernon, of The Gables, Nuwara Eliya Ceylon.

The engagement is announced between Lieutenant (E) James Breaks, R.N., second son of the late Captain J. Breaks and Mrs. Breaks, Rochester, Newlands, and Phyllis Hobbs, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Hobbs, of Bournemouth and India.

The engagement is announced between Jack Ross Gifford, M.C., R.F.A., only son of Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Gifford, Lynch Cottage, Winchester, and Joyce Maud, youngest daughter of the late Percy Wansborough Stevens, barrister-at-law India, and of Mrs. Percy Stevens, Dunoolti, West Tarring, Worthing.

Lord Meston is delivering three Rhodes lectures on India's New Constitution at University College, London. The chair at the first lecture, which was due to be given yesterday, was taken by the Secretary of State for India Viscount Peel. The two remaining lectures are to be delivered at half-past five on May 10 and 17.

A marriage has been arranged between Captain Roland Le Fanu, M.C., the Leicestershire Regiment, youngest son of Henry Le Fanu, retired Indian Civil Service, and Mrs. Le Fanu, and Marguerite, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George J. Lumsden, Tarvit, Cupar, Fife.

The engagement is announced between Captain John Reginald Carter, O.B.E., Royal Corps of Signals, eldest son of the late Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. B. G. Carter, Indian Army, Bombay Political Department, and Mrs. J. R. B. G. Carter, of Mahi Kantha, Priory Avenue, Hastings, and Constance Madeleine, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Guy, of Upland, St. Helen's, Hastings.

The forty-second annual Burma Dinner will be held at Princes Galleries, Piccadilly, on June 1, at seven for 7.30 p.m. The Right Hon. Viscount Peel P.C., G.B.E., Secretary of State for India, will preside. Those proposing to attend are requested to send their names and addresses to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Geo. O. Stiven, 6, Fenchurch Avenue, E.C. 3, from whom tickets (price £1 each, exclusive of wines) can be obtained. Early application for tickets will greatly facilitate the necessary arrangements.

The twenty-fourth anniversary of the birthday of the Shah of Persia, who upon his father's abdication was proclaimed King in 1909, was duly celebrated in London. The Minister here, Mirza Davood Khan, K.C.M.G., received from Major-General Sir John Hanbury-Williams (Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps) the customary message of felicitation from King George, and immediately telegraphed the full text to Paris, where the Shah is now staying. Throughout the day there were numerous callers at the Legation, 47, Bramham Gardens, and cards were left on behalf of many officers of State. The national tricolour of green, white and red was flown by all business houses that are connected with Persia. In the afternoon a reception was held by the Minister, and was largely attended by members of the Diplomatic Corps, representatives of the Persian Colony in London, and many English friends.

APPOINTMENT.

The Secretary for the Colonies has appointed Lord Stanley to be an additional Private Secretary (unpaid)

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OBITUARY.

The death has occurred, at the age of ninety-one, of Lord Sinclair. He served with the 57th Foot in the Crimean War, taking part in the actions of Balaklava and Inkerman, was A.A.G. to the Forces on the Bosphorus, and saw service in the Indian Mutiny.

The death occurred recently of Colonel F. W. Begbie. Most of his military service was passed in India, where he served in the Chitral Campaign, 1895. During the European War he served, among other places, in Burma and with the Mesopotamia Field Force.

The death has occurred, at the age of twenty-five, of Captain L. C. Carus-Wilson, M.C. His death was caused by an illness contracted on service in the Near East. He recently represented the War Office during the installation at Cairo of the first link of the Imperial Wireless chain.

The death has occurred of Colonel Sir James Hayes-Sadler, K.C.M.G., C.B. He was an experienced administrator, whose spheres of service included India, the Persian Gulf, and Somaliland. His many appointments number: in 1881, assistant agent to the Governor-General of Baroda; in 1891, Political Agent with the Emir of Afghanistan; in 1892, Political Agent and Consul in Muscat; at 1893, Acting-President and Consul-General, Persian Gulf; and in 1898, Political Agent and Consul in Somaliland Protectorate. After his retirement he actively supported the British Red Crescent Fund, which was formed to relieve sufferers from the Balkan Wars.

Our Cairo Correspondent writes (April 22):—Widespread regret has been expressed at the tragic death of Mr. Arthur Bacot, F.E.C., which has occurred as a result of an attack of typhus fever. Mr. Bacot, who had a world-wide reputation, particularly in connection with insect-borne disease research work, came out to Egypt in February last by arrangement with the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine of which he was the Entomologist in order to carry out, with Dr. Arkwright, Bacteriologist of the same Institution, an investigation into the method by which human beings become infected with typhus by the louse. They had been busy since the beginning of February on a wonderful series of experiments which promised to produce invaluable results, when about three weeks ago Mr. Bacot developed a temperature and it was found that he was suffering from typhus. The attack proved most severe and within a fortnight ended fatally. In the meantime his colleague, Dr. Arkwright, also developed typhus, but although the attack in his case was also severe he is now out of danger, and it is confidently expected that he will recover. Mr. Bacot had been engaged for many years on the investigation of plague and typhus and had gained a knowledge and experience of the work probably without equal in the world. Certainly he was one of the leading experts on the subject and his death is a terrible loss to medical research.

THE P. E. F.

The April *Quarterly Statement* of the Palestine Exploration Fund contains a good portrait of the late Mr. Walter Morrison and a grateful tribute to his memory. Professor John Garstang contributes a useful article on "Eighteen Months' Work of the Department of Antiquities for Palestine"; and there are reprinted from the *Expository Times* portions of an article on "Thirty Years of Palestine Exploration" by Professor Q. A. S. Macalister. The Rev. M. H. Segal writes on "David's War against the Philistines"; Mr. E. J. Pilcher on a "Bronze Weight from Petra"; and Asad Rustum on "New Traces of the Old Lebanon Forest." The "Notes and News" give interesting particulars of excavations and other subjects; and there is a further instalment of Philip Baldensperger's "The Immovable East."

NEWS IN BRIEF.

It is stated that the Egyptian Government has decided to negotiate an extradition treaty with Palestine.

At a representative meeting of Europeans and Indians held in Calcutta recently it was decided to erect a statue of Lord Ronaldshay, in commemoration of his Governorship of Bengal.

Hazrat Mohani, who presided over the Moslem League's meeting in December and was arrested last week in Cawnpore, has been committed for trial on a charge of sedition, and will be tried on May 5.

News has reached Constantinople that the insurrection in Georgia against the Reds is spreading and that the insurgents have gained considerable successes. The Reds are, however, being reinforced.

The Constantinople correspondent of *The Times* reports that with two exceptions the Turkish Press comments on the news of the murder of Beha-ed-Din Shakir and Jemal Azmy at Berlin in the same fashion that Talaat's death was commented upon. Both victims are described as martyrs to the faith.

OPHTHALMIA IN PALESTINE.

The Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England has for some years maintained an ophthalmic hospital in Jerusalem. Last year there were 1,312 in-patients and 12,100 new out-patients with 62,237 consultations and 3,001 operations. There is, unfortunately, no lessening of contagious eye disease in Palestine. Not until education spreads to the children and the villages and homes are properly planned and constructed and the duty of personal cleanliness appreciated can a beginning of the prevention of these diseases be expected. Meanwhile (the Warden states) the actuality of an appalling amount of eye disease remains. The Order of St. John spent £3,646 in the hospital last year, being £1,893 more than the income received.

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THURSDAY, MAY 4, 1922.

GENOA.

Whatever may be the merits of the new diplomacy, its methods tend even less at Genoa than in other scenes of its peripatetic activities since the war to soothe the nerves of a distraught world. Never before were there so many trained observers on the spot; even the editors of important newspapers having thought it expedient to proceed there in person and act as their own "special correspondents," and never before was there such an output of news from official and semi-official and unofficial sources. But never before was it more difficult to evolve out of this shifting and highly coloured kaleidoscope any intelligible picture of what has happened or is happening, and still less of what is likely to happen. Our indomitable Prime Minister is, we are told by his devoted admirers, riding the tempest with unerring courage and perspicacity. His critics declare that he is exhausting one desperate device after the other to drive his waterlogged ship through the waves that are submerging him. The truth, we imagine, lies between these two versions. From the very start, his speech in the House of Commons when he pleaded for a viaticum in the shape of a somewhat jejune vote of confidence lacked not only the precision but the robust faith which so often inspired him during the war, because it lacked the solid foundation upon which his faith, and ours, then rested, *viz.*, the assured cooperation of trusted Allies all equally determined to reach the one appointed goal of a common victory. His great driving power could then be relentlessly applied to that one purpose. But when he was addressing Parliament before he departed for Genoa, he left upon the minds of many of his hearers the impression that, whilst he realised perhaps more clearly than other European statesmen the urgent need for economic reconstruction as the only or the surest avenue to the restoration of real peace between the war-weary nations of the world, he was inclined still to rely mainly upon his own driving-power for the fulfilment of what was rather a vision than a considered plan of campaign. He forgot that mere driving power, splendidly effective in war-time and in cooperation with willing Allies, is an important but by no means all-sufficing quality in complicated negotiations conducted under less compelling pressure than that of actual war, not only between Allies whose views as to reconstruction and the restoration of real peace conditions have come to vary very widely, but also with ex-enemy States whose standpoint is, of course, essentially different, not to speak of neutral States that are again on a different plane, and, last but not least, such an incalculable quantity as Soviet Russia.

Hence the appearance of unreality which the extraordinary series of thrills and shocks recorded day after day from Genoa presents to the observer who is sufficiently remote from the seismic zone not to feel the ground actually rocking under his feet, as Mr. Lloyd George tells us he does. We share his desire to see normal relations restored with Germany if she shows any genuine disposition to discharge within reasonable limits her liabilities for the enormous evil she did in the war, and especially for the wanton devastation of Northern France and Belgium, and we agree with him that, however abominable the present régime in Russia, some *modus vivendi* should be found which might at least reopen the door to ordinary business relations with the Russian people, who cannot be allowed

to perish for the sins of their rulers without doing grave mischief to the whole world, including ourselves. But when Mr. Lloyd George affects to see in the Treaty of Rapallo with its unpleasantly close resemblance to an inverted Treaty of Brest-Litovsk little or nothing more objectionable than a breach of the diplomatic proprieties peculiar to Genoa, we find it rather difficult to take very seriously his blood-curdling assurances that if we do not all promptly follow suit and embrace Germany and Russia as they have just embraced each other, Europe will be speedily converted once more into a ghastly shambles. This is surely a misapplication to mere rhetorical purposes of a driving power which can only be effective when it has something more than words behind it. It betrays at least a loss of that sense of perspective which is essential to statesmanship. An angry Germany and a hungry Russia may constitute a dangerous combination. But we and our Allies have faced still more dangerous combinations in the past, and we did not face them merely with S.O.S. signals, nor even with pacts to be grudgingly entered into between States driven into them, it would seem in a fit of general bewilderment rather than by any conviction of their practical utility. We give the Prime Minister credit for having something more substantial in his mind than his language, fluctuating repeatedly between almost lighthearted optimism and the gloomiest pessimism, has hitherto conveyed. But, with all due deference, we are left at a loss to know what he really means. Take for instance his reference to the absence of America from Genoa. It is obviously a very grievous loss to such a gathering as that over which Mr. Lloyd George actually presides. Some have from the first doubted whether that gathering was not foredoomed to failure from the moment when the United States announced that they would have no part or lot in it. But Mr. Lloyd George has known all along that America would not go to Genoa, and that one of the reasons for which she refused to go there was that she declined to have anything to do with Soviet Russia. It may be a good or a bad reason. It is one that Mr. Lloyd George cannot have forgotten and cannot reasonably affect to ignore when he is pressing for the very thing which the United States declared they would on no account do. Equally Mr. Lloyd George knew that France was only following him to Genoa with the utmost reluctance and on conditions even more clearly set forth than the reasons given by America for her abstention. Is it not somewhat illogical on his part to suggest that France is queering his pitch because she declines to abate those conditions now that she has given way to his solicitations to the extent at least of following him to Genoa?

It is these curious *non sequiturs* that puzzle the plain Englishman. There must be some explanation to them locked away for the present in the Prime Minister's bosom. But until it is forthcoming we can only watch with a certain amount of scepticism the melodramatic developments of this singularly staged piece. There are elements of comedy in it when we hear of the Archbishop of Genoa exchanging menus with M. Tchitcherin and of kid-gloved Bolsheviks with little red flags in their buttonholes paying compliments to the gallant scion of the House of Savoy on board a battleship named Dante Alighieri, and we trust that they will not make room before the whole thing is over for the more tragic elements which Mr. Lloyd George in his Cassandra-like mood foresees. But there is something disconcerting in a succession of crises, each pregnant, it would seem, with some fresh ultimatum, even though watered down apparently as soon as it has been conceived. It is hardly our conception of a pan-eirenikon, or we might doubt whether it would not have been wiser to go on jogging along, even in the extremely uncomfortable conditions which obtained before Genoa rather than to try to force the pace in a way that suggests: "*Embrasse-moi ou je te tue*" as the most appropriate motto for a great international feast of love. We are disposed nevertheless to believe that, if the nations are not yet in a mood to embrace one another, none of them is in a position to start again so soon on the ruinous

game of killing one another. There is an old Italian saying about Genoa which it would not perhaps be courteous to recall when she is doing her best to entertain hospitably the innumerable representatives of countless nations. But it is to the effect that everything which she produces is abnormal. In the long course of her proud history she has never perhaps produced anything quite so abnormal as the Conference which will henceforth be associated for better or for worse with her name. We still hope that the Conference will at any rate prove abnormal in this sense also that it will end by having generated a vast amount of ugly smoke but no fire.

TRAVEL NOTES.

EGYPT AND THE SUDAN.

The Personal Element.

Far too small a proportion of the people who travel to Egypt—or for the matter of that, live there—make their way to the Sudan. Luxor and Assuan provide sufficiently attractive goals to satisfy the great majority of those who are not content with Cairo alone, and these two places have the advantage in regard to fares of being considerably cheaper. Even when considerations of expense do not enter into the question, a journey southwards by Nile steamer has so much to commend it, and sounds so much pleasanter than the prospect of travelling by rail to Khartoum, that again others make the mistake of cutting out the Sudan from their programme. It is unfortunate that it should be so. A visit to the Sudan, at least for Britons, has the double



KHARTOUM: The Palace.

attraction of enabling them to combine all the pleasures of Egypt with the stimulus that comes from the contemplation of what their countrymen have achieved and are achieving in regard to a little known, but not unimportant, section of the white man's burden.

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Great Britain has every reason to be proud of her record in Egypt; but the visitor goes there to see the greatness of past ages and to revel in the luxurious climate, not to contemplate the moral and material progress achieved under British supervision. In the Sudan one is more conscious of studying a chapter of contemporary history; we can watch the daily advance made in the work of bringing prosperity to a country that under a period of misrule, not many years distant, was gradually being converted into a land of desolation and death.

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Civil Services.

This distinction thus drawn by visitors between the two countries is reflected in the attitude of the officials. It is the exception in Egypt to hear "shop" discussed with enthusiasm or even with keen interest. Work is associated with office attendance, and when the office is

left, relief is sought from its questions and all that immediately concerns the country as a whole. Not so in the Sudan. There administrative problems, under whatever category they fall, seem to prove more absorbing, and no conventional diffidence is felt in discussing them. The British official in Egypt can urge in his defence that his work is no longer of the creative order as is that of his colleagues in the Sudan; for the most part he acts in a corrective capacity—at best as an adviser. *Sic vos non vobis* is the motto that he applies to his own case. The pride of pioneer work associated with the days of Cromer has been lost, and some of the drawbacks of bureaucracy—apathy, red-tape, inaccessibility—have been allowed to creep in. To this circumstance may be due in no small degree delinquencies attaching to the Egyptian Civil Service. Where the interest of their superiors has become blunted, minor officials lacking the same fine traditions find full scope for Oriental methods. If questions that should engage from the first the personal attention of heads of departments have to be submitted through their subordinates, it is almost inevitable that priority should acquire a monetary value.

The Egyptian State Railways.

Fortunately there are exceptions, even though their total effect is to prove the rule. No department offers a more striking contrast to the state of affairs described than the Egyptian State Railways. Here we have the patriarchal system at its best, and radiating throughout the whole service, with the result that the Egyptian subordinate is acquitting himself in, for him, possibly the hardest sphere with far more credit than he can



ON THE NILE. (The effect of the Assuan Dam is felt over 100 miles up the Nile. Note the doomed palms on the right.)

claim in departments where there has not been the same stimulus, and personal direction. Of the 30,000 railway personnel, only 243 are non-Egyptian. Naturally the higher posts are held by British officials; but there are now Egyptian Assistant Traffic Managers, the whole signalling staff is Egyptian, and in the Cairo Railway Works out of a staff of between three and four thousand less than sixty are non-Egyptian.

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A Nationalist deputation once waited on the Railway Administration to call attention to the reprehensible way in which foreigners were staffing the railways to the exclusion of Egyptians. Before the delegates warmed to their task they were invited to pay a visit to the workshops. On their return their mission remained unfulfilled; they had discovered that the grievance that had stirred their patriotic souls so deeply had no foundation in fact.

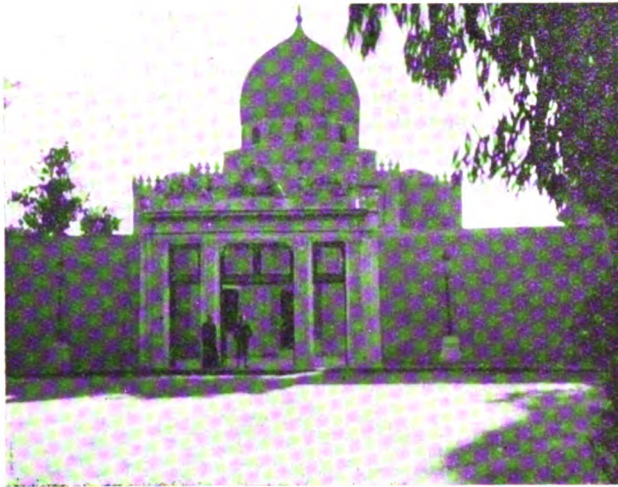
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Now that the Egyptians are gaining the measure of independence to which they aspire, they will do well to resist all temptation to bureaucratize the State Railways. Let them retain the existing patriarchal system that is working so well under the present General Manager, Brigadier-General R. H. D. Blakeney, C.B., D.S.O., R.E., and continue the traditions of which he has proved

himself so conscientious an exponent. If the railway system is to be run effectively and in the interests of the State, and is not to be subordinated to the political game, its working must be kept out of the reach of possible Ministerial ineptitude.

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At the Cairo Railway Works locomotive engines are not merely put together and repaired, but can now be entirely remodelled; big bogey passenger coaches are constructed and all the necessary iron foundry work is done. There must be few railways in the world at which stones cannot be thrown; but there is little fault, if any, to be found with the running of the Egyptian Railways. In comfort they may have to rank second to the Sudan system in which a simpler organisation throws less responsibility on the individual native official. If only



CAIRO: Mosque Tomb of Tewfik Pasha.

the rates for passengers and goods could be reduced the Railways would deservedly rank high in public esteem. Charges are, without doubt, excessive, at a period when trade is bad, and the Railway Administration would certainly reduce them, if it had a free hand. But it is handicapped by an enormous stock of coal—enough perhaps for two years yet—bought for it at top prices by the Government, which hesitates to write off a bad investment.

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There is one thing to remember about the Egyptian State Railways; they are actuated by a desire to study the comfort and supply the wants of passengers. If they seem to fail at any point, the fault will be due to the circumstances or to the material with which they have to work, rather than to any absence of good will. Special trains or coaches are supplied more readily than, probably, on any other system. They may have to be asked for, and passengers approaching Egypt should see to it that they do not lack the facilities offered through the failure of the steamship company to give due warning of their requirements. At Port Said it is a great convenience to have a special train waiting at the quay, instead of having to transfer oneself and one's luggage to the station, with possibly a long wait before the ordinary train starts. Too often, however, it is the remissness of the steamship authorities that causes passengers to miss this boon.

JERUSALEM IMPROVEMENTS.

Mr. E. Keith-Roach, First Assistant Civil Secretary of the Palestine Government, is going to America next month for a lecture tour in the interests of the Pro-Jerusalem Society. This Society was founded in 1918 by the Military Governor for the purpose of protecting the antiquities and increasing the amenities of Jerusalem and the surrounding district, and of giving encouragement to arts, handicrafts, and industries in consonance with its general objects. Among the undertakings which the Society has already accomplished are the reconstruction of the Suk Kattanin, one of the finest mediaeval bazaars in the East; the clearing of the Citadel of Jerusalem and the city walls; the repair of the Dome of the Rock; and the creation of a park and garden system.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

In consequence of queries, the Editor thinks it advisable to state that the quotation from any article does not necessarily imply that the views expressed are shared by "The Near East." On the contrary, an attempt is made to include as far as is possible in the available space all sides of the various questions discussed.

Great Britain and the East.

In the *English Review* for April, Mr. Austin Harrison has a picturesque article called "Theodora's Lions." He likens Theodora in her difficulties after she had been found out to the Prime Minister. Without mincing matters he describes what he considers to be the political plight of the Premier, attributing much of the trouble to the way in which the East has been handled:—

The East is again the Scheherazade of our Empire. Flung to the wolves for the divulgence of the Viceroy's telegram, Mr. Montagu has performed one great service in that the public now know something about India; and also something about the startling feeling existing in the Moslem world relating to our Philhellenic dismembership of the Turkish or Caliphian Empire, which, after all, has a soul: another lion. Most of us never dreamt of this one, but to find him actually demanding the modification of the Treaty of Sévres as a principle does seem, not unnaturally, to good Coalitionists pretty cool and, after Amritsar, indelicate. No wonder that Lord Curzon was angry. It upsets the Calcutta "sweep." That India should ask us to do our duty by Islam exceeds all limits, and so exit Mr. Montagu and enter Gandhi the "Saint," in gaol. India has so long been a forbidden subject that we generally stop at Macaulay's essay; yet as the result of the war India, the East, has blazoned forth into significance, cutting across our European delimitation of the map, flashing from East to West a strange and new-begotten—Christianity. We sense it in the person of Tagore. It burns in the exiguous frame of Gandhi. It is, as it were, a new revelation permeating an unbelieving and cynical West, rising as in olden times from the East which never dies. But we must leave ethics severely alone; we are not yet re-attuned to such callings. It is the political or conscious East that concerns us here. And this incredible fact stands out. The war has left us with the ageless problem of the East, and once more we are face to face with Islam. Such is the significance of Turkey through our pro-Grecian policy of castration. Such is the significance of India's unrest, within the Empire. Such is the call of the East as it clashes with the now hopeless materialistic policies of Europe strangling and suffocating herself on the fruits and hatreds of war.

Over Greece, we backed the wrong horse. Captivated by M. Venizelos, the Premier launched out on his Philhellenic transmaritime adventure which has lodged Greece in the new annexation called Ionia and got us into considerable trouble with France over the old Crimean question of Constantinople. We never seem to have considered Moslem and that we are the guardians of Eastern evolution. We never seem to have considered that so long as Russia was imperial she was Turkey's enemy, but that with Russia overthrown, in defeat she might easily become Turkey's friend; and so Constantinople is once more Europe's Mediterranean problem. Degrade the "Caliph of Stamboul," and the East is involved. That means our Empire, for we are the "white elephants" of Oriental consent. This is not diplomacy, it is philosophy; it is the cultural antinomy of the East and West, and we stand before a great historic anti-climax. There are lions by the Ionian Sea to-day in consequence. Asia Minor for Turkey is the cry—and Constantinople. No wonder the Die-hards emptied various bottles of champagne when Mr. Montagu missed his tiger.

Hitherto the problem of Turkey has always been her buffeting-basis with regard to Russia, the prize being Constantinople, and so on the policy of the balance of power the "Sick Man" has been Europe's nightingale. It was the policy of Pitt, of Beaconsfield, of the Congress of Berlin; and against it was Fox, who leaned towards Russia, and subsequently Gladstone and Anglican Church Liberalism, which after 1918 saw in the Cathedral of St. Sophia a basis of union with Greek Orthodoxy—hence a certain denominational enthusiasm for the Venizelos Greek expansionism, which would assign the gates of the Bosphorus to Greece. The Montagu-Reading policy, more deft, more spacious, reverted to Disraeli. As Jews, they understand Islam; their instincts are pro-Allah, not pro-Russian, hence their Indian policy, which has culminated in the present crisis. Hence, too, the difficulty with France, who, more perceptive than the pro-Greek Premier, saw in Constantinople an invaluable bait to offer a regenerated Russia, friendship with whom has long been, as we all know, a cardinal axiom of French diplomacy. Her clandestine agreement with Turkey is the result; thus France breaks her own Treaty of Sèvres.

And so once more the liquidation of Turkey is Europe's difficulty. If the problem of Turkey is Asia Minor, Constantinople will remain the central aim of geographic Russia. That is why we refused to "liberate" Northern Caucasia—Koltchak and Denikin making the reservation of that territory conditional. But we are in a special difficulty because Turkey is the gateway to the East and our Empire is socketed on Islam; we cannot afford to make historical enemies of both Russia and Asia, and now less than ever, with the rise of Eastern peoples into consciousness, as we to-day witness in Egypt, and India, and that is why the French, with considerable astuteness, signed up behind our backs with Turkey much as the Kaiser did some years before the war, when he acclaimed Mahomet as his spiritual "friend."

He points out that a re-naturalized Russia will certainly treat as Alsace-Lorraines "the excisions so bonnily made out of historical Muscovy"—Poland, Bessarabia, the Caucasus and so on—and continues:—

That is where Turkey enters the European Concert with her peculiar geographical position, her deathless Caliph, her martial idiosyncrasies, and her problem is: To be or not to be? In our treaties we have committed every conceivable mistake. We have castrated Russia who saved France in the War over and over again; we have castrated Turkey, thereby stirring up the embers of religious fire in Islam, the reverberations of which are rocking the cornerstones of our Empire. And why? To please M. Venizelos; to satisfy some six million Greeks who, like Poland, fancy themselves as the young lions of New Europe, and but for public alarm at our national expenditure we should no doubt have financed Constantine's Anatolian war.

Our "young lions" may think that Tank control is the proper way, but the public which has to pay the cost, and all men with any vision, see only disaster in this setting-up of weak, vainglorious peoples at the expense of powerful nations who have been temporarily crushed by war; and the truth is that both over Turkey and Russia we have stalked into

a predicament calculated to plunge all Europe into a cycle of war at no very distant date. The French quickly realised our stupidity with our New Jerusalem, our Ionian Empire, our Arab Protectorates, our Constantinople-Philhellenic navalism, and cut right across us, and now little Greece, sinking also into "paper" inflation, is at a loss how to carry on. What we did at Versailles was to amputate all the big Powers in order to set up weak Powers armed to the teeth, thereby ensuring their inevitable bankruptcy, as to-day we can see by glancing at the exchange quotations of Poland, Roumania, Greece, Czecho-Slovakia, etc., all of whom know that the day that they disarm the balance of real, as distinct from "paper," power will move inexorably against them.

The Turks, who gamely refused to sign the Treaty of Sèvres, understand their position, and now ask us to give them back Asia Minor under some form of League of Nations rights, and with this they include Thrace. Here we have an historic issue. Are we to bottle up Russia as before 1914? Are we to drive the Turk out of Europe from Homeric or Levantine sentimentalism? Or are we, taking the long view, to seek accommodation with some prospect of averting the next great war? Were the League of Nations a true tribunal, the fruit of example, and vested with international authority, this Russo-Turkish problem might be referred to such a body for guidance; but, constituted as it is under French tuition, it would seem mere futility to anticipate any finding different from that which assigned Silesia to Poland at the behests of the Quai d'Orsay. Spring is at hand, and unless something is done the Greeks may suffer defeat in Anatolia and may, especially as France is acting in collusion with Turkey, be driven ignominiously into the sea. There is only one wise course, and it is to revise the Treaty of Sèvres, lock, stock and barrel, and leave the Turk his bag and baggage in Asia Minor, unless under a Tory Administration we want to have an Ireland in Egypt and India with what the champagne club would style "firm" government.

Palestine.

In *The Times* of April 26 is an article upon the "Burden of Palestine," in which it is stated that the invidious position of the Jews in Palestine is weakened by "the exceptional privileges granted to the Zionist Commission." It continues:—

We have said before that we sympathize with the spiritual aspirations of the Zionists. There is something in them that is profoundly akin to the longing of many wanderers upon the earth who here have no abiding city but who seek one to come. For that very reason we regret that Zionism has been narrowed down to a political issue. For Jews nurtured in their religious tradition Palestine is a symbol and a dream. It is something deeper and broader than the little corner of the Levant which, with its Arab population, has become a modern political problem dovetailed into British Imperial policy. It is distressing that in the Zionist movement the stirring aspiration towards an ever-distant ideal has been linked up with a narrow local issue. What the multitude of Jews desire is not the little town now dominated by the Mosque of Omar, but

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a memory that has become refined to an endless hope in the Jerusalem that is above and is free, Jerusalem the golden, whose halls stand all jubilant with song. The practical problem of Palestine, for the solution of which this country is now responsible, is something entirely different from the spiritual problem of Jewry, which in political Zionism has been materialized, tied down to time and place, and so brought into wholly unnecessary conflict with local claims and instincts. Of these local claims and instincts this country must be sedulously considerate, in virtue of its mandate over Palestine, and also in view of the reverberations of Palestinian policy in the wider Arab-speaking and Islamic world. For this reason a way out of the present dilemma must be sought in the elimination of political Zionism in Palestine and in the abolition of those political privileges of the Zionist Commission which make it appear as a secondary Government and encourage the belief that its action heralds the domination of an immigrant minority. The whole problem must be reduced to modern and practical dimensions and solved by the tried method of impartial British administration. Then, and only then, will it be possible to remove the ever-present fear of complications, which may impose a heavy burden upon the British people.

Articles to Note.

"Paris and the Near East," by H. Charles Woods; and "The Serbo-Albanian Frontier," by Captain H. E. Goad, in the *Fortnightly Review* (May).

MULE versus MOTOR IN PERSIA.

A letter received recently in London from Teheran gives some particulars of the state of the roads in northern Persia during the past winter. The writer reports that one English traveller who left Baghdad for Teheran towards the end of November spent two days on the journey between Tairuk and Kermanshah, which is usually done in from seven to nine hours. The very muddy and soft state of the road necessitated the car's running on high gear in many places. A second traveller, who left a month later—a few days before Christmas—took eight days between Tairuk and Kermanshah, and was compelled to abandon his car at the latter place and continue his journey by carriage. A few days later two other European travellers motoring over the same road took seven days to reach Kermanshah. After leaving that point and when at the top of the Assadabad Pass they ran into a blizzard, and had to take shelter in a hut for three days; while the snow, accumulating on the road, completely covered their car. At the end of three days they were rescued from the hut by a party sent out from Hamadan with mules; but the car had to stay where it was until the track was sufficiently beaten down for it to pass over to Hamadan. These two travellers also continued their journey to Teheran by carriage.

The letter goes on to say that in the first two or three weeks in February the weather had been very cold at Teheran and the ground was covered with snow. In that period there had been two very heavy falls of snow, one leaving over a foot in depth on the ground; and, the writer adds, in such circumstances it is safe to conclude that the Assadabad and Avegh passes are almost impassable.

In such conditions it seems that the old-fashioned mule can hold its own with its modern rival. The explanation lies no doubt in the fact that since the departure of the British military authorities the roads have not been kept clear of snow, and that owing to the general lack of care their surfaces are becoming extremely bad. The Persian road authorities, indeed, seem to do little or nothing for their preservation, although they collect very high tolls—600 krans on each motor car between Teheran and Quaritu. The road, it need hardly be added, was constructed by the British Army, at a cost of about £1,500,000.

THE SUEZ CANAL.

At the first of the staff lectures of the summer term at the French Institute, Cromwell Gardens, last week, M. Vieille, Professor at the Institute, lectured on the Suez Canal and its creator, Ferdinand de Lesseps. The lecturer said that the critical moment in de Lesseps's life was his appointment as French Vice-Consul at Alexandria. It was chance that first turned his thoughts to the undertaking that made him famous. A case of cholera on board caused his ship to be put into quarantine in Alexandria harbour. De Lesseps was bored with his compulsory idleness, and read with eagerness some volumes of an enormous work written by the professors who accompanied Napoleon on his Egyptian expedition. He was particularly attracted to "The Canal of the Two Seas." From this moment de Lesseps dreamed continually of the canal which should unite the Mediterranean with the Red Sea. It took 23 years for his dream to come true. In due course de Lesseps returned to France and settled on the land as a gentleman farmer. He never forgot the canal, and when he heard that the Khedive Mohammed Ali was dead and that Said, his son, had succeeded, he knew that his hour had struck. Said had long been a friend of his, and Said consented to the plan, should his generals view it favourably. The generals were hardly expert engineers, but they appreciated a fine horseman, so when de Lesseps on horseback cleared a dangerous high wall they forthwith approved his schemes. Egypt now supported de Lesseps, but he had another formidable adversary to subdue—the British Government, inspired by the redoubtable Lord Palmerston, who was jealous at the idea of the installation of a French company on the Suez isthmus. Lord Stratford, at Constantinople, was bidden to do all he could to obstruct the plan, but happily failed. In November, 1869, the canal was completed.

A YUGOSLAV VIOLINIST.

The Yugoslav Press Bureau states that M. Zlatko Balokovitch, the great Yugoslav violinist, is at present in London, where he hopes shortly to appear before the British public. He is also making preparations for an extensive tour in the United States. He recently scored a remarkable success in a Church concert held in the Cathedral at Zagreb and arranged by his concert-director Norbert Dunkel and attended by some 8,000 persons.

King Fuad is to be asked by a deputation from the Munifia Province to direct the immediate repatriation of Zaghloul Pasha from Seychelles, owing to the effect of the climate on his health.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

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A Commonplace Budget.

Much behind its time, like the spring weather that we are hoping for, the Budget is with us at last. It contained no surprises. The semi-official forecast, which appeared last week, was remarkably inspired as is usually the case on these occasions. The income tax is reduced by a shilling, there are slight reductions in the postal and telephone charges, and *inter alia* a reduction of the duty on tea as a sop presumably to the very few among us who are not amenable to the high income tax. In short a somewhat featureless Budget, and one that is not likely to call forth paeans of admiration from any section for it is recognized only too well that the reductions in taxation represent the very least the Government could have offered, and that, had the recommendations of the Geddes Committee been carried out in their entirety, there could well have been a reduction of two shillings or more in the income tax. As it is the the present reductions are not justified by economies, and are made only at the expense of the sinking fund.

Turkish Reparations.

The long-delayed settlement of the claims of British subjects against Turkey has very naturally given rise to much dissatisfaction which found expression this week in a meeting of those interested at the offices of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce. It is now three and a half years since the Armistice, and so far it would appear that no steps have been taken to assist them to obtain compensation. The claimants, it must be remembered, had a very great deal to do before the war with the development of British trade with the Levant (which, incidentally, according to the latest returns, now makes a very poor showing), and their activities have been crippled since the Armistice as a result of their financial position. In this connection it is worth quoting the words of Viscount St. Davids at the recent meeting of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway. "You can never begin to build up English trade in Turkey again until you reimburse and compensate the unfortunate English merchants, who in the old days have done so much to push British trade and whose services must be utilised in the future if that trade is to be revived."

Eastern Bill Rates.

For some time it has been anticipated that there would be a reduction in the rate of interest on bills charged by the Eastern Banks. For a period 8 per cent. was charged, and this was reduced some months ago to 7 per cent., and now there is a further reduction to 6 per cent. This decision is very welcome to the business community as far as it goes, but it does not go far enough as the old rates of 8 and 7 % are being maintained as regards old business. It scarcely needs pointing out that this is an injustice to the drawer of the bills to which this applies, who have to bear the loss while being in no way responsible for the delay in payment. Admittedly the trade position in the East has been very critical and still is

in a more or less serious state, but it has surely improved sufficiently for it to be possible for the banks to contemplate a flat rate for bills.

The Crisis at Genoa.

The position at Genoa is much less hopeful than when I wrote a week ago. Then it seemed almost certain that an agreement would ultimately be reached, but events since then make it no very arduous task to contemplate the opposite eventuality. When the prospect of a conference was mooted no one thought it could have any adverse effects though few were optimistic. It is now considered, however, that failure at Genoa will be a very real disaster, and this feeling found its interpretation on the Stock Exchange last week when a distinctly nervous feeling developed. Genoa has, in short, come to be the crux of reconstruction, with success meaning the rapid development of trade and the solution of the problem of the exchanges and failure perhaps the first step on the progress to a greater Armageddon. If Mr. Lloyd George leaves Genoa unsuccessful it will be because the project was too ambitious. A conference without Russia might have been like Hamlet without the Prince of Denmark, but it would have been certain of achieving something, and would have paved the way to an agreement with Russia. As it is we can only hope that even now it will be found possible to reach an understanding.

Egyptian Cotton.

The decision of the Egyptian Government to support the cotton market is not unexpected for there had been indications for some time that something of the kind might be attempted. Those who have been in favour of the purchase of cotton by the Government have no doubt reinforced their arguments by the aid of precedents, but it may be pointed out that conditions now and when cotton was previously purchased are very different. If the Government's operations are to be severely limited then no anxiety need be felt, but if there is any question of support to the market on an extensive scale then there will be justifiable cause for apprehension, for the course of cotton is very uncertain and it would take an amount equal to Egypt's revenue during the current year to "corner" the market. Developments will be watched with considerable interest,

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as the amount of prudence that marks the intervention in the market will be taken as affording an indication of the nature of the Government's future financial policy.

Telegraph Company's Concessions.

At the meeting of the Indo-European Telegraph Company the chairman, Mr. J. Herbert Tritton, was able to give encouraging news regarding the progress made towards restoring the company's service which has been interrupted since July, 1914. He announced that the company had been advised by the Russian Department of Posts and Telegraphs that their concession from the Moscow Government was signed in April. This concession covers the whole territory traversed by the company's line from the Polish frontier on the West to the Persian frontier on the east. Mr. Tritton stated that the condition of the company's line is more satisfactory than could perhaps have been expected. "We are informed from a reliable source," he stated, "that the line is workable for a stretch of over 200 miles north-west of Odessa, whilst East of Odessa a similar state of affairs exists for 300 miles into the Crimea. Beyond the Straits of Kertch the line is in working order between Ekaterinodar and Tiflis. Between Tiflis and Erivan there is a short section where the repairs have not yet been completed. The section Erivan-Djoulfa, on the Russo-Persian frontier, has undergone repair and is now in working order, as is also the company's Persian section, Djoulfa to Teheran."

Commentator.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated April 24 :—Condition of Crops. April 19—In North-East United Provinces, outturn of wheat is not quite as good as expected due partly to early hot winds and to rust from subsequent rains. April 21—In Bengal more rain urgently required. April 24—In Assam, prospects of tea and outturn of spring rice fair. Local rain in Tenasserim and Malabar on April 18, in Assam, Konkan, Malabar, and South-East Madras on April 19, in Malabar and South-East Madras on April 20, in Assam and Malabar on April 21, in Assam, and Madras Deccan on April 22 and 23. Local rain also in coffee districts of Mysore on April 20, and of Coorg on April 19, 21 to 23. Markets. Cotton.—Bombay cotton market steady. Fine M.G. Oomras, Rs. 380 May, Rs. 395 July. Bombay cotton arrivals from September 1, 1921, to April 16, 1922, were 2,417,000 bales as compared with 1,740,000 bales during the same period of the last year. Piece-goods.—Bombay imported piece-goods market barely steady. Wholesale enquiries are not encouraging, but good retail enquiries in most styles. Prints generally quiet : local goods moving well. April 19—Delhi piece-goods market discouraging owing to stringency in money market. Jute.—April 21—Calcutta jute market strong and sellers very reserved. April 22—Hessians and Heavies quiet but steady. Shellac.—April 24—T.N. Rs. 185.

No change in bank rates.

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NEED FOR AN ALL-INDIA GAUGE POLICY.

Mr. F. G. Royal-Dawson, M.Inst., C.E., in the course of a paper before the Indian Section of the Royal Society of Arts on April 28 on "The need for an All-India Gauge Policy," said when the traffic began to exceed the capacity of a single line, the railway was faced with the alternative of doubling or conversion to a wider gauge. In the case of the metre gauge the cost of conversion to broad gauge was, generally speaking, rather less than that of doubling, while the immediate effect of conversion was to double the capacity of the track. The point to note was that all railways must incur additional capital expenditure from time to time to meet the natural growth of traffic, so that if it became a recognised rule that the metre gauge railways, which, as already noted were still practically all single track, should be converted to broad gauge in preference to doubling as soon as their traffic exceeded the capacity of a single track, the metre gauge would be automatically eliminated in course of time, practically without incurring any expenditure beyond that which would have to be incurred in any case to meet the growth of traffic. So much for existing metre gauge lines. An exception might be made in the case of Burma and the Assam-Bengal railway, which being more or less isolated from the general railway system of India, could be left out of the conversion scheme for an indefinite period without detriment to public interests. Other metre gauge areas would also be left undisturbed so long as the traffic was insufficient to justify conversion.

The construction of new lines on the metre gauge would have to be restricted by legislation in such a way as not further to prejudice the position. To meet the objections of those who argued that the poorer and undeveloped districts of India would not yield sufficient traffic to make a new broad gauge line pay its way, he proposed that 2ft. 6ins. and 2ft. feeder lines be permitted as at present, on the understanding that such lines be converted to broad gauge as soon as the growth of traffic was sufficient to justify the cost of conversion.

The above were the three salient features of a policy which, if carried out intelligently and consistently, would rid India, in course of time, of the curse of the dual gauge without involving more expenditure, practically, than that required to meet the natural growth of traffic. In considering the practicability of carrying out such a policy, it should be noted that the principal railways of India were state-owned, of which three were also state-managed, the remainder being company worked on such terms that Government got by far the greater share of the profits as the pre-dominant partner. Moreover, the present time was specially favourable for considering the question, for the recent five years' programme, drawn up by the Railway Board, showed that all available money for the next five years would be required for the rehabilitation of existing lines, so that the construction of new lines would be practically suspended during that period.

BRITISH MOTOR CARS IN PALESTINE.

The Federation of British Industries is informed through its correspondent in Palestine that though the percentage of motor-cars in that country per head of population is fairly high cars of British make are almost unknown, and few manufacturers are represented.

The correspondent states that the reason for this is that, with few exceptions, British makers do not turn out a car suitable either in design or price. A car for the Palestine market should be between £350 and £400 in price, and must be light and have plenty of clearance. Moreover, it is suggested that it would be a great advantage if the wheels were of the same size as the Ford, in order to reduce tyre costs. It is considered that if any British firm could produce a cheap, light colonial model car a ready market would be found in Palestine.

The Customs duty amounts to about 12 per cent. on the invoice price of imported cars.

The ordinary general meeting of the Suez Canal Co., will be held in Paris on June 12.

Owing to a short circuit an explosion of fire-damp occurred in a colliery at Lupeni (says Reuters' Bucharest correspondent) resulting in 160 casualties. Of these 82 are reported dead, 54 being completely incinerated. The other dead are terribly mutilated.

Commerce and Industry.

REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, April 20.

The Housing Question.

The housing crisis is acutely felt in practically every large town in Europe; in Roumania, however, and especially in Bucharest, it has reached its climax, owing to the very restricted number of houses built in comparison with the enormous growth of population, and it is therefore no wonder that the house rent question, or in other words the question of the alleviation of the more and more strained relations between landlord and tenant, now figures as one of the most important items of the programmes of all political parties. Of course, this question could only be solved by a big building campaign supported by the State or large private concerns who would be willing to grant long credits.

The House Rent Bill.

It must be admitted that during the debating of this Bill the Government and especially M. Florescu, the Minister of Justice, on seeing the opposition encountered in Parliament, from the Press and from public meetings, towards the end showed signs of considerable conciliation by accepting the numerous amendments proposed in Parliament. As an example, as many as 34 amendments were moved and accepted in respect of one single clause.

Essential Points.

The following are the essential points of the new Bill: In principle all expiring rent contracts are extended for one year ending May 6, 1923; during which time the Government intends to draft a more comprehensive Bill for a longer period. This extension applies also to foreigners in the employ of the Roumanian State as well as to those foreigners in whose countries Roumanians enjoy similar advantages. Taking as a basis the rents that existed on May 6, 1916, for the old Kingdom, and May, 1914, for Transylvania, Bukovina and Bessarabia, the rents for dwellings have been doubled; for co-operative societies, small workshops and small factories trebled; and for offices, shops, large workshops and large factories the increase is fivefold. But for hotels, music-halls, cafés, café-chantants, cabarets, theatres (excepting those run by Roumanian actors), cinemas, banks, offices of commercial and industrial stock companies, and clubs (excepting political and "cultural" clubs) the privilege of extension has been lifted and these are therefore subject to free transactions between landlord and tenant. Any sub-letting of any portion of a house falls to the benefit of the landlord. All taxes must be borne by the landlord, but should they be increased, the increment will be divided between the landlord and the tenant.

Protection of Tenants.

From the summary of the above law it will be seen that, as the last House Rent Law expires on May 6, 1922, and an urgent expedient had to be found, the Government's chief intention was to prolong the present state of things until the autumn, when a definite law will be drafted. In the meantime, however, it protects the bulk of the tenants against mass eviction and accords the landlords a moderate increase of income from their properties. As to the regulation with reference to banks and joint stock companies, etc., the object is to compel them to build their own premises.

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BULGARIA.

Sofia, April 19.

Reparations.

It is announced that the Inter-Allied Commission have accorded to the Government until May 20 to reply to their Note.

M. Stambolisky is expected back in Sofia at the beginning of May, and the Agrarians are due to hold their annual congress on the tenth of the month. Up to the present the rate of exchange has not been at all affected by the Commission's Note, the leva in fact showing a slight tendency to rise. It is now the considered opinion of thinking Bulgarians that a refusal to comply with the Commission's requests may lead to very serious consequences. The Press continues to thunder away against the Commission, but it seems to forget that when Bulgaria signed the Treaty of Neuilly, she did sign away for a number of years a certain amount of independence. Annex to Article 131 of the Treaty, which deals with Bulgaria's financial obligations, distinctly specifies in paragraph 3 the powers enjoyed by the Commission.

The opinion held by certain quarters is that the terms imposed by the Commission would have been considerably lighter if a Government other than the present one had been in power. There is, however, authority for contradicting this view; the terms would have been much the same no matter what Government had been in power.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Belgrade, April 20.

The New Internal Loan.

The Minister of Finance has received authority from the Government to invite the subscription of a new loan of a milliard dinars. A part of the loan will be converted into Lottery Bonds, but the interest and premiums must not be over 7 per cent. per annum. The loan will be used solely for public services and railways and it is interesting to see that the "20 per cent. coupons" (the 20 per cent. was retained by the Government when the Austrian crowns were replaced) and the War Indemnity Bonds will be accepted as part payment for this new loan. To what extent it will be taken up by the public remains to be seen, but unless one is a strong optimist it is difficult to anticipate that it will go through with flying colours.

There is undoubtedly plenty of money in the country, but the peasants do not seem to be willing to open their purses just now, and I think this will continue until the new taxes are introduced. The Government is giving them a last chance to subscribe to the loan and get their bonds, since afterwards when the 200 per cent. increase in income tax is introduced they will get only a receipt for their money. It is curious that there is a shortage of paper money just now. It is hardly possible to come across a 100 dinars note of the old issue, these notes are all hoarded by the peasantry, who prefer to have "pre-war" money than any of the Government securities.

The latest improvement in the exchanges has relieved the financial stringency and the grain and produce markets are now showing more activity. The upward tendency of the cost of living has also been checked and if the harvest, which is really in a splendid state at the present time, is safely brought in, we may again expect the revival of trade relations between England and Yugoslavia.

The general desire on the Belgrade market is to unload the stocks, the more so in view of the possibility of importing the goods at much better prices, since the purchasing power of the dinar is now constantly increasing. Anyway the trade *impasse* seems to be at an

end, and if the present favourable wind from Genoa continues to blow the ship of trade should quickly get up full speed ahead. It is high time it did!

Offers of an American Loan.

The Government has received two offers from some American bankers, each one offering 50 million dollars. The Americans are proposing to lend 60 per cent. in cash and the remaining 40 per cent. would be placed at the disposal of the Government for purchases in the U.S.A. Both offers are on the basis of 7 per cent. interest per annum. The Minister of Finance returned from Genoa to consider the offer, and has received authority to proceed to negotiate, but owing to the importance of his presence in Genoa he is to return in two days. There is also an offer from a Belgian banking group, but since it is less attractive than the others it has been placed in "suspense."

ALBANIA.

Tirana, April 14.

The Financial Situation.

Albania has been suffering for some time from an economic crisis. The wealth of the country is far from increasing, and the resources of the State are small.

Trade is suffering from the closing of the Eastern frontier, where Serbs and Greeks place all possible difficulties in the way of transit; on the other hand Albania by the sea remains tributary to Italy and Greece, the two countries which have the monopoly of the service of boats, a monopoly in fact if not in right.

In order to meet the grave financial crisis the Government finds itself compelled to make the greatest economies in its expenses. However the events of the past month have caused enormous expenses, in part covered by voluntary gifts and in part by the fines which have been imposed on the towns of Durazzo, Shiak and Kroja.

Platinum Mines.

For some weeks it has been known that platinum mines have been discovered in the neighbourhood of Pogradetz, south-west of Lake Ohrida, in the same valley where it is believed there are rich coal deposits near the surface. It was M. Sederholm, member of the Commission of Inquiry which the League of Nations sent to Albania, who made the discovery. The Government has so far made no statement regarding the mines. But it is said that it is looking for a company to take up the concession.

India's imports for the year ended March 31 amounted approximately to Rs. 206½ crores, as compared with Rs. 335½ crores for the year 1920-21, and Rs. 208 crores in the first post-war year. The exports amounted to a total of Rs. 243½ crores, as compared with nearly Rs. 242 crores in the previous year, and Rs. 309½ crores in 1919-20.

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CONSTANTINOPLE BONDS.

The committee in respect of the City of Constantinople Municipal 5 per Cent. Loan of 1909 have pleasure in notifying the depositors of bonds under the agreement of November 9, 1921, that Coupon No. 23, due December 14, 1921, may now be presented to the National Bank of Turkey, 50, Cornhill, London, E.C., for encashment.

It is hoped that arrangements will shortly be completed for the payment of a small percentage of the other coupons in arrear (Nos. 9-22, inclusive), and negotiations are in progress for making funds in hand in Turkey available for this purpose.

Bondholders are invited to deposit Coupons Nos. 9-22 with the National Bank of Turkey, in return for a certificate of receipt, upon which payments, when made, will be endorsed. Bonds may still be deposited with Messrs. Baring Brothers and Co., Ltd., in assent to the agreement of November 9, 1921.

GREEK FORCED LOAN.

The British Chamber of Commerce at Athens have telegraphed the London Chamber of Commerce to the effect that they have been authorised to undertake the collation and protection of British claims for exemption from contribution in respect of this loan, and that British firms having monies outstanding in Greece should forward declarations to them (The British Chamber of Commerce at Athens, 6a, Rue Dragatsaniou, Athens) without delay.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at the 28th February, 1922, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes.

Banking Department.

	L.E.
Share Capital	2,925,000
(300,000 fully paid Shares of £10 each)	
Reserve Fund:	
Statutory Reserve	1,462,500
Special Reserve	682,500
Current, Deposit and other Accounts	11,044,500
Egyptian Government	1,295,050
Mixed Tribunals	1,580,444
Bankers Accounts	554,937
Cheques and Bills payable	103,788
Sundry other Accounts	628,084
	L.E. 20,372,803

Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government	8,267,558
Sundry Securities	253,450
Advances on Merchandise	1,911,470
Advances on Securities	2,193,000
Advances otherwise secured	355,300
Sundry other Advances	933,588
Sudan Government	120,800
Bills of Exchange	2,400,416
Local Bills Discounted	188,302
Buildings and Furniture	270,943
Money at call and at short notice	1,043,250
Bankers Accounts	874,307
Sundry other Accounts	96,402
Cash:	L.E.
Notes	1,471,308
Gold	21,093
Silver, Nickel, etc.	199,133
	L.E. 20,372,803

Issue Department.

Notes Issued	34,000,000
Gold	3,339,573
* British Treasury Bills	13,060,427
	17,000,000
Securities:	
Egyptian Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government	426,657
British Treasury Bills and National War Bonds	16,573,343
	17,000,000
	L.E. 34,000,000

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

Engineering Topics.

By Our Engineering Representative.

A Useful Appliance.

Amongst other devices recently brought to my notice is a new design of electric boiling ring, the most noticeable feature of which is its small weight, which is only 6 lbs., in spite of the fact that it is 8 ins. in diameter and 3 ins. in height. The heating element is strongly and substantially made, and consists of a continuous spiral of high-resistance wire, in eight rows, threaded through mica strips which are strengthened by metal. The holes through which the resistance wires pass are fitted with metal eyelets to prevent any wear on the actual mica itself, and the top of the stove is formed of stout wires passing through the tops of these strips, whilst beneath the element is a highly polished reflector which not only makes use of radiant heat but ensures that the whole of the heat given off by the glowing wires is brought into effective use.

I also hear that a new combined electric heater and fan will shortly be placed on the market. In this the heating element will consist of seven connected portions any or all of which can be brought into action by means of a dial switch so that a wide range of heat control is available. The fan, which is controlled by a separate switch, is so placed that it draws air over and through these heating elements and drives it out through an opening in the front of the apparatus, so that a room can be warmed by heated air driven in any desired direction.

A New Switch.

A new type of switch has just been introduced by a leading firm of manufacturers which should be of particular value in all installations, as mines, where comparatively heavy currents are being dealt with. In such positions a certain amount of trouble often occurs with the switches, as the contacts become burned as a result of frequent use, and a defective connection consequently exists between the switch parts. More especially is this the case where the workman or assistant, ignorant to a greater or less extent of the principles of electricity, tries to turn the switch on or off slowly or by degrees, so that when the switch bridge is nearing or leaving the live contacts an arc is drawn which sets up local fusing. With this things soon go from bad to worse, and it is not long before a new switch is required. In the new design under notice the switch makes, as well as breaks, contact very quickly, this being carried out by means of strong, coiled springs which are said to be unbreakable. As soon as the handle has been moved slightly, the springs "take charge" and drive the contact home with considerable speed and force, reversing this operation as soon as a movement of the switch is made into the off position. The effective and useful life of these switches is said to be much higher than those of the ordinary kind often installed by those who study cheapness rather than efficiency.

A Vauxhall Victory.

The secretary of the Royal Automobile Club of Australia writes me that he has completed his programme of competitions for 1922 and that several interesting reliability trials, hill climbs and long distance runs are included. The results of these should not only add to the prestige of British cars but should give an impetus to sales.

I note that the opening event in the programme was a one-day reliability run of 106 miles from Sydney to the foot of the Bulli Pass and back by way of Campbelltown and the Parramatta road to the starting point. The distance is not great, but the gradients, surface, and general character of the road render this a really stiff trial.

That veteran 20 h.p. Vauxhall, which has been running in and winning at Australian events for the past eight years to my knowledge, was once again successful, and scored the maximum number of points in its class, which was the open event for all comers. Its petrol

consumption was at the remarkably low rate of nearly 37 miles per gallon, which means that the driver used less than three gallons for the entire journey. There would have been a second Vauxhall triumph in this event as a 30-98 was going great guns when it developed sparking plug trouble which put it out of the running. After all, as I have so often pointed out, some better scheme in connection with the awarding of points or deduction of marks ought to be devised. It is as manifestly unfair to penalise a car and its engine for a cracked porcelain in a sparking plug as it is to deduct points during a reliability run because a thread of Sea Island cotton in a tyre has given way under strain and caused a burst. Few of us would be able to get full marks for living a sober and upright life if we were penalised every time a button came off or a bootlace broke!

Old London Bridge.

As most of my readers are aware, a proposal has been put forward to demolish the ancient arch of old London Bridge which was discovered recently during building excavations. I for one would be extremely sorry to see such a famous landmark as this destroyed, although there appears to be very little hope of it being kept as the preservation would cost approximately £7,000. I have but little doubt that if a fund was commenced to cover the cost of preserving this historical landmark Londoners would respond to it eagerly.

Water Turbines.

In May, 1920, Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth & Co., Limited, initiated a hydro-electric section as a part of their Civil Engineering Department, to secure orders for water turbines to be manufactured at their Elswick Works to the designs of a well-known Norwegian firm. The volume of business laid before the hydro-electric section since it was first established was such as to cause the board to decide to form a separate hydro-electric department, as a unit apart from the Civil Engineering Department, as from January 1, 1922. The new department, like the old hydro-electric section, is dealing with complete water power development schemes throughout all the various stages, no less than with the various component parts of such schemes, civil engineering, mechanical and electrical.

Messrs. Armstrong now have survey parties out in many parts of the world looking into projects which have been brought before them for submission to the powerful financial group with whom they are working in the city of London, and it can only be anticipated that the part they will play in the coming era of intensive hydro-electric development in the Empire will be a very important one—and not only in the Empire but in all parts of the world.

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LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Sugar Lower.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Monday Evening.

Sugar.—Home refined has been in moderate demand at unchanged rates. Tate's cubes and mineral water sugar have shed 3d. each at 53s. 6d. and 48s. 9d. respectively, while London granulated and Lyle's granulated have dropped a similar amount at 48s. 3d. and 48s. 6d. respectively. A firm tone has prevailed in export descriptions. West Indian crystallized has been steady at 42s. 6d., while white Mauritius is 9d. higher at 44s. Cane sugar quotations are:—April, 14s. 6d.; May, 14s. 6d.; August, 14s. 6d.; and September, 14s. 6d. White sugar quotations are: April, 20s.; May, 19s. 9d.; August, 20s. 1½d.; September, 20s.; October-December, 19s.

Coffee.—Unsteadiness has been in evidence. Costa Rica has shed 2s. at 120s., while East Indian has dropped 8s. at 122s. Nairobi has declined 6d. at 110s. The futures market has been quiet. Quotations are:—May, 60s.; July, 61s.; September, 60s. 6d.; and December, 60s.

Dessicated Coconut.—Firmness has continued throughout the week, but a higher tendency is anticipated shortly.

Rice.—Japan rices have been in better demand and good business is passing. The demand for American Java rice has been quieter during the past week, more attention being paid to Burma rices.

Green Fruit.—Shipments of oranges during the week have been small, and prices are harder. The Jaffa orange crop is estimated at 1,000,000 cases, of which it is estimated that Great Britain's share will be 400,000 cases. A great improvement in the demand for lemons has been noticeable during the week, and prices have firmed up for Messina lemons. There is a scarcity of Naples lemons, but it is anticipated that larger shipments will arrive in view of the excellent prices now in evidence. Australian and Tasmanian apples are now being discharged from various steamers. Egyptian onions are now arriving in larger quantities and of better quality.

Oilseeds.—Prices are firmer. Indian linseed remains unchanged at 21s. 6d., while La Plata has gained 3d. at 21s. 3d. Rape-seed has been steady with Toria unaltered at 18s. Cottonseed has again advanced, with Indian 1s. up at 21s., Sakellarides, 4½d. up at 12s. 4½d., while Egyptian black at 12s. 9d. has risen 11½d.

Oils.—The tone has been brighter. Linseed oil has advanced 1s. at 43s. Rape oil is higher with the crude variety at 45s., and refined at 48s. an increase of 2s. in both cases. Cottonseed oil. Increases are to be noted in all cases. Refined is 1s. up at 49s., Egyptian crude is 2s. 6d. firmer at 42s. 6d., deodorized is 1s. up at 54s., while technical has gained 3d. at 42s. 3d.

Oilcakes.—Linseed cake has been steady at 300s. ton. Cotton-meal cake shows no change at 280s. ton; while coconut cake and cottonseed cake are both unchanged at 160s. and 180s. ton respectively.

THE MESOPOTAMIAN HARVEST.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Baghdad, April 13.

The harvest of the wheat and barley crops has commenced in the south and will commence in the Baghdad district in a few days. Crops show every promise of being heavy, and prices are still falling.

SCHEME FOR GRAIN ELEVATORS IN BULGARIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, April 19.

A scheme proposed by a Canadian-American group which provided for the erection of a grain elevator system throughout Bulgaria, was due to come before the Sobranje at the close of its last session. On account of pressure of other business, consideration of this scheme has been held over until next month.

Reports from Central and Southern Bulgaria indicate that if the necessary amount of rain-fall is experienced in May and June, the 1922 harvest should be a record one.

ROUMANIA'S HEMP INDUSTRY.

There are about 20 undertakings in Roumania occupied with the industrial utilisation of hemp, says the *Argus*. The most important are in Galatz, Jassy, Berveni in the Satmar district, Zimnicea and Iratosul Mare, near Arad. The hemp employed is partly grown in Roumania and partly imported from abroad. As the home grown hemp is inferior owing to its dark colour, large quantities are imported from Italy and Yugoslavia.

TURKISH CROP CONDITIONS.

The following extracts are taken from the report of Captain C. H. Courthope-Munroe, Commercial Secretary to the British High Commissioner, Constantinople, on the economic and financial conditions in Turkey in February of this year:—

Cereals.—At the commencement of the year exceptionally fine weather was experienced, which alarmed the farmer to some extent. It was feared that the crops, growing too rapidly under the influence of the warm sunny weather, would be caught by the bitter winds that blow from the Caucasus later in the spring. From news received, however, the crops in Anatolia appear to be 25 per cent. better than those of previous years. The production of the Vilayets of Konia, Kastamouni and the Sandjaks of Nigde and Kaisarea is considerably in excess of the original estimate. The harvest in the Adalia district has been so plentiful that local dealers have applied to the Kemalist Government to allow admittance into Adalia of cereal merchants from Lebanon and Syria to effect purchases. Large quantities of cereals are collected at Affion-Kara-Hissar and Eski-Shehir. The satisfactory harvest is also partially due to the measures taken by the Kemalist Government, granting exoneration of active service to cultivators, who were conscripted and ordered to cultivate 10 deunums of land. Many of the stocks, however, have probably been destroyed by the belligerent Governments.

Tobacco.—Samsoun, which is the chief centre of the tobacco growing industry in Turkey, has been under Kemalist control throughout the whole year. No British subjects have been allowed to land and very little information has, therefore, been obtained. Export, however, of tobacco from this district has been taking place, and it was reported, in the month of April, that 5 million kilos had already left that port during the year, the majority of this, however, being the previous year's stocks. The factory of Samsoun has been working full time and the value of its output for this year is estimated at 3 million Ltqs. A quantity of this tobacco was transported from Anatolia to Adalia, and thence to foreign buyers. By the middle of the year 1920 the crop had been practically entirely disposed of, but the 1921 crop is estimated at being only one-third of that of last year owing to the shortage of labour and the deportation of planters. Tobacco growing in the vilayet of Smyrna has been very poor this season owing to the fact that the peasants can obtain no financial assistance to meet the depression in the tobacco trade. Of the 6 million okes of the Smyrna crop only 16-20 per cent. were of

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good quality. The crop for 1921 in the Broussa district is both poor in quality and quantity. The crop throughout the remainder of Anatolia has been equally poor. Reports as to the actual production are most conflicting.

Silk.—By far the greatest proportion of the silk produced in Turkey comes from the Broussa district. The silk crop for the year 1921 has been a great success compared with the last few years, despite gloomy forecasts to the contrary. In 1920 the output from the Broussa Vilayet was 950,000 kilos. In the present year it has reached 1,350,000 kilos, which shows a distinct improvement. Each bag of eggs, instead of producing from 38 to 42 kilos of cocoons as in the previous year, produced on an average 58 kilos. The increase is explained by the fact that villagers, fearing that owing to the loss of mulberry trees, many of which were cut down during the war, they would be unable to feed the usual number of silk-worms, accepted fewer bags of eggs than previously. The temperature has been very favourable, and the average time for the rearing of silk worms has been from 40-45 days. The output of silk per kilo is between 11 and 12 kilos of cocoons to 1 kilo of silk. The result of this good crop has been a boom in the silk weaving and spinning trades.

Information has been received from the *La Generale Soie*, Broussa, to the effect that in July 570 pans were in operation, whilst in October this number was increased to 1,154. The reasons for this increase of the spinners were the following:—The destruction or compulsory stoppage of spinning factories in the interior; the arrival of a quantity of refugees, who were for the most part spinners, and found employment in the factories. Cocoon cultivators were getting very good prices, and arrivals of dry cocoons surpassed all expectations. As the factories were unable to absorb all the cocoons that arrived, there was an appreciable difference in price between the raw material and the raw silk, and it was in order to realise this profit that the spinners made such big efforts to repair and instal new factories.

The general situation in the silk industry has considerably improved, and it is certain that Broussa is becoming the centre of the silk trade, which up to the present was Constantinople.

Valonea.—The crop which averaged during the last years before the war about 1,200,000 quintals fell in 1921 to only about 400,000 quintals, and this year's present stocks in Anatolia are estimated at 300,000 quintals. This is due to the general unrest, the lack of labour and transport, and to the industrial conditions in Germany and Russia and the old Austrian Kingdoms, which no longer form a market for this commodity. Furthermore, tanners, especially those in England, got accustomed during the war to the use of more rapid processes and in many cases modified their plant for this purpose. This year the United States, which previous to 1907 imported no valonea, is by far the largest consumer.

Hazelnuts.—The majority of exports of hazelnuts from this country were to Trieste, Marseilles and Hamburg. The new crop is estimated at about 700,000 kantars. The old stocks are exhausted and consuming centres are already asking for forward shipments. Owing to the situation in the centres of production sellers are having difficulties in effecting shipments. Arrivals from Black Sea ports amount to about 100,000 bags of which about 95,000 have been exported to consuming centres. Stocks at Black Sea ports are estimated at 75,000 bags.

CURRENT PRICES.

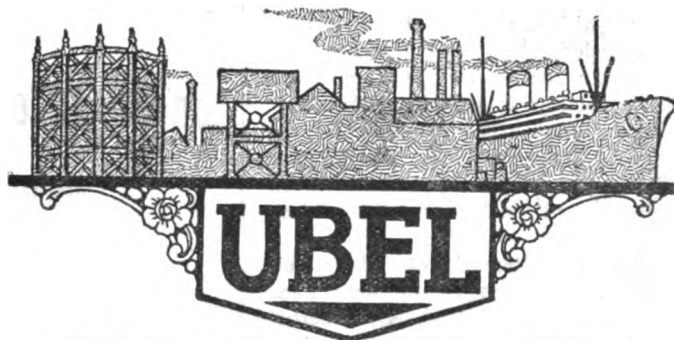
General Produce.—Bacon: (Continental), 127s. cwt.; (Canadian), 115s. cwt.; (American), 100s. cwt.; butter (Danish), 181s. cwt.; (Australian), 164s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 173s. cwt.; cheese (Canadian), 101s. 6d. cwt.; (New Zealand) 70s. cwt.; lard, 72s. cwt.; eggs (Danish), 15s. 3d. per 120; (Styrian), 11s. 3d. per 120; chillies, 162s. 6d. cwt.; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 2d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon good to fine), 90s. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 132s. 6d. cwt.; (East Indian), 132s. 6d. cwt.; (Central American) 104s. cwt.; (Jamaica), 68s. 9d. cwt.; (Mocha longberry), 105s. cwt.; (Santos, superior), 71s. 6d. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochín), 52s. 6d. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 11½d. lb.; pepper (Singapore Black), 3½d. lb.; (Muntok white), 7½d. lb.; pimento, 2½d. lb.; raisins (Valencias), 75s. cwt.; sultanas (Smyrna), 121s. 6d. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 70s. cwt.; (Amalias), 57s. cwt.; sugar (Tate's cubes), 53s. cwt.; (Lyle's granulated), 48s. 7½d. cwt.; (Mauritius crystals), 44s. 3d. cwt.; (West Indian crystalised), 43s. 3d. cwt.; (centrifugal), 15s. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 1½d. lb.; rice (Rangoon No. 2) 13s. 7½d. cwt.; (bran Rangoon), 66 2s. 6d. ton; cinnamon (firsts), 11½d. lb.; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 6½d. lb.; tea (Indian, common to good common), 1s. 1½d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 6d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 7½d. lb.; Ceylon (common to good common), 1s. 2½d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 6½d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 7½d. lb.;

Java (common to good common), 10½d. lb.; wheat (English white), 56s. 6d. qr.; wheat (Australian), 59s. 6d. qr.; barley (malting), 43s. qr.; barley (feeding), 36s. 6d. qr.; oats (English), 25s. 6d. qr.; oats (La Plata, ex-ship), 25s. 6d. qr.; maize (La Plata), 41s. 3d. qr.; flour, 46s. 6d. sack.

Metals.—Aluminium, £122 10s. ton; antimony (English Regulus), £30 15s. ton; bismuth, 9s. lb.; copper (standard), £59 13s. 9d. ton; copper (electro), £65 ton; gold bars, 93s. 5d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 90s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 97s. 6d. ton; galvanised sheets (24 G), £16 5s. ton; lead (soft foreign), £23 10s. ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 1½d. unit; molybdenite, 27s. 9d. unit; nickel, £175 ton; platinum, 360s. oz.; plumbago, £16 ton; quicksilver, £10 16s. 3d. bottle; spelter (G.O.B.), £26 18s. 9d. ton; tin (standard), £155 17s. 6d. ton; wolfram, 10s. unit; zinc sheets, £35 10s. ton; tin plates (20 by 4), 19s. 4½d. box; silver bars, 34½d. oz.

Chemicals.—Acids: Boric, 61s. cwt.; oxalic, 8½d. lb.; citric, 2s. 6d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 3½d. lb.; ammonia (sulphate), £16 11s. 6d. ton; arsenic (white powdered), £35 5s. ton; benzole (standard), 2s. 5d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £12 15s. ton; borax crystals, 29s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 119s. 6d. cwt.; Potassium: Bichromate, 7d. lb.; chlorate, 4½d. lb.; caustic, £33 10s. ton; nitrate, £38 10s. ton; permanganate, 9½d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 1½d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £15 5s. ton; Sodium: Crystals, 130s. ton; bi-carbonate, £11 5s. ton; bi-chromate, 5½d.; alkali (58 per cent.), £8 13s. 9d. ton; chlorate 3½d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £23 ton; hyposulphite, £15 13s. ton; prussiate, 9½d. lb.; nitrate, £15 1s. 3d. ton; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £75 ton; glycerine (industrial 1260 per cent.), £100 ton; lemon oil, 3s. 6½d. lb.; quinine, 2s. 10d. oz.; red lead, £34 ton; white lead, £37 15s. ton; white ground lead, £48 7s. 6d. ton; sulphate of copper, £27 5s. ton; sulphate of iron, 75s. ton.

Miscellaneous.—Cotton: (American), 10.29d. lb.; (Egyptian Sakel), 10.20d. lb.; jute (first grade c.i.f.), £28 12s. 6d. ton; jute (lightnings), £24 15s. ton; Oilseeds: Linseed (La Plata), £20 7s. 6d. ton; palm kernals, £18 8s. 9d. ton; castor seed (Bombay), £16 7s. 6d. ton; Sesame seed (China), £24 10s. ton; soya beans, £12 13s. 6d. ton; Oils: Linseed, £41 5s. ton; olive (Spanish), £70 ton; rape (crude), £43 10s. ton; soya, £37 12s. 6d. ton; petroleum, 1s. 4½d. gallon; petrol, 2s. 1d. gallon; fuel oil (ex-tank), 70s. ton; coconut (Ceylon), £39 12s. 6d. ton; cotton (crude), £40 10s. ton; ground nut, £44 15s. ton; Rubber: Plantation (No. 1 crepe), 8d. lb.; smoked sheet, 8d. lb.; fine hard Para, 11d. lb.



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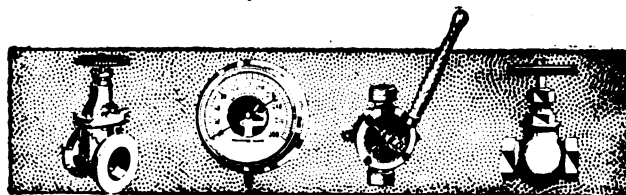
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SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

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

Jaffa, March 25.

Rain is badly required for the crops. There have been large arrivals of building timber during the last week.

Nicosia, April 15.

The month of March has been an exceptionally dry one throughout the Island; and although the barley crop is more or less assured and above the average fears are expressed as to the wheat crop.

There is nothing of interest to report with regard to exports beyond the fact that two small cargoes of carobs, one for the United Kingdom, and the other for France, and a cargo of some 3,000 tons of Cyprus barley for Hull were exported during last month.

Some ten thousand tons of copper pyrites are now ready for shipment, and regular shipments of asbestos will be effected as from the end of this month.

About 50 aero-motors have been imported recently from Canada, and an improvement in dollar exchange will no doubt result in increased business in this article.

The local agents of the Ford Motor Company have imported a couple of motor tractors, and demonstrations will commence on the 17th inst. in the Messaoria plain, the most fertile part of the Island.

Constantinople, April 22.

The improvement recorded in this market has not been maintained. The peace negotiations seem to be dragging along, and trade with Anatolia remains interrupted. Some development is to be noted in consignments made to the ports of South Russia, notably as regards foodstuffs.

Manufactures.—The position is unchanged. The arrivals, which have markedly decreased, consist mainly of cabots destined for the ports of the Black Sea.

Sugar.—The strength of this article continues. The demand is maintained in all the chief markets. Our market alone, as a result of large arrivals and the lack of outlets, quotes prices lower by from £1 to £1½ than those in the countries of origin. Quotations:—American 9.25 dollars per 100 kilos, Dutch, £23½ per ton; here in transit American £20 per ton; Dutch £22½ per ton; in customs £25½ per 100 kilos.

Coffee.—The market is very firm, and prices are higher. Large purchases are recorded on the part of Americans. The new crop is announced to be short, and more than half of the old crop is in the hands of the Brazilian Government. Prices are from 4s. to 5s. down on our market on account of the financial crisis, and the lack of outlets.

The Directors of the South Indian Railway have decided to pay on July 1, an interim dividend from surplus profits of 2 per cent. less income tax (compared with 2 per cent. paid on July 1, 1921), making with the interest guaranteed for the half-year ending June 30, 1922, namely 1½ per cent. less income tax, a total distribution for the half-year of 3¾ per cent.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

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Paid-up	-	£5,000,000
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QUIET AND DULL TONE.

The Influence of Genoa.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Tuesday Morning.

Short weeks make comment singularly difficult in a weekly journal, and this week has been circumscribed by reason of the usual holiday on May 1. It was just as well, perhaps, that there should have been a cessation of business on that day for there would have been very little doing until the Budget provisions were definitely known. To-day we shall see the effect of them, and I assume that a certain amount of activity will result though sight must not be lost of the fact that to some extent the reduction in income-tax has been discounted in advance. The shilling is in accordance with expectations though not with hopes, and it is obviously less than might have been done. But we must hope for better things next time.

Adverse Influences.

The past week has to some extent seen the continuance of general activity in the markets but there have been conflicting influences and it is not possible this time to refer to buoyant markets since in certain directions dullness has developed as the result of the unpromising situation at Genoa. Until last week Genoa failed to count as a market influence but the realisation that the end of the conference without anything being decided would by no means leave things as they were before it began had the effect of inducing a certain amount of profit-taking with the inevitable consequence that prices fell away somewhat. Besides Genoa the position with regard to the engineering negotiations has had an unfavourable effect.

The Outlook.

The new issues to which I referred last week are beginning to make their appearance, and no doubt the reduction of the income tax will have the effect of greatly increasing the number as there will naturally be a tendency to endeavour to take advantage of the large funds available for investment. Apart from the pending issues to which I have already referred there is no fresh development that calls for comment. Obviously the prospect of Near Eastern Loans in the near future will depend to a very large extent on what happens at Genoa.

Gilt-Edged.

Gilt-edged have been affected by the prevailing influences, and a rather dull tendency has been in evidence. Consols are 1 down at 59, the Conversion Loan at 70½ shows a decline of a point, while War Loan Fives are 2.3-8 down at 90.3-8½. Indian stocks have been exceptionally strong, the Seven per Cent. Loan being 2½ up at 115, while the 3½ per cent. Loan has gained 2½ at 67½, and the 3 per cent. Loan is ¾ up at 57½.

An irregular tendency has obtained in the foreign group, European securities being generally inclined to dullness as a result of the international situation. French stocks have been weak, with War Loan Fives 2½ down at 45½, while German three per cents. have shed 1-8 at 2½. Italian Rentes are, exceptionally, 1½ up at 26. Russians have all been weak, the 4 per cents. being 8½, while the 4½ per cent. 1909 Loan is 12. Brazilians have been inclined to droop with, the 5 per cent. 1914 Funding at 72½, while the 5 per cent. 1913 Loan has shed ¼ at 64. Chinese securities have weakened, and no doubt will ease off still further to-day as a result of the opening of hostilities.

Industrials Quiet and Dull.

The political situation, the pending Budget, and the labour position combined to reduce business within very narrow limits last week. A rather dull tone obtained, and in a number of directions prices tended to react somewhat. Tobaccos have been a dull spot, with Bats 6d. lower at 70s. 6d. and Imperial Tobaccos 1s. 6d. down at 57s. 9d. Dunlops are unchanged at 8s. 3d.

Textiles have been firm with Coats unchanged at 3.3-32 while Courtaulds are 3s. 9d. up at 48s. 3d. Iron and Steel securities have been on the dull side. Vickers have shed 6d. at 11s. 6d., Guest Keens are 2s. 9d. down at 33s. 6d., while Armstrongs are 1s. 6d. down at 10s. 6d. x.d.

Shipping securities have reacted. P. and O. Deferred are 12 down at 328, Cunards are 21s. 9d. x.d., while Furness Withys are 33s.

Oils Irregular.

The same influences that have affected Industrials have made themselves felt in the Oil market, and while in some cases activity prevailed the tendency has been in the main for prices to touch lower levels. Burmahs are unchanged at 5.7-8, while Anglo-Persian at 4.11-16 have shed 1-16. Mexican Eagles at 3.17-32 are 1-16 down. In the Trinidad group Centrals have been a weak spot on unfavourable reports, and at 2.11-16 are 1-16 down. Leaseholds are 1.7-32, a gain of 1-32.

Oilfields of Egypt have been the feature in the Egyptian group, rising sharply to 8s. 3d., a gain on the week of 3s. 9d. Anglo-Egyptian Bare 1-16 lower at 1.11-16. Among Roumanians Phoenix are 1s. 3d. down at 27s. 6d. Steaua Romanas are 13s. 3d., Roumanian Consolidated are 1s. 3d. lower at 14s. 3d., while Dacia Romanos are ¾. Writing as I am at a special disadvantage this week I shall abstain on this occasion from my usual hints as to the course of the market.

Banks Steady.

Banking securities have on the whole been fairly steady. Chartered of India are 17½, while National of India are 40½. P. and O. Banks are 13.5-16.

In Egyptian securities Aboukirs are 23s. x.d., Beheras are 8.7-8, a gain of ¼, Gharbieh Lands are unchanged at 1½, Sidi Salems are the same at 7-8, and Union Foncières are 1-8 up at 2.1-8.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Inquiries on financial subjects are invited from our readers, and will be answered in this column.

Dundee.—Quite enough in my opinion. I should be inclined to get out now.

T.T.—Sell half your holding, and you might with advantage invest the proceeds in the oil share which, as you are no doubt aware, I have recommended on several occasions in these columns.

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

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

Prices on April 21 were as follows:—Agricultural Bank of Egypt, £5 19-32; Alexandria Water Co., Ltd., £8, 13-16; Anglo-American Nile Steam, £2 27-32; Associated Cotton Ginners £7-8; Banque d'Orient, Fr., 53½; Behera Ord., £E.8, 3-8; Braseries d'Egypte, Fr. 70; Building Lands of Egypt, £13-16 Cassi di Sconto Priv., Fr. 125; Comptoir Fin et Com. d'Egypte, £15-16; Consolidated Lands, Pt., 15-16; Credit Foncier Fondateur, Fr. 975; Credit Foncier Act, Fr. 690; Credit Foncier 1880 Oblig. Fr., 326; Eaux du Caire, Capital, Fr., 80; Eaux du Caire Jouissance, Fr., 116; Egypt and Levant, S.S. Ord., 30s. 3d.; Egyptian Delta Light Railways, £4½; Filature National d'Egypt, £0.5-8; Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. an des., £0.3-8; Khedivial Mail S.S. Ord., 110s.; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Pref., £3½; Kom Ombo Ste an de Wadi, £9-16; Kom Ombo Ste An Fondateur, £30; Land Bank of Egypt, Parts de Fond, £14½; Lots Turc., £7½; Menzaleh Canal Navigation Pt 225; Nungovich Hotels, £7.3-16; Ramleh Railways, £2½; Urbaines et Rurales, £3 3-32; Union Fonciere Fond, £4.

ENQUIRY BUREAU.

Merchants, etc., may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau," "The Near East," 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2." It must be understood that "The Near East" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.

115. An import and export firm in Spalato, Yugoslavia, wishes to enter into business relations with British manufacturers, importers and exporters. Specialities:—Exports: Medicinal herbs, dried fruits, hides, timber. Imports: Oils, food products, tarpaulins, mackintoshes, sacks.

116. Import Merchants in Adana, Cilicia, Asia Minor, wish to represent British firms for any kind of British-made goods. Own account and commission basis. Good references provided. Send catalogues and samples with prices and terms.

117. Importer in Roumania, interested in Jute trade, wishes to get in touch with firms dealing in sacks, new and old Dundee, and Calcutta makes.

121. Exporter of Greek Ores in Athens, especially of purest quality Magnesite and Chromite wishes to be connected with interested British Firms.

122. Merchant in Galatz, Roumania, wishes to enter into business relations with British firms willing to ship goods on consignment terms. Guarantees by Leading Banks given. Full details on application. Correspondence in French.

123. Import and Export Merchant in Beyrout (Syria) invites correspondence with British firms. General Merchandise. Will act as agent, commission basis, or own account.

124. Solicitor in Zagreb, Croatia, open to act for British firms requiring legal assistance in Yugoslavia. Correspondence conducted in French, German, Italian and Croatian.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

OTTOMAN LIGHTHOUSES.

A subject of considerable interest to British shipping firms was raised at the recent meeting of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce when a resolution concerning the concession for Ottoman lighthouses was carried unanimously. The terms of the resolution were as follows:—

That when, in accordance with the spirit of the provision of the Treaty of Sevres, which Treaty has still, however, to be ratified, the time comes for His Majesty's Government to consider the adaptations to meet new economic conditions of concessions granted by the Turkish Government to Allied Nationals before October 29th, 1914, all questions arising out of the concession for Ottoman Lighthouses granted to two private persons over fifty years ago for twenty years, and since renewed for two periods of fifteen and twenty-five years each to the Concessionary Company, be carefully weighed.

That before recognition of the last renewal of the concession for 25 years from September, 1924, obtained from an unstable Government in 1913, in return for an advance of £T500,000 the reserves stipulated by His Majesty's Government in 1895 for a revision of the tariff of dues five years before the expiry of the concession in 1924, which stipulations were confirmed by Note of the Ottoman Ambassador in London dated October 8, 1896, be insisted upon.

That in view of the great changes in the construction of modern steamers, and the large profits made by the Concessionary Company, the complete revision of the tariff of dues on the basis of a reasonable interest and sinking fund on the capital cost of maintaining the lights in the reduced territory covered by the concession, is necessary.

That His Majesty's Government be urged to consult and obtain the views of British Shipping and Shipowners' Associations, and other interested parties before making any definite arrangements with the Concessionary Company.

MOTOR TRANSPORT FOR EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN.

According to the *Solo* a scheme has been drawn up by Ingegnere Enrico Krasnowsky for the immediate organisation of motor transport in the Eastern Mediterranean and Southern Russia.

The movement has been promoted by the Instituto Italiano per l'Esportazione Commerciale o Coloniale, 12, Via Pontaccio, Milan, and by Ingegnere Pravesi, president of the Unione Industrieli Meccanici Italiani per Relazioni Economiche con l'Oriente. Various engineering, transport and forwarding companies have adhered to the scheme.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

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

Anchor Line.—S.s. Moora for Bombay (Liverpool, May 16).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Magdapur for Calcutta (Birkenhead, May 13); s.s. Holywell for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, May 16); s.s. Masirah for Port

Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, May 27) s.s. Mangalore for Calcutta (Birkenhead, May 27).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Lancashire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, May 10); s.s. City of Boston for Rangoon (Middlesbrough, May 10); s.s. Yorkshire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, May 24).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Ogilvy for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, May 8); s.s. Clan Chattan for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (Birkenhead, May 18).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Cypria for Gibraltar, Melilla, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Odessa, Novorossisk, Poti and Batoum (Swansea, May 25).

Ellerman Line.—S.s. Cressado for Gibraltar, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas and Varna (Liverpool, May 6); s.s. Maronian for Gibraltar, Melilla, Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, May 15); s.s. Flaminian for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Ancona, Venice and Trieste (Liverpool, May 18).

Ellerman's "City" Line.—S.s. City of Agra for Calcutta (Birkenhead, May 9); s.s. City of Florence for Bombay and Karachi (Birkenhead, May 19); s.s. City of Chester for Calcutta (Birkenhead, May 22).

Ellerman's "Hall" Line.—S.s. Trafford Hall for Bombay, Karachi and the Punjab (Liverpool, May 12).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—Steamers sail fortnightly for Malta, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz and Braila.

Glen Line.—S.s. Glenbeg for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, May 4); s.s. Glenluce for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, May 18); s.s. Glenshane for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, June 1).

Harrison Line.—S.s. Defender for Calcutta (Liverpool, May 13).

Henderson Line.—S.s. Henzada for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, May 17).

Holt Line.—S.s. Calchas for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, May 4); s.s. Demodocus for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, May 4); s.s. Phemius for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, May 4); s.s. Eumaeus for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, May 18); s.s. Glaucus for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, May 18).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Wingate for Piraeus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, May 13); s.s. Cundall for Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, May 20); s.s. Incemore for Piraeus, Syra, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, June 3).

Moss Line.—S.s. Siptah for Gibraltar, Malta, Syra, Smyrna and Constantinople (Liverpool, May 13).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. Bavarian for Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, May 5); s.s. Gerano for Algiers, Malta, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas and Varna (Liverpool, May 20).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Nagoya for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, May 5); s.s. Caledonia for Bombay (London, May 5); s.s. Soudan for Bombay (London, May 6); s.s. Nore for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, May 19); s.s. Egypt for Bombay (London, May 19); s.s. Macedonia for Bombay (London, May 26); s.s. Mantua for Bombay (London, June 2); s.s. Sardinia for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, June 2).

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. Chindwara for Bombay and Karachi (London, May 12); s.s. Nardana for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, May 13); s.s. Matiana for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, May 26); s.s. Mandala for Bombay and Karachi (London, June 2); s.s. Nevasa for Bombay and Karachi (London, June 16).

Prince Line.—S.s. Stuart Prince for Tunis, Malta and Alexandria (Manchester, May 5); s.s. Soldier Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria and Syria (Manchester, May 15); s.s. Cyprian Prince for Malta, Alexandria and Syria (London, May 15).

The Oriental Gas announce an interim dividend at the usual rate of 3½ per cent., less tax, on account of the year ending June 30.

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Cotton & Cotton Goods.

MANCHESTER MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Friday.

Although a fairly steady tone has prevailed in the market during the past week the actual amount of business done has not been anything to boast about. There has been nothing to stimulate buyers to further activity, and the slackness in trade during the past fortnight is causing manufacturers to wonder how they can keep restarted looms running. Taking the market as a whole, however, optimistic views are held with regard to future developments, but any progress towards better times will be slow. The wages settlement has given general satisfaction. With regard to cloth rather better advices have been received from Egypt, and it has been stated that clearances are much better out there. No sales of any weight have been mentioned, however. A little more business has been done for Constantinople in grey staples, and printing and finishing styles. Egyptian yarn quotations have been rather irregular, and users have only purchased from hand to mouth. A fair amount of cloth inquiry has been about for India, and some moderate transactions have been recorded in a variety of fabrics. Trade for China has been practically at a standstill. Buyers for the remaining minor outlets both East and West have not been altogether idle. American yarn quotations have been somewhat easier, and sales have been within restricted dimensions.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended April 26 :—

The holidays over, quite a good business has once more taken place in this section of the market. The visible enquiry has seemed hardly sufficient to warrant the estimate of 2,300 bales, but no doubt a certain proportion was business that had been pending for some little time, and which had been held up by the approach of Easter, and the somewhat obscure trade situation. No new feature in the demand has been noticed here, and buying continues to be on similar lines to those indicated in our previous reports of the past month or so. Good Fair to Fully Good Fair still claim the most attention, and so far there seems but little disposition on the part of spinners to purchase the higher grades. Enquiry for Low Cotton (6d.—9d.) is still met with in certain quarters, but we doubt if much actual business is taking place at these prices, at any rate on the spot. Alexandria appears to offer better value for the money in this class of cotton than Liverpool, at the moment. Brown and White cottons have been quite neglected, and only a small business has taken place in Uppers. We are of the opinion that White cotton could be placed, if only the prices asked bore some resemblance to the actual value of the commodity as cotton, but, with so many outside growths to compete against, it is useless for holders to put fancy prices on this class of cotton, on the ground that it is scarce—that is if they wish to sell. For the time being, the days of fancy prices are over. Spinners cannot afford to pay them—and the wise ones experiment with substitutes, which they can obtain at more reasonable cost. C.i.f. business continues to run on quietly conservative lines.

Contrary to popular opinion, the settling of the cotton wages dispute, while, no doubt, lifting a certain amount of weight from the market locally, entirely failed to bring about that fresh access of business which in most quarters it had been hoped would be the case. India continues to "enquire" freely, but does not seem to get beyond that stage, and it is very obvious that the cloth buyers are still in a position to control the price. On the other hand, the spinners and manufacturers are showing an increased tendency to harden their prices and to stop selling under cost, and so to a certain extent something in the nature of a deadlock would seem to have been reached. This is of course unfortunate in that a period of quietness will probably result, for some time at all events, but it may prove the best step towards an improved business in the near future. Some excitement was caused during the week by the news that the Egyptian Government had commenced to support the market in Alexandria by buying spot cotton there, and a rapid rise of about $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb. occurred in our "futures" market as a consequence. The excitement subsided as quickly as it had arisen,

and the inevitable reaction occurred on the day following. The general impression here is to the effect that very considerable purchases would have to be made before any permanent effect could be produced on our spot market, where the strongest opposition would be encountered from buyers, who, in face of conditions ruling in Manchester and district to-day, would be very loath to follow anything in the nature of a rapid advance. Total sales estimated at 2,300 (350 Sudan). Quotations of Fair in Upper and Brown qualities are raised 50 points; those of Good Fair and above, in the same growths, 75 points. In Sakellaridis, quotations of Fair, Good and above, are advanced 75 points, whilst those of Good Fair and Fully Good Fair show a rise of 50 points only. F.G.F. Sakellaridis to-day 17.50d.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Commercial Co. of Egypt in their report dated April 21 state :—Since our last report the futures market has been rather dull, the turnover of business being very restricted. The factors which have contributed to this dull state of affairs and caused the drop in prices of about one dollar for both Sakel and Ashmouni contracts are the following :—(1) Absence of demand of any importance from spinners, (2) continued large daily arrivals from up-country, (3) weakness of the Liverpool Egyptian cotton market and the New York cotton market, and, finally, the uncertain political situation. If prices are not lower, it is because the holders of spot cotton are in a relatively satisfactory financial position and do not press their cotton for sale, and because of the possibility that the Government may eventually decide to purchase cotton for the sake of avoiding a break which would be a heavy blow to its popularity. However, one must confess that the prospects for the near future are not very bright, owing to the heavy existing supplies and to the many difficulties still impeding the recovery of the textile industry. The most important of these difficulties are the continued strikes in America, the unsettled wages question in England, and, finally, the financial chaos all over Europe and the unsatisfactory start of the Genoa Conference.

Spot.—Our market was closed on Saturday for the Easter holidays and on Monday owing to the Sham el Nessim festival. For the remaining four days total sales amount to 6,400 Bales, of which we estimate 4,800 Bales Sakel, 1,100 Bales Uppers, 300 Bales Brown, 100 Bales White and 100 Bales Pilon. Arrivals from the interior at the beginning of the week were large but they have shown a considerable falling off during the last three days owing to the holidays. The climatic conditions have been this week about normal. Sowings are now almost entirely completed all over the Delta, but the progress of the plant is far from being uniform; generally speaking the Central Delta districts, where the finest cotton of Egypt is grown, are again this year the most delayed. Owing to the feared serious shortage of water during the coming months, the adoption of a 24 days interval between two irrigations has been decided upon and this long drought may have, eventually, considerable effect on the yield if we do not have cool weather from June to August.

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

Manchester, April 29.

The Imperial Ottoman Bank in its weekly cotton trade review states :—

The outstanding feature of the week has been the settlement of the wages dispute. The agreement is that 40 per cent. shall

THE AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at a General Meeting of the above-named Company, held in Cairo on the 27th April, 1922, it was decided that a Dividend of 8s. per Share on the ORDINARY Shares of £5 each and £10 per Share on the DEFERRED Shares of £5 each should be paid on and after the 4th May, 1922, at THE NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT in Cairo, Alexandria and London (6 & 7, King William Street, E.C.4).

Payment will be made in London less Income Tax.

The said Dividends will be paid to the holders of Ordinary and Deferred Share Warrants to Bearer on presentation of the respective Dividend Coupons (ORDINARY No. 19, DEFERRED No. 18) at the above Banks.

Forms for listing the above-mentioned Coupons will be supplied on application by the Bankers above mentioned.

Coupons must be left with the Bankers for previous examination.

By Order,

B. HORNSBY,
President.

Cairo, 27th April, 1922.

be deducted from "List" rates immediately and a further 10 per cent. in six months time; no other alteration to be made within the next twelve months. On current wages this is equivalent to 3s. 3d. in the £ at once, and a further 10d. in six months time. It is to be feared that an unfortunate impression was made abroad by the original demand of the employers for 75 per cent. reduction from "List" rates, which proves to be almost twice as much as has finally been arranged; it would be preferable in future if exaggerated demands of this nature could be avoided. The usual trial of strength is now proceeding between buyers and sellers in order to determine who is to have the benefit of the consequent fall in production costs and, not unnaturally, actual business during the past week has fallen off to a slight extent, though probably the amount of negotiation has been larger. At the moment buyers appear to have the upper hand. There is no doubt at all that more machinery is now in operation than was the case two months ago, but the reduced turnover during the past fortnight is raising doubts whether it will be possible to keep all of it running.

Yarn.—The yarn market remains steady, though very little activity can be reported. Spinners are reported to have rather big stocks still on hand in some counts, but as output is probably being kept to the level of consumption stocks on hand are not being increased. The anticipated activity following the adjustment of the wages question has not yet materialised, and such business as has been done is said to have shown little or no profit.

Cloth.—This market has also been quieter than recently. Although enquiry remains on a fairly good scale, much negotiation is necessary before the orders can be brought to book. Bombay and Calcutta are still the principal buyers, and a certain amount is going through for other parts of India. Egypt is said to be buying for replacement such goods as greys and whites when these can be purchased on a low basis, but otherwise the Near East does little. The opinion is gaining ground, however, that stocks on hand are steadily being liquidated, and this factor is becoming a more important one in fixing quotations.

Raw Cotton.—This section remains in the dull state recently reported, and there is very little change on balance from last week's figures. The time is near when we may expect the usual scare news with regard to the growing crop, but in the meantime the weather reports from America are almost the only matters of interest. Closing prices are as follows:—Fully Middling, 10.36d.; Egyptian Fully good Fair, 17.50d.

The Egyptian Markets announce a final dividend of 5 per cent. and bonus of 2 per cent., less tax, making 12 per cent. for 1921 on ordinary shares.

The Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation announce a final dividend at 6 per cent. actual, making 10 per cent. for the year plus a bonus of 1 per cent.

The directors of the Oriental Telephone and Electric Company recommend, subject to final audit, a final dividend for 1921 of 6 per cent. on the ordinary shares (free of tax), making 10 per cent. for the year, free of tax, plus a bonus of 2 per cent., also free of tax.

TENDERS INVITED.

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

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

Bulgaria.

Oil.—The Directorate of Railways and Ports, Sofia, invites tenders for the supply of 900 tons of machine oil; 150 tons of wagon oil; 400 tons ordinary cylinder oil; 60 tons special cylinder oil; 10,000 cases of petrol. The total estimated value of this contract is 17,630,000 levas. The material must be supplied in barrels, and not otherwise. Delivery time: three months for 300 tons machine oil, 50 tons wagon oil, 150 tons ordinary cylinder oil and 5,000 cases petrol; five months for 400 tons machine oil, 100 tons wagon oil, 150 tons ordinary cylinder oil, 60 tons special cylinder oil and 5,000 cases of petrol, and seven months for 200 tons machine oil and 100 tons ordinary cylinder oil. The contractor must pay a tax of 300 leva for every analysis on acceptance of the different kinds of oil and petrol. Tenderers must deposit a sum equal to one per cent. of their estimate, which must be increased to five per cent. when the contract is placed. Payment terms are not specifically mentioned, but they are probably the same as for previous adjudications. The methods of payment in the previous adjudications were half against documents, the suppliers putting up a bank guarantee against this sum, which will be freed against arrival and final acceptance, the balance also being paid on final acceptance. (D.O.T.) May 10.

The Sudan.

Cane or Beet Loaf Sugar.—The Director, Commercial Intelligence Branch, Central Economic Board, Khartoum, invites tenders for the supply of four thousand metric tons net of cane or beet loaf (Ras) sugar to the Sudan Government c.i.f. Port Sudan. Tenders must be accompanied by samples and must conform to the specifications and conditions of tender set forth in the special form on which tenders must be submitted. Copies of this form may be obtained on application to the Sudan Agency, War Office, Cairo. The Sudan Government is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender. Tenders should be in double sealed envelopes clearly marked "tender for sugar." May 10.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ..	Piastres to £....	97½	97.15-32
Athens	Drachmae to £....	25.22½	92½-100
†Belgrade ..	Dinars to £....	25.22½	300-305
Berlin	Marks to £....	20.43	1262-1310
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3-7.32-1.3-9.32
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3-7.32-1.3-9.32
Brussels.....	Francs to £....	25.22½	52.45-52.70
*Bucharest ..	Lei to £....	25.22½	615-650
Constantinople	Piastres to £....	110	635-655
New York....	Dollars to £....	4.86 2-3	4.43-4.43.5-8
Paris	Francs to £....	25.22½	48.10-48.26
Prague	Kronen to £....	24.02	226-228
Rome	Lire to £....	25.22½	82.7-8-83½
†Sofia	Leva to £....	25.22½	650
Teheran	Krans to £....	50	54
Vienna	Kronen to £....	24.02	35,000-36,000
Warsaw	Marks to £....	20.43	17,500-18,500

Nominal. † Sellers.

GOVERNMENT BONDS

INTEREST RETURN UP TO 7½%.
CAPITAL APPRECIATION FROM 10%-30%

We have published a series of Articles on absolutely safe Government Bonds (some with actual photographs). Of this series the following have so far appeared.

Date	Price then	Approximate price now
20/10/21 BRAZILIAN 5% FUNDING	61½	£ 73
12/12/21 FRENCH 5% WAR LOAN (BI)	37	£ 46½
18/4/21 ITALIAN 3½% RENTES	23	£ 25

These Articles will be sent free of charge or obligation, on application to—
Bond & Stock Dept.

Pall Mall Industrial Investments Ltd.
TRAFALGAR HOUSE, WATERLOO PLACE, LONDON S.W. 1.



Company Meetings.

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

The report of the directors on the working of the bank for 1921-22, submitted to the shareholders at the nineteenth ordinary general meeting held at the offices of the bank in Cairo on April 27, states:—

The directors have to report that the net profits of the bank for the financial year 1921-22, in accordance with Article 40 of the statutes, amount to £E.512,999.561. From this amount there has to be deducted:—I. the service of the debentures, £E.236,053.264. II. the provision for the reserve fund, £E.15,304.777. III. the provision for the special reserve fund as per Article 40 of the statutes, £E.10,725.002. — £E.271,082.063, leaving £E.241,917.498. And there has to be further deducted:—IV., dividend on £1,250,000 preferred shares, £E.48,750; V., commission to the National Bank of Egypt, £E.704.187—£E.58,454.187, leaving £E.183,463.311, which is available for distribution as dividend on ordinary and deferred shares. The ordinary shares have to receive, in the first instance, dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, £E.125,990. The balance of £E.62,503.311 is available for the ordinary shares to the extent of one-half, or £E.31,281.656, and for the deferred shares to the extent of one half, or £E.31,281.655.

Ordinary Shares.

The amounts therefore available for dividend on these shares are as follows: Balance from the year ending 31-1-21, L.E.327,239.528; interest for the year, accrued on the above balance, L.E.16,301.976 — L.E.343,601.504; Dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, as stated above, L.E.120,900.; further amount available, L.E.31,281.656; total L.E.495,783.100. The directors propose to pay a dividend at the rate of 8s. per annum for the financial year 1921-22, amounting to L.E.193,440. and to carry forward the balance of L.E.302,343.100.

Deferred Shares.

The amounts available for dividend on these shares are as follows: Balance from the year ending 31-1-21, L.E.255,933.364, interest for the year, accrued on the above balance, L.E.12,790.668; total, L.E.268,730.032; amount available as above, L.E.31,281.655; total, L.E.300,011.687. The directors propose to pay a dividend of 4s. per share amounting to L.E.78,000. and to carry forward the balance of L.E.222,011.687.

In making these proposals we recommend the maintenance of the same dividends as those paid during the past four years. In order to do so it will be necessary to draw on the balance carried forward to the credit of the ordinary and deferred shareholders' accounts. We have effected during the past year changes in certain of our investments, both in the general investment account and the general reserve investment account; we have also realised part of our holding in National War Bonds in order to obtain the funds needed for new mortgage business and we have transferred £50,000 nominal of British Government 5 per cent. War Loan 1929-47 from the general investment account to the account of the general reserve fund.

*The loss resulting from the sale of certain of the securities held for the general reserve investment account amounted to L.E.30,588: this loss has been debited to the general reserve fund. The loss on the realisation of the securities held in the general investment account has been charged to the fund for provision for depreciation on investments, which has thus been reduced from L.E.245,000 to L.E.195,672. This amount of L.E.195,672 is more than sufficient to cover the difference between the prices at which the Government securities stand in our books and the market price on January 31st, 1922. We now hold £2,800,300 nominal of our own debentures which have cost us £2,264,700, as shown in the balance sheet. The Mortgage Company of Egypt, Ltd., for the year ending 31st March, 1921, again distributed a dividend of 12 per cent. on the ordinary shares. In view of the heavy taxation on profits to which companies with their central direction in England are subjected, measures were taken during the year for the transfer to Egypt of the control and full administration of the Mortgage Company. When completed, these measures will, we are advised, result in an appreciable reduction of the tax which is paid to the British Treasury. The business of the Mortgage Company was more active than in previous years but the fluctuations in the cotton market have prevented a normal disposal of the crop and some of the borrowers who still hold their cotton have not paid their instalments. Some increase must then be expected in the arrears due to the company on the 31st March, the close of the financial year.

Arrears.

On the 31st January, 1922, the total arrears outstanding were L.E.223,988—against L.E.172,700 on the 31st January, 1921.

	Capital L.E.	Interest L.E.	Total L.E.
Accrued up to January 31st, 1921	99,658	73,102	172,760
Of which collected or written off from 1st February, 1921, to 31st January, 1922	67,503	53,602	121,105
Leaving	32,155	19,500	51,655
To which have to be added the arrears of 1921-22	101,356	70,977	172,333
Making a total on January 31st, 1922, of	133,511	90,477	223,988

Of the sum of L.E.223,988 in arrear shown above, L.E.90,477 represent interest. No credit has been taken in the profit and loss account for any part of this sum, since, in accordance with the statutes, only interest actually encashed can be included in the profits. The whole of the remainder, viz., L.E.133,511 representing capital overdue, has, as required by the statutes, been deducted from the profit and loss account before arriving at the balance available for distribution. Consequently any encashments made on account of the sum of L.E.223,988 will go entirely to the profit of the year in which they are effected. Up to the 15th of March the encashments since the 1st February, 1922, on account of the arrears of L.E.223,988 amount to L.E.25,500.

The percentage of the annual instalment collected is the lowest for some years past. This is chiefly due to the fall in the price of cotton in October and to its subsequent fluctuations and the consequent difficulty experienced by most of our clients—who are small landowners—in finding purchasers of their crops in the villages at the real market prices. A sum of L.E.458,352 was collected out of the annual instalment of L.E.630,985 and L.E.119,481 was collected from the arrears, making a total collection of L.E.577,833. The total of arrears carried forward is L.E.223,988, as compared with L.E.172,700 in the previous year.

The total of loans exceeding L.E.1,000 each was L.E.111,764 on 31st January, 1922. Our arrears on these loans were L.E.6,630.

Land Acquired.

The area of land owned by the Bank remains at much the same figure as in the previous year, as can be seen from the following table. We hope that we shall be able to sell gradually the 432 feddans remaining on our hands at satisfactory prices. The number of expropriations made by the Bank during the year are as follows: Number of cases in hand on 1-2-21, 402, number of cases begun during 1921-1922, 656, total, 1,058; Cases settled, 541, balance, 517; Cases brought to expropriation, 48; balance pending, 460. In 20 of these cases of expropriation 69 feddans were bought in by the bank, and in 28 remaining cases 133 feddans were bought in by third parties. The directors beg to thank the staff at head office and the agencies for their satisfactory work during the year.

INDO-EUROPEAN TELEGRAPH.

Near East Concessions.

The Fifty-fifth Ordinary General Meeting of the Indo-European Telegraph Company, Limited, was held on April 26 at the company's offices, 18, Old Broad Street, E.C.

Mr. J. Herbert Tritton, the chairman, presided.

The Secretary (Mr. John I. Bethell) having read the notice convening the meeting, the Chairman, in the course of his speech in moving the adoption of the report, said:—Taking first the accounts for 1919 and 1920, there is really very little to say. In the accounts for 1920 appears an item in the balance sheet showing the expenditure incurred, £43,926 4s 7d, in preparation for the re-establishment of the line. The directors had determined to have in readiness not only the main requisites, telegraph wire and posts, but, as far as possible, minor accessories, and purchased these when opportunity offered. In the year 1921 they pursued the same policy, and the accounts of that year will show a large increase on the figure I just mentioned, including as they will the most modern appliances in connexion with road transport and supervision. I much regret that we are still without the necessary information from other administrations to enable us to close the books for 1921. You may be interested to learn that ours is not the only telegraph administration suffering under this disability.

The investments continue to show an appreciation, while, having regard to actual political developments, the position of the Russian assets may be regarded in a somewhat more favourable light; the directors are, therefore, of opinion that any drastic step, such as writing off, need not at the moment be taken. With regard to the final dividend for 1921, the equalization of dividend fund is, as the shareholders were informed at the last meeting, now exhausted, and the total dividend for 1921 is therefore restricted to 7 per cent.

The report for 1921 contains a paragraph as follows:—"There are, however, at this moment certain important developments which the directors hope to have in shape to report to the shareholders at the general meeting." I am very pleased to inform you that the directors have at last good news to communicate. The Polish concession was signed some time back. Within the last few days we have been advised by the Russian Department of Posts and Telegraphs that our concession from the Moscow Government was signed on April 12. This is, of course, a very important fact, as the concession covers the whole territory traversed by our line, from the Polish frontier on the west to the Persian frontier on the east, transiting various Federated States, who have also approved the concession. We owe much to the efforts of our representative in Russia, Mr. Watt, in this connexion. Our concession from Persia is already in existence, and that from the German Government, although not actually signed, owing to international politics, has for a long time been agreed in principle and should offer no difficulty.

Shareholders will be glad to know that the condition of the company's line is more satisfactory than could, perhaps, have

been expected. We are informed from a reliable source that the line is workable for a stretch of over 200 miles north-west of Odessa, whilst east of Odessa a similar state of affairs exists for 300 miles into the Crimea. Beyond the Straits of Kertch the line is in working order between Ekaterinodar and Tiflis. Between Tiflis and Erivan there is a short stretch where the repairs have not yet been completed. The section Erivan-Djouffa, on the Russo-Persian frontier, has undergone repair and is now in working order, as is also the company's Persian section, Djouffa to Teheran.

Further, you will be pleased to hear that the Black Sea cable, Odessa-Constantinople, is again in working order, and, we understand, has already been officially opened by the Soviet Government representatives at Odessa. This cable will, therefore, shortly be able again to carry the classes of traffic formerly dealt with by it, and will, we hope, help to re-establish business relations generally with Southern Russia and the Black Sea ports. We are also informed by the Indo-European Telegraph Department that their Persian lines are in good order and are available at any moment.

The most arduous part of our work is, undoubtedly, the section from the German and Polish frontier on the west to the Polish-Russian frontier on the east. Much of our line in that territory has absolutely disappeared as a separate international line, and where three or four wires were suspended there are now 10 to 20 of all sorts, including telephone wires; we, therefore, in accord with the Polish Government, arrived at the conclusion that our line must be rebuilt in a new location—namely, along the great *chaussées*, or high roads. Our engineering staff is on the spot, as also the material required, but the work of building a fresh line of some 400 miles will occupy some months.

It is of the utmost importance to the shareholders that the Indo route should again carry international traffic, and the directors are making arrangements where the company's line cannot at once be made available to obtain from the Governments concerned the temporary use of a wire or wires to enable us to carry through-traffic.

This should offer no difficulty, and the directors hope before long to be able to announce that the Indo route is once more carrying international traffic, after being totally interrupted since July 31, 1914.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

IONIAN BANK.

Greece's Financial Position.

The ordinary general meeting of the Ionian Bank, Ltd., was held on April 27 at the offices of the company, Basilidon House, Moorgate, E.C., Sir John Stavridi, Chairman of the company, presiding.

The Secretary, (Mr. Wm. A. Shaw, Litt.D.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors, the Chairman said the year had been one of extraordinary difficulty and perplexity, causing the directors to act with the greatest caution. Nevertheless, the business had considerably expanded and the profits had responded. Last year he warned the shareholders that, having regard to the financial boycott imposed upon Greece by the Great Powers, and to the prolongation of the war in Asia Minor, Greece might find herself in such financial straits as would lead to disaster. Since then war expenditure had continued and no assistance from outside had been obtained, and those months had been a searching trial for the country. Since the autumn of 1912 Greece had never been at peace, and if her finances had withstood the strain it must be attributed to the inherent virility of the race and the adaptability of her public financiers. So far Greece had largely escaped the effects of the world-wide depression following the boom of 1920, and her temporary prosperity was reflected in the balance sheet now presented. The truth of the matter was that the trials of the Greek State had necessitated forced paper issues, which had depreciated the drachmae currency, reflected in Greek bank balance sheets in inflated figures of deposits and profit. Further, the vagaries of Greek exchange had caused speculation in exchange, and at such a time the banks were bound to make the middleman's profit.

These views made him utter a word of caution. They all looked forward to the time when Greece would be at peace, when demobilisation would have removed the one disordering influence in her finances, and when the drachmae would return to par. The process of deflation would inevitably result in a contraction of the mere volume of the bank's business in the figures of the balance sheet and the items of profit and loss account. While, therefore, he congratulated the shareholders on as prosperous a year as the bank had ever enjoyed he must forecast the possibility of some contraction in the near future, but this outlook need cause them no apprehension. In proportion as deflation rehabilitated the drachmae so it would improve the sterling value of their Greek profits. For the moment, however, there was no question of contraction or deflation. Greece was being saved temporarily by the fall of the drachmae, and as her chief exports were a virtual monopoly she was able to exact to the full the advantages of a depreciated currency. Last June the Government, to arrest the rapid depreciation of the currency, passed a special law establishing a consortium, formed of representatives of most of the Greek banks and members of the Government, its function was to regulate the export of capital and thus to stabilise exchange. This scheme had acted as a drag on the movement of capital into and out of Greece, and had made the ordinary depositor suspicious of parting with his foreign deposits. The consequent accumulation of unutilised capital in the country

and abroad had run up the price of securities in Greece and the value of deposits abroad in pounds, francs or dollars, expressing respectively the internal and international depreciation of the drachma. This, however, was probably the only theoretical objection which could be raised against the scheme, the operation of which had admittedly been in the direction of control of imports and also of checking exchange gambling, both these results being incontestably beneficial.

Inherently Greece was sound, but she could not stand the cost of war save by subsidies, which were denied her. If she were at peace and her army and fleet demobilised she would right herself speedily, but as these conditions did not yet prevail she was faced with a daily increasing deficit, now amounting to 2,547,618,110 drs. All the bank's new branches recently opened were developing very satisfactorily.

The expansion of the balance sheet figures must have impressed itself upon the shareholders. It arose partly from satisfactory business in Greece, Egypt and London, and partly from the conversion of the drachmae accounts at the par rate of exchange. The adoption of the latter system swelled materially all the figures in the accounts, without affecting the sterling balance of profits. The directors were considering the conversion in future of the drachmae assets at the exchange of the day on which the books were closed, at all events until the exchange was stabilised. If this alteration were made in the next balance sheet, the figures would show a truer position in sterling, though they would not be properly comparable with those now presented. If the directors' recommendations were adopted, the reserve fund would be increased by £20,000, reaching £150,000, entirely in sterling. In cash notes, investments—mainly British Government short-term bonds—and bills receivable the bank held £2,729,317, almost automatically realisable in case of need, showing a very strong position. All the investments stood in the books at considerably below market price, and there had been a further considerable increase in value since 31st December. They showed a net profit of nearly £20,000 more than last year, with the result that, in addition to the usual dividend and bonus of 7 per cent., tax free, the Board recommended the transfer of £20,000 to reserve fund and of £5,000 to the pension fund, the latter now reaching £39,650.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Madras Electric Tramways.

The net profit of the Madras Electric Tramways (1904) for 1921, after debiting interest and London office expenses, making provision for Debenture stock sinking fund and transferring £10,000 to depreciation and renewal, was £9,744, making with £5,555 brought in £15,299. The directors recommend a dividend on the ordinary shares of 5 per cent. for the year, free of tax, carrying forward £6,430. The traffic receipts and running expenses in rupees show decreases of 15.5 per cent. and 10.5 per cent. respectively on 1920.

Ceylon Timber and Rubber Syndicate.

The report of the Ceylon Timber and Rubber Syndicate for 1921 states, that as a result of the alteration in labour laws of Ceylon cost advances can no longer be considered an asset; the directors have accordingly decided to write them off. The amount brought in was £964; add reserve for excess profits duty (no longer required), £4,001; total, £5,955; deduct loss for the year, £3,229; cost advances written off, £1,341; income-tax, £488, leaving to be carried forward £807. The rubber crop (restricted) was 353,944 lb., against 391,503 lb. for the previous year; net price realised, 7½d. per pound. The estimated crop for the current season is 430,000 lb.

In September, owing to the company's financial requirements, the management was transferred to the Anglo-Ceylon and General Estates Co., Ltd., who have agreed to advance up to £4,000, making an immediate issue of debentures unnecessary. In consequence of the transfer, Mr. G. H. Champion and Mr. T. A. Ball resigned their seats on the board, and Sir Edward Rosling was appointed a director. Shareholders are asked to sanction payment to Mr. T. A. Ball of 200 guineas as compensation for loss of office. Extraordinary meetings are to be held for the purpose of adopting new articles of association, the old articles being unsatisfactory and out of date.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended April 22 amounted to £7,689.

The ordinary general meeting of shareholders of the Union Foncière d'Egypte is to be held on May 15, at 4.30 p.m., at the Head Office of the Company, 4 rue Fouard Ier, Alexandria.

The annual ordinary general meeting of the Egyptian Delta Land and Investment Co., Ltd., will be held at the offices of the company, 14, Sharia Sheikh Abou-el-Sebaa, Cairo, on Friday, April 28, at 4 p.m.

With regard to a recent report that the Ottoman Government has abolished Customs duties on the entry into Turkey of motor vehicles destined to ensure the public services and that oil and the material necessary to ensure these services will also be admitted without charge, we are informed that Customs duties are still being charged as before.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 574—Vol XXI.

THURSDAY, MAY 11, 1922.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Italo-Turkish Agreement.

To nerves already affected by the political excursions and alarms that have marked the course of the Genoa Conference the news that a separate Treaty had been concluded between Italy and Turkey came as an unpleasant jar, and the shock was not much alleviated by the earliest assurances given by the Italian Government, while withholding the details of the agreement. } The British Government at once took the view that, whatever the subject of the negotiations might have been, there ought to have been no separate undertaking with Turkey at this particular time, when the Allies were trying to find a basis for joint action with regard to Turkey; but it has since accepted the assurances of the Italians that no violence has been done to the Allied cause. The agreement is with the Constantinople Government, and the latter is said to have undertaken to examine favourably Italian applications for certain concessions for railways, mines and public works in Asia Minor. There are no counter-concessions nor undertakings on the part of Italy, no agreement of any kind between Italy and Angora, and no supplementary agreement of any kind with Constantinople. Whether the full text of the treaty will throw any further light on the strangely accommodating spirit shown by the Turkish Government remains to be seen; but coupled with the French Treaty with Angora, it suggests that the only difference between post-war and pre-war Constantinople will be that the shadow of the German military incubus will be lacking; precisely the same intrigues will lower the prestige of the Continental Powers in the eyes of the Turks.

Reported Outrages at Kharput.

A terrible story of wanton outrage and callous and systematic ill-treatment of Armenians and Greeks is told by Major Yowell, Director of the American relief work at Kharput, who with three other American workers has been deported by the Turks, and has arrived in Constantinople. Out of thirty thousand Greeks deported, five thousand are reported by Major Yowell to have died on the way from Sivas to Kharput, and another five thousand to have died at Kharput or west of it. The relief workers were not allowed to take charge of the dying deportees' children; and "all along the route the Turks were allowed to visit refugee groups and select the women and girls whom they desired for any purpose." As to the Armenians in the district,

they are described as being in a state of virtual slavery, prohibited from travelling even within the country, and subjected to legalised robbery of every description. The story, in a word, is thoroughly revolting and reminiscent of the worst days of Abdul Hamid or of Talaat Bey and the Germano-Young Turk régime.

Effects in Europe.

We do not know how far it is based upon Major Yowell's personal observations and how far upon hearsay, and we do not lose sight of the fact that he declares that "these American deportations are the culmination of a long series of unfriendly acts." But unless it can be refuted, and promptly, by the Turks, it is bound greatly to harm them in the eyes of the world. If it be shown to be substantially true, it will stir up feeling throughout Europe and America with results most prejudicial to Turkish interests as a whole, and will mean that the Entente Powers will be compelled to insist upon stringent guarantees for the protection of minorities in Turkey. Indeed, it is the very obviousness of these results that makes it natural to wonder whether the facts of the case can be actually as bad as they are represented. Even if we do not credit Angora with any moral aversion from such proceedings as those described, we find it difficult to believe that it would, at this time, be so blind to the consequences that must follow on such crimes.

The Allies and the Turks.

The prospect of a really satisfactory arrangement between Greeks and Turks seems almost as remote now as it was before the opening up of the present negotiations. The reports from Kharput, alluded to above, have already had their natural effect upon the Greeks; and the conduct of our Allies in entering into separate agreements with the Turks, whether of Constantinople or of Angora, is not calculated to help matters forward. Unfortunately there is increasing evidence that the policy of self-seeking at the cost of the Alliance is sometimes pushed to dangerous lengths. From a source which we have every reason to regard as trustworthy, comes a report that at a dinner given at the French High Commission in Constantinople in honour of General Gouraud, the latter in an after-dinner speech said that the Turks would do well to reject the recent proposals of the Allies, as they would secure much better terms by holding out. With such an example of Allied "unity" before them, is it wonderful that the Turks feel safe in embarking upon that protracted process of haggling against which Lord Curzon has

actually warned them? If this kind of thing is to go on—and it would not be difficult to give other examples—it would be as well if all pretence of any common Allied policy in the Near East were abandoned.

Great Britain and the Sudan.

Lord Allenby has returned to Egypt from the Sudan, and has expressed his satisfaction with what he saw in the latter country. He told the Cairo correspondent of *The Times* that wherever he had gone the people expressed contentment with the present system of government, and he was able to give reassurances regarding the future of the country to a number of the leading chiefs who visited him at the Palace in Khartoum. Referring to a fear which was known to be very widespread among the people of the Sudan, that there might in future be a less close association on the part of Great Britain in the development of their country, he told the chiefs that the British Government had no intention of the kind; and he reminded them of what Mr. Lloyd George said on the subject in the House of Commons in his declaration regarding Egypt, made on February 28. The chiefs, Lord Allenby declared, might return and tell their people that Great Britain would not abandon the Sudan. In view of the persistent attempt on the part of Egyptian agitators to represent that the Sudan is and must remain Egyptian, it is just as well to have this point restated from time to time, and if the Egyptians are wise they will note carefully what Lord Allenby has said. In view of all that he has done for them, they cannot regard him as anything but a good friend; and when they find him underlining what the Prime Minister has already stated so emphatically they will be wise to take the very clear hint.

Egypt and the Sudan.

Unfortunately the low Nile affords an opportunity to mischief-makers in Egypt to represent it as due to British action in withholding water for the Sudan; and those Egyptians who claim that the southern country should be put under the rule of Cairo are making the most of the circumstance. There have been several attempts to influence the Commission now working on the drawing up of the Egyptian Constitution to regard the Sudan as integrally Egyptian; and Prince Toussoun has suggested that the Ministry should insist upon the abolition of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan agreement. We can only hope that the declaration just made by Lord Allenby at Khartoum will put a stop to this very foolish agitation, which can do no good, and may do much harm.

The Lesson of Syria.

Obscurity still envelopes the situation in Syria, for most of the news which does leak through to Cairo and thence to us is promptly contradicted by the Havas Agency or by French official sources; and it does not appear probable that we shall get at the facts of the case until the whole trouble is over. In the meantime we may note one or two of the wider lessons that may be drawn from the incident. There can be no doubt that France as a whole is disappointed and almost surprised at the turn events have taken in Syria, and Frenchmen somewhat naturally attribute the painting in of the background of the picture to Great Britain, whose support of the Arab movement was never in consonance with France's known designs in Syria. France will never trust the Arabs as Great Britain is trusting them; indeed she thinks so naïf a faith not only undesirable but foolish. She is consequently determined (and there

can be no doubt that she will be successful) to quell firmly and fearlessly all manifestations of pan-Arab agitation.

Great Britain and France.

This fundamental difference between their respective attitudes towards the Arab question sometimes makes one despair of any accord in the actions of Great Britain and France in the Near East. General Gouraud, who, we believe, is destined to be the Lyautey of Syria, has an extremely hard task in front of him, more difficult, perhaps, than that of Lord Allenby in Egypt; and he is openly aggrieved that the British Administration in Palestine should have adopted so passive a policy towards his difficulties. There is a hazy feeling in France that Great Britain is maliciously pleased at her Ally's troubles in Syria, and it is certainly thought there that this country is ready and willing to profit by any weakness or hesitation on the part of France. But we know this is not the truth: England has too many of her own troubles, and very assuredly does not wish to add to them. She cannot, perhaps, go so far as France in wishing to exterminate or to moderate the ideas of independence now surging in the minds of so many of the peoples of the Near East, but she is convinced, as General Gouraud is recently reported to have said, of "the imperious necessity for close Franco-British co-operation in grappling with the common danger." There is a long road in front of these native peoples before they attain to complete self-rule, and we are not without hope that the administrations of at least Syria, Trans-Jordan and Palestine may approximate each other in the future more closely than they have in the past. For to treat these several countries as individual and independent problems will be fatal; no number of local differences can obscure their essential oneness.

Persian Finance.

The Teheran correspondent of the *Pioneer* reports that the Persian Mejliss has approved the Cabinet's decision to engage American financial and other Advisers, and that Mr. Morgan Shuster's name is mentioned in this connection. The American Government is to be asked to lend its assistance in securing capable persons, and the Persian Minister in Washington is understood to have taken steps in this direction already. It is natural to conclude that Persia is looking to America for financial assistance as well as for a Financial Adviser, and it will be interesting to see what America thinks of her as a borrower. One thing is certain: Persia's need of help, especially of financial help, is urgent; and though she may find it less easy to believe, even now, her need of guidance is hardly less urgent. Whoever goes to her rescue will have no easy task, but Mr. Morgan Shuster showed himself when he was in Persia before a man of parts, and if, with his country's approval, he steps into the breach now we shall be able to think that he may succeed—if he is allowed to do so by the Persians and their neighbours.

The Indian Frontier.

The welcome absence of disturbing news from India continues, and the most interesting item of last week was the disclosure of a difference of opinion between Whitehall and Simla regarding the measures of defence required on the Waziristan section of the Frontier, a matter of such intricacy that immediate unanimity is scarcely to be expected. No very great sensation seems to have been caused so far to turn this difference of opinion into a "crisis," in which Whitehall is necessarily

in the wrong, and we sincerely hope that the troubled waters of Home politics and Frontier technicalities are not destined to intermingle just at present. There is of course an obvious risk that the pressure to economise in India may induce, or drive, Simla to go a little below the margin of safety, as has happened once or twice before; in that case the savings of the summer would probably be swallowed up in a winter campaign, and we take the essence of the situation to be that the authorities in this country are anxious to avoid the possibility of such an unfortunate result.

The Geography of Economy.

It may be worth while to point out that the pressure to economise on the Frontier is by no means conducted on racial lines, and a study of published opinions leads rather to the conclusion that it is largely a matter of geography, for taking a line through Lahore, Allahabad and Calcutta, it might almost be argued that the pressure increases with the square of the distance from Peshawar. The attitude of some of the Calcutta journals in particular is remarkable to those who have studied the records of the days when a hostile frontier was close at hand and the citizens of all races used to go into a panic on very slight excuse. The "pacifism" of Madras has been much less in evidence since the Moplah rebellion recalled the South of India for the moment to a sense of realities; and perhaps Calcutta would have rather less to say about cutting down the military budget if the malcontent Waziris happened to live within convenient raiding distance of Chowringhee. Big empires have drawbacks of their own, and not the least of them is the danger of a want of sympathy with the fellows who live on the other edge of the map.

Military Administration.

We fancy a good many readers, military as well as civilian, will sympathise with Sir William Robertson's comment on the budget debates at Delhi, that the Commander-in-Chief would have been more usefully employed in attending to the training and administration of his troops, and that his position would be strengthened rather than weakened by the appointment of a Minister of Defence to take over the new burden of leading the legislature on subjects of military import. Lord Rawlinson is a tolerably effective speaker, but that may be described as a fortunate accident, and, as things stand, the men responsible for future appointments may have to choose between a first-class soldier who cannot speak, and a second-class one who can. The danger of either selection is so obvious that there is much to be said for a division of labour which should secure an effective speaker in the Legislature, and an effective soldier at the head of an army which still insists on personal command.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Monday evening.

Genoa.

There is no longer any doubt that Genoa is a wash-out. Mr. Lloyd George has done his best, or better than his best, but he cannot work miracles, and the antagonisms of Europe have been too much for him. France and Belgium on one side, Russia and Germany on the other, have proved irreconcilable. It may be argued that the Conference never had a fair chance; the Russo-German treaty wrecked it at the start, and the publication last week of the alleged military clauses of that treaty has not helped matters. These clauses will

probably be denied, but how many people will believe the denial? It is to the interest of both Russia and Germany to crush Poland, and the treaty seems expressly designed to that end. Other clauses in the treaty are aimed at Afghanistan and India—a fact which has not escaped attention in Anglo-Indian circles.

This is not a very hopeful basis on which to build a new Europe, and France does not believe a word of the Bolshevik protestations, nor, in spite of the Coalition Press, do many people here put their trust in these murderers of princes; and M. Chicherin's denial of Soviet complicity in the murder of the Tsar has made a bad impression; even the *Daily News*—which may be treated as a foolometer in Russo-German credulity, told M. Chicherin politely that he was a liar. Moreover, the Russians have not really talked business about recognition of their repudiated debts, and the city here distinctly sympathises with France over that matter; a fact which does not lose in significance when it is added that the city by no means sees eye to eye with the whole of French political or financial policy, which is thought a little exigent and autocratic. But the theory industriously promulgated in some quarters, that France is aiming at a hegemony of Europe similar to that of Germany ten years ago, is not yet taken very seriously here. For one thing, the French population is down by four millions, and for another, it is obviously to the interest of Germany to spread reports of this character. However that may be, the reaction on the English mind, as I pointed out last week, is that a little isolation will do us no harm—this policy is definitely advocated in one of the weekly reviews this week—and it will be interesting to see whether Mr. Lloyd George has his ears close enough to the ground to hear these popular murmurs.

The Prime Minister's Future.

There is naturally a good deal of speculation as to the effect of Genoa on Mr. Lloyd George's future policy and position. It is his first definite failure. It is no disgrace to him, and there are some people who say that to fail in this piece of political idealism does him more honour than many of his previous successes. That may be the judgment of history, but in contemporary politics a failure is a failure, and paid for immediately in loss of prestige. This is a factor to be reckoned with in home politics. He is being advised by candid friends in the press to think a little less of European and rather more of home and Imperial affairs, but the difficulty in home affairs is that the Conservatives are in a majority, and do not believe in the Prime Minister's ideas of reform.

All these things make one rather dubious of forecasting the future of home politics. But on the whole I fancy that the betting is increasingly against a summer election.

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The Academy and Opera.

This year's Academy seems to have a rather better collection of pictures than usual, or else the critics are more merciful. The best picture to my mind is the portrait of Mr. Bernard Shaw, and the worst are those inevitable nature scenes with cows in the foreground and a cloud or a mountain at the back.

The music season is in full swing. The opera people at Covent Garden are doing their best in rather difficult circumstances. The programme is distinctly good, and "Parsifal" is now being played to full houses.

The Budget.

Sir Robert Horne's first budget, introduced last week, was a distinct success. It knocks a shilling in the pound off income-tax, which is equivalent to taking off the last straw before the camel's back is broken; fourpence a pound off tea, with a parallel reduction on coffee and cocoa; and a halfpenny off letters and postcards, while the Sunday collection of letters is restored.

The confectionery trade had expected a reduction off sugar, and is howling at the Chancellor on this account; but the chocolate and toffee makers are not exactly ruined paupers as the result of the sugar duty. Tobacco and beer, both of which are numbered among the profiteers, are taxed as before; there is room for a reduction of prices on present costs. The entertainment tax goes on, despite the wails of the actors.

The inhabited house duty is to go up, and the farmers' income-tax is to go down; there is to be no repayment of debt this year, and the sinking fund is suspended. A few stern critics have denounced this concession to empty pockets, but it was the simple truth that the nation was taxed beyond its capacity, and people simply could not stand the pace. If trade revives, the Chancellor's little gamble on income-tax will not cost him much; and in any event the pensions account will be a good deal less next year, while economies are being made as rapidly as possible in general expenditure, so that with any luck the dismal predictions of a heavy deficit in 1923 should not materialise. At any rate, nobody is looking the Chancellor's gift-horse in the mouth, and we all hope for the best.

The City View.

The City seems to think that the Budget on the whole was as good as was to be expected in the circumstances, although it dislikes the Corporation Profits Tax as one that discourages enterprise in trade because it penalises the ordinary shareholder. But the reduced Income-Tax automatically sends up the yield of securities, which in the present coming-on disposition of the investor, is a bull point; and anything that reduces the cost of living like the reduced tea duties, is all to the good. Orthodox financiers are also relieved that Sir Robert Horne did not take the easy course of "making posterity pay" by capitalising the pensions account, although he was strongly pressed to do so in certain quarters. The Chancellor has justified his growing reputation as a sound man in Lombard Street.

Railway Rates.

Another organised protest is being made against the continued maintenance of high transport rates by the railways. It was high time, for the present charges, both for passengers and goods, are perfectly indefensible. Almost everything else has fallen except transport

charges, with the result that trains run half-empty and industry is bled white. Commercial men have a real grievance, but they will have to push hard and long before the companies make any concession.

Doctors' Fees.

A similar but smaller controversy has blown up about the fees charged by specialists. Some people have a mania for consulting Harley Street, and it appears that the medicos have put their charges up. As they have to pay extortionate rents and taxes, and custom compels them to do half their work at the hospitals for nothing, one can hardly blame them; after all, they want to go on living as much as their patients.

But there is something wrong with the system. I remember years ago being hauled off to Harley Street, and being told I should probably have to undergo an operation; the fee would be 250 guineas. Even with the fear of death before my eyes, this was more than was in my particular till at the moment, and I doubt whether banks will grant overdrafts payable in the next world. When I explained my difficulty, the great man thought for a moment, and offered to do it for nothing—which was almost as embarrassing. He explained that it would hurt his professional reputation to take a lower fee, but it would not hurt him to take no fee at all. One sees the point, but it seems absurd nevertheless—the more so as I was sent next to a great physician, who charged me only three guineas for telling me there was nothing really the matter except overwork, and that a week in bed was the real cure.

Cocaine.

A good deal of anxiety has recently been expressed about the spread of drug-taking, and more particularly the growth of the cocaine habit. At one time I thought this was rather exaggerated, I suppose for the simple reason that I am not a devotee of the stage-door or the night-club. But there have been several suicides of late in which cocaine has been the direct or indirect cause, and many other criminal cases in which it has been suspected although not actually proved to have played a part. The police keep a sharp look-out for the degraded people who traffic in this forbidden commodity, and the magistrates give them sharp sentences when caught, but unfortunately the profits are high, as the victims of the disease will do anything to get at the poison.

The Week's Books.

"The Real Tsaritsa" (Thornton Butterworth) by Madame Lili Dehn, a personal friend of the late Empress, is an appreciation rather than a strict biography of a much maligned woman. As a private individual she was loved by many; as a Queen she was not altogether successful, but it must be remembered that her husband was a weak man in a very difficult position. The author declares that there was no foundation for the accusations of pro-Germanism; she does not really clear up the Rasputin business.

"A New Medley of Memories" (Arnold) by the Right Rev. Sir David Hunter-Blair, the most human of Benedictine monks, is one of those books whose almost every anecdote is both good and new. I extract one: "An old peer from the country presented himself at a levee at Dublin Castle; and His Excellency (the Viceroy) engaged him in conversation, starting as usual with the weather. "Wonderful rain we've been having; everything coming up out of the ground," said the Viceroy. "God forbid," said the old peer. "I said everything was coming out of the ground" repeated H.E. slightly raising his voice. "And I said, 'God forbid!'" retorted the old gentleman; "I've got three wives buried under it." OCELLUS.

BY AIR TO BAGHDAD.

We hope to publish next week an illustrated article, "By Air to Baghdad," descriptive of a recent flight from Cairo to Baghdad and back. This will be followed by a second illustrated article dealing with the Royal Air Force in the Middle East.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

From Our Own Correspondents.

EGYPT.

Cairo, April 29.

The End of the Season.

Easter week may be regarded as bringing the winter season to a close. Reviewing the latter, one may with truth say that it has been a successful one. Admittedly nowhere near as brilliant as pre-war seasons—that could scarcely be expected in view of the change which class and other conditions have undergone all the world over—it has nevertheless been the best that we have had since the war. With falling hotel prices and, if only the steamship companies can be induced to reduce their fares, cheaper travel, the next season ought to be still better, and the Association which is looking after the tourists' interests of Egypt could well concentrate its efforts on securing more favourable terms from the shipping companies, though I must admit the latter are a very tough nut to crack.

In this connection some attention might be directed towards making Helwan a more attractive resort from a social point of view. It is a wonderful place, situated as it is in the heart of the desert, within relatively a stone's-throw of Cairo. Its air possesses a healing balm for all ills of the mind and body, while it boasts of sulphur baths which are unrivalled in the world and make it the only winter health resort of its kind in or within hail of Europe. Of hotels it possesses several excellent ones, of which the "Grand" stands out as the most comfortable and most accessible. Helwan has a very "sporting" golf links but on the purely social side it is sadly lacking in amenities. It is, indeed, surprising that a place with such natural attractions should be so overlooked by those who cater for the public and any syndicate which had the enterprise to put up a little money in order to provide Helwan with social amenities—for which there is ample local scope both as regards space and opportunity—ought to make a good thing out of its initiative.

Egypt at the Imperial Institute.

News has been received here that when the King and Queen recently visited the Imperial Institute they were much interested in the Egyptian exhibits, and purchased two of the rugs exhibited there. It is not generally known that, like India, Egypt has a Court of its own at the Imperial Institute, where articles of every description manufactured and produced in the country are exhibited. The exhibits are not yet quite complete, but what is shown should give an admirable idea of the agricultural and industrial resources of this country and a visit would well repay anybody's while.

Among the articles shown are Amria rugs, which are manufactured by the Bedouin at Amria in the Western Desert, and are much in demand owing to their durability and their quaint colouring. It was two of these rugs that H.M. the Queen recently purchased, and I am informed that a much wider selection than is on show at the Imperial Institute is to be found at the agency established at the London School of Weaving, No. 13, Old Cavendish Street, by the Frontier Districts Administration under whose direction the carpet-making industry is carried on at Amria.

Alexandria Flower Show.

An excellent flower show was held in Alexandria last Saturday under the auspices of the Alexandria Horticultural Society at San Stefano. The show was opened by Prince Omar Toussoun, who has long been a generous supporter of horticulture in Egypt. Most of the prize-winners were Europeans but there were quite a good number of exhibits from Egyptians and the show certainly gave evidence of the growing interest in horticulture and of the advance that has been made of late years.

Possible Clue to Recent Shootings.

The police are at present engaged in investigating a case which has all the promise of an interesting sequel

to the recent shooting of Englishmen. The other evening the informer in the conspiracy case which came before a Military Court last month, was in Bulaq Street when he was suddenly shot at from behind and wounded in the leg. To the police he made a charge against a certain man of his acquaintance, who on being arrested declared his innocence and accused three other men. The latter were arrested and their houses searched. In one of them was found an Army Service revolver, for which the man had no licence. Quite naturally, considerable secrecy is being maintained with regard to the evidence which the inquiry is producing. It is, however, interesting to note that the revolver seized is of the same pattern as the one used in several of the attempts on Englishmen, and that the arrested men belong to the Railway Workshops. It is thought that these facts, combined with the attempt on the informer in the recent conspiracy case, may lead to the identification at any rate of the assailants who attacked the Englishmen connected with the Railways, where it is known that a secret society has existed for some time. If sufficient evidence is forthcoming to convict the men now under arrest, and in any case when the man in whose possession the unlicensed revolver was found is tried, it is sincerely to be hoped that there will be no repetition of mistaken clemency such as was shown in the recent conspiracy case.

An Opposition Meeting.

For the first time under the new régime the opposition have this week been allowed to hold a public political meeting. Hitherto the Government has prohibited these meetings on the ground that public peace might thereby be troubled; and it was for this reason that the meetings organised in Cairo, Tanta and Shebin el Kom did not take place. Nothing daunted, however, the members of the Wafd organised a meeting at Giza on Thursday last, and as an experiment the Government allowed it to be held. Everything passed off without any incident, and the meeting broke up in an orderly fashion after passing a resolution to address a petition to King Fouad begging him to obtain the release of Zaghloul Pasha from the Seychelles. This and other incidents clearly indicate a marked improvement in the local political situation, and one can only hope that neither side will do anything to cause a recrudescence of the agitation and restlessness from which the country has suffered only too long, or to put any further obstacles in the way of the *rapprochement* towards which all parties appear to be drifting.

IRAQ (Mesopotamia).

Baghdad, April 27.

Conferences.

The conference at Kerbella is over, and it can with safety be said that it achieved nothing. There were no startling demands put forward, and the resolutions carried were formal and meaningless. The extremist party had placed high hopes on the meeting, but only saw them completely shattered. After the conference many of the more important sheikhs in the country came to Baghdad and have been holding an unofficial sheikhs' conference, as a result of which it is said that they have forwarded a resolution to the King in which they set out their views regarding the present state of affairs and their ideas concerning the future. The King has received deputations from the sheikhs, and has

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probably learned a great deal about the tribal point of view. It is well that he should do so, for there is danger that his views may be warped by continual contact with the Effendis of Baghdad.

Cabinet Reorganization.

The reorganization of the Cabinet has now been completed. Sassoon Effendi, the Minister of Finance, has been approached and has consented to remain in office; a decision which gives universal satisfaction, for there is no one who denies his ability and his capacity for work. His job is a particularly thankless one, faced as he is with a large expenditure to be met from a small and, it is to be feared, a diminishing revenue. For a country whose revenues depend to the extent of those of Iraq on the price of agricultural produce, the recent fall in prices is a heavy blow; while the complete stagnation of trade is playing havoc with the Customs receipts.

Ja'afar Abu Timman has now consented to assume office as Minister of Commerce, and Abdul Muhsin al Saadun has been appointed Minister of Justice. He was the deputy for the Muntafiq in the Turkish parliament, but little is known of his capabilities.

Army Topics.

Recruiting for the Arab army has improved recently, and in one area at any rate recruiting has for the time being been suspended, and men who are obviously unsatisfactory are being weeded out. In Mosul, however, recruits are not coming forward as eagerly as had been hoped.

The method of recruiting is a subject which is likely to provide some very lively discussion when the National Assembly meets. There are many—and the Minister of Defence, Ja'afar Pasha, is among them—who consider that the only basis on which a satisfactory army can be recruited is conscription. It is pointed out that many of the men who are enlisting now, under the voluntary system, are of a very poor type and never likely to make good soldiers, while a large majority of the more desirable recruits find other employment. Conscription would, it is claimed, make it possible to refuse the wrong type, and take only those who seem likely to make really good soldiers.

The financial side of the question is of importance also. At present the pay of the voluntary soldier is Rs.45 per month, and as a result the cost of the Army, small though its numbers are, is an intolerable burden to the country. The conscript need not be as highly paid, and also the exemption fees paid by those who wanted and could afford to avoid military service would provide a source of revenue which, some optimists even go so far as to say, would almost pay for the maintenance of the Army. There are, of course, arguments on the other side, such as the extreme unpopularity of the measure and the difficulty of enforcing it outside the towns; but there remains the fact that desperate situations demand desperate measures; and the finances of the State of Iraq, if not desperate, bear no very rosy complexion.

General News.

The Maude Bridge at Baghdad has had another very narrow escape. Only a day or two after it had been reopened for traffic after its first accident, a motor boat belonging to the Bridges Conservancy Staff caught fire and drifted down on to the bridge. Fortunately it was possible to extinguish the flames before the bridge structure caught fire, but the boat itself was completely gutted and the bridge came very near to disaster.

The number of new buildings under erection in Baghdad is a hopeful sign, and New Street is beginning to assume a much more respectable appearance. Messrs. Strick Scott and the Anglo-Persian Oil Company have emerged from their undignified seclusion in back streets and occupy fine new offices in New Street; Orosdi Back are building a new store in River Street; and the Auqaf Ministry is erecting houses and shops in several places in New Street. The Banks, however, are still housed in a manner quite unworthy of them and their prestige, and it is to be hoped that they will follow the lead given them by others.

PALESTINE.

Jerusalem, April 23.

Promising Excavations.

Excavations which promise useful results were begun recently by the American School of Archaeology at Tell-el-Ful under the supervision of Dr. W. F. Albright, the Director of the School. Tell-el-Ful is a conspicuous landmark, three miles north of Jerusalem, and a few hundred yards to the east of the Nablous road. It is a terraced hill surmounted not by the usual familiar *weli* or shrine, but by a small, presumably artificial mound. The curious shape of the whole is very distinctive and a striking feature of the northern horizon as seen from Mount Scopus. It dominates the whole of the country round about, and must have been for long ages an important strategic position; it required very little acuteness to realise that the mound must conceal the ruins of a series of citadels which housed the outpost garrisons covering the northern approach to Jerusalem. The name Tell-el-Ful (mound of beans) in itself offers no clue to its ancient identity; but from the topographic material supplied by the Old Testament and Josephus there is not very much doubt that it is to be identified with Gibeah of Saul or Gibeah of Benjamin.

The excavations have not yet proceeded very far. The fellaheen who own or cultivate the affected ground are demanding exorbitant sums as rent and anticipatory claims for damages; and, on hearing that what the excavators expected to get in return for their trouble was a considerable amount of *ta'arikh* (history), they lodged a claim for at least a fifty per cent. share of this *ta'arikh* as well. The few soundings that have already been made have, however, served to give the main outlines of the archaeology of the hill. The top hillock was, as everybody expected, found to be entirely artificial, comprising the remains of some three, at least, Hebrew and Jewish fortresses. The topmost one is post-Exilic, judging from the pottery discovered; the second, is supposed, on account of the stonework and "pebble-pottery," to be Solomonic (we learn from I. Kings that King Asa, about 900 B.C., built in haste a fortress at Geba of Benjamin); while the third is attributable to the period of Saul.

The excavations begun last autumn by the University Museum of Philadelphia, on the site of Beisan, and discontinued with the coming of the rainy season, were restarted early in this month.

Learning from Experience.

Palestine at the moment seems wholly at peace. The feasts—Christian, Moslem and Jewish, have passed off without the least sign of excitement; a local Mohammedan festival which annually brings together vast crowds of fellaheen to the neighbourhood of Jaffa and the adjacent Jewish colonies, also passed without incident. The Arabs would seem to have drawn the inference that disturbances of the peace are scarcely worth the trouble. The fellah is a peaceful soul, really; the agitator can only stir him to action by tales of horrors inflicted on his fellow-believers, or the prospects of easily gained loot. These were the incitements applied last year in the May troubles; but by this time the fellah has discovered that the horrors were fictitious, and the loot excessively dangerous either to get or to keep. The stories at present current about the large stocks of arms acquired by the Jews up and down the country are most certainly exaggerated; but though they stir the ire of the Arab, they tend at the same time to instil in him a certain feeling of hesitation before embarking too light-heartedly on attacks on Jewish villages.

The "Black and Tans," or, more officially, the British contingent of the Palestine Gendarmerie, have not yet made their appearance, but are expected with great interest.

Rival Messiahs.

Where else in the world save in Jerusalem could you have the vision of three messiahs seated all in a row? Such was the sight to be seen at a lecture given in Jerusalem last week. Jerusalem, as is well known, suffers from an excess of cranks of all kinds, and from

excessive representation of the smaller and more bizarre religious sects. But over and above these there are a few self-accredited messiahs. They claim no followers, are quite law-abiding, and very much out-at-elbow; but this does not greatly discourage them: it is always open to them to appraise the truth of their message in inverse proportion to its popularity. One of them is the divine ambassador entrusted with the propagation of pure undiluted Gospel: he is much the seediest of the three. Another sees the only salvation of the world in a return of both Jew and Christian to the beliefs and practices of the days in the first century when all Christians were practising orthodox Jews: his position is slightly vague, since he is not wholly clear whether he himself is the Messiah or only his fore-runner. The third is minded to start afresh that pre-Christian sect known as the Essenes, a Jewish community which was strongly influenced by Persian dualism, and from whose religious rites some suppose Christianity to have borrowed.

A "Christian Science" Venture.

Another level of enthusiasm is represented by a recent arrival in Jerusalem who proposes to enrich local journalism with a daily paper, in English, Arabic and Hebrew, devoted to the cause of Christian Science. One has often wondered why Christian Science has never figured conspicuously before in the Holy Land. The new venturer—a lady, of course—evidently means business, and has invested heavily in house-property and bought a printing-press.

GREECE.

Athens, April 30.

The Premier's Return.

The President of the Council, accompanied by General Exadactylos, M. Mallah, Member for Salonika, and M. Criezis, one of the Managers of the National Bank of Greece, returned to Athens *via* Patras on Wednesday night. On the following morning M. Gounaris was received by the King, and shortly afterwards a Council of Ministers was held at the Ministry of Justice, at which the situation in general and the question of Greece's reply to the Allied peace proposals were discussed.

The National Assembly had been convoked for Thursday night; but as the majority of the deputies residing in the provinces had not arrived in the capital, the sitting was postponed until next Monday (May 1).

The Bulgarian Minister.

The new Bulgarian Chargé d'Affaires, M. Pierre Cannef, who arrived in Athens a few days ago, has presented his Letters of Credence to the Minister for Foreign Affairs. M. Cannef informed M. Baltazzi that King Boris' Government had appointed M. Kissimoff Bulgarian Minister in Athens, and that that gentleman would shortly arrive here to take up his duties.

The Italian Minister, Signor Montagna, has returned from Rome *via* Brindisi by the s.s. 'Leopolis.'

The Defence of Ionia.

Three of the leading members of the "Defence Committee of the Micrasiares," M. Apostolos Psaltos, M. Michael Argyropoulos, and M. Constantine Hadjiapostolou, have arrived from Smyrna to ascertain what the Government's intentions are with regard to the evacuation of Asia Minor, and what steps official Greece proposes to take to ensure the protection of the Christian population in the occupied regions after the departure of the Hellenic troops. The three delegates were received by M. Gounaris and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and also conferred with M. Stergiadis, who has been in Athens since the beginning of the week. To the Press representatives who visited them at the Grande Bretagne Hotel where they are staying, the delegates declared most emphatically that the Defence Committee was determined to oppose by force of arms the restoration of Ionia to the Turks.

General Papoulas' Letter.

In order to put a stop to the persistent rumours which have been in circulation of late to the effect that General Papoulas was favouring the revolutionary movement in

Ionia, and that he had even agreed to take command of the volunteer battalions now under formation, the Greek Commander-in-Chief has addressed to the Athens Press the following letter:—"I am greatly surprised to hear that many rumours were recently circulated by persons who are ill-disposed towards me owing to certain measures which I was obliged to take against them in the performance of my duty. Those responsible for these rumours are trying to make believe that I am acting on my own initiative, and contrary to the orders of the responsible Government. I am, therefore, obliged, in order to put a stop to these false reports, to declare once for all that, knowing my duty, I have neither undertaken, nor is it possible that I should undertake, any such obligations without the consent of my Government. I strongly impressed upon the delegates of the patriotic organizations who presented themselves to me that the Army was faithful and devoted to the Country and to the King, and that it would only obey the orders of the Government."

General Papoulas arrived in Athens on Friday, and after conferring with the Minister of War, M. Theotokis, was received by the King.

Miscellaneous News.

Prince Andrew, who has been appointed Commanding Officer of the First Greek Army Corps, stationed at Yanina, has arrived in that town.

General Exadactylos, Chief of Staff, has returned from Genoa, whither he had accompanied the Prime Minister, and has resumed his duties.

The new Swedish Minister, M. Charles de Virsen, has presented his Letters of Credence to King Constantine.

By order of the Minister of War all Officers and Regimental Sergeant Majors posted to the Army of Asia Minor, must re-join their units within twenty-four hours.

The Prefect of Patras reports that from March 29 to April 7 (O.S.) seven cases of plague, six of which were

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fatal, occurred in that town. All the schools there have been closed.

It is reported from Smyrna that a numerous Turkish band of irregulars attacked the Greek Gendarmerie station at Tiremanlar in the district of Kinik. The station which was defended by nine gendarmes under a police second lieutenant, put up a stubborn resistance, and finally succeeded in dispersing the bandits. Five of the gendarmes were killed and their officer was wounded. The Turkish casualties are not known.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, April 28.

The Political Situation.

Although it is generally said that politics are second nature to the Roumanian, this time a psychological fact is noticeable which deserves special mention. After the very strained political situation of the past few weeks in regard to home politics, when almost the entire Opposition withdrew from Parliament and the Opposition press published vehement articles daily against the Government, as if by enchantment a sudden truce seems to have set in. The Opposition do not wish to cause the Government any difficulties at the present moment when it is representing the interests of the country at Genoa, where questions of paramount importance for Roumania are at stake. This shows that when vital questions of an external character are to the fore Roumanian politicians know how to subdue their internal squabbles; and it further signifies that the Opposition and the entire country endorse the attitude taken up by the Premier at the Genoa Conference.

This passivity on the part of the Opposition, however, does not imply a renunciation of its preparation to attack the Government when the discussions at Genoa are over. There is a marked tendency on the part of the Nationalist Democrats as well as of the Tzaranists to achieve a *rapprochement* with the Transylvanian National Party; and it remains to be seen to which of these two parties the Transylvanians will give preference.

The Nationalist-Democrat Party has already held its general congress for the purpose of defining its attitude in the coming political campaign and towards the other Opposition groups. On this occasion M. Jorga announced that his party is in full agreement with the Transylvanian Nationals, with whom he is prepared to collaborate. Towards the Peasants' party he is well-disposed, but he could not consider collaboration with it until it frees itself from certain elements among its leaders.

The congress of the Transylvanian National Party, which was to have taken place about this time, has been postponed; while the Tzaranists will convoke their congress only after the Transylvanians have fixed theirs.

The Government having the tacit support of the entire Opposition for its external policy, is taking advantage of this lull to carry out undisturbed its work of preparing the necessary reforms for the new Constitution. This preparatory work can easily be completed during the present long parliamentary recess.

Hungary Claims War Damages.

The representative of the Magyar Government on the Commission of Reparations in Paris submitted the other day a memorandum demanding that Roumania should either restore or refund the counter-value of the objects and valuables commandeered by her Army during the time of occupation of Hungary in 1919. The Hungarian Government has fixed its claim at 2½ milliard francs in gold.

The Roumanian Press in commenting on this claim is at a loss to understand Hungary's pretensions, considering that Roumania was attacked by the Hungarian Army in 1919, and that in self-defence she was compelled to take up arms against Hungary; the sequel of which was the annihilation of the communist régime and the restoration of public order and of a legal Government in Hungary. It is further considered paradoxical that a vanquished country should claim damages from the victors whom she provoked.

General News.

King Alexander of Yugoslavia and his cousin Prince Paul, who spent the Easter Holidays with the Roumanian Royal family, left Sinaia last Thursday for Paris.

The wedding of King Alexander and Princess Marie has now been fixed definitely to take place at Belgrade on June 4.

M. I. C. Bratianu, the Prime Minister, during his recent short stay at Rome was received in audience by the King of Italy as well as by the Pope.

A delegation of Poles, consisting chiefly of professors, merchants and journalists, is now on tour through Roumania, visiting the University centres and various other places of industrial and economic interest.

BULGARIA.

Sofia (undated).

The Genoa Conference.

News transmitted by the Bulgarian Delegation from Genoa, has on the whole been encouraging. M. Stambolisky has had conversations with all the leading statesmen and he is particularly pleased with the reception accorded him by Mr. Lloyd George. Government circles pin great faith on the outcome of these informal conversations, trusting that they may lead to a delay in the payment of reparations. Local diplomatic circles are, however, of the opinion, that Bulgaria will obtain nothing tangible from Genoa.

Government's Reply to the Ukraine.

The Bulgarian Government have issued the following reply to the Note addressed to them by the Ukrainian Republic:—"The former soldiers of General Wrangel have been admitted into Bulgaria as refugees; they were disarmed on landing in Bulgaria. It having been said that a certain number of their arms had been hidden, the Bulgarian Government ordered a thorough search to be made. This search did not, however, reveal any hidden arms. The Bulgarian Government are desirous of maintaining law and order in the country and are able to reassure the Ukrainian Republic that they will not tolerate within their frontiers any organization likely to harm the Ukrainian Republic.—(Signed) R. Daskaloff, Acting Prime Minister."

The Military "Organ" of Liquidation.

The papers still continue to be full of criticism of the military "Organ," whilst the latter have not been idle in issuing denials of numerous statements that have appeared. Denials or no-denials, one thing remains certain, and that is that the "Organ" tried to double the size of its officer personnel, but met with a curt refusal from at least one of the Allied Powers.

The Agrarian Congress.

At the end of next month there will assemble at Sofia the annual congress of the Agrarian Party. The main subject on the agenda will be the note of the Inter-Allied Commission. The Agrarians still show themselves very opposed to accepting the guarantees demanded by the Commission. In this connection, it is interesting to note that the Commission have declared that receipts from the Pernik Coal Mine, Customs, etc., will not be diverted into the Reparations, as some papers have stated will be the case.

In reality, the Commission are only demanding guarantees against the non-payment by Bulgaria of 10 million gold francs in 1922 and thirty million in 1923.

An Unknown Diplomatist.

The new newspaper *Slovo* has not been long in making itself notorious. Last week the summary of an interview with a diplomat of high standing was published in the *Slovo*. Whoever the diplomat may be, he showed a very thorough grasp of Bulgaria's present financial situation. His identity is naturally much commented on, as it is not usual for diplomats to make declarations regarding the internal affairs of a country to which they are accredited. The Inter-Allied Commission issued a *communiqué* stating that the declarations did not emanate from a member of the Commission, whilst M. Daskaloff, the acting Prime Minister, also stated that he could not conceive of any diplomats' making such declarations.

On the other hand the *Slovo* maintains that the diplomat is not a "bogus" but a "real" one.

Bourgeois Party.

Pourparlers are now in progress with a view to the conclusion of a Democrat-Obedinist-Radical coalition. In the event of such a coalition being formed, there will be approximately 25 per cent. of the Sobranye grouped in a bourgeois *bloc*. After the Agrarians, this group will be the strongest in the Sobranye. The main hindrance to the formation of such a coalition is the unwillingness of certain Radicals to join the Obedinists.

TURKEY.

Constantinople, April 24.

The Italian Withdrawal.

The withdrawal of the Italians from the Sokia-Scala Nuova area has been followed by mutual accusations of "massacre" between Turks and Greeks; but it is impossible at the present moment to judge what has really taken place beyond the reoccupation of the Italian zone by the Greeks. A glance at the map will be sufficient to reveal the strategic importance of the area in question owing to its proximity to the Smyrna-Aidin Railway. Kemalist *communiqués* announce that the Turkish troops are being reinforced, but in view of the situation of the sector, it is hardly likely that any serious fighting can take place there.

St Dunstan's Bazaar.

The four latter days of the last week were devoted to a bazaar held at the Riding School of the Turkish War School, which is the Headquarters of the British Corps of Occupation. The Bazaar was organised by Monsignor Barry Doyle, the popular Roman Catholic Army Chaplain, and Domestic Prelate to H.H. the Pope, for the benefit of St. Dunstan's Institution for Blinded Soldiers. Monsignor Barry Doyle set himself the task of raising £1,000 sterling, and it is a pleasure to be able to state that he has more than succeeded. The bazaar itself was a great success, and was generously supported not only by the British, but by H.M. the Sultan, who presented a wonderful carpet for the lottery, and by the Greek Patriarch, who subscribed a large sum of money. Such a circumstance raises hopes that after all it may be possible for the bitterest enemies to "meet on the bridge of humanity," to use a felicitous phrase employed by Major General Franks upon a charitable occasion in favour of Turkish refugees.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, April 18.

The Greek Element.

The Archbishop has received a telegram from the "Hellenic Committee of National Defence," working under the presidency of General Frantzes, at the Ritz Hotel, London, which aims at upholding the provisions of the Treaty of Sévres, requesting him, as "Ethnarch of Cyprus," to give his benediction to the work of the Committee, to direct that prayers shall be made in the churches, and to appoint representatives of Cyprus. Thereupon His Holiness called a meeting of such members of the "National Council" as were in Nicosia, including the Bishops, who decided to accede to the request. A benediction was sent in the name of the Church, and three Cypriots resident in London were nominated to represent the island, *viz.*, Mr. C. S. Hourmouzos, journalist, M. Papadopoulos, a doctor, and M. Zachariades, merchant. Opinions are much divided as to the Archbishop's action. The Nicosia paper *Phone tes Kyprou* entirely disapproves of the step taken. It considers that His Eminence has acted too precipitately, and that he should have consulted a full Council. There is nothing (except that both work for Greek unity) in common between the two bodies. They pursue different paths, and an attempt to combine or identify the two movements may weaken and injure the one, or the other, or both. Cyprus might and should aid the London Committee by contributing to its funds, but nothing more. M. Venizelos warned the Cypriot

delegation when in England to avoid mixing up the aims they have in view with those of the unredeemed Greeks elsewhere. However, says the *Phone*, the step has now been taken and it is to be hoped that no harm will come of the unfortunate decision. General Frantzes has telegraphed an account of the meeting held at the Ritz Hotel. An oath of fidelity was taken by representative Greeks of the following countries:—Britain, France, Italy, Roumania, America, Australia, South Africa, Tunis, Egypt, Sudan, Epirus, Thrace, Turkey (Constantinople), Asia Minor, Cyprus, and the Dodecanese.

The "National Council" continues to hold meetings at the Archbishop's residence. Its "Executive Council" has been discussing the question whether the Legislative Council has been legally elected, and as to the legal means which can be used for pronouncing its laws to be invalid! The proceedings partake of the nature of a farce. No outsiders are admitted to the meetings of the Council, which has acted in a very foolish manner in boycotting the Nicosia horse races, on the ground apparently that they have the support of the High Commissioner and Government officials. This is generally condemned, and is a very unpopular proceeding. The Press in general supports the Council.

The Holy Synod.

The Synod has been dealing with the long-standing question of the marriage of cousins (of the sixth degree blood kinship, and the fifth of marriage relationship). Two of the Bishops (those of Kition and Papho) have taken the view that such marriages should be sanctioned, and that such unions as have been carried out in the past without ecclesiastical sanction should now be recognised. The Archbishop is in agreement. The *Phone* takes the Synod to task and considers that, although the Church of Cyprus is autocephalous, it should not introduce innovations on important matters without arriving at an understanding with the whole of the Orthodox body. As it is, henceforth Greeks who belong to Greece proper, to Alexandria, Constantinople, Jerusalem, or Antioch, cannot lawfully contract marriages which would be recognised in Cyprus. Obviously in such circumstances troubles and complications might arise amongst families living under separate Church jurisdictions. The Synod is being lectured in several other quarters.

General News.

There is no diminution of serious crimes, but rather the contrary. Several murders have been reported, while thefts and burglaries are frequent.—The Assize Court will have a long list to deal with. It is understood that the High Commissioner, Mr. M. Stevenson, will proceed to England on leave in June.—Paper money is to be largely withdrawn. All notes of £5, 5s., 2s. and 1s., placed in circulation at various dates since 1915, will cease to circulate after April 30, and must be exchanged into silver at the Imperial Ottoman Bank, or Commissioner's offices before that date.—Great satisfaction is felt owing to the withdrawal of the prohibition to export animals, *viz.*, horses, mules, asses, camels, and cattle (excepting milking cows). More rain is needed in all agricultural districts.

ASIA MINOR.

Smyrna, April 19.

H.M.S. 'Iron Duke' flying the flag of the Mediterranean Commander-in-Chief, Admiral de Robeck, arrived here on Easter Monday. The Admiral gave a dinner to Sir Harry and Lady Lamb, Miss Lamb and a few friends the same day. On Easter Tuesday the Admiral and his staff were invited to a lunch at the Racecourse by Sir Harry Lamb, and witnessed the annual meeting of the Smyrna Race Club. Four Turkish-owned horses and four Greek-owned horses won prizes, the Greek Commander-in-Chief's prize of T£500 being secured by the Turkish-owned horse ridden by a Turkish jockey. The Steeplechase for Allied officers was a disappointment, as no other officer appeared to dispute the race with Major M. A. B. Johnston, who had a walk over. The 'Iron Duke' sailed for Constantinople at half-past six the same evening.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

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

'IRAQ, SYRIA AND PALESTINE.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—There is much talk to-day about the wonders of French Colonial Administration and the utter failure of the British. We often read of the, sometimes exaggerated, French wonders in Morocco as compared with the troubled situation in Egypt; of prosperous and quiet French Indo-China compared with India; and lately of troubles in 'Iraq and Palestine, while, we are assured, Syria is already being transformed by the French into a land of "milk and honey." It is however, often ignored that Morocco has been brought within French influence by long and slow conquest, whilst very few are aware of Egypt's metamorphosis under British guidance during the last forty years, from a vassal state of Turkey, loaded with debts and overrun by despotic pashas, into one of the most prosperous and democratically ruled states in the Near East, a creditor State, and one soon to be recognised as a Sovereign State on equality with others. As to the situation in 'Iraq and Palestine, whilst the British difficulties in those countries are known to the whole world, rigorous censorship in Syria imposed by an over-zealous Administration, hides the facts even from the French public.

The British Government, and the British public, cannot be indifferent to the present misfortunes of Syria, as the country was liberated by British soldiers, and the promise made to the Arabs—without which we could not have made a single pace forward in Palestine and Syria—applies both to the Arabs of 'Iraq and to the Arabs of Syria who form the majority of the population. I therefore take the liberty of trespassing on your valuable space to put clearly before your readers the present situation in Syria, as I am afraid the recent letter of Mr. Daniel Oliver, throws a false, or, rather, an incomplete, light on the state of affairs there.

Mr. Oliver in his magnificent but rather isolated abode at Ras el Metn, a village in the Lebanon Mountains, either does not know what is happening in the interior, or is prevented from informing us on the situation there. The insignificant tract of rocky and arid mountains of the Lebanon is not all Syria, and if the situation is as described in that small and easily governed country, it changes when one penetrates into the interior. Mr. Oliver does not write about the recent murder of one of the prominent Syrian Heads of the Lebanon itself, or of the conspiracy near Damascus to kill General Gouraud and his suite, or of the frequent raids of Arabs on the railway between Rayak and Aleppo and its continuous "sabotage," or of the frequent risings in Damascus, or, last, but not least, of discontented Aleppo and the unhappy situation east of Aleppo on the Euphrates, not to mention the unsatisfactory condition of the country both financially and economically.

I resided in that wonderful country before the War and had the pleasure of being amongst its liberators in 1918. I was there in 1919, when the country was enjoying its short independence; but a recent visit a few months ago brought home to me the fact that however gross are the British mistakes in 'Iraq and Palestine they are reparable and are being repaired, but that France has erred irreparably in Syria.

In the early part of 1920, owing to the long deliberations of the Peace Conference, Syrians took the bold step of deciding themselves as to their future. They declared their independence, nominated Emir Faisal as their King, and formed the Syrian Congress at Damascus, which was meant to include representatives from Syria, Palestine and 'Iraq. The British Government, realising the absurdity of the Sykes-Picot Agreement, did not

oppose the new step, and the French Government looked upon it as a farce. However, when, later on, the new State opposed any further French penetration to the Interior, and when representatives were nominated by the Lebanese themselves to the Syrian Congress, the French Government was alarmed, and French troops, under General Gouraud, marched on Damascus, not without opposition, reversed the Government, exiled Emir Faisal, and declared Martial Law. This was done also in Aleppo, and still exists in the two provinces.

This irremediable step alienated the sympathies of the Arabs, from the Persian Gulf to Alexandretta and from the Mediterranean and Red Sea to the Syrian Desert. The French occupation (or "Mandate") has been and is still a very difficult business as the majority of the population is against it. French troops have managed to keep order in that small part of Syria called Lebanon, and in towns like Damascus and Aleppo; but Arab tribes have been in constant rebellion in the country, and the French troops concentrated on the towns have had rather difficult times. Railway communication between Aleppo and Rayak was continuously interrupted by frequent raids and transport on the line was only possible, by armoured trains. Meantime communication between the towns of the interior and Aleppo was not possible, as the whole country east of Aleppo towards the Euphrates was hostile to the French; and it is only lately, since the Angora treaty was signed, that it has been possible to secure some order and security, by using the troops relieved from the Cilician frontier.

Apart from the hostility of the Arabs to the French Mandate, there is no doubt that the unsatisfactory economic and commercial state of the country, as well as the bad administration of the provinces, have contributed to the maintenance and perhaps increase of discontent. The Syrian judges his ruler by results. In 1919, when the country enjoyed its short-lived independence, it was also enjoying the illusory prosperity which existed also in Europe at that time. Besides, both the Palestine, Turkish and 'Iraq frontiers were open, and the country had a relative security, which the Arabs tried to maintain quite successfully. However, simultaneously with the French occupation all the frontiers were closed, communication became unsafe, and business throughout the country was paralysed. This condition did not improve, but tended to become worse. It was hoped that the Franco-Turkish agreement would open the northern frontiers; but the French, in their anxiety to treat with the Turks, made no stipulation that could benefit Syria, and the Turkish frontiers remain closed. Such a state of affairs changed the sympathies of the Christian and Jewish commercial communities who joined with the Arabs in rising against the Mandatory Power. The situation was further rendered intolerable by the excessive taxation imposed on the country, a necessary step to pay the abnormal expenses of the different Governments.

When it is remembered that before the War, when the country was in a better financial and economic condition than it is to-day, it was hardly found possible to maintain four or five ill-paid Governors, with limited staffs, at Aleppo, Beyrout, Damascus, Baghdad and Jerusalem, it is no wonder that people revolt to-day at having to maintain ten highly paid Ministers together with their innumerable Staffs and Foreign Advisers at Beyrout, Damascus, Aleppo, Amman, Jerusalem and Baghdad. The French, faithful to their motto *Divide et impera*, were not satisfied with detaching Syria from 'Iraq and Palestine, but divided what was left into three sovereign States endowed with their Ministries and advisers.

I will not dwell on the misgovernment of the country by Advisers mostly chosen amongst Colonial officers who, though they may be splendid officers are not all that could be desired for the particular work they are called to do; on the imposition of a depreciated French currency on a country used to Egyptian guineas and to Turkish gold and silver; on the control of public opinion and the muzzling of the press; or on the

inefficiency in handling the country's economic and financial affairs. I will only repeat that it is a pity the French public is not alive to the Syrian miseries, as I am sure that the Chamber, rather than suffer such a state of affairs, would order the withdrawal from Syria.

This was the political and economic situation a few months ago, and to judge by recent reports it has not improved. It will, therefore, be seen that whilst the British troubles in Mesopotamia appear to be settled by the granting of Arab independence and permitting the choice of an Arab prince, the French in Syria have far from settled their difficulties. It is not easy to see how the French can maintain their position in the future except by the sword. Such a situation would be incompatible with the promises of the British Government to the Arabs, especially seeing that the Syrians are not ex-enemies.

It may be argued that the present situation in Syria concerns only France. I believe it concerns the British Government in many respects. First, the British Government must fulfil its pledge; secondly, Syria is a neighbouring country to Palestine and 'Iraq; and last but not least, England is a member of the League of Nations, from whom France holds her present mandate. It should also be borne in mind that England by calling the sons of King Hussein to 'Iraq and Transjordan has indirectly encouraged the Arabs; and in years to come if an attempt is made to liberate their "patria irredenta" the British Government will be placed in an awkward position, both as regards the Arabs and their French Allies.

I am, etc.

NORMAN PHILIPPS.

Davos-Dorf, Switzerland.

May 1st, 1922.

CONDITIONS IN PALESTINE.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—There are one or two references in your current issue to conditions in Palestine, upon which, I trust, you will permit me to offer a little comment.

(1) In your leading article you observe: "But for this we might not now have Arab and Jew ready to fly at one another's throats in Palestine." The suggestion that the Jews are ready to make an unprovoked attack upon the Arabs is utterly unjust and cannot be substantiated by any evidence. The disturbances that have taken place in Palestine have been of three kinds: (a) unprovoked attacks by Arabs upon Jews (Jerusalem, Jaffa, Chedera, Petach Tikvah, etc.), (b) fighting between Arab Moslems and Christians (Kerak), and (c) fighting among Arab Moslems themselves (near Hebron, as reported in your issue of April 27, page 554). There has not been a single case of Jews starting an attack upon Arabs. The Jews desire to live in complete amity with the Arabs and to co-operate with them for the betterment of the country.

(2) Your Jerusalem Correspondent refers to what he calls "the childish ineptitude" of the Zionist Commission, and alleges that they have "mismanaged the greatest opportunity" that the Jews have ever had. This is rather strong language to use, especially when unsupported by even a shred of proof. Is your correspondent acquainted with even a tithe of the work done by the Zionist Commission or with a tithe of the difficulties it has had to overcome? Is he aware that during the last three or four years it had increased the Jewish population in Palestine by 20,000 settlers, mostly young and hardy workers; that it has increased the extent of land previously owned by the Zionist Organisation by more than three times; that it controls and maintains 137 schools of various grades with a budget of £100,000; that it has effected some important works of drainage both in Jerusalem and near the shore of Lake Tiberias; that it controls thirty-one agricultural settlements and has planted over a million trees; that it has lent over £120,000 for various productive purposes, including a loan to the Palestine Government; that it

has prompted the General Mortgage Bank of Palestine, with a nominal capital of £200,000, and helped to finance the Palestine Workmen's Bank to the extent of £40,000? Within less than four years the Zionist Commission has spent over £1,000,000 on various economic and cultural undertakings. A mere enumeration of its many-sided activity would occupy a whole issue of your esteemed paper. Your Jerusalem Correspondent would be well advised to make himself acquainted with a little of this activity before again indulging in unwarranted criticism.

I am, etc.,

The Zionist Organisation,
Central Office,
30th April, 1922.

ISRAEL COHEN.

[The sentence in our leading article to which Mr. Cohen refers was merely a passing reference to a state of affairs which is, unfortunately, notorious; and was not intended to indicate that all Arabs and all Jews in Palestine are on bad terms. As to the quotation from the letter of our Jerusalem Correspondent, we would point out that our Correspondent wrote: "... the childish ineptitude that has marked the Zionist Commission in so many of its actions" (the italics are ours). Without communicating with our Correspondent, we cannot, of course, be certain, but we conclude that he had in mind some of the utterances of Zionist propagandists which have been responsible for so many of the Arabs' fears. Nobody would call in question the skill shown by the Zionist Commission in the direction of its economic and cultural undertakings.—Ed.]

GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—I was much interested in learning, through the letter which appeared in your issue of April 6, that there exists a Permanent (Official) Committee on Geographical Names.

I should like to call the attention of this committee to the geographical name that is always, erroneously, written "Bosphorus." Any Greek scholar would be able to give the derivation of the word as from "Bos," an ox, and "Poros," a ford, making Bosporos (or, anglicized, Bosphorus), literally, "Oxford." Bosporos is the way in which it is written in Greek, and I cannot explain how the "ph" was introduced. If the word were written in Greek "Bosporos," it might be taken to mean a place where a tax or impost was levied on cattle crossing from Europe to Asia Minor, or *vice versa*; but this is not so. To suppose a derivation from "phoros," as in "Christophoros" (Christopher), would be rather too far-fetched. Besides, I repeat, the word is not written in Greek with a "ph," but with a "p."

I am, etc.,

C. H. BUTLER

Athens.

April 24.

THE PALESTINE DELEGATION.

The National Political League entertained at Luncheon at Claridge's Hotel last week the Palestine Arab Delegation and some British friends. The hostesses were Lady Byron and Miss M. A. Broadhurst. Sir W. Joynson-Hicks, M.P., presided. The Chairman proposing the health of "The Delegation," said that they had been waiting now at the door of Great Britain asking for justice for ten months. He felt confident that they would yet get justice, for England at heart was with them. Why the Balfour Declaration had ever been made was one of the mysteries of war time. It had never been submitted to the House of Commons, but it had been engineered by the Zionists secretly with the Government. Now it was being used against the Palestine Arabs in a way that stained our honour. He appealed to the English people not to raise up another Ireland in Palestine. Mr. Shibly Jamal, responding, made a glowing eulogy of the sense of honesty and justice of the British people. He was confident they would do justice to Palestine. The Palestinians were not going to be cozened and tricked as Jacob the Jew once tricked Esau the Arab.

MUSICAL NOTES.

ON GRAMAPHONE RECORDS.

One of the most valuable records that "His Master's Voice" Company have issued is Strauss's tone-poem "Till Eogenspiegels lustige Streiche," complete in four sections on two discs. It is conducted by Albert Coates, a little heavily perhaps, but with admirable proportion. The upper strings and woodwind come through with beautiful clarity, though there is still the obscurity, at present ineradicable, in the lower strings and in the brass. But otherwise the record is one of fine workmanship.

It is still chamber music which makes the records of most lasting enjoyment, and this fact is maintained in the playing, by the Beatrice Hewitt Pianoforte Quartet, of the final (rondo) movement of Brahms' Quartet in G-minor, Op. 25, and of the final (allegro) movement of Dvorak's Quartet in E-flat, Op. 87. The balance of tone is good, the technique generally adequate, and the rhythm, especially in the Dvorak, notable.

Of the soloists, Heifetz must come first. The records that this young Russian makes are consistently remarkable. The purity of his tone and the unsurpassable clarity of his technique are in reproduction extraordinarily good. One heartily wishes that he had spent his time in something better than Tchaikovsky's Valse called "Serenade," which is a poor melody, with poor scoring. Even the brilliance of Heifetz (with that simply marvellous E string) cannot conceal its essential poverty.

Arthur Beckwith, the leader of the Royal Albert Hall Orchestra, has made a double-sided disc of Edward German's "Berceuse" and of Hubay's "Zephir." The first tune has little variety, and is in the most easily imitable of German's manners, but it is played with excellent richness of tone and breadth of rhythm; there are, however, at least two bad slips in intonation. In the second is revealed Beckwith's technical dexterity, with splendid work in harmonics.

Lamond is responsible for the one pianoforte record in this April batch: he has chosen Rubinstein's "Bacarolle," Op. 50, and the fast movement of Beethoven's Sonata, Op. 10 No. 2. The Rubinstein is worthless musically, being but tawdry "pianisticism," though Lamond certainly makes all of it that can be made; and concerning the Beethoven movement I must repeat what I said a few weeks ago of Lamond's playing of the previous movement: his handling of it is too rough and brusque. Lamond's magisterial mood encompasses him too thickly at times, and here we want less masterfulness and more grace. But of course his technique is sparkling, particularly his *staccato* touch.

There remain but one or two serious vocal records that I have not yet remarked.

Olga Haley's singing of Frank Bridge's "Love went a-riding" and of Lidgey's "All in a Garden Green" thoroughly deserves mention, for she is a very worthy mezzo. In the first song there is splendid tone and verve, but it is not a woman's song; and in the second, which is a pretty ballad, she has nothing to do but be her rhythmical self to succeed completely.

The vocal duet does not very often make a satisfactory record, and no exception to this rule can be made in favour of the singing, by Rosina Buckman and Edna Thornton, of "Power Eternal," from Rossini's "Stabat Mater," and "Sainted Mother," from Wallace's "Maritana." This choice of music is strange enough, but in any case the words are not very clear, and no personality in the performance is evident in the reproduction.

For those who do not greatly care for what is assumed to be "high-brow" stuff, there are in this issue some excellent records. First I should put Jessel's "Parade of the Wooden Soldiers," as played by H.M. Coldstream Guards Band. No one who saw the Chauve-Souris in their recent visit to London will forget their most delightful performance to this music, which, being essentially theatrical, at once calls up the stage setting. On the reverse side of this disc is a slight "Little Dolly Dance," rather perfunctorily done by the Mayfair Orchestra, but quite pleasing with its *pizzicato* strings and deftly inserted percussion.

For those who like Coleridge-Taylor's "Hiawatha" H.M. Coldstream Guards have recorded the ballet music from it, and it would be silly to try to spoil the enjoyment of hundreds with any personal opinions of mine.

Finally, there is a record which is fun enough: it is made by the Light Opera Company, and contains on one side a set of Neapolitan songs, and on the other some of the more popular English (or American) songs of to-day. An amusing pot-pourri.

BATTISTINI.

Battistini, the Italian baritone who is described as "the greatest living master of *bel canto*," has revisited London after an absence of sixteen years. I heard him for the first time last week at the Queen's Hall, though of course one already knew something of him through his gramophone records.

I came away from his recital curiously disappointed. His was the kind of voice I most admire; purity, control, proportion and technique were all perfect; never a false quality, never a forced emotion. And yet with all this command of colour and of mood, there was missing for the most part just that purely vocal thrill, that lyric personality in the voice, that natural magnetism of which I suppose age inevitably dispossesses a singer. Battistini is now sixty-five: I would have given much to hear him at forty-five. For I do not greatly care to listen to the things in which his unsurpassable technique brings him triumph—things like Carissimi's "Vittoria!" or Donizetti's "O tanto Amor," or the Prologue to "Pagliacci." What were his greatest renderings were Paisiello's "Il mio ben" and Gluck's "Spiagge Amate": here an absolute perfection of form was present with an almost absolute perfection of substance. That Battistini is a consummate master is not in doubt for a moment: a man who can sing Mozart, Verdi, and Massenet with such dignity and fitness as he did is a rare artist indeed, and he should be so acclaimed. But for myself, as I have said, I just missed the purely intimate thrill that makes form and substance dissolve to become an indivisible perfection. And I readily believe that Battistini in his younger days would so have dissolved the component parts of his very high art.

ANDANTE.

THE PALESTINE GENDARMERIE.

Mrs. McNeill, President of the St. George and St. Barbara Société de Bienfaisance, 12, Queen's Gate Place, S.W.7., appeals for books for the officers and men of the British section of the Palestine Gendarmerie. Colonel McNeill is in command of the Corps.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE OSIRIAN MYTH.

"THOTH, THE HERMES OF ANCIENT EGYPT." By Patrick Boylan, M.A., Professor of A cient Languages in the University of Dublin. (The Oxford University Press. 10s. 6d. net).

The present generation has witnessed a welcome change in the Christian's attitude towards rival creeds. Time was when missionaries who carried the Cross into "heathen" lands believed Hindu deities to be manifestations of the Evil One, and branded the founder of Mohammedanism as an impostor. The study of comparative religion has broadened the theologian's outlook: intolerance and vituperation have given way to sympathy and an earnest desire for deeper knowledge. It is generally recognised that no race possesses a monopoly of divine truth; that all the great organized religions are inter-related, and that their evolution should be examined with perfect impartiality. The new departure is admirably exemplified by Professor Boylan's monograph on the god Thoth, who gained a foremost place in the pantheon of ancient Egypt, and many centuries later governed the everyday life of Hellas as Hermes. Professor Boylan's study is based on the version of the famous Osirian legend given by Plutarch's treatise "Isis and Osiris." In the Greek historian's day it took the form of a lawsuit for the throne of Egypt tried before the gods of Heliopolis. Osiris figured as a civilising monarch, Isis was his faithful wife, Horus his son and heir, Set his wicked brother, and Thoth was a brilliant advocate who helped Osiris to secure justice. Harking back from the Plutarchian story, Professor Boylan traces the evolution of the primitive nature-myth whence it sprung through all the changes wrought by popular fancy and priestly speculation. He arrives at the conclusion that Osiris was originally adored as the active and Isis as the female element in Nature; while Set personified the fierce sirocco which destroyed vegetation in the Nilotic delta. In his view Thoth was an independent deity who presided over the Dead. As the worship of ancient Egypt concerned itself solely with life in the world of spirits, Thoth grew in importance and finally cast his fellow-gods into the shade. It was inevitable that the legends relating to him should be interwoven with those which clustered round the protagonists in the struggle between the Powers of growth and destruction which primitive races evolve for the phenomena of Nature.

Professor Boylan writes for Egyptologists, but laymen unversed in the hieratic script will not fail to appreciate the scholarship and acumen which he has brought to bear on an esoteric field of research.

F. H. S.

THE CAMBRIDGE MEDIEVAL HISTORY.

"THE CAMBRIDGE MEDIEVAL HISTORY." Vol. III., with Maps. (Cambridge University Press: 50s. net.)

The third volume of the Cambridge Medieval History has just been published, and it is a duty to salute its appearance. No historical student can forget the stolidity and indigestibility of the first two volumes, but neither can he deny the indispensability of the whole series. The most noticeable feature of this volume, which is devoted to Germany and the Western Empire, is the absence of original German scholarship, but the period dealt with is scarcely highly enough coloured for the removal of this drab weight to make much difference.

So far as we are able to judge (and mention of the countries with which *THE NEAR EAST* particularly deals is naturally but scanty), the Editors of this work have done conscientiously and well. It is true that they bring home to one more intimately than ever the force of the old saying that "Oxford historians are dull on purpose: Cambridge historians because they

cannot help it," but as a matter of fact, here it is the period, not they themselves, that made them unable to help it. At this period the countries of Europe were groping mistily for stability; dawns were but breaking; little had quite crystallized out by the end of this volume. As the Editor, Dr. Whitney, points out, the line of continuity did indeed remain unbroken (except by the Moors in Spain and by the establishment of the Normans) throughout the time from the death of Charlemagne to the middle of the Eleventh Century, but either the new impulse of affairs took such old forms or the old impulse such new forms that the essential unity is difficult to perceive. It is only by the mastery and the consequent ordering of such details as may be found in this volume that the preceding and sequent unities of Western Europe may be understood.

On so indefinite a period it is hard to make definite comment. But we may touch on one point, which closely concerns this journal; it is hinted at in the helpful Introduction: we mean the terror which at this time the Saracens were locally causing, that terror, which, as Dr. Whitney says, "in a form vaster and more undefined, was to form, later on, a dark background for the history of Europe as a whole." It is in a description of the inroad into Spain of the Arabs that one of the best chapters in this history has been written. The author of this chapter, which is entitled "The Western Caliphate" is Dr. Rafael Altamira, and he has achieved a brilliant balance between necessary detail and general observation. He sketches the establishment of the Ummayyad Emirate in the Eight Century, the subsequent civil wars of the Moslems in Spain, and the efforts, frustrated by Abd-ar-Rahman III, to drive out the Moslem civilization. However, resentment towards the Arabs grew until the Caliphate eventually fell in the Eleventh Century. With the passing of the suzerainty of Spain to the Christian kingdoms, this chapter ends, but not without a demonstration of the fact, which Disraeli in another context remarked, that the Arab civilization succeeded in Spain because of its superiority to that of the Northern States, the culture of which it absorbed.

With the other chapters it is not in our province to deal; some are excellent, others readable, and a few merely sound. Two or three are fascinating, and none more so than Professor Lethaby's masterly description of "Byzantine and Romanesque Arts."

We still think the Maps, which, incidentally, together with other parts of the Volume, had been prepared before the War, hardly worthy of the text: fuller detail would in no way have lessened their clarity.

A NEW MAP.

We have received from Messrs. John Bartholomew and Son, Edinburgh, a copy of their new Map of the Middle East, which is drawn to a scale of 1:4,000,000, or 63 miles to an inch. Its field extends from Kutais in the North to just below Riyadh in the South, and from Chios in the West to Gwattar (or Gwadar) in the East, thus embracing many points of particular interest at the present time; and it will, we think be found very useful by all who wish to follow intelligently events in this region. Naturally, some of the boundaries shown are likely eventually to need redrawing, while others have to be left frankly undetermined; but since the colouring is orographical it will be easy to make such emendations and alterations as may be required, and the sheet will be of value for many years to come. The railways are clearly marked and the lettering is upon the whole distinct, while the scheme of colouring serves its purpose well and does not confuse the eye. The drawing and printing are good and the price (3s. 6d. mounted on cloth, or 5s. dissected, mounted and folded) is certainly moderate.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.**To-day.**

May 11 (New Style).

April 28 (Old Style).

Ramadan 14, 1340 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.

Iyar 13, 5682 of the Jewish Calendar.

The Maharaja, of Kapurthala has arrived at Bordeaux.

General Muhammad Wali Khan, Afghan Envoy Extraordinary for Europe, has left Paris for Kabul.

Senor Romero, Spanish Minister in Bulgaria, has concluded his visit to London and returned to Sofia.

His Highness the Aga Khan, now staying in Paris, is expected in London towards the end of this month.

Viscount and Viscountess Ebrington, who have been for some time in India, have arrived in town for the season.

The Crown Prince of Persia and his suite left Marseilles last week in the P. and O. steamship 'China' for Bombay.

Prince Nicolas of Roumania has returned to London from Bucharest and is staying with the Roumanian Minister at 50, Grosvenor Street.

Commander Jean Bouboulis, Naval Attaché at the Greek Legation, and Madame Bouboulis, are now in residence at 104a, Park Street.

M. Stoicesco, Counsellor at the Roumanian Legation in Paris, who accompanied Prince Nicolas to London, has gone back to resume his diplomatic duties.

M. Stergiades, the Harmost of Ionia, has returned to Smyrna from Athens, and General Vlachopoulos, Military Governor of Anatolia, from Sokia and Scala Nuova.

It is officially announced in Belgrade that the condition of M. Pashitch, Prime Minister of Serbia, is very satisfactory.

Viscount and Viscountess Milner, who recently returned from abroad, are now at Sturry Court, their residence in Kent.

Mr. E. N. Corbyn, Governor of Khartoum, left the Sudan on leave on April 20. He is expected to return on September 1.

Sir Nicholas Dodd Beatson Bell, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., late Governor of Assam, has been ordained and intends to engage in Church work at Whitby, Yorkshire.

General Haddad Pasha, the personal representative of King Faisal, has arrived in London, and is staying at the Carlton Hotel. He is unfortunately laid up with a slight attack of dysentery.

Our Baghdad Correspondent writes (April 27):—Miss Gertrude Bell, C.B.E., left Baghdad by aeroplane yesterday for Jerusalem, where she will meet Sir Hugh Bell.

A marriage is arranged between Captain Roland Le Fanu, M.C., the Leicestershire Regiment, youngest son of Henry Le Fanu, retired, I.C.S., and Mrs. Le Fanu, and Marguerite, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Lumsden, Tarvit, Cupar, Fife.

THE PERSIA SOCIETY.

President: Lord Lamington, G.G.M.G., G.C.I.E.

Founded in 1911 to study all questions of common interest to Great Britain and Persia,

Subscription £1 per annum. Further particulars may be obtained of the Honorary Secretary, 74, Grosvenor St., W.1.

Mr. Ormsby-Gore, M.P., will preside at an afternoon meeting, organised by the Conservative Women's Reform Association, on the 12th inst., at which Professor Arnold Toynbee will speak on his experience in the Graeco-Turkish War.

King Fuad was patron of the athletic sports meeting organized by the Cairo Y.M.C.A. on Easter Monday, and the prizes and cups were distributed by Lady Congreve, wife of the G.O.C., Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

The engagement is announced between Captain W. L. Fawcett, M.C., 9th Gurkha Rifles, youngest son of the late J. E. Fawcett and Mrs. Fawcett, of Heron Court, Knaresborough, and Margaret Ann, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Ilbert, of Dunstone, Yealmpton, Devon.

The Minister of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, returned to London last week from The Hague, where his Excellency, who is also accredited to the Netherlands, presented his Letters of Credence to the Queen. M. Gavrilovitch was accompanied by Mme. Gavrilovitch and M. C. Fotitch.

It has now been decided that the marriage of King Alexander, King of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, with Princess Marie of Roumania, shall take place in Belgrade on the 31st inst., and not as previously arranged. The King and Queen of Roumania will leave Bucharest on the 29th inst., and will sail up the Danube to Belgrade.

The engagement is announced between Dr. E. P. Scott, of 78, Portland-Place, W., son of L. P. Scott, and nephew of Sir Harvey Adamson, K.C.S.I., and Sybil, daughter of Mrs. Bannister Hawkes, of 38, Grosvenor-Gardens, S.W., and granddaughter of O. C. Hawkes, J.P., of South Bank, Edgbaston.

The engagement is announced of Henry William Mirehouse, M.B.E., Lieutenant the Prince of Wales's Volunteers, elder son of Mr. H. G. Mirehouse, Les Chalets, St. Helier, Jersey, and Amabel Marcia Ellen, only daughter of Mr. H. A. Smallwood, C.M.G., Financial Secretary to the Government of Palestine, and Mrs. Smallwood, of Jerusalem.

Dr. E. S. Crispin, Director of the Sudan Medical Department, left Khartoum on April 20 for England on leave, after expiration of which he will retire from service in the Sudan. There was a large number of notabilities at the station to see Dr. Crispin off. Sir Herbert Jackson Pasha, the Acting Governor-General, the members of the Governor-General's Council and Heads of Departments, as well as other officials were present.

The King received at Buckingham Palace on May 6 Major W. G. Strover, 50th Kumaon Rifles, Officer-in-Charge, and the King's Indian Orderly Officers as fellows, who were presented to his Majesty by Lieutenant-Colonel A. D'A. G. Bannerman, Political Aide-de-Camp to the Secretary of State for India: Honorary Lieutenant Krishna Ghosle, Bahadur, 128th Pioneers; Honorary Lieutenant Joseph, Bahadur, 2nd Queen Victoria's Own Sappers and Miners; Subadar-Major Nanjappa, Bahadur, 64th Pioneers, and Subadar-Major Vishram Rao Chowan, 116th Mahrattas.

APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS.

The King has been pleased to approve of the appointment of General Sir F. J. Davies, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., to be Aide-de-Camp-General to the King, with effect from April 26, 1922, in succession to General the Earl of Cavan, K.P., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., K.C.B. General Davies has been General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Scottish Command, since 1919. Before that he was Military Secretary at the War Office. In the war he served in France, the Dardanelles, and Egypt.

OBITUARY.

The death has occurred, at the age of seventy-nine, of Lieutenant-Colonel G. T. Plunkett. Colonel Plunkett entered the Royal Engineers in 1862, and became lieutenant-colonel after twenty-seven years' service. He took part in the Sudan Expedition in 1885. In 1894 Colonel Plunkett was the author of a "Conversation Manual for India" and an "Anglo-Arabic Vocabulary," and also published "Walks in Cairo" and other volumes. He was a keen friend of Italy.

A message from Bombay announces the death of the Maharaja of Kolhapur. His Highness Shahu Chhatrapati, Maharaja of Kolhapur, was born in 1874, and was the adopted son of his predecessor in the title. He was educated at Rajkumar College, Rajkote, Bombay, and by special tuition, and the honorary degree of LL.D. was conferred upon him by Cambridge University in 1902. He was an honorary colonel in the Army, and a member of the Royal Agricultural Society. He was created G.C.S.I., in 1895, G.C.V.O., in 1902, and G.C.I.E. in 1911. Kolhapur is a native State of some 3,200 acres in the Province of Bombay, and has a population of nearly 900,000, and the late Maharaja was one of the ruling Princes of India, and a descendant of the "Great Shivaji," founder of the Maratha Empire.

THE ARAB HORSE SOCIETY.

At a Council Meeting of the Arab Horse Society held in London last month the following new members were elected—Maj. T.R. Badger, Carlton Park, Market Harborough, Northants; Miss Elspeth K. B. Colquhoun, 16, Westbourne Terr., London, W.; Mrs. A. B. Horner, Burleigh House, Epping, Essex; Mrs. A. D. Hough, Parsonage, Theydon Bois, Essex; Mrs. S. G. Hough, Springhouse Park, Theydon Bois, Essex; Mrs. S. H. Hough, Blunts Chase, Theydon Bois, Essex; T. B. Jenkinson, Virginia Ranch, Dog Pound P.O., S. Alberta, Canada; Charles Lees, Loanda, Wickwar, Glos.; The Hon. Mrs. C. H. Strutt, Blunts Hall, Witham, Essex; The Hon. Mrs. R. E. L. Vaughan Williams, High Ashes Farm, Holmbury St. Mary, Dorking, Surrey; R. E. Lomax Vaughan Williams, High Ashes Farm, Holmbury St. Mary, Dorking, Surrey. Governor—Claude Tryon, 10, Grays Inn Square, London.

Mr. W. F. Saunt was co-opted Member of the Council in the place of Lieut.-Col. P. D. Stewart, D.S.O., elected Vice-President.

The London Show Accounts were duly passed, and details arranged in connection with the Arab Classes at the Summer Shows.

The Council then adjourned until their next meeting on Tuesday, May 30.

OLD HEBREW WRITING.

Some little brown scraps of papyrus, shown by Professor Flinders Petrie to members of the Jewish Historical Society recently, are said to contain the oldest Hebrew writing known, apart from stone inscriptions. Professor Petrie, who was lecturing to the Society at University College on the status of the Jews in Egypt, said the papyri were part of four letters whose discovery a few weeks ago in Middle Egypt had come as a surprise. They dated from the third or fourth century, and were ordinary business letters, like the bulk of the Greek papyri of that age. One of them contained an inquiry about cinnamon and salt, and another was written on part of a Greek document, probably of the Third Century. Another interesting exhibit was a reproduction of a hieroglyphic inscription, found by the Professor on a temple monument at Thebes, and the only one to mention the people of Israel. He also showed a model of the Temple Hill at Jerusalem, of which a replica was set up by the exiled Jews in Egypt under one of the Ptolemies, when they attempted to found a new Jerusalem near Memphis.

ARAB SURGERY.

Dr. E. Lloyd, who has had charge of the hospital of the Church Missionary Society at Omdurman, gives the following account of Arab surgery in the "C.M. Outlook" for May:—

"There is a very common disease in the Sudan which follows a prick in the foot by a thorn. A slowly-growing swelling develops, and the patient loses the use of his leg, and finally dies

of exhaustion. No treatment is of any use except amputation and this operation is, therefore, one of the commonest which we have to perform. Before our arrival it used to be carried out as follows: the patient was seated in one of the grass-walled huts which the Arabs build, and the diseased foot was thrust through the wall. An obliging friend then took a two-handed sword, such as is still carried by the Arabs, and with one blow removed the diseased leg, the wound then being cauterized. The Arabs have now realized that modern surgery can improve on this method."

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The French and Greek Governments have adhered to the proposal to prolong the powers of the Mixed Courts in Egypt for an indefinite period.

A Central Labour Federation has been formed at Bombay, under the auspices of the Indian Trades Union Congress which is intended to act as a provincial executive for the Bombay Presidency on behalf of the Congress.

A bomb was exploded in Sofia on April 30 and killed two persons. The police arrested some 30 Communists, among them, it is said, the bomb-thrower. In consequence, apparently, of these arrests, the demonstrations on May Day passed off without incident.

Certain coins discovered in a tomb at Cesis (Wenden), in Latvia, in 1910 have recently been identified by the secretary of the Afghan Mission to Berlin as being of Arabian origin dating from the first century of Islam.

The Cairo correspondent of *The Times* states that the Commandant of Police in Damascus has been dismissed for failing to grapple with the recent situation.

A message from Kabul states that the war between the Dirs and the Swats has ceased in order to allow the combatants to harvest the crops. A truce till August has been signed and police are guarding the battlefield.

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THURSDAY, MAY 11, 1922.

IRAQ.

The Mohammerah tripartite Agreement between Great Britain, Iraq and Nejd may well prove a more important document than appears at first sight. Ibn Saud of Nejd has not taken kindly to the accession of King Faisal to the throne of Iraq, and was only persuaded to recognize the *fait accompli* by the promise of a subsidy from Great Britain. The vexed question of the Iraq-Nejd frontier, however, remained unsettled—a circumstance of which the Akhwan ("Brethren" *i.e.*, Wahabis) took advantage by raiding border tribes who preferred allegiance to Iraq to the strict tenets of the Wahabis. On March 11 a more formidable raid was carried out at Abu Ghar and Shaqrah by Faisal ibn Dawish, one of the Sultan's chief commanders, and after British reconnoitring aeroplanes had been fired upon by the raiders it became necessary to use the Royal Air Force to disperse the Akhwan concentration. In spite of the natural indignation caused in Iraq by these events—a Cabinet crisis supervened—Sir Percy Cox refused to allow his efforts to bring about an understanding between Iraq and Nejd to be shipwrecked, and called upon Ibn Saud to repudiate the action of his lieutenants, and to compensate the Iraq tribes for their losses. Omitting somewhat pointedly all reference to the latter demand, the Sultan apologised and undertook "to deal with anybody found at fault and to put a stop to further depredations." In the meantime his delegates were approaching Mohammerah for a conference with the representatives of Sir Percy Cox and the Iraq Government, and it is to the credit of the latter that it did not insist upon a complete liquidation of the raid incident before the meeting. In his correspondence with the British High Commissioner on the subject, King Faisal showed that he was fully prepared to second any statesmanlike measures for the benefit of Iraq, however high public feeling might be running against the Akhwan. He expressed the hope that the arrival of the Emir's representatives "would prove to be a healthful preliminary step towards the resumption of friendly intercourse and the cementing of relations of alliance between the two neighbouring countries." The conference decided to make the boundary between Iraq and Nejd conform with tribal organisation rather than with an artificial alignment across the desert. Certain tribes are allotted to Iraq, others to Nejd. If the agreement is observed in the letter and in the spirit by all the Sultan's followers, a notable contribution to the peace of the Middle East, and perhaps of a still wider region, will have been made. Tribal differences in the desert south of the lower reaches of the Euphrates may seem unimportant amid the world's present preoccupations; but—as has been so often insisted upon in THE NEAR EAST—any unsettled question in the Near or Middle East may ultimately embroil the whole of Europe. Quite recently Ibn Saud convinced himself, on the strength of the favourable reception accorded to his messengers in Damascus, that he could count on French support for a policy of pinpricks against King Faisal. Possibly subsequent events in Syria have satisfied him that his intrigues with the French would not commend themselves to the Arab world.

The establishment of friendly relations with Nejd will be of considerable advantage to Iraq, but it will still leave that country in an indeterminate and unsatisfactory condition. As is known, negotiations are in progress

for a treaty between Great Britain and Iraq, and until that treaty is ratified the success of the experiment to which the British Government is committed in Iraq is in the balance. Success depends on King Faisal's rulership; but we have made him ruler over a practically bankrupt concern, without power or any real authority. No man under such conditions, if they are unduly prolonged, can hope to win through. The British Government's position is not without difficulty. It is responsible to the League of Nations for the proper exercise of the Mandate, and it hesitates to give up any of its authority until it is assured that the Arab Government can make good. The vicious circle is thus complete, and only bold action on the part of Great Britain can break it. The existence of the Mandate is regarded as the negation of independence, and is fastened upon by enemy propaganda as proof that Iraq is not a separate Moslem State but a British province. It is pointed out that real authority rests with the British High Commissioner, and the experience of the Akhwan raid is cited to show that King Faisal has no power even to protect his own frontiers. This may be a perverted method of reasoning, but we have to deal with those among whom it makes a convincing appeal. Once again, as in Egypt, Great Britain would seem to have to choose between taking her courage in both her hands and in being compelled ultimately to go farther than there is need to go to-day or than the interests of the country justify. It is no longer a question of making Iraq a success; the British Government has already relinquished its responsibility in this respect, and is committed to making the Faisal régime a success. Incidentally it will be doing its duty by the country at the same time; but the point to remember is that, having handed over to King Faisal, Great Britain must now enable him personally to make good. If this aspect of the situation is once grasped, the solution becomes easier; but a Treaty must commend itself to the sense of the nation as a whole, or it may share the fate of the Anglo-Persian Agreement.

The Mohammerah Agreement offers some justification for the contention of those who are in closest touch with the Arabs that they are far from providing, as is generally supposed, the most hopeless material for the formation of a modern State. In the opinion of some observers acquainted with conditions in both countries the material on the banks of the Tigris is as good as, if not superior to, that on the Nile. The Arabs are capable of getting things done, and it is noticeable that the main grievance of the Administration with existing conditions is that, when so much needs to be done, everything is at a standstill owing to the vagueness of the present position. In Western minds there may be much virtue in marking time; the Arab does not appreciate the process. In Iraq it has served only to disillusion him. The expectations formed at the moment of the liberation of Mesopotamia from the Turks have not materialized; even such as were renewed when King Faisal mounted the throne seem to hang fire, and all the time insidious propaganda is reaching the Arab's ear that he has been "let down," that Great Britain is not the friend that she claims to be, that, as Arab aspirations can never be realized under her aegis, a complete break must be made with the British and their nominees. There are, of course, many in Iraq who are proof against all intrigues of this nature, but so far little has been done to help them. European standards of political wisdom cannot be applied to Iraq; we must take the people as we find them, and make the best of the material that there is to hand. It is not the fault of the Arabs that a vast amount of British money has been squandered on the country. Indeed, they point with dismay to the fact that this money was squandered, because practically nothing was spent on reproductive works. It is for that reason that Iraq is to-day so nearly a bankrupt concern. The railway system serves military purposes and can never pay, because it makes no attempt to tap revenue-producing sources, such as the best agricultural districts or the pilgrim passenger traffic. Until the Administration is provided with a loan for railway construction,

it must meet an annual deficit on its railway budget. An extension of irrigation is also needed; as soon as the main works are completed, whole districts are ready to build at their own expense the canals that will bring water to the cultivable area. This unexpected appreciation on the part of the settled Arab of the benefits of irrigation suggests that his prosperity will rapidly attract his semi-nomad neighbour, and that gradually Iraq will be able, just as Egypt has done, to count upon a steady immigration of the desert Bedouin. There is no desire to overpaint the picture. Early exaggerations in regard to Iraq were soon followed by equally unbalanced pessimism. The truth, as can easily be discovered to-day, is that Iraq is a land of considerable potentialities, that can only be developed slowly; but there can be no doubt that it will amply repay money invested intelligently in it. First of all its political status must be settled on satisfactory lines, and at the same time Great Britain, having identified herself with the existing régime, must take without delay the few steps required to make that régime a success.

TRAVEL NOTES.

EGYPT AND THE SUDAN.

(Continued).

The best advice that can be given to those who contemplate a visit to Egypt is not to be in a hurry. Spend a short time there rather than miss seeing it altogether; but extend your stay to the utmost limits possible. The programme-tourist may still need our sympathy and prayers, but he or she is certainly past writing for. Are they not all armed with guide-books, if they should ever find a moment to spare from their time-tables? "Passengers by the s.s. Heruar will assemble at 8.15 a.m.



KHARTOUM: GORDON'S STATUE.

to drive to A. On the return journey visits will be paid to B, C, and D. Lunch will be served at 12.45 p.m. and at 1.30 p.m. a start will be made for E. The train for F. leaves at 6 p.m. All baggage must be ready by 4.30 p.m." So runs the normal notice prominently displayed in the hotels. But how thoroughly they enjoy it.

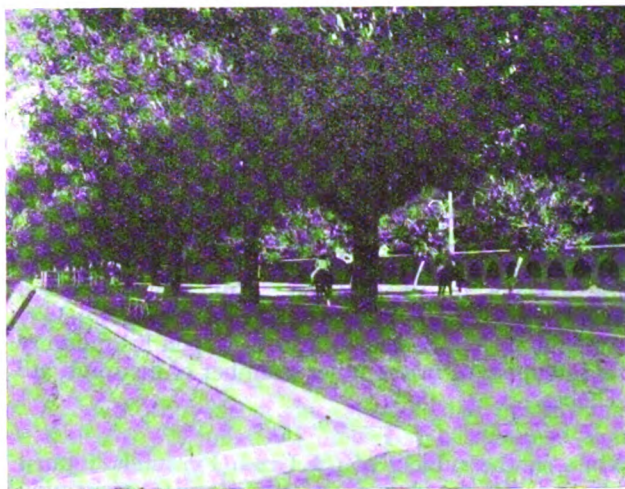
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It was one of such a party who was inspired to utter an epigram. He had been watching, from the train, an Egyptian on the railway platform, and on being told

that he was engaged in his devotions and not in acrobatics, remarked: "I guess, what these people want is more work and less prayer, while in the States we want more prayer and less work."

— o : —

Those who intend to visit the Sudan will hardly wish to spare the weeks entailed in the steamer journey from Cairo to Luxor and Assouan and back. They can console themselves with the reflexion that they will have two delightful days on the Nile each way between Shellal and Wady Halfa, and that they will, therefore, not miss altogether the attractions of the river trip. The Egyptian State Railways are prepared to convey the traveller from Cairo to Luxor in thirteen hours and



KHARTOUM: EMBANKMENT STREET.

on to Assouan in eight or nine more (six-and-a-half hours' actual travelling). But they also cater for the more deliberate sightseer, and it is no longer necessary to go by steamer, if one wishes to visit places *en route* such as Beni Hasan and the Speos Artemidos (Station: Abu Kirkas), Abydos (Station: Baliana), Esna, Edfu or Kom Ombo. For breaks in the journey however, time-tables and possibly the Railway officials will have to be consulted.

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For the journey to Khartoum Wagons-Lits coaches are attached to the night train from Cairo to Luxor. According to the present time-table a two-hours' stay at the latter station leaves time for a visit to the river front and for as much more as the disposition or energy of the individual passengers suggests. Either on the outward or the homeward journey a stay will be made at Luxor, and at Assouan. Until the former of these places has been visited the traveller can claim only an imperfect acquaintance with Egypt. At Gizeh within sight of the Pyramids, still better on the day's trek between Gizeh and Sakkara, and above all in a camping expedition to the Fayoum, one can absorb some of the charm of the desert, and understand why Egypt exercises the hold that it does on the imagination; but in choosing Thebes and Karnak—on opposite sides of the Nile at Luxor—as the site of their finest temples and their chief burial ground, the rulers of ancient Egypt showed an aesthetic sense of the first order.

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With the noise and bustle of Cairo left far behind it is possible at Luxor, in the winter season, to feel an exhilaration that is entirely restful. The air itself must



ASK FOR

WHITE HORSE WHISKY



BY APPOINTMENT.

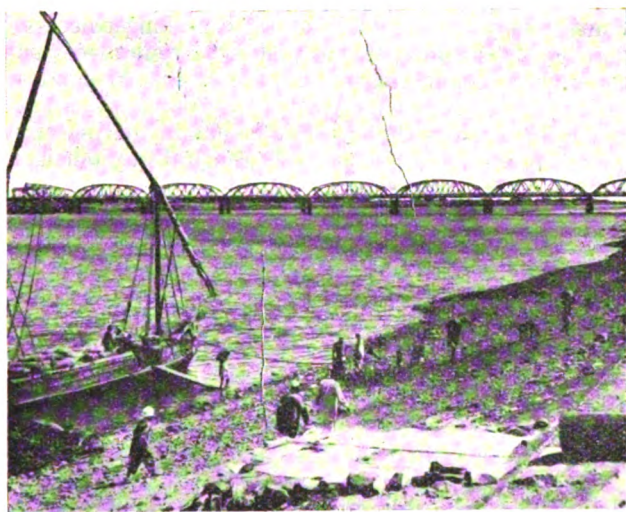
be the whole tonic, for one is conscious of losing nothing of the effect even when one is not gazing on the stately Nile and beyond, over the broad belt of cultivation, to the Libyan Hills. In the latter are the tombs of the Kings and of the Queens—a group of Egypt's sights which most people will place without hesitation at the head of the list. India may contain much that is superlatively impressive; Nature has provided a wilder setting for some of Greece's antiquities; but those whose mummies were laid to rest in chambers cut out of the interior of the hills, approached in some cases a hundred yards by stairways, passages, and rooms all hewn out of the solid rock, have nothing to fear from comparison with any of the other great ones of the earth.

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Even the Pyramids to my mind represent something more obvious than the positions chosen by the kings of the eighteenth and nineteenth dynasties for their burial places. A journey to Upper Egypt shows that their builders went to nature for their inspiration, for there are many hills rising abruptly from the desert which resemble a pyramid. But while both Tombs and Pyramids would be prompted by the same desire for undisturbed seclusion for the body after death, the architects of the former must surely have been gifted with more subtle powers of imagination. But they reckoned without posterity. I must confess to *feeling* an apology to Amenhotep the Second as I looked upon his mummy in its sarcophagus in the inner chamber of his tomb hill at Thebes.

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While on the subject of the Gizeh Pyramids I must mention a curious discovery that stands unwittingly to the credit of the Royal Air Force. On the way to Khartoum I was shown a photograph of the Great



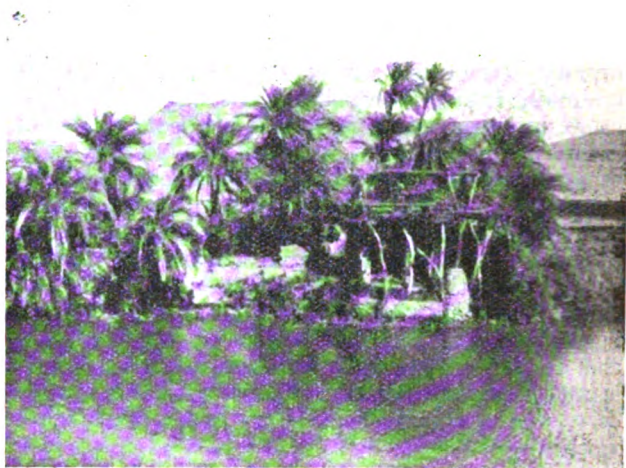
KHARTOUM: THE BRIDGE OVER THE BLUE NILE.

Pyramid taken from the air. The owner had recently been given it and had not made any special study of it. In the leisure of the steamer trip between Shellal and Halfa it required no effort to discover in a corner of the photograph a portrait of an ancient Egyptian head with high forehead. The profile of the face was formed by the road leading up to the Pyramids from the Mena House Hotel; nostrils and mouth were clearly marked although we were unable to decide what the particular objects would be on the ground. I hoped to secure a copy of the photograph for reproduction in these pages, but was not successful in tracing it on my return to Cairo.

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From Luxor to Shellal the railway is of narrower gauge; but this disadvantage has not been allowed to detract from the passengers' comfort. Windows of blue glass keep out the glare, and with regard to dust the situation is certainly better than would be expected in the case of a train travelling for so many hours over such a track. For most of the way the line has avoided

encroaching upon the cultivated area, by running alongside on the desert surface. If our American epigrammatist ever passed over this route, he will have



A SAKKIYA (WATER WHEEL) ON THE NILE.

realized that his *bon mot* does not apply to the fellaheen. As one watches the various phases of native life from the train one appreciates that industry is a virtue of the Egyptian agriculturalist. We may even hope that it is reluctance to be taken too far or too long away from his work rather than any more obvious shortcoming that prompts the villagers to bury their dead in such close proximity to the living.

H. T. Montague Bell.

TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

The subject headings given are those of the Official Report.

Near East.—India: Waziristan Operations; Prisoners (Treatment); Viceroy's Speech (Peshawar).—(Wednesday, 26th April.) Greece (Loan).—Anglican Church, India.—(Thursday, 27th April.)

Passports (Turkey).—Asia Minor.—Abyssinia (Slave Trade).—Egypt: British Officials; Zaghloul Pasha.—(Monday, 1st May.)

India: North-West Frontier Province; Retrenchment Committee; Assembly and Provincial Councils; Hindus and Brahmins; Imperial Service Lancers; Calcutta Gaol (Outbreak); Locomotives (Contracts); Kenya and Fiji (Indian Subjects); Burma (Constitution).—Iraq: Cabinet; Raid.—Turkey: Angora Government; Constantinople Quays.—Roumanian Government (Loan).—(Tuesday, 2nd May.)

Royal Navy: British Warships, Batum.—Egypt (Zaghloul Pasha).—Sir Charles Townshend.—Italy and Turkey (Agreement).—Sir Charles Townshend.—(Wednesday, 3rd May.)

TROUBLES IN SYRIA.

The Palestine Arab Delegation now in London in a statement made to Reuter's Agency says:—

The troubles in Syria continue, and skirmishes in which several lives were lost on both sides have already taken place in the Homs region between the Arab natives and French troops. The British authorities have been informed that it may become very difficult to prevent an invasion of French territory by the Arabs of Trans-Jordan, who have been pressing their chief, the Emir Abdullah, to let them go. While Mr. Bell, an Englishman and director general of the Hejaz Railway, was walking in the streets of Damascus he was taken for Lord Milner by the crowd, and soon shouts of "Long live Lord Milner, the champion of Arab unity! Long live Great Britain!" rent the air. Mr. Bell found himself forced to acknowledge these acclamations by repeatedly raising his hat. All shops were closed at Damascus on April 28 as a protest against the sentences passed by the French courts martial on leading Nationalists of twenty, fifteen, and ten years' imprisonment. The fifty Nationalists arrested at an Arab café have gone on hunger strike, all the sweets and delicacies sent them by friends having been distributed among the gaolers. The streets of Damascus are patrolled day and night by tanks, machine-guns, and armed troops, and several casualties have occurred in encounters between troops and the population.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

In consequence of queries, the Editor thinks it advisable to state that the quotation from any article does not necessarily imply that the views expressed are shared by "The Near East." On the contrary, an attempt is made to include as far as is possible in the available space all sides of the various questions discussed.

The Situation in Syria.

The issue of *Palestine* for April 29 contains a useful summary of general conditions in Syria. After outlining the proximate causes of the recent outbreaks, it continues:—

The incidents which are reported are not in themselves of great gravity, nor is there any reason to suppose that the French authorities are not perfectly capable of coping with the situation. They are, on the other hand, symptomatic of a general malaise which cannot but be a source of some anxiety. It would be misleading to suggest that the French have made no material progress in the task of pacification. Though Northern Syria has long been largely out of hand, the situation in Southern Syria has perceptibly improved since the French occupation. The area in which Syria marches with Palestine is much less disturbed than it was before the French ejected the Damascus Government, and Palestine is no longer flooded with Christian refugees. Even in the interior anarchy no longer prevails in the same degree as in the period of chaos which culminated in July, 1920. The weakness of the Damascus Government and its tendency to drift into the hands of irresponsible adventurers are, indeed, in themselves a strong argument for the presence, for the time being, of a Mandatory Power.

Nevertheless, it must be admitted that the French Administration, admirable as is some of the work it has done, is nowhere very popular in Syria. For a variety of reasons, into which it is not now necessary to enter, the French were somewhat coldly received from the outset. There was none of the enthusiasm which their traditional association with the Levant had led them to expect. Nor can it be said that they have succeeded since the Occupation in winning the goodwill of the Syrians. Though there is no open hostility on a formidable scale, the population continues to maintain an attitude of reserve. It shows little disposition to accept in a friendly spirit the advice and assistance of the Mandatory Power. Its mood is at best one of reluctant acquiescence. The Christian minority which was disposed to welcome the French in the expectation of favours to come has been disillusioned. The Christians had confidently counted on ascendancy, and the Lebanon saw itself a favoured province. These hopes, for which there appeared at first to be some foundation, were not realised. With the disappearance of the Arab Government of Damascus, the French became directly responsible for the administration of an overwhelmingly Moslem Syria and began to shape their policy accordingly. But while they disappointed the Christians by refusing them favoured treatment, they were not successful in winning the allegiance of the Moslems. Syria has not been exempt from the unrest which is perceptible throughout the Moslem world. Mustapha Kemal's successful defiance of the decrees

of Europe had its repercussions throughout Syria and his operations directly affected the northern area. The Angora agreement, though evidence of French goodwill towards a Moslem Power, was also evidence of French weakness in face of Moslem pressure. Again, all parties were disappointed by the slow development of self-governing institutions and by the tendency—which has been severely criticised in the French Parliament—to impose on Syria what appeared to be a swollen bureaucracy. The aims which France had in view were the more readily open to suspicion in that the terms of the Mandate have never been made public. While the draft Mandates for Iraq and Palestine were published more than a year ago, the Syrian Mandate still remains a mystery. Finally, the economic situation is none too healthy. The French have actively applied themselves to the development of the country and have put in hand a number of important public works. On the other hand, they have shown a tendency to adopt a colonial policy which regards the Syrian market as a French preserve, and they have incurred some resentment by their manipulation of the currency, which has imposed upon Syria a depreciated Syrian franc. Add to this the general depression from which Syria has suffered in common with the rest of the world and it will be realised that political disappointments have not, up to the present, been offset by a marked advance in material prosperity.

Such are some of the causes of the present discontent. It must not, however, be assumed that the Syrian problem could, in any circumstances, have been easily disposed of. A so-called Syrian Congress at Cairo has recently repeated the demand which had previously been made at the Geneva Congress last autumn for the immediate termination of the Mandate. This would be no solution. The formula of Syrian independence is at present almost meaningless. Syria has not and has never had any real political unity. It is honeycombed by local and religious jealousies. Even such centres as Beirut, Damascus, and Aleppo have no well-developed sense of a common interest and a common nationality. The wilder districts to the north and east would be wholly out of the control of any Syrian Government that might be established, and are frankly in need of pacification before any appreciable progress can be made. The itinerant Syrian emigrés who are demanding independence may in some cases be men of high ideals, but they are wholly out of touch with realities. Again, Syria has been educated under the Turkish régime in a bad tradition, and is singularly poor in public-spirited, disinterested and enlightened men of affairs. In such circumstances, it can be confidently predicted that the abandonment of the Mandate—if that were conceivable—would be followed by chaos and anarchy and not improbably by the eventual return of the Turk. Whatever the mistakes of the French Haut Commissariat—its difficulties are, after all, not unlike those with which France was faced in the early stages in North Africa—there can be no doubt that Syria will continue for some time to require the active assistance of a disinterested trustee.

Meanwhile, the situation in Syria is of interest as an indication that Arab countries are not easily administered, Zionism or no Zionism. We shall

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be surprised if another illustration of that fact is not sooner or later supplied by 'Iraq. Nothing could be more naïf than the suggestion which is sometimes made that it is only where there is Zionism that there is trouble. We can only hope that the unrest in Syria will not have reactions in Palestine, in which some of the same anti-European agencies are at work. There are disquieting rumours of Bedouin movements on the border of the French zone in Transjordan. The entourage of the Emir Abdullah, who himself set out in the first instance to recover Damascus, cherish ambitions which are well known. It is to be hoped that the Emir will not be tempted to fish in troubled waters. An incursion into the French sphere from Transjordan would not contribute to the improvement of Anglo-French relations, and would prejudice that close co-operation between the two Mandatory Powers which is essential to the effective discharge of the lofty responsibilities they have accepted in the Middle East.

The Italo-Turkish Pact.

The *Manchester Guardian* of May 4 begins an article upon "Italy and the Triple Alliance" thus:—

The Italian Government has followed the example of the French and has concluded a separate treaty with the Angora Government in return for mining and other "concessions" in Asia Minor. It is not a pleasant incident, and greatly increases the difficulties of an already dangerous situation. Italy, France, and Great Britain are the three countries which, as the result of the war, are jointly responsible for the settlement of the Near East—for the vital question of the freedom of the Straits; for the withdrawal of the Turkish military power from Europe; for the security of the helpless Christian minorities, Greek and Armenian, in the renovated Turkey which might yet achieve the position of an ordered community and a decent Government in its natural home in Asia Minor. These are large issues, involving the peace of great and populous regions, the rights of many nationalities, and the future order of the world. They could be effectively solved only by the common and disinterested action of the three Great Powers immediately concerned. Two of these have now broken away. It is not merely that in so doing they have sought certain exclusive material advantages for themselves or their citizens; that by itself is a small matter, and they would be welcome to any such partial and not very glorious gains. But by so doing they have, to an extent as yet only very imperfectly known, tied their hands and disabled themselves from acting impartially in the common interest in a matter which concerns, in varying degrees, every country in Europe and to which they are in the position of trustees. It is a wretched and, we are bound to add, discreditable failure which can now only be atoned for, first, by a frank disclosure of the terms of the whole of their engagements to the Kemalist Government and, secondly, by joint action in concert not only with each other but with the rest of the European Powers to protect the common interest and to settle this great matter, so far as possible, on a basis alike morally defensible and giving promise of stability.

It proceeds to allot a certain amount of blame to the British Government for "the present deplorable situation," and concludes:—

It is vain to cry over spilt milk. What is now needed is cards on the table, a frank disclosure of the agreements come to by any or all of the three nominal Allies, and an honest resumption of a common policy which shall have the needs of Europe for its objective rather than the sordid gains of a traffic in concession or the dubious advantage of a diplomatic pull. What does that

mean? It means first and foremost that the rights of all nations to free passage through the Straits, in peace and in war, should be now and for ever secured and that their title shall rest, not on the agreement and ultimately on the force of any particular Power or combination of Powers, but on the concert of Europe; in other words that all the Powers shall have a hand in the settlement and shall be alike responsible for seeing that it is respected. That necessarily implies that the Straits and as much of the shores of the Straits as is needed for their security shall be neutralised, that a commission of all the nations chiefly concerned shall be established on the analogy of the admirable and perfectly successful Danube Commission which controls the mouths of the Danube, and that this Commission shall itself operate under the authority of the League of Nations. No armed force would be needed, any more than it is needed in the case of the Danube Commission, but every Power represented on the Commission and every member of the League of Nations would, in the last resort, be bound to see that the authority of the Commission was upheld. A settlement not very different from this was contained in the unratified Sèvres Treaty, and, if there is to be peace in the world, it must be revived. The meeting of all the Powers at Genoa gives an opportunity for taking immediate steps towards such a solution. Here is another opportunity for Mr. Lloyd George to retrieve past errors, and to prove himself the good European which at heart he surely is.

Articles to Note.

"Transcaucasia," by Harold Buxton; "Bulgaria and the Treaty of Neuilly," by Lady Grogan; and "The Historical Antecedents of the Khilafat Movement," by F. W. Buckler, in the *Contemporary Review* (May).

"The 'Fidalgos' in the East," by David Hannay; and "A Rob Roy of the Desert," by Lt.-Colonel C. E. Vickery in *Blackwood's* (May).

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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The Position at Genoa.

After the events of the past week it would need considerable optimism to believe that there will be a satisfactory issue to the Genoa Conference. The intransigent attitude of the Bolsheviks would seem to put entirely out of court any possibility of a settlement. As they were perfectly well aware of the essential concessions on their part before an agreement could be arrived at one is left with the conclusion that their participation in the Conference may have had as an object the sowing of dissension among the Allies. Assuming, as would now seem to be necessary, that the Conference is a failure, what then? Presumably efforts will be made by various countries to make separate agreements, and there is likely to be great competition for Bolshevik favours.

An Atmosphere of Oil.

We have had a foretaste of the future this week in the atmosphere of oil which has literally enveloped Genoa and threatens to embitter proceedings which could never be described as exactly smooth. As in the case of the Conference itself reports of the progress of the negotiations have been very conflicting. It would, however, appear that, while nothing definite may have been arranged, the Shell group has at any rate progressed a considerable distance towards obtaining the desired concession. The Stock Exchange is usually a reliable gauge in these matters, and it will not have escaped notice that "Shells," to use the technical terminology, have displayed a distinct hardening tendency. The rival American group have apparently had no success at all with the Bolsheviks, but it would be premature to draw any conclusion from this with the memory of Mesopotamia, and it is not to be expected nor desired that there should be a monopoly in the development of Russia's oil resources. In this connection a significant development has been the dispatch to Genoa of a French oil expert.

The Russian Oil Position.

Whatever arrangement may be reached with regard to the oilfields it is very clear that the group concerned will be dealing in "futures." According to the most reliable information the position of Russia's oilfields to-day, despite the frenzied efforts of the Bolsheviks to restore them to their normal position, is only a shade better than that of the country's other commercial activities as a result of Soviet misrule. The oilfields are being operated, and there is a gradual increase in production, and that is all that can be said. Their restoration to normal conditions depends as everything else does on reconstruction in Russia. An interesting light is thrown on present conditions by an article which we publish on page 643 in which it is explained that production has become entirely a question of food. When the Government is in a position to feed the workmen after the harvest there is abundant labour, but as

scarcity begins in the spring the workmen begin to disappear, and production drops until the next harvest.

Egyptian Cotton.

The intervention by the Egyptian Government in the cotton market is reported to have commenced some days ago, and up to the present would appear to have had little effect, since instead of hardening, prices have, as a matter of fact, weakened to some extent. As I suggested last week the cotton market is a very dangerous medium for intervention, and it is to be hoped that the Government will exercise the greatest prudence in attempting to support it, and will not, if it finds that only by extensive commitments is it possible to keep prices up, continue to pursue a policy which lays itself open to criticism from several points of view. Not the least of these is the inadvisability of attempting to maintain an uneconomic level of prices. An attempt to do so can at best have only transient results, since sooner or later prices will find their proper level.

Mineral Development in Egypt.

One of the most important questions for Egypt is the adequate utilization of the country's oil resources, and that this is engaging the attention of the Government is shown by the recent visit of the Minister of Finance to the Red Sea mining areas. In the course of a statement made on his return to the Geographical Society Sidky Pasha paid a tribute to the enterprise of the foreign companies and urged Egyptians to emulate their activities. There have been rumours that it is the intention of the Government to acquire the property of one or more of the existing oil companies, but there has been no confirmation of the intention, and Sidky Pasha's speech, according to the summary that has reached this country, contains nothing suggestive of any such project. At the present stage of Egypt's development the active participation by the State in the exploitation of the country's mineral resources would be a distinctly hazardous venture. Enterprise of this kind is emphatically best left to the individual.

Commentator.

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Commerce and Industry.

REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, April 20.

Commercial Conventions.

The Spanish Minister at Bucharest has approached the Roumanian Government for the purpose of drawing up a special commercial convention. M. Vintila Bratianu, the Minister of Finance, replied that at present he could not conclude a special convention because the ruling Customs Tariff is already low enough. As to removing prohibitions, the Minister explained that Roumania could not afford to do it so long as her currency is so depreciated.

M. Bratianu further gave it to be understood that the above applies not only to Spain but to all other countries, and that should Roumania make a special convention with any one country, Spain will be afforded a similar advantage.

New Export Regulations.

The Export Committee attached to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has taken the following decision with regard to the export of potatoes, onions and pigs: Export permits for potatoes and onions will be granted only to producers and professional exporters of these products with the proviso that 25 per cent. of the exportable quantity should be offered for sale for home consumption at the maximum price of Lei 0.40 per kilo. for potatoes and Lei 1.50 per kilo. for onions. As regards the export of pigs, exporters will have to reserve for home consumption a quota of 33 per cent. from the quantity intended for export.

As is known the Roumanian State had contracted loans in France and Switzerland, guaranteed by wheat deliveries, which have been carried out to a certain extent. It has been ascertained lately that the existing stocks of wheat will just suffice for home consumption up to the new crop, and as on the other hand there is a fairly large stock of superior quality wheat-flour in the hands of the millers, it has now been proposed to the French and Swiss Governments that flour instead of wheat should be accepted until the new harvest. Switzerland has agreed to this proposal, and it is hoped that France will also consent to this change.

Merchants' Debts in Foreign Currencies.

The necessity of finding a way out with regard to the thorny question of settling the debts of Roumanian merchants in foreign high currencies—but in such a manner as to satisfy both the debtor and creditor—is constantly cropping up. There is no doubt that the continuous postponement of a solution of this question is a stumbling block to fresh business.

Since the last meeting between the delegates of the various Roumanian Chambers of Commerce and the Minister of Finance there are signs that a decisive step in this direction is contemplated. In order to establish

statistics as to the extent of such debts, the Bucharest Chamber of Commerce has addressed a circular letter to local firms asking the amounts they owe in foreign inflated currencies as well as the payments already effected from 1920 to March 31, 1922.

IRAQ (Mesopotamia).

Baghdad, April 28.

New Customs Tariff.

The new Customs Tariff to take effect from April 3 last has just been issued, and shows heavy rises under nearly every head. On the following articles the duty has been raised from 15 to 20 per cent. *ad valorem*:—Arms and ammunition, cinematograph films, clocks and watches, confectionery, explosives, fireworks, glass bangles and beads and false pearls, gold and goldware, jewellery and jewels, motor vehicles and launches, musical instruments, pneumatic tyres and tubes, silver and silverware, sugar and saccharine, toys and games and requisites for games and sports. While most of the articles in the list are luxuries it is to be regretted that Government has considered it necessary to raise the duty on motors and tyres and tubes, for in a country where distances are so long as in Iraq and where railway communication is so meagre, cars may well be said to have passed out of the category of luxuries.

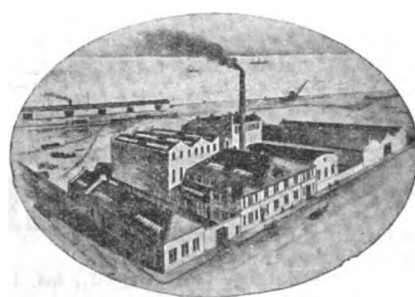
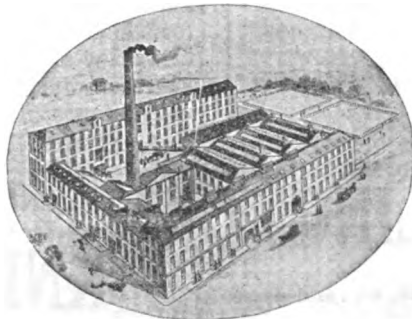
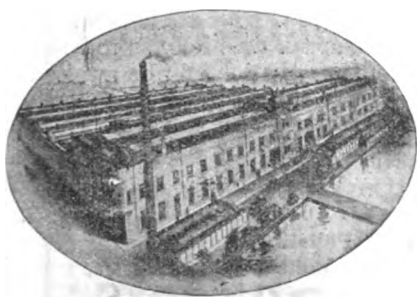
The second schedule contains the new tariff on liquors and spirits and the following rises are made. (1) Ale, Beer, Porter, Cider and other fermented liquors from 4½ annas to 8 annas per Imperial gallon. (2) Liqueurs, Cordials, etc., containing spirit (a) Entered in such a manner as to indicate the strength is not to be tested; from Rs. 20 to Rs. 25 per Imperial gallon. (b) If tested. From Rs. 18-12 to Rs. 20 per Imperial gallon and the duty to be increased or reduced in proportion as the strength of the spirit exceeds or is less than London proof. (3) Perfumed spirit, from Rs. 18-12 to Rs. 30 per Imperial gallon. (4) Spirit which has been rendered effectually and permanently unfit for human consumption; from 11 per cent. *ad valorem* plus 3½ annas per kilo of 2.65 lbs. to 15 per cent. *ad valorem* plus 3½ annas per kilo. (5) All other sorts of spirit, from Rs. 18-12 to Rs. 20 per Imperial gallon, and according to London proof. (6) Salt (when refined or when unrefined and imported under Iraq Government Special Permit) from 15 per cent. *ad valorem* to one anna per kilo. None of these increases are open to serious objection but the last item in the new tariff may well prove shortsighted. The export duty on dates packed in boxes or cases has been raised from one per cent. *ad valorem* to 3 per cent. *ad valorem*. It is feared that this last change may only render more difficult the disposal of the date crop.

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Engineering Topics.

By Our Engineering Representative.

Dangerous Driving.

The chief topic of conversation in motoring circles during the week has been the Interim Report of the Department Committee on the Regulation and Taxation of Road Vehicles, and whilst there is general agreement with the proposed abolition of the speed limit it is evident that there is a wide spread opposition to the conclusions arrived at with regard to dangerous driving. On this point a good deal will probably be said in Parliament when the forthcoming Bill concerning the consolidation of Acts with regard to motor vehicles comes up for discussion. The position taken up by the Committee seems on the face of it to be fair: "We will abolish all speed limits," they say, "and the motorist shall be free to drive at any speed he pleases, provided that in so doing he does not endanger the public. If he abuses the concessions we recommend, he will have to be punished and the penalties for dangerous driving will be severe."

As it stands, no motorist would wish to raise any objection to the statement. No one wishes to condone dangerous driving; a motorist would be the first to condemn anyone found guilty of such an offence. The "road-hog" is a thing of the past; no motorist worthy of the name would ever drive carelessly or recklessly in places where he endangered the life or limb of any other road user. Should one do so, he would receive far less consideration from a court of motorists than from the most severe Stipendiary. So far motorists and the Committee are in agreement.

The point of disagreement is reached, however, when we consider what constitutes dangerous driving and how cases of driving to the public danger are to be dealt with. Dangerous driving is much on a par with "intent to do bodily injury," and in the latter case the first thing is to show that some person or persons were threatened with harm. A man may, for example, carry an axe down a street unquestioned; if whilst doing so he attempts to injure anyone wilfully he can be punished. But as the proposals of the Committee stand there is no need to show that the motorist's "dangerous driving" endangered anyone. It will be sufficient for any policeman, without any corroborative evidence, to say that on such and such a date he saw the motorist driving in what he considered a dangerous manner, and to secure a conviction on that mere statement. There will be no need to shew that anyone was placed in danger, no need to produce evidence from any person endangered—indeed, the road may be perfectly free from pedestrian or other traffic at the time! The average man would, in such case, ask how anyone could, in that event, be driving dangerously if there were no one about to be endangered. The police view is that it is unnecessary to show that any other road user was placed in any risk. Their reading of the law is that it is sufficient to say that a driver was driving in a manner that would have been dangerous to anyone had there been anyone about. This may, and doubtless does, seem absurd, but nevertheless it is the view that will be carried into law if the forthcoming Bill is not closely watched in the Commons and a provision inserted that a conviction for dangerous driving cannot be obtained unless there is clear and supported evidence that some person or persons were actually placed in danger by the manner in which the car was driven.

A further point which will have to be made is that a motorist who is considered by the police to be driving dangerously must be stopped and told that he will be proceeded against in order that he may have an opportunity of collecting any evidence in his favour and of making a clear note of his speed, the condition of the road, the position of other vehicles and any other facts that may tell in his favour. As the recommendations stand, a motorist, driving dangerously in the view of the police, will be allowed to proceed without any indication that he has been held to be committing an offence and allowed to drive for weeks in ignorance of any impending proceedings until he is eventually served with a summons to appear to answer a charge. Such a manner of proceeding is not only distinctly unfair, since the motorist after the lapse of a few weeks will probably have no idea of where he was at the time of the alleged offence, but it comes very near to aiding and abetting on the part of the police who saw the offence committed. The view might be taken that if a policeman saw a man driving in a manner dangerous to the public and did not warn him and do his best to prevent him continuing his criminal behaviour, but on the contrary wilfully permitted him to go careering about endangering the safety of the King's subjects, that policeman was either "aiding and abetting him" or was actually an accessory after the fact. Whilst it would be interesting, no doubt, to see how a court of law regarded such a view, it is evident that no opportunity for raising such a defence or counter-charge should be allowed to arise through any oversight, ambiguity, or unfairness in the new motoring law.

Copper-nickel-Steel.

The experiments made in connection with the tertiary alloy of copper-nickel-steel are being continued, and it would not occasion much surprise amongst metallurgists if some exceptionally fine results, over and above what has already been accomplished, were achieved. Until a comparatively short time ago the idea was fairly general that copper was a deleterious element in the steel, and therefore careful selection had been made so as to work with ores in which this element existed only in small quantity as compared with nickel. Experiments then proved that it was unnecessary to make nickel steel only by alloying refined nickel with steel in certain definite proportions. It was then discovered that nickel-copper ores, or the slags wasted in the ordinary process, might be smelted directly into steel. It has now been found that copper, up to a certain proportion, may be considered as taking the place of an equal amount of nickel, and it is said that it produces a superior product which can be manufactured at much less cost than nickel-steel made in the ordinary way.

It appears that the best results are obtained where the ratio of copper to nickel is as one to three or four parts. Apparently the total copper content should not be in excess of about one per cent. if the copper is to be considered as replacing an equal percentage of nickel and the steel produced is to be put to the ordinary uses for which nickel steel is employed. But at the moment of writing it is impossible to speak definitely as to what has been done, and further information will be awaited with interest.

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Oil Notes & News.

THE OIL INDUSTRY IN SOVIET RUSSIA.

(From a Correspondent.)

One of the features of the nationalisation of industry in Soviet Russia can be accurately defined. In the course of one year there is a certain fluctuation common to nearly all branches of industry. Every autumn production grows. This increase continues to the end of the winter, or the beginning of spring. Production then falls rather abruptly, and almost comes to a standstill in summer. The increase of production is of course only relative in comparison with the pre-revolutionary activities, and even in the most successful months very little is produced. These fluctuations in the working of nationalised industry are due to the system of food supplies introduced by the Soviet. In the main industries the food ration is the principal part of the earnings of the workmen. Under the present conditions in Soviet Russia the food ration is essential for the existence of all industrial concerns. Industry obviously cannot exist without Government food supplies in a country where private trade is only permitted on a very small scale, and where private individuals are scarcely permitted to avail themselves of the railway system. Whether all kinds of restrictions of trade constitute a sound economic policy is another matter. The Soviet Government obtained the supplies required for distribution among the workers and the officials by means of requisitions from the peasants. As is well known these requisitions of corn have resulted after four years in the curtailment by the peasants of the area under cultivation, and in spite of all their efforts the Bolsheviks are unable to secure sufficient quantities of corn and other foodstuffs for the workmen.

In the autumn, after the harvest, requisitions are carried out with comparative success. But after the first skimming, so to speak, it becomes more and more difficult to secure the grain. When the new year comes requisitions produce very little, and amount almost to nothing in the spring and in the beginning of the summer, notwithstanding the drastic measures of the Soviet authorities. That is the explanation of the fluctuations of the scale of production. When the corn bins of the Soviet are filled workmen are attracted to the nationalised factories, and the productive capacity of the latter is on the increase. In the spring there is a shortage of food, the workmen disperse, and production slackens.

The oil industry suffers from the same disability, and undergoes the same fluctuations year after year. The

Soviet Government is not in a position to provide foodstuffs for the year in Baku and Grozny. The stores of food become exhausted sooner or later according to the success of the requisitions, and the production of oil diminishes at the close of every season. Last year in both the above-named regions supplies were available for a comparatively long period, and as late as May production amounted to 375,400 tons, but in the course of the next two months it fell to 319,000 tons. In the autumn of 1921 there was an increase, and towards January, 1922, the monthly production in both regions rose to 364,000 tons. At first sight the region of Baku was particularly productive as the amount of oil rose from 191,000 tons in July, 1921, to 249,000 tons in January, 1922, (*Economicheskaya Zhizn*, April 15.). This last figure is the highest reached under the Bolsheviks and amounts to about 40 per cent. of the average monthly production in 1915. Even these quantities, comparatively large according to Bolshevik standards, do not suffice to meet the requirements of the average month (about 400,000 tons), and the old stores, the remnants of the anti-Bolshevik period, had gradually to be depleted. This year there was an acute shortage of food in Baku as early as in January, and the production of oil fell to 232,000 tons in February, (*Economicheskaya Zhizn*, March 25.). The Soviet press does not conceal the fact that in the future production will continue to fall. A leading article of the *Economicheskaya Zhizn* of March 31 states that "it is a mathematical certainty that unless boring is intensified we shall be left without oil in 1923." The Soviet specialists consider that in order to obtain sufficient quantities of oil about 2,500 sazhen will have to be bored monthly—a contingency which the Bolsheviks cannot face. The shortage is not only in food. Notwithstanding the foreign trade of the Soviets the quantity of technical appliances is on the decrease. Also, the Soviet Government cannot secure paper money in sufficient quantities for the oil industry of Baku. The characteristic feature of the entire industrial system of the Soviets was here repeated, and for several months the workmen were not paid their wages in paper money. The condition of labour is a clear indication of the fact that the system is totally abnormal. About 30 per cent. of the workmen in Baku have to submit to compulsory labour. The *Economicheskaya Zhizn* of April 14 stated that in January out of 14,627 workmen in Baku, 4,595 worked under compulsion. There is no likelihood of any improvement in the production as long as compulsory labour is applied on such a large scale. The Soviet Government this year has dared to obtain by force from the peasants much less corn than last year and there can be no doubt that the shortage of food will be more acute in the future. The fall of the production of oil in Baku which began in January, will hardly be arrested until the autumn. Owing to the existence of old stores the Bolsheviks have not as yet been in dire need of oil, or, to be more correct, the shortage of oil in Central Russia was due primarily to the inefficiency of transport and not to the lack of oil. Oil is carried to the centre of Russia from Baku chiefly in the steamers going up the Volga. According to the schemes drawn up by the Central Soviet institutions, about 2,800,000 tons of oil were to be shipped to the North from Baku during the summer, and the Soviet Government will find itself short of oil for the first time in the course of the coming summer season, as by the first of February the stores in Baku amounted only to 1,600,000 tons—less than one-half of the stores available twelve months ago. Only part of the fresh supplies is stored, the remainder is being continually sent northwards by rail. There can be no doubt that this year the stores will be depleted to such an extent that the export scheme will not be carried out.

The condition of Grozny is worse than that of Baku. According to the *Economicheskaya Zhizn* of April 4, the monthly production for January and February was 115,000 and 113,000 tons respectively, i.e., less than in

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THE ESSENCE OF INSURANCE IS SECURITY.

July, 1921. The paper says: "The position is extremely difficult owing to the lack of material resources and of money" (Money—i.e., paper roubles unpaid to the workers.). In Grozny, as elsewhere, the workmen have not yet received their wages for several months. From October, 1921, till February, 1922, the oil industry of Grozny obtained from the respective Soviet institutions only 23 per cent. of the required supplies. Compulsory labour is also applied on a large scale. At the end of February out of 13,876 workmen—4,500 worked under compulsion (*Econmicheskaia Zhizn*, April 4).

All the information supplied by the Soviet press tends to show that both these oilfields, the richest in Russia, are dragging on a wretched existence. In the present conditions in Russia, where private initiative is strictly limited, and industry is functioning under the direction of the unwieldy Soviet machine, there can be no hope for any improvement.

INDO-BURMA PROGRESS.

A progress report is being circulated to shareholders in the Indo-Burma Oilfields (1920) in which it is stated that the new refinery commenced operations on March 15 and is working satisfactorily, except for a portion of one set of tin-making plant, which, owing to delays on the part of manufacturers, has not yet reached Rangoon. Pumping commenced on the Yenamma field on January 12, and at Padaukpin on March 7, the output to the end of March being 2,707.4 tons. The progress report is indicated as follows:—January (20 days), 490 tons; February, 992.8 tons; and March, 1,224.6 tons. Drilling operations have been expedited, and during the three months ended February 28 the total footage drilled was 12,434 ft., of which 10,626 ft. represented work on the Yenamma field. The number of wells thus brought in was nine, with an initial yield of 283 barrels of crude oil daily. The average yield is thus very considerably greater than the original prospectus estimate. During the next few months the output is expected to exceed the present capacity of the refinery, and negotiations have been practically completed for the sale at satisfactory prices of any such excess output.

In order to increase the drilling programme without increasing the capital a scheme has been approved whereby the company will undertake on behalf of third parties to drill wells at a fixed price on the company's property, the profits from the first crude produced being applied to the repayment of the cost of drilling and equipping the well, and thereafter to be divided as to one-third to the third parties and two-thirds to the Indo-Burma Oilfields (1920).

ROUMANIAN CONSOLIDATED DEVELOPMENT WORK.

The Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields announce that production from April 1 to 15 was 1,018 tons. Metres drilled 296 (971 feet). Development work—Moreni, well No. 42, depth 757 metres; good progress has been made with the English reamer. No. 44, drilled 10 metres to 820 metres, cased to 815 metres. No. 51, transporting heavy lumber to site. No. 61, drilled 24 metres to 592 metres. No. 71, erecting derrick. No. 83, drilled 31 metres to 737 metres; insertion of 12½ ins. casing to be started after Easter holidays. No. 101, erecting derrick. No. 102, drilled 49 metres to 262 metres. No. 104, the 8½ ins. English casing has now been inserted to 853 metres, and drilling ahead with Pennsylvanian system will be started after holidays. (Foundation source expected at 927 metres.) No. 106, rigged up and ready to commence drilling. Gura Ocnitei—Well No. 4, depth 706 metres; fishing for lost bit. Aricesti—Well No. 5, depth 119 metres; well No. 6, started to drill; well No. 7, rigging up. Chiciura—Well No. 10, depth 620 metres, preparing to resume operations. Baicoi—Well No. 3, depth 697 metres; the sand has risen to 520 metres.

The following import duties on cinematograph films imported into Egypt will be in force for one year as from April 18. Developed, new or used, £E.7,500 per kilo, and Virgin £E.3,000 per kilo.

H.M. Commercial Secretary at Bucharest has forwarded a copy and translation of a Ministerial Decision, dated March 23, which prohibits the exportation from Roumania of natural tartar; artificial tartar or crystals of tartar known as "vinaccia"; dried wine lees; calcium tartrates and any raw material of tartareous origin.

TENDERS INVITED.

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

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

Egypt.

Drugs, etc.—The Department of Public Health invite tenders for the supply of drugs required for the period of six months from October 1 next. The tenderer must be a person residing in Egypt or must have a representative in Egypt. June 15 (D.O.T.)

Blacking.—The Egyptian Ministry of War invite tenders for the supply of 30,000 lb. of blacking. Particulars can be obtained from the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1. May 16.

Sailors' Navy Blue Serge.—The Egyptian Ministry of War invite tenders for the supply of sailors' navy blue serge. Particulars can be obtained from and samples seen at the office of the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1. May 24.

Brooms and Brushes.—The Egyptian War Department invite tenders for the supply of brooms and brushes. Particulars can be obtained from the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1. May 17.

Weighing Machines.—The Physical Department of the Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invite tenders for the supply of platform weighing machines and also for counter scales and appliances. Tenders must be sent to the Controller, Physical Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo. Drawings must be furnished. Representation by an agent resident in Egypt is essential. June 1. (D.O.T.)

India.

Boiler Tubes, etc.—The High Commissioner for India invites tenders for the supply of:—1. Tubes; boiler, steel, solid drawn, of various sizes, for locomotives—No. 14,000. 2. Pins, keep, split, bright, and screws, iron, of various descriptions and sizes. 3. Mild steel plates, plain, of various sizes—125 tons. 4. Enamel ware utensils (slop pails, pots, basins, ewers, spittoons, etc.). 5. Insulator cups, porcelain or glass—No. 430,000. 6. Paints, dry, and ground in oil, of various descriptions, and driers. Forms of tender may be obtained from the Director-General, India Store Department. Tenders close on May 16 for No. 1, and on May 26 for Nos. 2 to 6.

Cast Iron Waterpipes.—The Jharlia Water Board, Topchanchi, near Gomoh, on the East Indian Railway, invite tenders for the supply of 3,300 tons of 21-inch cast iron water pipes and special castings. June 7.

Girder Bridges.—The East Indian Railway invite tenders for the supply of girder bridges. Tenders should be addressed to the Secretary of the Company, 29 and 30, Nicholas Lane, London, E.C.4. May 17.

Palestine.

Coal.—The Crown Agents for the Colonies, acting for the Administration of Palestine, invite tenders for the supply of 15,000 tons large Welsh steam coal, c.i.f. Haifa. Forms of tender and conditions of contract may be obtained at the office of the Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, London, S.W.1.

RECENT ADJUDICATIONS.

Reuter's Cairo correspondent in a recent message states that a £70,000 contract for the supply and installation of pumping machinery at Atf in Lower Egypt has been secured by a British concern. There was keen competition on the part of Swiss, German, French, Dutch, and other firms, but the contract was awarded to the Associated British Manufacturers, who are agents for the English Electric, Paterson Engineering, and Glenfield and Kennedy companies.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Bombay Gas.

The profit of the Bombay Gas Company for 1921, after allowing for interest and exchange, was £23,853, making with £25,713 brought forward £49,566. After placing £805 to reserve and £537 to renewal fund, the directors recommend a dividend of 4 per cent., less tax, making 8 per cent., carrying forward £25,824.

Calcutta Electric Supply.

The report of the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation for 1921 states that the profits for the year, including interest, were £221,532, making with £42,386 brought in £263,918. Deducting interest, dividends, etc., paid and accrued, totalling £101,202 (income-tax and excess profits duty having been met out of reserves made last year), leaving £162,716. The Directors recommend writing off the cost of share issue £9,446, reserve for taxation £6,931, to reserve £9,000, to depreciation and renewals £43,326, to insurance £5,000, final dividend on Ordinary shares at 6 per cent. (actual), making 10 per cent. for the year, plus a bonus of 1 per cent., leaving balance carried forward of £43,230.

Stock and Share Markets.

QUIET AND INACTIVE TENDENCY.

Foreign Stocks Weak.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Tuesday morning.

The past week has been anything but exciting. At first the Budget was responsible for a certain amount of activity, but as I have pointed out, its effects had been largely discounted in advance, and the hardening tendency soon came to an end. Subsequently Genoa has dominated the situation, and has been responsible for the development of considerable dullness, notably in the foreign group. It is curious to think that until the last week or two Genoa should have had no effect at all, while now it is the principal restraining influence on business.

Course of Markets.

Until the situation clears considerably the course of the markets is likely to be extremely irregular, and in the circumstances it is to be expected that the tendency to hold aloof from commitments will again be in evidence. It is by far the soundest policy at this juncture. If only matters had gone smoothly at Genoa business in all markets would by now have broadened out into something akin to a "boom." As it is stagnation is to be anticipated until some idea can be obtained of what is going to happen. That the markets will only temporarily be under a cloud would appear certain. Some *modus vivendi* is certain to be arrived at on the Continent even if only by the medium of separate agreements between the various countries, while a further reduction in the Bank Rate will probably before long give helpful support to the markets.

New Issues.

Since I last wrote several large new issues have made their appearance, and a number of others are due in the near future. Before this paper appears there will be an issue of £1,250,000 six per cent. bonds for the Port of Calcutta which should prove very popular with investors. Other issues of special interest will be those contemplated by various oil companies. Needless to say recent developments make it all but certain that there is no prospect of any Near Eastern issues in the near future.

Gilt-Edged React.

The Gilt-edged group is always among the first to be affected by untoward happenings abroad, and there has been a rather pronounced tendency this week to reaction as a result of Genoa. Yesterday, however, the tone was rather harder. Consols at 58.5-8 show a loss of 3-8, the Conversion Loan, exceptionally, is a point up at 77½, while War Loan Fives have shed ¼ at 99.1-8 x.d. Indian stocks have been fairly firm, the Seven per cent. Loan gaining ½ at 115½, while the 3½ per cent. Loan is ½ up at 69, and the 3 per cent. Loan has gained ¾ at 58.

As might be expected the foreign group has been exceptionally dull on the international situation. French stocks have drooped, War Loan Fives being 1¼ down at 44, while German three per cents. at 2.7-16 show a loss of 5-16. Italian Rentes have been weak, and are a point down at 25. There has been nothing doing in Russians, the prices of which are unchanged. Brazilian bonds are somewhat lower, with the 5 per cent. 1914 Funding 2 down at 70 x.d., while the 5 per cent. 1913 Loan is a point down at 63. Chinese securities fell away at the beginning of the week, but have firmed up on later developments.

Industrials Inactive.

On the whole a fairly firm tone has obtained in the Industrial group, but business has been on a very restricted scale, and in the majority of cases price changes have been unimportant. Tobaccos have been in strong request, and prices have sharply advanced. Bats are 2s. 9d. up at 79s. 3d., while Imperial Tobaccos at 59s. 6d. show a gain of 1s. 9d. Dunlops are unchanged at 8s. 3d.

Textiles have been steady with Coats 3-32 up at 3.3-16, while Courtaulds at 49s. 6d. show a gain of 1s. 3d. Iron and Steel securities have been fairly firm. Vickers are 9d. up at 12s. 3d., Guest Keens have gained 6d. at 34s., while Armstrongs are 6d lower at 16s. x.d.

Shipping securities have been somewhat irregular. P. and O. Deferred are 3 down at 325, Cunards have shed 6d. at 21s. 3d. x.d., while Furness Withys are 2s. down at 31s.

Oils Quiet.

Oils have succumbed to the prevailing influences, and a very quiet tone has generally prevailed, while in some directions pronounced weakness has developed. Burmahs are unchanged at 5.7-8, while Anglo-Persian, which have been a strong spot throughout the week, are ¼ up at 4.15-16. Mexican Eagles have displayed some irregularity, and are 1-32 down on the week at 3½. The feature of the Trinidad group has been the weakness of Centrals, which at 2.3-8 are 5-16 down. Leaseholds are 1-32 up at 14.

Among Egyptians, Anglo-Egyptian B are 1.13-16, a gain of 1-8, while Oilfields of Egypt have fallen away a little after their rise of the previous week, and at 7s. 9d. are 6d. down. In the Roumanian group Phoenix have been rather dull, and at 26s. 9d. are 9d. lower. Steaua Romanas are unchanged at 13s. 3d., Roumanian Consolidated are 3d. down at 14s., while Dacia Romanos are the same at 3. In the prevailing circumstances it is scarcely likely that there will be any great developments in the Oil Market in the next few days, though, of course, if events at Genoa took a particularly bad turn prices would undoubtedly fall away as none of the markets is more sensitive than this to foreign influences.

Banks Firm.

Banking securities have been fairly firm. Chartered of India are 17.3-8, a fall of 1-8, while National of India are unchanged at 40½. P. and O. Banks have continued their advance and at 14 show a gain of 11-16.

In Egyptian securities Aboukirs are 3d. lower at 22s. 9d. x.d. Beheras are 8.5-8, a drop of ¼, while Gharbieh Lands are unchanged at 14. Sidi Salems are 7-8, while Union Foncières are unchanged at 2.1-8.

ENQUIRY BUREAU.

Merchants, etc., may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau," "The Near East," 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2. It must be understood that "The Near East" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.

121. Exporter of Greek Ores in Athens, especially of purest quality Magnesite and Chromite wishes to be connected with interested British Firms.

122. Merchant in Galatz, Roumania, wishes to enter into business relations with British firms willing to ship goods on consignment terms. Guarantees by Leading Banks given. Full details on application. Correspondence in French.

123. Import and Export Merchant in Beyrout (Syria) invites correspondence with British firms. General Merchandise. Will act as agent, commission basis, or own account.

124. Solicitor in Zagreb, Croatia, open to act for British firms requiring legal assistance in Yugoslavia. Correspondence conducted in French, German, Italian and Croatian.

125. A firm of British Merchants and Commission Agents in Liverpool desire to extend their connections in the Near East for General Merchandise.

126. Confectionery. British firm of manufacturers extending their export trade in best quality confectionery suitable for sub-tropical climates will supply details to enquiries from overseas buyers.

COMPANY MEETING NOTICES.

ALEXANDRIA WATER COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the forty-fourth Ordinary General Meeting of the Shareholders will be held at the Company's offices, Alexandria, on Thursday, the 1st June, 1922, at four o'clock in the afternoon, for the transaction of the ordinary business of the Company, pursuant to Act of Parliament.

Holders of share warrants to bearer desiring to attend or to be represented at the Meeting must deposit their share warrants in London before the 20th May, 1922, or in Alexandria before the 27th May, 1922, until after the Meeting at Messrs. Barclays Bank, Limited, 1, Pall Mall East, London, S.W.1, or at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, Alexandria, or at some other approved bank in London or Alexandria.

Dated, Alexandria, Egypt, the 21st April, 1922.

By Order of the Board,

K. B. WOODD SMITH, Manager.

THE GHARBIEH LAND COMPANY, CAIRO.

THE ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the above Company will be held in Cairo on the 30th May, 1922. Shareholders wishing to be represented at that Meeting should lodge their Share Warrants with the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, 27, Clements Lane, E.C., not later than the 14th May.

Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Oilseeds Rising.

(From Our Own Correspondent).

London, Monday Evening.

Sugar.—Home refined has been in good request at moderate rates. Tate's cubes and mineral water sugar have been firm features at 53s. 6d. and 48s. 9d. respectively; while London granulated at 48s. 3d., and Lyle's granulated at 48s. 6d. have been firm. Export descriptions have been steady. West Indian crystallized remains unchanged at 42s. 6d., while white Mauritius has gained 3d. at 46s. 6d. Cane sugar quotations are:—May, 15s.; June, 15s.; August, 15s.; and September, 15s. White sugar quotations are:—May, 20s. 3d.; June, 20s. 3d.; August, 20s. 3d.; September, 20s. 3d.; and October-December, 19s. 4½d.

Coffee.—All quotations are 2s. lower. Costa Rica is now 118s., East Indian, 120s.; and Nairobi, 108s. The futures market has been firmer. Quotations are:—May, 65s.; July, 63s.; September, 63s. 6d.; December, 61s. 6d.; and March, 62s.

Dessicated Coconut.—Prices have shown signs of firming up. Home consumption has been better.

Rice.—Burma "Two-Star" rice has been in marked request during the week, and is fetching good prices. Quotations for American Java rice continue to firm up while the demand has been good.

Green Fruit.—Arrivals of oranges during the week are of excellent condition, while quotations are satisfactory. Messina lemons have again been in favour at firmer prices. Naples lemons are dearer. Some irregularity has obtained in the prices of Australian and Tasmanian apples, while arrivals have been on an extensive scale. Egyptian onions are improving, but shipments are lighter.

Oilseeds.—Prices are harder. Indian linseed is 1s. higher at 22s. 6d., while La Plata has shed 3d. at 21s. Rapeseed is higher with Toria 6d. up at 18s. 6d. Cottonseed has been variable with Indian unchanged at 21s., while Sakellarides has advanced 3d. at 12s. 7½d., and Egyptian black is 1½d. down at 12s. 7½d.

Oils.—A harder tone has been in evidence. Linseed oil has advanced 1s. 6d. at 44s. 6d. Rape oil is unaltered with crude at 45s., and refined at 48s. Cotton oil has been a steady feature. Refined at 49s. is steady as also Egyptian crude at 42s. 6d. Deodorized is unchanged at 54s., but technical has gained 1s. 9d. at 44s.

Oilcakes.—Linseed cake has been firm at 300s. ton. Cotton-meal cake at 280s. ton is the same, and coconut cake and cotton-seed cake are unchanged at 160s., and 180s. respectively.

THE IRAQ (MESOPOTAMIA) HARVEST.

(From Our Own Correspondent).

Baghdad, April 27.

Harvesting is now in full swing from Baghdad southwards. Irrigated crops are excellent everywhere, but late sown unirrigated crops found a dry April more than they could cope with and in the Busreh district even the early sown unirrigated crops were none too good. Prices are low, and there should be a considerable quantity available for export.

ASIA MINOR FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co. report as follows for the fortnight ended April 22:—

Sultanas.—The total estimated sales are 170,255 bags as against 103,000 bags for last year. The total estimated sales are 165,455 bags, compared with 103,375 bags for 1921, while the estimated stock unsold amounts to 4,800 bags, against 125 bags for the previous year.

Markets.—There has been a visible improvement in the demand for sultanas since the beginning of the month. Purchases are on a small scale, but daily operations have been recorded, gradually tending to increase since the Easter Holidays. Exchanges have been very erratic over the interval, rendering it difficult to arrive at any accurate computation of values in foreign equivalents. The general trend has been upwards however, and, roughly, prices show an advance of about 8s. over the level of a month back. Demand has been mostly for good qualities which are becoming scarce. The finest sorts are altogether unobtainable.

DRIED FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton & Co., Liverpool, report as follows for the period ended May 2:—

Currants.—Notwithstanding the interference of the Easter holiday a fair amount of business has been effected during the month, advancing prices and cheerfulness being the predominating feature, but although prices in the lower and medium grades are shillings in advance of those ruling in March we are yet considerably below the parity of the Greek market. Shipments continue extremely light, the Cressado, just arrived, only bringing 200 tons for the market. The Tyria docked a week before the holidays, and fears were entertained that buyers would delay their purchases, but upon samples being available considerable interest was exhibited, and supplies were quickly disposed of; Amalias 60s., 61s.; bold Zante 61s.; small Zante 62s., 63s., were the grades in most request. Small fruit is now scarce, being almost cleared, up to 67s. being paid for ordinary small Vostizza. Some transactions have also taken place in Gulf and Vostizza 61s. to 65s., fine Vostizza slow, 70s. to 75s. No other steamer is afloat, the next being s.s. Gerano, now loading. Quotations are:—Pyrgos 57s.; Amalias 61s.; Patras 62s. to 64s.; Zante 60s. to 63s.; Gulf 62s. to 65s.; Panariti 66s. to 68s.; Vostizza 65s. to 75s.

Valencia Raisins.—Extremely slow, only a few selected ¼-boxes changing hands at 70s.

Sultanas.—We are pleased to be able to report that more interest has been shown, but not to the extent that importers were hoping for. Sales in medium qualities, 125s. to 128s.; sulphured varieties, 132s. to 135s., and natural fruit, 135s. up to 142s. 6d. for finest. Californian oil and soda bleached 105s. to 112s. Afghans slow and difficult of sale. Quotations are:—Red Afghans, 90s., 92s.; Yellow, 110s., 115s.

Figs have been pushed for sale and prices are:—Prima, 58s., Genuine, 60s.

£ The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the week ended April 10 amounted to £E.8,513; total for year £E.8,513. For the corresponding period of last year receipts amounted to £E.8,807 and £E.8,807 respectively.

The financial success of the Ceylon Industries Exhibition surpassed expectations. The takings were a little over Rs.100,000, or over double the amount anticipated, and it is estimated that about 125,000 people attended.

BANQUE FRANCO-SERBE

Capital - Frs. 20,000,000.

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

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Telegrams:

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CURRENT PRICES.

General Produce.—Bacon: (Continental), 139s. 6d. cwt.; (Canadian), 115s. cwt.; (American), 100s. cwt.; butter (Danish) 186s. cwt.; (Australian), 168s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 176s. cwt.; cheese (Canadian), 96s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 80s. cwt.; lard, 70s. 6d. cwt.; eggs (Danish), 15s. 3d. per 120; (Sylvian) 14s. 1½d. per 120; chillies, 162s. 6d. cwt.; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 2d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon good to fine), 90s. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 132s. 6d. cwt.; (East Indian), 125s. cwt.; (Central American), 104s. cwt.; (Jamaica), 68s. 9d. cwt.; (Mocha longberry), 105s. cwt.; (Santos, superior), 70s. 6d. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochin), 52s. 6d. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 11½d. lb.; pepper (Singapore black), 3½d. lb.; (Muntok white), 7½d. lb.; pimento, 2½d. lb.; raisins (Valencias), 70s. cwt.; sultanas (Smyrna), 121s. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 70s. cwt.; (Amalias), 57s. cwt.; sugar (Tate's cubes), 53s. cwt.; (Lyle's granulated), 48s. 4½d. cwt.; (Mauritius crystals), 44s. 6d. cwt.; (West Indian crystallised), 42s. 3d. cwt.; (centrifugal), 15s. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 1½d. lb.; rice (Rangoon No. 2), 14s. 1½d. cwt.; (bran Rangoon), £6 2s. 6d. ton; cinnamon (firsts), 11½d. lb.; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 5½d. lb.; tea (Indian, common to good common), 1s. 1½d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 6d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 7½d. lb.; Ceylon (common to good common), 1s. 2½d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 6½d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 7½d. lb.; Java (common to good common), 10½d. lb.; wheat (English white), 57s. 6d. qr.; wheat (Australian), 59s. 6d. qr.; barley (malting), 45s. qr.; barley (feeding), 36s. 6d. qr.; oats (English), 35s. qr.; oats (La Plata, ex-ship), 25s. 0d. qr.; maize (La Plata), 41s. 3d. qr.; flour, 48s. sack.

Metals.—Aluminium, £122 10s. ton; antimony (English Regulus), £30 15s. ton; bismuth, 9s. lb.; copper (standard), £59 18s. 9d. ton; copper (electro), £65 10s. ton; gold bars, 93s. 3d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 90s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 97s. 6d. ton; galvanised sheets (25 G), £16 5s. ton; lead (soft foreign), £24 1s. 3d. ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 1½d. unit; molybdenite, 30s. unit; nickel, £175 ton; platinum, 360s. oz.; plumbago, £16 ton; quicksilver, £10 2s. 6d. bottle; spelter (G.O.B.), £26 10s. 4½d. ton; tin (standard), £155 2s. 6d. ton; wolfram, 10s. 4d. unit; zinc sheets, £35 5s. ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 10s. 6d. box; silver bars, 34½d. oz.

Chemicals.—Acids: Boric, 61s. cwt.; oxalic, 8½d. lb.; citric, 2s. 1d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 3½d. lb.; ammonia (sulphate) £16 11s. 6d. ton; arsenic (white powdered), £35 5s. ton; benzole (standard), 2s. 5d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £12 10s. ton; borax crystals, 29s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 119s. 6d. cwt.; Potassium: Bichromate, 7d. lb.; chlorate, 4½d. lb.; caustic, £33 10s. ton; nitrate, £38 7s. 6d. ton; permanganate, 9½d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 1½d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £15 5s. ton; Sodium: Crystals, £30. ton; bi-carbonate, £11 5s. ton; bi-chromate, 5½d.; alkali (58 per cent.), £8 13s. 9d. ton; chlorate, 3½d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £23 ton; hyposulphite, £17 ton; prussiate, 9½d. lb.; nitrate, £15 1s. 3d. ton; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £75 ton; glycerine (industrial 1260 per cent.), £700 ton; lemon oil, 3s. 6½d. lb.; quinine, 2s. 10d. oz.; red lead £36 ton; white lead, £39 5s. ton; white ground lead, £49 15s. ton; sulphate of copper, £27 5s. ton; sulphate of iron, 75s. ton.

Hides and Skins.—Ox and Heifer (first), 90 lbs. and up, 8d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 8d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 7-5-8d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 7d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 6d. lb.; (second), 90 lbs. and up, 6-5-8 lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 6½d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 6d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 4-5-8d. lb.; Cows (first), 60 lbs. and up, 6½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 6-1-8 lb.; (second), 60 lbs. and up, 5d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 4½d. lb. Bulls (second), 2½d. lb. Kips (first), 4½d. lb.; (second), 3d. lb.; (third), 2½d. lb. Calcutta Market. Prices in rupees per 20 lb.:—Arsenic hides (cows): Agras, 7 to 13 (7 to 13); Durbhangas, 7 to 9 (6 to 9); Patnas, 5-8 to 7 (5-8 to 6). Salted cows, 4-8 to 7-8 (4-8 to 8-8). Arsenic hides (buffalo), 4 to 8 (4 to 8). Skins: Calf, 8 to 10 (8 to 10) per 20 lb.; goat, 200 to 240 (225 to 260 per 100 pieces).

Miscellaneous.—Cotton: (American), 10-35d. lb.; (Egyptian Sakel), 16-25d. lb.; jute (first grade c.i.f.), £19 17s. 6d. ton; jute (lightnings), £26 15s. ton; Oilseeds: Linseed (La Plata), £20 7s. 6d. ton; palm kernals, £18 8s. 9d. ton; castor seed (Bombay), £16 13s. 9d. ton; sesame seed (China), £24 12s. 6d. ton; soya beans, £12 12s. 6d. ton; Oils: Linseed, £43 5s. ton; olive (Spanish), £70 ton; rape (crude), £44 10s. ton; soya, £38 7s. 6d. ton; petroleum, 1s. 4½d. gallon; petrol, 2s. 1d. gallon; fuel oil (ex-tank), 70s. ton; coconut (Ceylon), £39 12s. 6d. ton; cotton (crude), £41 10s. ton; ground nut, £44 15s. ton; Rubber: Plantation (No. 1 crepe), 8d. lb.; smoked sheet, 8d. lb.; fine hard Para, 11d. lb.

NEW COMPANIES.

Cox and Co. in Cologne.

The Cologne branch of Cox and Co. (France), Ltd., was registered as a private company on April 27, with a capital of £2,000 in £1 shares. Objects: to acquire from Barclays Bank, Ltd., the National Bank of South Africa, Ltd., the British Bank of South America, Ltd., the Bank of Taiwan, Ltd., R. Mees and Zoonen, the Bank of Athens, the Privatbank I. Kjobenhavn and A. B. Fortitudo, Skandinaviska Kreditaktiebolaget, the banking business appertaining to the branch in Cologne heretofore carried on by Cox and Co. (France), Ltd., and to carry on in Cologne and elsewhere the business of a bank whereof the head office shall be in London or such other capital city as the company may from time to time determine. The first directors are the directors of Cox and Co. (France), Ltd. No share qualification required. Remuneration as fixed by the company. Registered office, 54, Lombard Street, E.C.

The tonnage of vessels entered into British India and cleared outwards with cargoes from and to foreign countries and British Possessions during the month of February, 1922, amounted respectively to 609,000 and 617,000 as against 645,000 and 558,000 in January, 1922, and 506,000 and 642,000 in February, 1921.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ..	Piastres to £....	97½	97.15-32
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	106*
Belgrade ..	Dinars to £	25.22½	300-305
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	1276-1305
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3½-1.3½
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3½-1.3½
Brussels.....	Francs to £	25.22½	53.61-54.15
Bucharest ..	Lei to £	25.22½	615
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	640-660
New York....	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.43½-4.43½
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	48.75-49.03
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	232-233
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	83½-84½
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	650
Teheran	Krans to £	50	51½
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	36,000-37,500
Warsaw	Marks to £	20.43	17,500-18,000

*Nominal.

GOVERNMENT BONDS

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We have published a series of Articles on absolutely safe Government Bonds (some with actual photographs). Of this series the following have so far appeared.

Date		Price then	Approximate price now.
20/10/21	BRAZILIAN 5% FUNDING	61½	£75
12/12/21	FRENCH 5% WAR LOAN (BI)	37	£46½
18/4/21	ITALIAN 3½% RENTES	23	£25

These Articles will be sent free of charge on application to Bond & Stock Dept.

Pall Mall Industrial Investments Ltd.

TRAFALGAR HOUSE, WATERLOO PLACE, LONDON S.W.1.



SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

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

Jaffa, April 15.

It has been a quiet week owing to the Easter holidays. It has been estimated that the crops of cereals will be deficient for local needs.

Constantinople, May 1

Sugar.—Prices during the period under review have been generally weak despite the more than satisfactory demand. This weakness is due to arrivals in excess of the requirements and to the necessity for importers to dispose of their holdings as a result of the expenses incurred for merchandise after it is warehoused. In centres of origin prices are firm, and in consequence the fall here has not been important. Once the large arrivals are absorbed the market will show an improved tendency, and already even to-day a small recovery is to be recorded. Cube sugar being in smaller supply has advanced sharply. The arrivals are 80 wagons Dutch, and 120 wagons American. Quotations (in transit) :—Dutch crystallised £23½—24, American crystallised £21—21½, Dutch cubes £31½—32; Belgian £31—32; (in Customs)—Dutch crystallised £T27½, American crystallised £T25½, Dutch cubes £T33½, Belgian cubes £T33.

Coffee.—The demand here has been good, but prices are below those in centres of origin which this week have had a new rise of 2s. per cwt. Arrivals are about 4,000 sacks. Quotations :—Rio, first quality, in transit, Ps52, in Customs, Ps71—72; second quality, in transit, Ps49, in Customs Ps69.

Rice.—The first arrivals of the crop have taken place. Both Rangoon and Saigon are very good. Quotations :—Rangoon No. 3, in transit, £16½; in Customs, Ps16½; Saigon No. 1, in transit, £78, in Customs, Ps20.

Oleo.—The market is weak. The arrivals continue to be important, and prices in centres of origin show a tendency to fall. Arrivals consist of about 750 barrels by s.s. Dochet and 600 barrels by s.s. Sangamon. Quotations :—First quality Ps50—51, second quality Ps46—48.

Oils.—There have been very large arrivals of soya bean oil with the result that prices have markedly decreased. Producing countries report a very firm tendency with prices rising.

It is announced that the Roumanian Government has paid the German firms the sum of 350 million marks for the 176 locomotives ordered in that country, and delivery is to be started immediately.

According to the *Times'* Cairo correspondent, the low state of the Nile is causing much anxiety. The supply from the White Nile, which provides the bulk of the summer water, has turned out to be far worse than had been anticipated, and that great tributary is much lower than in any hitherto recorded year, while the Blue Nile is also very low. This shortage of water will seriously affect the cotton crop.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

FOUNDED 1863.

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

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The Bank has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of Credit granted.

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

CHEAPER OIL FOR MOTOR SHIPS.

With the rapidly increasing number of motor ships now being placed in commission, owners are naturally desirous of using in them the cheapest grade of oil. Hitherto, the ordinary practice has been to employ what is known as Diesel oil; this is a higher grade than that burned under boilers (boiler fuel oil), which costs from 20 per cent. to 30 per cent. less than Diesel fuel.

In the May issue of the *Motor Ship*, the problem of running the machinery of oil-engined vessels on cheaper boiler fuel oil is dealt with at length, and details of the results attained with a motor ship over a period of six months, using this grade of fuel, are given. No serious difficulties have been encountered, and the achievement is one which cannot fail to have an influence upon motor ship development. It is interesting to note that the large single-screw motor ship recently acquired by Furness Withy and Co., will shortly be operated experimentally on boiler fuel oil.

DEVELOPMENT OF BEYROUT HARBOUR.

The current issue of the monthly circular of the Imperial Ottoman Bank contains an article on the port of Beyrout in which the following reference is made to extension plans:—

From the very beginning of the conception of the port, the plans have been made in such a way as to allow for the possible extensions of the harbour and of the quays as far as the Quarantine, and the Concession Firman contained a clause to this effect. Thus by a simple prolongation of the original breakwater a new smooth water shelter can be created in the large bay on the eastern side of the harbour, as far as the rocky point where the Quarantine is situated.

The following is the project for the extension of the port:— On the side of the sea: lengthening of the outer breakwater by about 950 metres; on the land side: quays, with a uniform depth of at least 8 metres at the base, to a total length of 2,000 metres. Area of sheltered harbour—50 hectares. Construction of a graving-dock for the use of the biggest vessels.

The above extension programme is to be undertaken progressively, in accordance with the needs of the growing traffic. For the present, the company is on the point of constructing general warehouses in connection with the customs, in order to facilitate transit operations, of which Beyrout is the centre.

SUEZ CANAL TRAFFIC.

The annual return of shipping and tonnage of the Suez Canal for 1921 was issued last week as a White Paper. During the year 3,975 vessels passed through the Canal of the gross tonnage of 24,955,823, and the transit receipts amounted to 149,251,267 francs. 2,418 of the vessels were British of a gross tonnage of 15,689,588, while Holland was second with 459 vessels of a gross tonnage of 2,803,119. Italy's figures were 245 vessels of a gross tonnage of 1,297,665, Japan's 227 vessels of a gross tonnage of 1,411,460, and France's 211 vessels of a gross tonnage of 1,399,129. Vessels flying the German flag numbered 35 of a gross tonnage of 240,357.

The number of passengers through the Canal was 295,199 of whom 105,427 were military. Thirty-one passages have been effected by ships drawing more than 8.23 metres of water and being longer than 150 metres and wider than 18 metres. Three hundred and seventy-nine vessels have passed through the Canal for the first time, of which sixty-four were State-owned.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

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

Anchor Line.—S.s. *Moorla* for Bombay (Liverpool, May 16).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. *Magdapur* for Calcutta (Birkenhead, May 13); s.s. *Holywell* for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, May 16); s.s. *Masirah* for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, May 27); s.s. *Mangalore* for Calcutta (Birkenhead, May 27).

Bibby Line.—S.s. *Yorkshire* for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, May 24).

Clan Line.—S.s. *Clan Chattan* for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (Birkenhead, May 18).

Cunard Line.—S.s. *Cypria* for Gibraltar, Melilla, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Odessa, Novorossisk, Poti and Batoum (Swansea, May 27); s.s. *Brescia* for Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Ancona, Venice, Trieste, Fiume and Gravosa (Swansea, June 13).

Ellerman Line.—S.s. *Maronian* for Gibraltar, Melilla, Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, May 15); s.s. *Flaminian* for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Ancona, Venice and Trieste (Liverpool, May 18).

Ellerman's "City" Line.—S.s. *City of Florence* for Bombay and Karachi (Birkenhead, May 19); s.s. *City of Chester* for Calcutta (Birkenhead, May 22); s.s. *City of Cairo* for Calcutta (Birkenhead, June 1).

Ellerman's "Hall" Line.—S.s. *Trafford Hall* for Bombay, Karachi and the Punjab (Liverpool, May 12); s.s. *City of Simla* for Bombay, Karachi and the Punjab (Liverpool, May 29).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—Steamers sail fortnightly for Malta, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz and Braila.

Glen Line.—S.s. *Glenluce* for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, May 18); s.s. *Glenshane* for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, June 1).

Harrison Line.—S.s. *Defender* for Calcutta (Liverpool, May 13); s.s. *Actor* for Calcutta (Liverpool, May 27).

Henderson Line.—S.s. *Henzada* for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, May 17); s.s. *Bhamo* for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, May 31).

Holt Line.—S.s. *Eumaeus* for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, May 18); s.s. *Glaucus* for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, May 18); s.s. *Pyrrhus* for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, May 18).

Johnston Line.—S.s. *Wingate* for Piraeus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, May 13); s.s. *Cundall* for Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, May 20); s.s. *Incemore* for Piraeus, Syra, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, June 3).

Moss Line.—S.s. *Siptah* for Gibraltar, Malta, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, May 13); s.s. *Etrib* for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Malta, Cyprus and Syrian Coast (Liverpool, May 20); s.s. *Amarna* for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, May 26).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. *Gerano* for Algiers, Malta, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas and Varna (Liverpool, May 20).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. *Egypt* for Bombay (London, May 19); s.s. *Macedonia* for Bombay (London, May 26); s.s. *Mantua* for Bombay (London, June 2); s.s. *Sardinia* for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, June 2).

Prince Line.—S.s. *Soldier Prince* for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria and Syria (Manchester, May 15); s.s. *Cyprian Prince* for Malta, Alexandria and Syria (London, May 15).

ANCHOR LINE
First-Class Passengers only.
LIVERPOOL TO BOMBAY.
KARACHI via Bombay calling at Gibraltar & Egypt.

LARGE STEAMSHIPS. UPPER DECK CABINS.
FITTED WITH ELECTRIC FANS.
RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

PASSENGER SAILING DATES—

CIRCASSIA, JUNE 30.

OLYMPIA, JULY 18.

CASTALIA, AUG. 9.

SCINDIA, AUG. 22

MASSALIA, SEPT. 8.

ELYSIA, SEPT. 20.

CIRCASSIA, OCT. 20.

OLYMPIA, NOV. 7.

Anchor Line (Henderson Brothers), Ltd
16, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.3.

Cotton & Cotton Goods.

MANCHESTER REPORT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Saturday.

The chief feature of importance in the market during the past week has been the upward movement in raw cotton values. This of course has had a hardening tendency on yarn and cloth quotations. The rise was due to the unfavourable weather reports from the American cotton belt. From the point of view of Lancashire, however, it is not desirable that there should be any rapid rise in values. Manufacturers want cheap cotton in order to compete favourably with other countries. Spinners and manufacturers have met with difficulty in getting buyers to pay more money, and it is fairly certain that we shall not witness a period of really healthy activity until all spinning mills and weaving sheds are running on full time. With regard to the cloth demand for the Near Eastern outlets, better advices have been received from Egypt, and more contracts have been arranged than for some time back. Some fairly steady buying in a variety of fabrics has taken place for the Levant and Turkey. American yarn quotations have been stiffer but there has not been any general improvement in the turnover. In certain quarters however orders have been more frequently mentioned. The general inquiry in cloth has been encouraging and some fairly substantial sales have taken place for India in light cloths and shirtings. No business worth mentioning has been done for China. American yarns for home use have hardened and more orders have been booked especially in medium counts. The demand for export numbers keeps up fairly well.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended May 3:—A rather improved enquiry has been in evidence during the past week, but the turnover of actual cotton remains much about the same. Sakellaridis, about Strict Good Fair, has again claimed the chief share of attention, but during the last two days rather more interest has been displayed in the better grades (an event which has not occurred for some time), and some business has been transacted. The difference between Fully Good Fair and Good Sakel has again narrowed by 25 points. Yesterday's advance in the New York market gave a sort of fillip to trade generally, and a rise in Egyptian futures of 30 points was at once followed by an advance of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb. in the spot prices, and yet when prices were tested little resistance was met with, and it was easy for purchasers to obtain their requirements at anything from $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to 1d. per lb. below the official quotations. The stock of Egyptian cotton held in Liverpool was officially declared at 96,376 bales on April 28. This figure includes 16,899 bales of Soudan. Although this shows a decrease of 7,000 bales on the last figures issued, it leaves a heavy weight of cotton still hanging over the market, which, allowing for 1-3rd as being undesirable cotton, would be sufficient at our present rate of consumption to last this country for nearly three months longer without any outside help, not to mention 18,000 bales in Manchester, and another 8,000 bales afloat. In the meantime, receipts from up country are still pouring into Alexandria and swelling the already considerable stock there. Under the circumstances, we do not see any immediate prospect of an important rise in values. C.i.f. business shows but little sign of broadening out at the moment. Manchester reports made rather dull reading at the commencement of the week, but latterly they have improved and, as we write, the tone there is steady, and there is more business doing at rather better rates. India is still the chief support, and some of the minor outlets are also showing signs of "coming in" again. Total sales, 2,200 bales (includes 400 Soudan). Quotations are advanced

50 points, with the exception of Good and above in Sakellaridis, which are raised 25 points only. Fully Good Fair Sakellaridis to-day 18d.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Commercial Company of Egypt in their report dated April 28 state:—Since our last report, the futures market has been fairly active but at the close a rather weaker undertone has been again in evidence. The rise secured has been entirely due to the decision of the Government to buy cotton on the spot market (Official Communiqué Monday last) and to the immediate carrying into effect of this decision. What quantity the Government intends to buy and up to what prices, is not yet known, but the fact that the Government is buying cotton has caused short covering on the part of speculators and some buying back of hedges by native merchants, which has pushed up the market temporarily. It is probable that the risks of the market dropping heavily are now remote, but on the other hand the heavy actual supplies and the poor state of trade all over the world are factors to be reckoned with, and until a real improvement in these conditions takes place we cannot hope for any sustained rise.

Spot.—Total sales this week amount to about 10,000 bales which increased figure is mainly due to Government purchases. of the total sales we estimate 7,000 bales Sakellaridis (1,300 bales Government purchases), 2,500 bales Uppers (1,000 bales Government purchases) 300 bales white, 200 bales brown. Arrivals from the interior have dropped considerably. There is not much to say this week. Climatic conditions have been about normal and the crop is now progressing satisfactorily although it does not appear that any of the initial delay has been recovered.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated May 1:—

Condition of Crops.—April 26—Bihar and Orissa—Sowing of jute commenced in parts of Purnea, but more rain wanted. Prospects of other crops unchanged. April 28—Bengal—Seasonable rain still absent and jute and autumn rice sowings further retarded. Rainfall.—April 24—General in Burma and South Bengal. Local in Mysore. April 25—General in Upper Burma, Arakan and Chittagong Coast. Local in Tenasserim, Assam and Mysore. April 26—General in Tenasserim. Local on South Burma Coast, Assam and Mysore. April 27—General in Tenasserim. Local in Assam, Upper Burma and Mysore. April 28—Local in Assam, Coorg and Tenasserim. April 29—General in Assam, Mysore and Madras Deccan. Local in Malabar and south-east Madras. April 30—Local in Malabar, south-east Madras, Coorg and Assam. Markets.—Cotton—April 27—Bombay cotton market steady. Fine M.G. Oomras, Rs. 376 May. Rs. 395 July. Bombay cotton arrivals from September 1, 1921 to April 21 1922 were 2,500,000 bales as compared with 1,826,000 during the same period of the last year. Piece-goods.—Bombay imported piece-goods market unchanged. Retail demands continue encouraging, but wholesale demands not active. Prints continue rather weak, but local goods moving satisfactorily. Moderate activity in Calcutta and Madras markets, but some picketing reported from Punjab and United Provinces. Jute.—April 28—Calcutta jute market very strong with prices higher. Firsts, Rs. 73 May; Lightnings, Rs. 64 May, April 28—Hessians very firm with advancing prices. Heavies fully steady. B. Twill Rs. 42.8. Shellac.—April 28—Market weaker, T.N. Rs. 185 to Rs. 190. Rice.—April 28—Special Straits quality rice Rs. 510. Bank Rate.—7 per cent. Hitherto the rate was 8 per cent. from February 16.

The approximate gross production of the Steaua Romana, Bucharest, for the month of April, was 17,500 tons.

The directors of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank have declared an interim dividend of 5s. per share free of tax, for the half-year ended February 28, payable June 1.

The South Indian Railway announce an interim dividend of 2 per cent. in addition to guaranteed interest of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. payable, less tax, July 1.

The announcement has recently been made that all insurance companies doing business in Palestine shall deposit with the Government the sum of £E.1,000 in respect of each of the classes of insurance business in which they are engaged.

'BALKAN' NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

FOUNDED 1895

Capital paid up	5,000,000
Total reserves as per December 31st, 1920	53,200,000
Premium Income during 1920	28,300,000
Amounts insured of Life branch exceed	150,000,000
Branches maintained: Fire, Life, Marine, Casualty and Re-insurance of all branches.	

HEAD OFFICE: SOFIA, BULGARIA.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 575—Vol XXI.

THURSDAY, MAY 18, 1922.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

M. Gounaris Resigns.

A fresh Ministerial crisis has occurred in Greece. On a vote of confidence last Thursday the Government secured a majority of one in a Chamber of 321 deputies, with thirteen Ministers taking no part in the division, and the following day M. Gounaris handed in his resignation. His position has all along been difficult; it became still more acute when, to enable the machinery of government to be carried on, he had to resort recently to a forced loan, which affected many sections of the community that had not been disposed to be critical of his foreign policy. As the time approaches for Greece to bow to the inevitable in Asia Minor the idea will naturally gain ground that others may possibly discover an avenue of escape which has not revealed itself to M. Gounaris. M. Stratos, the ablest of the Opposition leaders, has accepted the task of forming a new ministry and expresses confidence in his ability to remain in office. It is not an attractive time for any Greek politician to assume the duties of Prime Minister, but if it falls to the lot of M. Stratos to register the country's acquiescence in the distasteful policy forced upon them by circumstances and the Allies, he will be fortunate in that the Opposition as represented by the Gounarists will know that no stigma attaches to the Greek Government of the day.

M. Venizelos and Greece.

One of the healthiest signs in the Greek political world to-day is the attempt to bridge the gulf between the Liberal Party and the Royalists. Whether the absence of support for the Government in the Chamber indicates that this desirable movement has received a setback remains to be seen. Unfortunately there would seem to be a tendency among certain Greek communities abroad to perpetuate the unhappy division of the country into two bitterly hostile camps. In Greece itself the Venizelist extremists find little real support, but they appear to derive encouragement from overseas, and to be basing great hopes on the return of their champion to Europe. It would be well indeed if the past in Greece could be undone and if the present régime could count on the political help of M. Venizelos. But it has to be borne in mind by those who had no experience of Greece under the late Liberal Government that the return of M. Venizelos to power implies to the bulk of his countrymen the revival of the terrorist system associated with the name of Gyparis, M. Venizelos'

favoured lieutenant, who left the country with his chief and is understood to be finding (until M. Venizelos returns to Athens), North Africa—whether in summer or in winter—less warm than any country in Europe, where Greece enjoys extradition rights. The true friends of Greece deplore the fact; but it is useless for those at a distance to speak of ingratitude to a great man in the case of a country where the iron of that great man's absentee administration entered so deep into the people's soul.

Great Britain and Palestine.

There is to be further delay in the confirmation of the Palestine Mandate by the Council of the League of Nations, but there is no reason to suppose that it will not presently receive the approval of that body. The difficulty between Great Britain and America on the subject is being overcome by a separate treaty guaranteeing to citizens of the United States the same privileges in Palestine as are accorded to British subjects or the nationals of the League States. With the regularisation of the mandate—even if the formal grant has to be withheld until the Turkish question is settled—it should be possible for the Administration to take up a more definite line regarding the policy to be adopted. None of the various pronouncements made has achieved the end in view—a *modus vivendi* for Jews and Arabs, and until there has been a round table conference in Palestine itself no really workable scheme can be elaborated. It is unlikely that the British Government will withdraw the Balfour Declaration; on the other hand it should be able to satisfy not only the Arab Delegation now in London, but, more important still, the general body of Arab opinion in Palestine as well, that the country is not going to be administered on the lines of the exaggerations of Zionist Extremists. The "national government" that the Delegation ask for would probably be bankrupt in a few weeks. Great Britain's task is to assist in the building up of the best possible edifice out of the material contributed by Arabs and Jews. If the two sections were left to themselves, there would be no co-operation, and the country—whichever section was "top-dog"—would suffer. It is evident that collectively the Arabs have a longer administrative apprenticeship to serve than the Jews, and they will be well advised to waste no time in starting it by claiming to be qualified to administer the country by themselves. Their numerical superiority will place them in an unassailable position as soon as they have the requisite administrative experience which they now lack.

Turks, Greeks and Italians.

Our Constantinople Correspondent's letter which will be found on another page gives a good idea of the excitement caused both in that city and in Kemalist circles by the news of the Turko-Italian agreement, and by the Italian withdrawal from the Sokia area. The Nationalists have announced that they will refuse to recognize the agreement, and the Nationalist Press is now very angry with the Italians. As to the Agreement, they will probably very soon come to the conclusion that it is not worth making so much fuss about; but the withdrawal of the Italian forces has certainly given them something to think about. It would appear, however, that they, as well as the Greeks, actually received warning of the Italians' purpose, and that they have, therefore, only themselves to blame for allowing the Greeks to benefit as they have done by the move.

The Allies and the Kemalists.

It is most regrettable that the French should have made it impossible to send a prompt and vigorous reply to the Kemalists' Note suggesting a conference at Ismid to discuss the preliminaries of peace. Italy and Great Britain were averse from accepting the proposal, seeing no advantage in it; but France leaned towards acceptance, for reasons not too difficult to fathom perhaps. In the long run, however, the Nationalists are unlikely to gain many more advantages from lack of unity on the part of the Allies. They are entitled, of course, to turn that lack of unity to their own benefit as often and as thoroughly as they can, but, unless we are very much mistaken, they would be wise to resist the temptation to score a point here or there just now, and to look to the future. If now they would give proofs that they are worthy of the trust which Europe seems disposed at this moment to place in them, they would undoubtedly be consulting their best interests. They and the Greeks both want peace, as Europe does; and Europe is very anxious to see that no more "incidents" take place on either side, to jeopardise the chances of peace. Let both sides, of their own free will, invite the special commissioners, or observers whose presence is so desirable, and a big step towards the desired goal will have been taken.

Egypt and the Sudan.

The hope which we expressed last week when referring to Lord Allenby's speech at Khartoum regarding the future relations between Great Britain and the Sudan has been disappointed. Far from accepting it as a hint, the extremists have seized upon the speech as a pretext for advancing further pretensions; and *The Times'* Cairo correspondent reports that its publication has raised a storm in the vernacular Press. This is to be regretted, as showing how lightly the vernacular Press takes its responsibility towards the Public, while the so-called arguments that it advances show how ill-fitted it is to lead public opinion. But there the matter may be left for the moment. What is really important is the news that the Commission which is drafting the Constitution has actually included in its report a declaration that the Sudan is inseparable from Egypt, that it owns allegiance to the King of Egypt, and that the latter shall be styled King of Egypt and the Sudan. It is hard indeed to guess what can have induced the Commission to perpetrate such folly, and harder still to see how they could hope ever to give effect to the resolution.

Ridiculous Claims.

In connection with these Egyptian demands regarding the Sudan, the Cairo correspondent of the *Morning Post* sends to that paper details of a draft convention prepared for submission to Lord Curzon by the Egyptian Delegation (official) last year. This surprising document, which, owing to the breakdown of the negotiations, was never presented, is far too long to be examined here in detail, but it is fair to say that it appears to have been prepared on the basis of "heads I win, tails you lose." Some slight thought seems to have been spared for Great Britain's interests and position, but the Sudan—and for that matter other "Nile areas which are now outside the Sudan"—are evidently regarded as being destined merely to minister to the needs of Egypt. "Great Britain is to recognise Egyptian sovereignty over Sudan territory," says this remarkable document, and—presumably in return for this privilege!—she (Great Britain) is to "guard" those "Nile areas outside the Sudan" to which reference has just been made. Significantly, the Sudan is to have no military force of its own "except as permitted by Egypt"; it may not raise a loan without Egypt's consent; and it is to be blessed with an Egyptian Assistant-Governor-General. Whether the latter blessing would be highly appreciated can hardly be a matter for doubt. The precious Convention makes very frequent mention of "Egyptian rights" and the rights of Egyptians in the Sudan, and of what the Sudan will *not* be allowed to do; but we fail to find any mention of the "rights" of Sudanis in Egypt or of what the Sudan *may* do, save in regard to the construction of the Blue Nile irrigation works. Upon the whole it is probably just as well that the Draft never was presented to Lord Curzon; for though Great Britain wishes to be generous to Egypt, she does not wish to be so at the expense of the Sudan.

Woman's Part in Egypt.

Like the women of Turkey at the time of the Turkish Revolution, the women of Egypt at this time of change in their country's history are showing considerable activity. A few days ago a deputation of them presented to King Fouad, through his Secretary, two petitions, one asking for the repatriation of Zaghloul Pasha and his fellow-exiles, the other requesting his Majesty to use his influence for the eradication of certain superstitious practices, which are said to have been in vogue on the banks of the Nile from the earliest days. What reply has been or will be returned to the petitions we do not know. The presentation of the second is certainly a healthy sign; and though superstitions rooted in the land since early Pharaonic times are not likely to be eradicated in a few days or a few years, inasmuch as a beginning must be made, the earlier it is made the better. In Ancient Egypt Woman played a more active and much more honoured part than she did in rival lands, and it will be interesting to see whether in this Twentieth Century A.D. she will regain her importance there.

The Persian Cabinet.

The Persian Cabinet has resigned, and H.I.M. the Shah has been notified of the fact by telegraph. As the Valiahd has not yet returned to Persia, the acting Regent has to face the difficulties of the situation—which appear to be complicated enough in all conscience. The demission of the Cabinet is attributed to growing opposition, and it is fairly safe to assume that the

difficulties of the financial situation weighed heavy in the scale in bringing about the decision. According to one report, one of the last acts of the retiring Government was to confirm the concession granted in 1920 for the construction of a railway from Teheran to Kermanshah. This concession was generally understood to have been secured by purely British interests, and if the report referred to is correct it is good news for this country as well as for Persia, as the confirmation would indicate some slackening of the anti-British feeling which has lately been so evident throughout the North. But whether it will be affected by the resignation of the Persian Cabinet remains to be seen.

Forged Antiquities.

The plea, which has so often been advanced in the columns of *THE NEAR EAST*, that Great Britain should once again take an active part in excavations in Babylonia, even if she cannot regain the leading position which she once held in that field, finds strong support in the letter addressed to *The Times* by the Rev. S. Langdon, Professor of Assyriology at Oxford. The Professor's principal object is to issue a warning against the forged antiquities which are now so very common in Baghdad and other places in Iraq; and he declares that since we obtained control of the ancient Sumer and Akkad "nearly all the genuine inscriptions and antiquities have gone to America." The trade in *antikas*, whether genuine or forged, is no new one, of course; and many a traveller who visited Mesopotamia in the last quarter of the last century had good reason to admire the ingenuity of the Jewish and Arab "merchants," if he could not similarly admire their honesty. But that is no reason why the present state of affairs should be tolerated.

Great Britain's Hope.

The purchase of "antiquities" is always a risky business, although it is true that every European and American museum has bought a percentage of its Babylonian objects in the more or less open market. Now that the forgers are so much more expert and so much better equipped in all ways to carry out their nefarious work, the risk has been greatly increased, and the only thoroughly satisfactory way to secure specimens for museums and material for the scholars to work upon is to conduct excavations scientifically. To do that is a costly business, and at the present time the only hope of Great Britain's being able to resume the work so well begun by Rawlinson and Layard, and so strangely neglected of late, lies in the chance that some wealthy individual will do for British Assyriology what many Americans have done and are doing for their museums and archaeologists, and what the late Mr. Walter Morrison did for the British Museum's excavations at Carchemish. At the same time it should surely not be impossible for this country to send a competent Assyriologist to Iraq, to do something towards securing for "the B.M." some portion of such genuine antiquities as may come up on the market, and to help in suppressing the traffic in forgeries. Would it not be a graceful act if the Government of Iraq should invite this country to send out such a one as Adviser to a Department of Antiquities?

If you find this week's issue of THE NEAR EAST of interest, help to make the Paper still more widely known by securing subscribers among your friends.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Monday evening.

The Prolongation of Genoa.

The statesmen still confer at Genoa; Mr. Garvin, as usual, tells us that last week was unparalleled and that next week a miracle may happen. But we have all become political agnostics; the miracles have been postponed so often, and even the daily crisis fails to raise a thrill. Rumour is far more impressive, and there were some astonishing rumours last week of the concentration of aeroplanes and battleships, and the prospect of immediate war. Still more astonishing was *The Times'* report of a conversation between Mr. Lloyd George and M. Barthou, which was subsequently denied—an indiscretion or a blunder which has not done *The Times* any good. There has been more than one protest against the manner in which personal feeling has been allowed to tinge the reporting of events.

But the Russian reply sealed the fate of Genoa. First America, then France, then Belgium disliked the idea of the Conference; and last week Genoa was already dead. Now it is not only dead but damned. The Russian answer was rightly characterised by Mr. Lloyd George as a "shrewish document," and it is best to leave it at that. It was all very well to dissemble their love, but why did they kick our proposals downstairs? Mr. Garvin suggests that it was because Chicherin is afraid of being shot by his own people when he returns to Moscow. That, of course, is his business; the moral for us is that there are some people you can't make a deal with. It is suggested that Genoa has laid the foundations for further negotiations, which may lead to agreement some months hence. As to that we shall see what we shall see; another such Conference would probably make peace impossible for years.

British Foreign Policy.

But the Conference has had its effect on British foreign policy. The Entente with France may not be dead but it is in a state of suspended animation. M. Poincaré has seen to that. But as there is no question of an entente with Germany or Russia, the upshot is that we keep ourselves to ourselves, and look after our own affairs. In other words, we follow America in a policy of modified isolation. On the economic side, we want peace all round very badly. It will help to revive trade, it will give confidence in the stability of civilisation in Europe, it will help to right the exchanges, and generally do something to make the world worth living in. On the political side, however, a Continental war or even the continuance of the present disagreements would not matter so much to us. At present we are in an idealistic mood, and we exhort lions to lie down with lambs. But if the lion and the lamb refuse to agree, the idealistic mood will pass, and we shall become realists. We shall reflect that there is such a thing as a balance of power, and that if the Continental States are so foolish as to fight each other they will weaken themselves still further; and none of them will then be in any condition to become a danger to us for many years. "Dogs delight to bark and bite"—but the cat gets most of the cream.

On the other hand, an alarmist suggested to me last week that the Continent may some day sink its differences, and combine against us. To which the answer is, that if Genoa is any key to the Continental mind, pigs are more likely to fly. Europe does not love us very much, but it hates its immediate neighbours more.

Anarchy in Ireland.

Another Conference has broken down—that between the Irish Provisional Government and the Republicans. The two sides have met for the *nth* time, and failed to agree. The fact seems to be that there is an acute difference of principle, on which neither will give way. Meanwhile pitiful stories are being told by refugees who cross to England utterly ruined; neither life nor property is safe, and according to all accounts the

position is worse now than a year ago, when the much maligned British troops were in the island, and at least afforded some kind of protection. Now there is none whatever against the raider or the highwayman. What seems to be happening is an actual dissolution of society, owing to bands of plunderers taking advantage of the deadlock between the two political factions. Surprise has been expressed in some quarters that the Provisional Government does not put its foot down. Apparently it is not strong enough to do so. The two sides seem fairly evenly matched. But the only people who profit are the robbers of banks, whose outrages are reported every day, but who never seem to be caught. Incidentally freedom of speech and of the press seems almost to have vanished.

On all sides it is admitted that Ireland must fight out her troubles alone. For centuries the Irish have told the whole world that England was the oppressor, and that if the hated Saxon left the island peace would reign, trade would revive, and the ancient greatness of Erin be restored. We have now left the island, and are waiting for the fulfilment of the prophecy.

Raising the 'Lusitania.'

It is said that an attempt is to be made by an American syndicate to raise the 'Lusitania.' Several English salvage companies have discussed the question of raising some of the shipping which lies at the bottom of the English Channel as a result of the submarine war, but it has been generally decided that it is cheaper and more certain to build new ships than to salvage old ones. It would, of course, be a great triumph of engineering skill to raise a huge vessel like the 'Lusitania,' but after seven years submersion it is doubtful whether the hull or the machinery would be worth very much.

The Trade Revival.

Both Mr. Baldwin and Mr. McKenna have expressed the conviction this last week that trade is reviving—nothing that presages a boom, but in a slow and steady fashion. The unemployment statistics indicate that these two great authorities are right. I gather that orders are coming mainly from the Colonies and South America; there is very little doing with Europe—although a contract for the rebuilding of Moscow is being arranged—and the benefits of diminished taxation have hardly been felt as yet at home.

But there is a general feeling that we are over the worst; and that once the engineering strike is over we can look forward to a diminution of distress, if not to positive prosperity. As to the conduct of that strike, I hear of many employers criticising the attitude of the Engineering Employers' Federation as being unreasonable, and the feeling seems to be becoming increasingly bitter. But any attempt to cover the details of these prolonged negotiations would take columns.

Prices and Wages.

The unwelcome fact that prices are rising slightly again is revealed by the index figures for last month. This is not unusual at this time of year, owing to summer stocks not having yet come forward; but as wages are falling everywhere it is peculiarly unwelcome just now.

Meat still remains very high, and this in itself will lend support to the campaign for removing the embargo

on Canadian cattle. Lord Beaverbrook, a Canadian, has been agitating for over a year in his newspapers, and now Lord Northcliffe has taken the question up with his customary vigour. The embargo is supported by British farmers and meat interests, but it is unpopular in the towns. It appears, however, that the Government gave a definite pledge to the Canadians that the embargo would be removed after the war, and it is clear that that pledge will have to be honoured. As the credit of the Government is involved, the sooner it is honoured the better.

A Cold Spring.

Everybody is grumbling over the unseasonable weather. It is cold, there is a horrible north-easter, the sun has hardly broken through the banks of lowering cloud, and May has generally been a failure. A year ago we were in the middle of a summer drought by this time; now we are still sitting over the fire of an evening, and hot bottles are welcome at night. It is to be 1923, according to Sir William Beveridge, when the crops fail and the climate goes altogether wrong, but this year seems to be taking a trial run. The first county cricket matches have been played, but neither players nor spectators can have enjoyed them much.

The Week's Books.

"The Victorian Age" (Cambridge University Press) by Dean Inge, is written from the standpoint of an unrepentant Victorian. The Dean thinks that the two great ages of England were the Elizabethan and the Victorian, but he is quite ready to criticise individuals, thus: "Ruskin was a Protestant mediaevalist, who admired everything in a mediaeval cathedral except the architecture"; and "Browning's method of facing the problems of life like a bull at a fence is characteristically English." Also he lays it down that "Literature flourishes best when it is half a trade and half an art."

"The Population Problem; A Study in Human Evolution" (Oxford University Press) by A. M. Carr-Saunders, is an attempt to cover the whole subject mentioned in the title. It is a long and serious work, which touches on biology and psychology. I have not had time to read much of it, but the little that I have read strikes me as good.

"Creeds or No Creeds" (John Murray) by Dr. Charles Harris, is an attack on the Modernist position all along the line from the Virgin Birth to the fundamentals of philosophy. It is the first definite attempt to reply to the position taken up at last year's Cambridge Conference. Incidentally it accuses the Modernists of being behind the times! It bristles with controversial points, but my theological attainments are not sufficient to say how far the Broad Churchmen's armour will be pierced. But it looks to me as though it were a work of sufficient importance to be answered; it can hardly be passed over.

I only mention "English Prisons under Local Government" (Longmans) for the purpose of saying that it has a long and brilliant preface by Mr. Bernard Shaw. The rest is written by Mr. and Mr. Sidney Webb; and whether because I simply cannot read Mr. Sidney Webb or for the reason that I happen never to have been in prison I stuck fast in the first pages. Others may be more fortunate or more industrious; for myself, I think I should almost prefer penal servitude to a course of our greatest Fabian.

The "Memoirs of the Crown Prince of Germany" (Butterworth) is naturally an interesting book, apart from the fact that the Royal exile is not without some literary ability. He admits that he was "never a blind admirer" of the Kaiser, who was rather apt to dragoon his own family as well as his subjects. It appears that he liked King Edward, "the good uncle and amiable man, a brilliant upholder of his country's interests, and one who would rather have secured those interests in co-operation with Germany than in opposition to her." (Apparently the ex-Crown Prince does not take the "encirclement policy" imputed to England very seriously.) He remarks that "the German Army was not defeated at the Marne; it was withdrawn by its leaders. The battle was lost because the Command gave it up as lost."

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

From Our Own Correspondents.

EGYPT.

Cairo, May. 6.

Return of High Commissioner.

The High Commissioner and Lady Allenby returned on Tuesday from their annual trip to the Sudan. Their Excellencies travelled back *via* Port-Sudan and had a very rough passage in the Red Sea, which did not astonish us very much, as Lord Allenby always seems to encounter stormy weather whenever he puts to sea. The High Commissioner had an official reception on arrival in Cairo, members of his staff and all the higher British Officials being present on the platform; there was also a British Guard of Honour, which was inspected by His Excellency, who on this occasion wore Field Marshal's uniform. Lord Allenby paid a visit to the Sultan next morning, and since his return has been fully occupied in dealing with the many important questions which have accumulated during his tour of inspection in the Sudan.

The Sudan.

On the occasion of the return of the High Commissioner publication was made of the speech which he delivered at Khartoum on April 26 to a gathering of representative chiefs and notables. This speech was intended to allay the apprehension that existed in the minds of the Sudanese as to the future control of the country—apprehension which had been put on record in a memorandum presented a few days previously to the Governor-General by members of the delegation that went to London in 1919. Lord Allenby made it perfectly clear that the British Government had no intention of abandoning the Sudan or of associating itself with its development in a less close manner than had been the case hitherto, and his words appear to have reassured his audience.

It may be pointed out that the anxiety caused amongst the Sudanese has undoubtedly been due to the articles published in the Egyptian vernacular press claiming for Egypt the control of the Valley of the Nile from its source to its mouth, including possession of the Sudan. While everyone sympathises with the desire of the Egyptians that they should have some substantial guarantee in regard to their present and future water supply, which comes to them through the Sudan, and while everyone would acquiesce in any arrangement which would afford such assurance, no one in his senses can agree that this consideration entitles the Egyptians to apply to the Sudanese principles which they have rejected in their own case. The Sudanese have as much the right to chose their own form of Government as the Egyptians had, and since history serves to confirm the incompatibility of temperament—to use no stronger word—that exists to-day between the Sudanese and the Egyptians, it is nonsensical to talk of the Sudan being made to form part of the Egyptian Empire.

In the circumstances it is particularly regrettable that a member of the reigning house should take up the matter in the manner in which Prince Omar Toussoun has just done; but knowing as one does his own personal fears for the future one can quite understand his desire to pander to the popular cry of the moment, however unreasonable or absurd it may be.

The Changing Order of Things.

A further indication of the changing order of things has been afforded this week, first, by the departure on leave, prior to retirement, of Mr. R. S. Patterson, the Adviser to the Ministry of Education, and secondly by the news of a reorganisation in the Ministry of the Interior, under which, in addition to an Egyptian Director-General of Public Security there will be an English Director-General, who will occupy himself solely with public security affecting foreigners.

The departure of Mr. Patterson has been made the occasion on the part of the Egyptians of a demonstration

of esteem and affection which must have been as gratifying to him as it was unprecedented. Mr. Patterson has spent a full score of years in the Egyptian Civil Service. During that time he has not only acquired an almost unrivalled knowledge of the inside working of the various Administrations, but has established for himself among both Europeans and Egyptians a reputation for sincerity, financial and administrative ability and integrity which has gained for him an almost unique position. It was with the keenest regret that everyone learnt that he was not to succeed to the vacant Financial Advisership, and the severance of his connection with the Egyptian Service has been received with even greater regret.

For the past three weeks Mr. Patterson has been feted by Egyptians of every category from the Prime Minister down to the members of the National Sporting Club, and on every occasion, amid the regrets at his departure, there have been expressed the same sentiments of admiration for his work and of gratitude for the good-will he has always shown towards Egypt—a good-will the sincerity of which, as more than one speaker pointed out, was abundantly proved by his strong advocacy of the present policy, the introduction of which he knew only too well inevitably meant to him the loss of his post. In Egyptian circles I have during the past few days frequently heard the remark that it is a thousand pities that the much desired change in régime should entail the loss to Egypt of a man like Mr. Patterson, whose presence would have been such an assistance in the settlement of the many problems which, it is recognised, must confront Egypt before she can settle down as an independent nation under the Constitutional régime; while I feel I am representing the opinion of the British community when I say that everyone of us feels very keenly and regards as almost a personal loss the departure of one of our compatriots who has so nobly maintained British traditions and—a feature, alas, very rarely to be met nowadays—had gained our confidence so completely.

Gift to Arab Museum.

The Arab Museum has received an interesting gift from Prince Yusef Kamal, in the shape of a valuable Persian carpet made in the sixteenth century. It was originally in one of the local churches. By some means it found its way to France, where it was secured by a Cairene merchant, from whom in turn the Prince purchased it. It is of silk, very handsome in texture and design and cost him L.E.8,000.

PALESTINE.

Jerusalem, April 30.

"The Times" Articles.

The whole of the eight articles in *The Times*, "The Truth about Palestine," by Mr. Philip Graves, have now come through to us here. They have naturally provoked intense interest in all circles—general admiration in British circles, a somewhat guarded approval among the older Palestinian Jewry, and a rancorous opposition from the newer Palestinian Jewish contingent. They have been reprinted in full in *The Palestine Weekly*, an English paper of pro-British, strong Zionist, but Anti-Zionist Commission tendencies; the earlier

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articles have been translated in parts of the Arab Press, and also in the *Doar Ha-Yom*, the Hebrew daily paper referred to by Mr. Graves as "of moderate Zionist views"; while in *Ha-Aretz* (which *The Times'* Correspondent pillories as "the recognised organ of the Zionist Commission" given up to "ill-informed, capacious and bitter criticism of the British Administration") the articles have elicited three lengthy leaders full of acrimonious comment. More recently this same paper has made an effort to shift the blame for the present ill-feeling between Arab and Jew from the shoulders of the Zionist Commission to those of the anti-Semitic Gentile. It is a crude, rather hysterical *post hoc propter hoc* argument, describing how forty years ago the Jewish idealists from Russia, wearied by the economic, cultural and religious forces which were pitted against them, determined to lay their aching heads once more on the bosom of their mother Asia; how they lived all those pre-War years on terms of the closest amity with the Arabs, their intimate blood-kindred, closely allied in speech, and their fellow-believers in a pure monotheistic religion; and how these relations were only severed and feelings embittered after the War by the intrigues, incitements and provocative malice of Gentile foes. There is scarcely any attempt to veil the insinuation that these foes are mainly drawn from British officialdom. But, the writer goes on to say, they, the Jews, refuse to be intimidated: they will never relax their efforts towards their ideal of national revival. The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church—"a nation which can call on such names as Trumpeldor [murdered by Arabs at Metulla early in 1920], a nation which by pogroms has been robbed of such writers as Brenner [a gifted Jewish author murdered by Arabs shortly after the troubles of May 1, 1921], a nation among the defenders of whose soil were such young men as Absalom Gissen [killed in the Arab attack on Petach Tikvah, May, 1921], will never depart from its homeland, never! never!! It will cleave to it by its very fingernails! In the sight of God and History this Nation has betrothed to itself this Land, in faith and might and blood, to be to it the Motherland."

The Results of Fear.

Mr. Graves' strictures on the personnel of the Zionist Commission in Jerusalem, and especially on its Chairman, are echoed among the bulk of the Jews outside the orbit of the Commission's influence, and even from one or two within. One point which was not made by Mr. Graves should be borne in mind: virtually all the Jewish schools in Palestine are at the financial mercy of the Zionist Commission, and but for the favour of the Education Department of the Commission the large body of Jewish teachers would starve. (It is said that they are three months behindhand in salaries already.) This control is easily wielded and means, of course, the moulding of the minds of the younger generation and the instilling in them of the jingoistic frame of mind which, if it gets much worse, must spell havoc to tolerant relations between Arab and Jew. Another point not sufficiently emphasised by Mr. Graves is the element of fear out of which this jingoism partly arises. The Zionist, especially the East European Zionist, feels that he is fighting against fearful odds: he sees in everything and everybody an open or a hidden foe. And, after all, when we remember the life of the Jew in Russia during this past century, we must sympathise with his raw nerves. He must needs whistle and shout to keep up his courage. And he cannot understand the phlegmatic, chilly and somewhat off-handish treatment that he gets from the ordinary, equally non-comprehending British official. The result is that he deeply entrenches himself in his own grievances, puts forth enormous thought to resist possible undermining, and takes means to strengthen his spiritual and material defences, regardless of the feelings of his ingenuous neighbours. Any protest against this attitude will draw out the old Talmudical saw: "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? And if not now, when?" This they cite as the Golden Rule which in present circumstances must of necessity supersede the other more familiar one. This it is which

underlies most of the innocent ineptitude which characterises the methods of much of Zionist activity in Palestine.

The Englishman's Beverage.

There is also a pathetic ignorance shown in some of these leaders fresh from Russia. Mr. Graves speaks of meeting Mr. Ussischkin in Constantinople and being appalled at his ignorance of the conditions in Palestine. But after all, it was this same Zionist leader who, on wishing to entertain the Governor of Jerusalem to lunch, enquired diligently what was the Englishman's most usual beverage in the East; the result of his research was that the Governor was given nothing to drink but Eno's Fruit Salts.

Educational Difficulties.

A little incident has arisen within the last few weeks which, however bad a complexion some would put on it, is just another instance of this fearfulness in the Jew and his readiness to conjure up out of his own imagination the existence of malign influences. In certain educational circles the need had for some time been felt of some higher course for which the youth of Palestine could study. As things are at present, the student who wishes for something beyond what he gets in the local secondary schools must go to Beyrout or Europe to get it. Naturally this is comparatively expensive, and, besides ruling out higher education for all but a very small minority, means that the pick of the young men of Palestine are either lost to the country or return to it with foreign ideals and a contempt for the place of their birth. The time is certainly not yet ripe in Palestine for a national university such as is at present in view for Egypt; but Jerusalem is amazingly well equipped with professorial talent in Oriental studies: there are at least half-a-dozen bodies, with staffs strong enough to run two or three University Faculties, whose personnel at present do nothing but sit down and grow wiser and lecture one another. So somebody had the bright idea of utilizing these forces, constituting them into a faculty of higher studies—a body which could lecture, encourage systematic study, conduct examinations, and grant diplomas to satisfactory candidates. The scholars of all the various communities, English, French, Greek, Armenian, American, Arab-Moslem, Arab-Christian and Jewish, were invited to come and discuss the question. All came but the Jews. They said that their own Hebrew University was to commence operations almost immediately and would cover such subjects as were proposed by this new body; therefore they did not feel themselves free to join in this more general venture.

It is generally understood, however, that certain of the Jewish scholars were anxious to co-operate, but the word went forth from the same Chairman of the Zionist Commission that this scheme was nothing less than a nefarious attack on the Hebrew University, and that no self-respecting Jewish Nationalist must have anything to do with it. Comment is needless. The abstention has aroused a great deal of indignation, chiefly in Jewish circles. But the episode is a symptom not of a lack of desire to work for the common good of Palestine, but simply of the carking fear and wild-animal-like suspiciousness of the East European Zionist.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Belgrade, May 5.

The Political Situation.

Domestic political questions are now of secondary importance, and with the exception of some Bills and the Electoral Law, Parliament is mainly engaged in carefully watching events at Genoa.

The Electoral Law has been passed, and in its principal details it is a replica of the old Serbian electoral law, which is claimed to be based upon most democratic principles.

Yugoslavia and Italy.

The Foreign Minister has arrived at Belgrade to confer with the Premier—who is still in bed owing to his recent accident—about the negotiations with Italy,

which are proceeding none too smoothly. The general opinion seems to be that the Italians are not sincere and that they are only playing for time; for it is impossible to accept the excuse given by the Italians, that they are afraid of executing their obligations under the treaty of Rapallo because they fear reprisals from the Fascisti. Even if this were true, it would show official Italy in a very bad light. This excuse is really worse than none at all, because on every occasion that the Yugoslavs asked permission to restore order in Fiume, the Italians not only refused to give permission, but threatened to consider any attempt of doing so as a *casus belli*.

In any case the Yugoslavs are convinced that their cause is just, and will certainly soon clear up the situation one way or another; for after all, what is the use of having Treaties, if they are to remain dead letters or "scraps of paper?"

Liubliana, May 1.

Distinguished Visitors.

Professor C. Sarolea, well-known as an authority on Central European conditions and an unwearied champion of the States of the Little Entente, has just been paying a brief visit to Yugoslavia; and on April 21 Liubliana had the opportunity of welcoming him and Miss Jean Findlay, C.B.E. They visited the University, the Museum, the Opera and the Playhouse, and were greatly impressed by the progress that has been made in the intellectual and artistic sides of the nation's life during the three years since the Liberation. The National Museum in Liubliana has long been famous for its almost unique collection of Iron and Stone Age antiquities. It possesses a vase for which an offer of £25,000 was made before the war. Fortunately the offer was refused, and the treasure is now the property of the Yugoslav nation.

The Professor and Miss Findlay called on the Viceroy, and an official dinner was given in their honour at the Hotel Union, where they were received by Dr. Gregorin and Dr. Skaberne, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Yugoslav Society for the Study of English. Both visitors from Scotland took a great interest in the work of the Society, which is already doing much to cultivate ties with Great Britain. On April 23 Professor Sarolea and Miss Findlay left for Zagreb and Belgrade.

Death of a Yugoslav Painter.

The Yugoslav world of art has sustained an irreparable loss in the sudden death of Professor Vlaho Bukovac, which took place in Prague on April 22. Bukovac was an artist after the old academic French style, and not in sympathy with the modern Expressionist movement in painting and sculpture. His work was as well-known abroad as at home, and some of the best examples of it are privately owned in France and England. In 1902 he was appointed Professor at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague. His death was due to haemorrhage on the brain. Although he was sixty-seven years of age, his working powers were unimpaired, and at the time of his death he had just returned from Belgrade where he had painted a portrait of the King. All who visited the Yugoslav Exhibition in Paris in Spring, 1919, will have a vivid recollection of his canvasses there.

GREECE.

Athens, May 8.

The "Micrasiates."

The three gentlemen from Smyrna who are representing the "Defence Committee of the Micrasiates," and of whom I spoke in my last letter, have had an exceptionally busy week in Athens. They saw every person of importance in the capital, including the diplomatic representatives of Great Britain, France, Italy, and the United States of America, to plead the cause of the Christian populations of Ionia and to explain why the Ions had decided to oppose by force of arms, if necessary, any attempt of the Kemalists to reinstall themselves in the liberated regions. On Thursday morning the three delegates were received in audience by the King, also by the Crown Prince, and on Friday

morning embarked for Smyrna, apparently very pleased with the result of their *démarches* here. Prior to their departure the "Micrasiates" published the following *communiqué* in the Athens Press:—

"The Committee for the Micrasiatic Organisation" considers it its duty to make the following declarations: It confirms its previous statement to the effect that the aim of the Micrasiatic Organisation is of a purely national character and void of any political taint; that it is determined to employ all its forces—both moral and material, in order to defend the liberty of the people of Asia Minor, and for this purpose appeals to the patriotism of all the Hellenes—both rich and poor. It expresses its heartiest thanks to the Government, the Press, the leaders of the parliamentary groups, the deputies, and the people of the Kingdom for the unanimity of the sentiments which they have displayed in favour of the sacred struggle for liberty. The Committee also expresses its profound respect for the British, French, Italian, and American *Chargés d'Affaires* for the sympathetic manner in which they were received by them, and is returning to Smyrna with the firm conviction that Asia Minor will not be abandoned either by the State, or by the Army and the Greek people."

General Papoulas.

General Papoulas, who arrived in Athens ten days ago, has returned to Smyrna by the same boat as the Micrasiatic delegates. The rumours to the effect that certain divergencies had arisen between the Government and the Greek Commander-in-Chief, have been officially denied. The denial states that General Papoulas enjoys the full confidence of the Government.

An Unpopular Action.

It is reported from Salonika that two mosques which were occupied by Greek refugees from the Caucasus have, by order of the Governor-General of Macedonia, been restored to the Moslem community of that town. The Orthodox Metropolitan of Salonika protested

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against this action, by which many Greek families are rendered homeless. Moreover, the Metropolitan points out that the mosques in question were originally Orthodox churches. It is generally thought that the threat of certain Moslem Government deputies to support the Opposition has something to do with this inhuman act of the Government.

Miscellaneous News.

Greece will be represented at the marriage of King Alexander of Serbia by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, M. Baltazzi, and the Minister of War, M. Theotokis. The Greek Royal Family will be represented by one of the Princes—probably the Crown Prince.

The remains of the French sailors who fell during the regrettable incidents in Athens in November, 1916, will be transferred to France on the 20th instant.

The military authorities at Adrianople have arrested a Turkish suspect named Arif Hassan who, it now transpires, is a Kemalist officer, and was proceeding to Macedonia on a special mission.

The Hellenic Government has protested to the Entente Powers against the massacres of the Christians of the Pontus carried out by the Kemalists.

An enthusiastic reception was given to the Greek troops by the inhabitants of Scala Nuova (New Efessos). The Kemalists, fearing a further Greek advance, burned down the big bridge on the road to Aidin.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, May 1.

Genoa.

Bulgaria is eagerly following the events that are taking place at Genoa. It has been stated in the local Press that the request of the Bulgarian Delegation for a hearing of the latter's claims relevant to the payment of reparations has been discussed by the Financial Sub-Commission, who have passed it on to the heads of the Conference. Such a piece of news has, of course, caused great satisfaction here, although it is not believed that the Allies will make any real concessions. The controversy between Mr. Lloyd George and M. Barthou does, however, encourage the Bulgarians to think that they may in some way benefit thereby. In so far as reparations go, England is gradually coming to be looked on as the best disposed of the Allies towards Bulgaria. The French point of view, as expressed by the semi-official *Temps*, certainly makes it appear that a great injustice is being done to Bulgaria by demanding both money payments and guarantees during 1922; but as it is gradually becoming known that the *Temps* does not represent the opinion of the French authorities in Sofia, Bulgaria is losing hope in France. The Italian point of view is already known, and so there remains only Great Britain. It should, however, be stated that no signs are as yet apparent which signify that Britain will be willing to grant Bulgaria any important concessions.

The Government and the Inter-Allied Commission.

The Inter-Allied Commission has requested a reply to their Note relative to the payment of reparations by May 20, but M. Stambolisky and M. Tourlakoff, Minister of Finance, are still at Genoa, and show no signs of returning to Sofia. In these circumstances, one is tempted to ask how the Government can reply by May 20. Certainly it has been foolish in asking for a delay till October, as the Commission cannot wait six months for an answer; but it would have been reasonable that a delay should be granted until at any rate the middle or end of June. If the Government agrees to the Commission's terms, that will necessitate a mass of new legislation being drafted. This cannot be done in two or three weeks, and much less can it be done when both the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance are abroad.

It is understood that the Commission have refused to grant a delay beyond May 20, but their refusal probably means that on the appointed date, no answer will be forthcoming. The Commission will then be free to take whatever course they like, but commonsense

would dictate an early announcement of a month's delay.

A Bomb Outrage.

On Sunday, April 30, a fresh bomb outrage occurred. A group of young Communists and Anarchists had assembled in the town, with the idea of holding a meeting, preliminary to the annual manifestations of May 1. By the order of M. Daskaloff, Minister of the Interior, a squadron of mounted police was sent with orders to disperse the meeting. The Communists refused to disperse, and when charged by the police, threw a bomb. One policeman was killed outright, and another severely wounded. In addition, numerous civilians were killed and wounded, amongst the latter being six children. The police succeeded in rounding up the Communists and lodged them in prison. This afternoon the Communists are due to hold a big meeting, and it remains to be seen whether yesterday's events will be repeated.

Sofia's New Mayor.

The question on most Sofiotes' lips is whether the King will sign the Decree appointing M. Dungelnikoff Mayor of Sofia. Up to the present, the Mayor of Sofia has been elected by the citizens, but recently the Government decided to introduce a law which provides for the nomination of the Mayor by the Government. The law is to take effect as soon as the Royal signature is appended. It is argued in legal quarters that the Government's action is unconstitutional and that it is for this reason that the King has so far not signed the Decree. The situation is rendered the more piquant by the fact that the proposed mayor is a former café attendant.

The Bourgeois parties are up in arms against the selection of M. Dungelnikoff by the Government and several meetings of protest have been held.

Russian Refugees.

Some 20,000 civilian Russian refugees, quite irrespective of Wrangel's army, have temporarily found an asylum in Bulgaria. The League of Nations has now obtained the Government's permission for a further 2,600 to enter Bulgaria. These 2,600 refugees have been in Egypt and Cyprus for the last two years, and have been maintained there by the British Government. By the terms of the arrangement entered into with the Bulgarian Government, the League is going to take over the entire administration of these refugees. They will be lodged in the provinces and work will be found for them as soon as possible. The Government has already shown itself extremely tolerant towards Russian refugees, despite the many hundreds of thousands of Thracians, Macedonians, and Dobrujan refugees who are already in the country. This further proof of hospitality should not be lost sight of by those people who are constantly accusing Bulgaria of bad behaviour.

Sofia, May 10.

Note of the Inter-Allied Commission.

It is now only ten days before the date on which the Government must give a reply to the Inter-Allied Commission regarding the latter's Note concerning the payment of reparations by Bulgaria during 1922. The Commission still shows no sign of granting a delay for the giving of the reply, and as MM. Stambolisky and Tourlakoff are still at Genoa an absolute deadlock seems to have been reached. It appears that the Government do not wish to take any decision until the Agrarian Congress, which assembles at Sofia on May 28.

The point of view of the Bourgeois parties is not very clear. Their Press contents itself with remarking that the economic and financial policy of the Government is the cause of the present state of affairs, and it calls on the Government to resign. Up to the present time these parties have, however, produced no definite policy, and it is difficult to know what their attitude will be. They do not say whether it will be better for Bulgaria to accept or to refuse the proposals of the Inter-Allied Commission.

The Municipality of Sofia.

The question "Who is to be the future mayor of Sofia?" is becoming a matter of almost comical import. By the law of the country, Sofia is free to choose her own mayor, but some months ago a Bill was drafted which provides for the nomination of the mayor by the Government. A certain M. Dignikoff was chosen. This gentleman was formerly a waiter in a café, and although this does not preclude his being a perfectly good mayor his nomination has somewhat roused the ire of the bourgeoisie. The Bill appointing M. Dignikoff to the post has not yet received the Royal assent, and it is said that the King is very unwilling to sign.

Yesterday it was stated that the Government may withdraw the Bill on the grounds that it was not brought forward by the Agrarian party, but only by a few private members. Meanwhile in the recent school election held in Sofia, the Government only polled 2,000 votes against 9,000 Communists and 10,500 Bourgeois.

A Russian Plot.

The arrest of the Russian Colonel Samohvaloff at a Sofia hotel the day before yesterday has led to a bitter Press attack on General Wrangel's army. Colonel Samohvaloff is accused of having plotted with foreigners with a view to making a *coup d'état* in Bulgaria. Other officers of Wrangel's army are stated to be involved in the plot. General Vesmitinoff, the representative of Wrangel in Sofia, has emphatically denied all knowledge of this plot. Nevertheless the affair has made a nasty impression, and will do no good to the prestige of Wrangel's army.

TURKEY.

Constantinople, May 4.

Italo-Turkish Relations.

The conclusion of the Russo-German Treaty appears to have upset the nerves of more than one European Chancellery. A report to the effect that the British Government has protested to the Italian Government regarding the alleged conclusion of a separate agreement with the Angora Government, has been received here with the utmost astonishment, even by Italian official circles—unless Italian diplomatists are marvellous actors. As for the Turks, Hamid Bey, the official representative of the Angora Government in Constantinople, has strongly denied that any such treaty has been concluded, and has backed up his denial by pointing out that the Italian evacuation of the Sokia area was hardly advantageous to the Turks, since the region in question was immediately reoccupied by the Greeks, a circumstance which the Italians themselves must have clearly foreseen.

It is singular that ever since the Bolsheviks set the example in "open" diplomacy by publishing such of the secret Tsarist archives as it suited them to reveal, the ways of international diplomacy have become more tortuous than ever; and it would therefore be unwise to express an opinion on the subject of the existence of a Turko-Italian agreement. Nevertheless, it is hardly conceivable that if such an agreement has really been concluded, both parties would deny its existence with such vigour. After all, most treaties become public property sooner or later, and the denials in question, unless perfectly sincere, reflect not only upon the personal honour of the statesmen concerned, but upon the honour of the nations also. The utmost the most astute Government can hope to effect in the way of secret agreements is to conceal certain parts or clauses of a treaty. Even the negotiations for the conclusion of an agreement can rarely be kept secret, and it is worthy of note that no official Italian representative had been in Angora since the departure of Signor Tuoizzi, who failed to arrange an understanding between the Angora Government and the Consulta. Unless, therefore, there is overwhelming proof to the contrary, it would be unwise to believe the reports concerning the existence of a Turko-Italian treaty calculated to embarrass the British Government.

The Russo-German Treaty.

The Russo-German Treaty is a case in point, for it was known months ago that such a treaty was under discussion, and the intimacy of Russo-German relations has never been a secret for anyone. The almost inevitable corollary to the Russo-German Treaty would appear to be the admission of the Angora Government as a party to that pact, and although Hamid Bey has denied that this has already taken place, the special envoys of the Angora Government are already on their way to Moscow to open negotiations. The envoys are three in number: namely Jevad Abbas Bey, an officer who is deputy for Bolu, and until recently the unofficial representative of the Angora Government in Sofia; Colonel Emin Bey, and Dr. Riza Nur, who was one of the signatories of the Turko-Russian Treaty, and who was recently sent to Kharkov for the exchange of the Turko-Ukrainian Treaty concluded in January of this year. It is just possible, of course, that these events are nothing more than an elaborate *mise-en-scène* calculated to alarm the French and to lead the French Government to make still further efforts to make the British and Italian Governments toe the Kemalist line. It is more probable, however, that although such may be the underlying idea of the Angora Government, the admission of the Angora Government as a party to the Russo-German Treaty will be an accomplished fact in the near future. Such an achievement would be the first step on the part of the Kemalists to effect a re-insurance against possible Russian aggression by opening Anatolia once again to the development of German interests, with a view to pitting Russia and Germany against each other once again! In this connection considerable significance attaches to Hamid Bey's recent statement to the effect that the Angora Government is desirous of commencing negotiations for the resumption of commercial relations with Germany.

The facts of the situation should be tolerably clear now even to the least observant.

The Micro-Asiatic Movement.

Replying to an interviewer to-day, the Greek Patriarch unequivocally admitted that he had played an important part in the development of the Micro-Asiatic Movement, but he emphatically denied that the object of the movement is the annexation to Greece of Ionia. His Holiness insisted that the movement was solely and simply defensive in view of the inevitable extermination of the Christian population if the Angora Government establishes its authority over the whole of the occupied area. Ionia had become a refuge for the persecuted elements of the population of Anatolia, Christian and Moslem also, and it is impossible for the Greeks, in the Patriarch's opinion, to yield to the Angora Government, for they know only too well what that would mean.

It must be admitted that the methods practised by the Kemalists in the Black Sea area and in Cilicia are hardly of a nature to encourage those who wish the world to have faith in the guarantees which the Angora Government is so ready to give. To allege that the Greeks are committing all manner of atrocities in the occupied area is hardly a sufficient answer; for despite Kemalist evidence on the subject, the worst accusation brought against the Greeks by neutral investigators are exceedingly mild in comparison with the established record of the Kemalist Administration, which continues to make use of such homicidal maniacs as Osman Agha, the terror of the Black Sea area.

Angora and Stamboul.

The policy pursued by the Sublime Porte in regard to the Allied proposals has aroused the bitterest indignation of the Anatolian press. There is no need to quote any extracts, for readers of THE NEAR EAST should be familiar with the particular type of scurrility inspired by Mustapha Kemal through the official Anatolian Agency, but it is worthy of note that the *Yeni Gun* recently published a portrait of the Sultan side by side with that of King Constantine, with the rubric, "Two friends who are scheming for the destruction of the Turkish nation!"

ASIA MINOR.

Smyrna, April 22.

Yesterday the Italian troops evacuated Sokia and retired to the port of Scala Nuova (opposite Samos). The British residents and a considerable number of Greek residents also left. The Italians supplied the Greek civilians with uniforms, and aided their escape. A Greek force, numbering about 10,000, marched from Balajik to Sokia and eluded the Kemalists, and entered Sokia last night. The leading Turkish families have also left Sokia and crossed the Meander to the Kemalist zone. There was no fighting or loss of life.

H.M.S. 'Calypso' has arrived at Smyrna, and along with the 'Trinidad' will remain on guard duty. There are also two French destroyers and one Italian in port.

Smyrna, May 1.

Yesterday the Greek Army occupied the port of Scala Nuova, recently evacuated by the Italians, who landed there in May, 1919, just before the Greeks occupied Smyrna.

A Turkish cavass, in the employ of Messrs. McAndrews and Forbes, an American firm, has been severely wounded by Greek soldiers at Alasheir, whilst they were searching for arms.

Captain Buchanan-Wooleston and other officers of the H.M.S. 'Calypso' visited the ruins of Ephesus yesterday, journeying in an excursion train which took the Efsavia Society to Aidin.

Judge Linton Thorpe from Constantinople has arrived in Smyrna and will proceed to hear in the British Consular Courts, the lawsuits which have accumulated since the Armistice.

Smyrna, May 6.

The evacuation by the Italians of their "zone" in Anatolia having been accomplished without the slightest appreciable disturbance in Smyrna, H.M.S. 'Calypso' and H.M.S. 'Trinidad' have left for Constantinople. H.M.S. 'Tumult' (Lieut.-Commander Archer) remains as guardship. The Turks remain quiet on the south and east banks of the Meander with Moughla as their base. By taking over the Italian "zone" the Greeks have recovered two Ionian cities: Magnesia-ad-Meandrum and Priene, the birthplace of Bias.

INDIAN IDEALS.

Speaking at the Lyceum Club recently before the Oriental Club, Lord Meston said we had given our best to the peoples of India, by training them as we had trained our own youth on the philosophy of Bentham and Mill, awakening in them the passionate love of freedom which characterised our race. This had resulted in inculcating into them that racial consciousness which was now the dominant note in what was best in the Nationalist movement. He had regarded this national consciousness with scepticism and scant sympathy; but he was now a whole-hearted convert to it. Diarchy was not ideal, but it was probably the best form of constitution which could be evolved at present, and it was an honest effort on the part of those responsible for the ruling of India to help her on the road to self-expression.

During the six months ended March 31, 1922, the Jewish National Fund spent £E65,634 on the purchase of land in Palestine, £E2,930 on buildings, £E5,149 on planting trees, and £E18,722 on land-reclamation, chiefly in the valley of Jezreel. *Al Ahaly*, the Zaghoulst newspaper in Cairo suppressed for six months in November, 1921, for having published false news and misrepresented the Administration, has again been suppressed, after reappearing for two days.

Three cases of typhus were notified in the Jaffa district of Palestine during the week ending April 24, 1922.

INDIAN ECONOMY.

Lord Inchcape has agreed to act as Chairman of the Committee to be appointed by the Government of India on expenditure. The remaining members of the Committee and terms of reference will be announced later. Lord Inchcape will proceed to India in the autumn of this year to prosecute the enquiry. Instructions are being issued to the Departments of the Government of India to make every preparation which can expedite and facilitate the Committee's work. As a part of this preliminary work, the activities of each branch of the administration will be examined, for the purpose of considering not merely what economy in working can be effected, but also whether the value of the work performed justifies the expense incurred, and of formulating (in advance of the Committee's meeting) proposals for such reductions of outlay as may appear to be feasible, it being borne in mind that, in the case of any activities which, though desirable in themselves, may in the present financial situation be beyond the means of the Government, discontinuance or restriction may in the interests of economy, be desirable. When Lord Inchcape's Committee assembles, the results of such examination will be laid before it. In order that progress of this preliminary work by the administrative departments may be watched, an officer of the Finance Department is being placed on special duty for the purpose. Meanwhile, in order to determine what reduction of staff is possible at Army Headquarters, a small Committee is now, as part of this preliminary work, sitting in Simla, the Chairman being Mr. Innes (Commerce Member of the Viceroyal Council), and the members General Sir Havelock Hudson and Mr. G. G. Sim, I.C.S.

THE INDIAN ARMY.

The Secretary of State for India announces that a decision has now been reached as to the terms on which junior officers of the Indian Army who are surplus to future requirements shall be retired. The main feature of the retirement scheme are: (a) a gratuity of £850 for Subalterns and £250 for Captains with increments for each year of service in the rank held on the date when service for gratuity ends. The increment for Subalterns will be £75, and for Captains £150 a year, (b) in the case of those who do not wish to draw the whole gratuity at once an allowance at the rate of £200 a year for unmarried officers or £300 a year for married officers for any period not exceeding 3 years during which the main part of the gratuity remains undrawn. Free passage will be provided to any port in the British Empire to which an officer and his family may wish to go. The number to be retired has not yet been exactly determined, but it is unlikely to be less than two thousand. The officers affected are those the initial date of whose Indian Army Commissions for the purpose of promotion falls within the period January 1, 1915, to December 31, 1918, inclusive. All possible consideration will be given to any representation officers may make on their own case, but the paramount consideration in the selection of officers for retirement will be the requirements of the service. The India Office and the Government of India are prepared, as far as possible, to advise officers who may be retired as to the best means of obtaining reliable information about careers in other parts of the Empire. Full particulars as to the terms are available on application to the Secretary, Military Department, India Office, Whitehall, and will be forwarded without application to all Indian Army Officers affected who are known to be at present in the United Kingdom. Such officers need take no action except in accordance with any instruction that they may receive.

BY AIR TO THE EAST.

Proposals by Commander C. D. Burney respecting a commercial line of airships to India and Australia have been considered by the Air Ministry during the past two months, and Commander Burney has now received a letter from the Ministry stating that, in the opinion of the Air Council, the scheme as now put forward by him constitutes a notable advance upon any other scheme of the kind which has previously been submitted to them. They point out, however, that any undertaking involving the regular use of airships as a means of communication must necessarily be of a highly speculative nature, especially from the commercial point of view, and at this stage they are unable to make any statement regarding the financial aspect of the scheme.

The Irish Guards, who recently arrived at Constantinople, last week made a ceremonial march through the main streets of the city.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

In consequence of queries, the Editor thinks it advisable to state that the quotation from any article does not necessarily imply that the views expressed are shared by "The Near East." On the contrary, an attempt is made to include as far as is possible in the available space all sides of the various questions discussed.

France on Islam.

Under the above heading a writer in the *Outlook* of April 22 had an article which suggests that France's position in the eyes of the Islamic world is by no means so secure as is sometimes believed. He refers to the French President's "stage-managed" North African visit as "good propaganda," and to the fact that "Englishmen, whose most cherished belief ten years ago was that we, and we alone, had learnt the secret of dealing with Mohammedan peoples and subject races generally, can now be heard arguing that the methods of France towards her Moslem subjects are far more successful than ours, and instance the perpetual calm that reigns in French North Africa as compared with the chronic unrest in Egypt." But he continues:—

The truth is that the French governing clique is profoundly disturbed about the situation in Algeria and Tunis; in Morocco there is less reason for anxiety since the country is still administered by the great feudal chieftains who do not object to the French Protectorate so long as they are left free in their relations with their followers. The other Protectorate, Tunis, is in a highly unsatisfactory condition. The Tunisian extremists are said to be in close contact with Stamboul and the propinquity of the Senussi helps to stiffen Islamic feeling amongst the lower classes. French observers testify to the "revolutionary spirit" that is abroad, and express satisfaction that at last a "strong" policy is being put into effect. The Tunisian Government has been forced to act very much as we have in Egypt; it has been found necessary to exercise a strict control over the native press, and any paper preaching sedition is suspended. If the unrest were confined to Tunis there would not be so much reason for anxiety. But Algeria itself, the foundation of the imposing fabric of empire the French have built in Africa, is contaminated. The Mohammedan population is showing a spirit which, if it continues to develop, will mean the end of the French domination in North Africa.

French policy in Algeria at one time aimed at the colonisation of the country by immigrants from France. This has failed, for to-day, while the total population is over five millions, only 620,000 of these are Europeans, and of the Europeans only 278,000 are of pure French extraction. Added to this the Mohammedans, mainly Berbers, are increasing far more rapidly than the colonists, at the rate of no less than 60,000 a year. So long as the natives were content to remain in the condition of a subject race the numerical superiority did not so much matter. But their agitation for better treatment resulted in a change of policy which was embodied in the law of 1919. This enfranchised the Berbers, and resulted in the swamping of the 140,000 French electors by nearly half a million natives. Had the Moslem population, as French journalists would have us believe, been Gallicised, and were it thoroughly loyal to France, this would not have mattered. But in spite of the efforts France has made to attract the sympathies of the world of Islam, shown in various ways, some praiseworthy, as in the provision of a Mosque and Moslem Institutes in Paris, others less reputable, as in posing as the friend of Islam, in contrast to the equivocal attitude of our Government, she has not even succeeded in winning over the North African Berbers who remain Nationalist, xenophobe, or whatever label you choose to attach to the frame of mind which shows itself in a disinclination to accept the rule of a foreign race.

And he goes on to state that "the result of the law of 1919 has been to create a definitely nationalist party, as definitely anti-French as the Egyptian nationalists are anti-British." He concludes:—

Trouble is made in various ways. In the towns, by means of strikes, Communist propaganda (the Native North African Proletariat through its representative adhered to the Third International at the Tours Congress), demonstrations, and the methods with which we are so familiar. In the country districts the natives are all armed, and though efforts have been made to call in all arms they have met with scant success. Public security in the provinces is not so good as in Egypt. The local French officials with their reduced powers are unable to cope with the situation. In Oran nine-tenths of the crime goes unpunished, and Oran is not peculiar. The French colonists are selling their lands in disgust, and their places are being taken by Berbers, thus hastening the decline of French influence and prestige.

But we need not continue the story. Enough has been said to prove that the loyalty of the North African natives to France is not so secure as some would believe, that *la France de la Victoire* can in her strength boast no immunity in North Africa from the unrest which has afflicted Egypt and other Islamic countries. Her plight is in reality far graver than ours. We have never pretended in Egypt to do more than administer the country until such time as the Egyptians reached the happy state of being able to do it for themselves. France has undertaken to make Algeria a part of herself, and she has failed. The Berbers have refused to become French citizens, and the old particularist North African spirit, which even Rome was unable to overcome, is now cropping up again as determined as ever. We can leave Egypt and be the stronger for it. But the whole scheme of French world policy, resting on military might, depends on the help that her African Empire can give. And now Algeria, of which it is the corner stone, is becoming anti-French!

The Situation in Egypt.

The New Statesman of May 6 contains an article on "The Egyptian Situation." It begins by saying that though there is good cause to hope that Sarwat Pasha's Ministry will be able and willing to hold the extremists in check, it must not be supposed that the Egyptian question is already settled once and for all. It then briefly reviews the causes of the unrest in Egypt since the Occupation, giving first place to foreign intrigue, religious fanaticism, and the unsuitability of certain officials in charge of Egyptians. It concludes:—

I think if we add to the above considerations the pervading feeling of the upper classes in Egypt that they are as capable of managing their own affairs as other nations already granted independence, or striving by violent means to gain independence, we shall have explained in some fulness the turbulent opposition with which English control in that country is being met at the present moment. A system of intimidation has been introduced in the towns which gives the country the appearance of being united to an infinitely greater extent than is really the case. Indeed, it cannot be said to be united at all if we take into consideration the feelings of the fellahen, who are the truest representatives of Egypt, and form at least two-thirds of the population, and I think we may add to them the merchants and lower classes of the town dwellers—with the exception of the few who are ready to break out into hooliganism at any favourable opportunity. I verily believe that, if it were possible to obtain a free plebiscite, the cry for autonomy and the expulsion of the British from Egypt would be found to proceed from the mouth of not more than five to ten per cent. of the whole population. The fellahen only desire to cultivate their land in peace. They have no taste for politics,

and their ignorance may be judged from the fact that one of them, learning from me that there are rivers in Europe, exclaimed, "Rivers in Europe! Then why do they say that the European nations come and wrangle over the Nile in Egypt because they can't get any sweet water to drink at home." Another one shouted out as I passed him, "*El Ingleez taiyibeen, el fellaheen taiyibeen, kullina taiyibeen*" ("The English are good people, the fellaheen are good people, we are all good people"). Those words told a story. Someone had been trying to influence him against us and his reply had been: "Leave us in peace; all is well." The generation which remembers the evil rule of the pashas is passing away, but the saying quoted by Lane in his *Modern Egyptians* must still be familiar to the fellaheen: "Give me the tyranny of the Turk rather than the justice of the Arab." The Judicial Adviser used to receive innumerable letters in pre-war times begging that it might be arranged that cases in which the writers were involved might be tried before courts where English judges were sitting.

If all European supervision is removed, will the fellah get his fair supply of water from the Nile? Will he again be overburdened with taxes as in the days of the earlier Khedives? Will he be able to stand up for his rights in a way he was not able to do before? Have the higher classes, the pashas and the beys, grown less selfish and greater lovers of justice? Experience alone can show, but I fear the fellah will have no new weapon. He is as he was, resourceless and without that education which he can never have so long as the language of literature remains distinct from the dialect which he speaks, and it is a matter of religion to keep it so because of the affinity of the written language to that of the *Koran*.

But however this may be, the time seems to have arrived when we must give the Egyptians a chance of showing whether or not they are fit for self-government without more than a moral control from outside, and if the leaders of the present agitation are wise they will accept that moral control in the form of a few carefully chosen, tactful and sympathetic advisers, subordinate to the authority of the native Ministers. But if the choice of these men is left to Egypt we shall not, of course, be able to insist that they shall be of British nationality, and I am afraid that many of the present leaders would prefer any nationality to British. Foreign

engineers and experts generally will also be required as before. The Egyptian has yet to be born who can plan a barrage or initiate any important irrigation work.

It may be argued superficially that it is not our business whether the Egyptians govern themselves equitably and intelligently or not. If a nation misgoverns itself, be it even a nation of savages, that, it might be said, is its own affair. But, however true this may be, as a general principle the fact that the Suez Canal which flows through Egyptian territory is a great trade route for all nations between the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean, brings it about that in this matter the interests of the British Empire are identical with those of the whole civilised world. I do not see, in these circumstances, how it will be possible to leave the country without a foreign garrison—at least in the Canal zone—however completely the control of their internal affairs remains in the hands of the native population.

CAIRO-BAGHDAD MAIL.

In the House of Commons on May 4, in the course of his opening statement in connection with the Post Office vote, Mr. Kellaway, Postmaster-General, referred in very complimentary terms to the Cairo-Baghdad Air Mail Service. He said:

"The most successful of all the air mail services with which this country is associated is that from Cairo to Baghdad. A letter sent from London to Baghdad in the ordinary way takes from 28 to 30 days; sent by air service, it takes only 12 days. The fee charged is only 6d. per ounce, the ordinary fee being 3d. Ten per cent. of the whole Baghdad letter mail is now being sent by air, and the efficiency and reliability which the Air Ministry has reached in this service will, I think, assure in the future that there shall be a great expansion in the use of the air mail in that district. I visualise the time when throughout the Empire we shall be able to provide air services which will make just as great a saving in time as that which the Air Ministry has succeeded in making between Cairo and Baghdad. No man can put any limitation to the possibilities of this service, and the fact that accidents have happened, that the percentage of reliability has not, so far, been very great, is no proof that the Air Ministry and those companies which have with great audacity invested their capital in these services will not succeed in doing for the whole of the Empire what the Air Ministry has succeeded in doing between Cairo and Baghdad. A Civil Aviation Advisory Board has been formed by the Air Ministry, with a representative of the Post Office upon it, and this is its first business:

'To consider the cost and the practicability of setting up an Imperial Air Mail Service.'

They are first directing their attention to the Cairo-Baghdad and the Baghdad-Bombay sections of a possible future Imperial air route to India and to Australia."

MONGALLA PROVINCE.

After spending a short time in Mongalla Province on his recent visit to the Sudan, Lord Allenby sent the following telegram to the Governor:—"I have great pleasure in expressing to you my complete satisfaction with everything I have seen in your Province. My visit has been most enjoyable and the trouble you have taken to ensure its success reflects great credit both on yourself and the members of your staff."

AMERICAN SUPPORT OF ZIONIST POLICY.

Judge Bernard Rosenblatt of New York, the American member of the Executive Committee of the World Zionist Organisation, in view of the resolution passed by the United States Senate endorsing the Zionist programme and the Balfour Declaration, has telegraphed from Jerusalem to Senator Lodge as follows:—"On behalf of my colleagues of the Palestine Executive accept our sincere thanks for the splendid action of the United States Senate in vindicating the Balfour Declaration and thereby maintaining the tradition of America as the protector of oppressed peoples and small nationalities."

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MUSICAL NOTES.

GRAMAPHONE RECORDS.

The May issue of "His Master's Voice" 12-in. records, though smaller than usual, is more worthy, for it contains nothing that is not of musical or of technical interest. First in importance, and I suppose in popularity, are the two double-sided discs made from numbers of the revised version of "The Beggar's Opera." Of the times that I have seen this delightful work at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, I have lost count, and, although these records are a very real delight, they will not inhibit my going many times more to the work. But in the meantime they are a most enjoyable substitute. On one side of the first disc are given "Thus gamblers united in friendship are found," sung with buffoon exaggeration and admirable merriment by Scott Russell and Tristan Rawson, "Can Love be controlled by advice?" which, though not too well sung by Kathlyn Hilliard, who is by no means so perfect a Polly Peachum as was Sylvia Nelis, is a gem for the sake alone of its beautiful accompaniment, and the famous "Lillibulero" tune—"The Modes of the Court so common are grown"—it is with delicious fitness that the arranger, Mr. Frederic Austin, has "uncletobied" this tune, giving it a whistling chorus, and here in reproduction, sung by Frederic Ralanow, F. Davies and Chorus, it is a witness to that perfect unanimity which makes the artistry of the present performers of "The Beggar's Opera" unassailable. As I say, the production at the Lyric is perfect in all parts, and in the subsidiary parts this perfection is especially noticeable. On the other side of this disc, there is, for example, "Why, How Now, Madame Flirt," done with the most spirited distinction by Dorothy Smithard and Phyllis Blackburne; and there are also "O cruel, cruel case," in which the noble *timbre* of Frederic Ralanow's magnificent voice is reproduced with quite extraordinary fidelity, and "I'm like a Skiff on the Ocean Tost," which I personally consider one of the finest things in the opera, and although here Violet Marquesita's marvellous grace and rhythm are not quite adequately suggested, this record is one particularly to treasure.

One ought to say something on the orchestra which supplies the basis of all these records: for Frederic Austin has not only scored the opera with unerring skill, he has secured an orchestra every member of which is a master, or rather mistress, both individually and in *ensemble*. It is pleasing indeed to have their efforts so well reproduced on the records. The second of these two discs contains, on the one side, "Man may escape from Rope and Gun," sung by Frederic Ralanow with that singular reserve of tragi-comic suggestion that is one of his most priceless qualities, "Thus When a Good Housewife sees a Rat," typical fun that is fully exploited by Violet Marquesita, and "The First Time in the Looking-glass," in which Ralanow indulges in the richest, most sumptuous buffoonery; and, on the other side, "The Turtle Dove with Plaintive Crying," which Kathlyn Hilliard sings to the accompaniment, drenched in beauty, of harpsichord, viola d'amore, and viola da gamba, an orchestral "Interlude" by Frederic Austin, which is a masterpiece of scoring, and "Old Simon the King," another testimony to the worthiness of the less important members of the cast and of the chorus.

These two records are almost an unalloyed pleasure to listen to, and he who can dispense with them must be an unfortunate man indeed.

But there are also other excellent things in this May issue, of which, for myself I like best the Flonzaley Quartet in the *assai agitato* movement of Schumann's Quartet in A major, Op. 41, No. 3. The balance in the Flonzaley's tone is a constant wonder, their individual tone, the matchless sonorities at their command, and their sense of tonal values are so inexpressibly lovely as to slip from one's memory to dreams. And their phrasing in this particular movement reveals the sounds of heaven.

No doubt many will buy the record that Rachmaninoff,

who is now playing in London, has made of his own arrangement of Kreisler's "Liebeslied," and indeed it is a well reproduced work of splendid, unaffected pianism, but it is a rather dull piece all the same, and though the variations make a good show they are not really masterly.

The record that Elgar has made of his own wonderful orchestrated version of Bach's Fugue in C minor is a little disappointing. It was Goossens who first introduced this version, and made it the rage of England, and at anything less thrilling than his reading one is now inclined to look a little askance. In any case, this record shows Elgar as conductor in subdued mood, and the magnificent dynamic possibilities of the work—that part of the end climax, for example, where the harps sweep up—are insufficiently exploited. But the lower parts are not very well reproduced: perhaps such full scoring demands a little more than the gramophone is at present capable of. On the reverse side of the Fugue is the delicate little ballad from Elgar's "King Olaf" (Little Bird in the Air). It is instinct with Elgar's grace, but its harmonies are not quite free and original.

Of the fourth movement, which Sir Landon Ronald has recorded on a double-sided disc, of Dvorak's "New World Symphony" I do not think very highly. It is well reproduced, particularly in the wood-wind, but the work itself is dull and the themes soon grow threadbare.

The two best vocal records are Martinelli in "Lontan, lontan, lontan da me ne andaste," from Tchaikovsky's "Eugène Onégin," which is notable not only for the pure tone, the fine passion, and the dramatic power of the singer, but for the unusually discreet and artistic accompaniment of the orchestra; and Galli-Curci in "Come per me sereno," from Bellini's "La Somnambula." Here Galli-Curci, though she has one superb shake, shows herself as something much more than a technician, for her phrasing is very beautiful, her sustained note purity itself, and her *pianissimo* exquisite. One hopes she will not long delay a visit to this country.

ANDANTE.

NEMESIS.

Our Athens Correspondent, writing on April 30, sends us a story, the resemblance of which to one told by "Corsair" in "The Caravanserai" on April 6 will no doubt be noticed by many of our readers:—

The Greek papers have been so full of politics lately that a most hideous murder, almost unparalleled in the annals of crime, which was committed a few days ago near Grevena, in Western Macedonia, passed practically unnoticed by the public. In the small village of Spilio, fifteen years ago, lived a family composed of the father, the mother and two children—a boy and a girl. They were very poor, and at the age of thirteen young George, not wishing to be a burden to his father, emigrated to America. Fortune was kind to him as was proved by the cheques which reached the old folks at home regularly each month. At the end of fifteen years George, a rich man now, decided to return to his native village. Arriving at Grevena one morning last week, he left immediately for Spilio. As the village where his sister—now a married woman—was staying was on the way, he called on her to give her various presents he had brought from America. Before leaving, however, George told his sister that as in all probability his old parents would not recognize him after so long an absence he intended to play a little joke on them. He would tell them that he had been working with their son in America, that they had always been inseparable friends and that he (the son) had given him twenty thousand drachmae for his old parents. George was not mistaken: neither his father nor his mother recognized him. On hearing, however, that the stranger was their son's friend they received him hospitably, and as it was getting late asked him to stay in their house for the night. After dinner the supposed friend, who had decided not to reveal his identity until the following morning, produced a huge wallet full of banknotes and counting twenty thousand drachmae handed the money to the overjoyed couple. A few hours later George was fast asleep in the best room of the house, but the old people had already made their satanical plans. They would do away with their guest and appropriate the contents of the "fat" wallet. Both armed—the father with an axe and the mother with a hatchet—they entered cautiously their son's room and after putting into execution their dastardly project and taking possession of the wallet, buried the body in their garden. When on the following morning, the murdered man's sister visited her parents and enquired after George the terrible truth dawned upon the criminal couple. The mother promptly stabbed herself to death, while the old man was arrested and is now in prison at Grevena awaiting his trial.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE PALAEOPATHOLOGY OF EGYPT.

"STUDIES IN THE PALAEOPATHOLOGY OF EGYPT." By Sir Marc Armand Ruffer, Kt., C.M.G., M.D. Edited by Roy L. Moodie, Ph.D. (Chicago: University Press.)

Edited by a distinguished American anatomist, well printed, and illustrated by many excellent plates, "Studies in the Palaeopathology of Egypt" by the late Sir Marc Armand Ruffer is a book which deserves to find a place in all the scientific libraries of the world, even if the interesting subjects of which it treats are dealt with in a fashion perhaps too technical to appeal at first sight to the general reader. The editor of these collected papers of the late Sir Marc Armand Ruffer, Professor Roy L. Moodie, of the University of Illinois, tells us in his preface that the author had intended to retire in 1919, in order to devote himself to the preparation of a book embodying his researches in the diseases of ancient Egypt; and anyone reading these studies, which represent the raw material accumulated for the production of the work contemplated, will realize that Sir Marc's untimely death in 1917 deprived the world of a classic in a branch of science still in its infancy, but which one feels is destined in the future to exercise a considerable influence over those others with which it is closely allied. Palaeopathology is the name given by Sir Marc Armand Ruffer to the science which is concerned with diseases afflicting man in the pre-historic and early historic periods, hence it is one which students of anthropology, medicine, geology, geography and history cannot even now afford entirely to ignore.

Of man regarded as one of the higher vertebrates we perhaps heard more than enough in the latter part of the last century; the story of his development into a social being, laboriously pieced together by a whole generation of scientists, has recently supplied Mr. H. G. Wells with one of his "best sellers," while of his history during the brief period which has elapsed since he first learnt the art of recording it intelligibly we know more and more every day. The study of man whether as an animal or a social being was indeed never more popular than in the present day, when discussions on his origin, his nature, his powers, and his limitations, occupy the thoughts of the speculatively-minded to an extent undreamt of a few years ago. It is thanks to the late Sir Marc Armand Ruffer that we are now privileged to view man in yet another aspect, since in these "studies in palaeopathology" he is presented to us in his character of the eternal patient—the afflicted being burdened with the load of constitutional disease by Nature, exasperated at the disturbance wrought in her ordered scheme of things by the process we have deified under the name of civilization. From the sketches of men who existed in prehistoric times in many parts of the world much has been already learnt of the diseases from which they suffered and of the injuries to which they were liable in peace and war; but the field covered is necessarily limited since the proportion of diseases involving the bony structures of the body is relatively small in proportion to those which leave them unaffected. It is practically only in Egypt that the study of the diseases coming under the latter category and prevalent among the ancients is possible, and we may be thankful to Fate which brought to that venerable land the great pathologist whose labours are recorded for us in this book. The many technical difficulties which had to be overcome

before success was achieved are explained in the passages in which are described in great detail the laboratory processes employed by him for preparing for microscopical examination the tissues of men embalmed in some cases as far back as 5000 years ago. How much the ancient Egyptian practice of embalming the dead has already assisted the modern study of disease is nowhere more strikingly demonstrated than in the chapters of the book dealing with the condition of the arteries of mummified corpses of the XVIIIth Dynasty examined by Armand Ruffer. The facts set forth in these chapters demolish practically all the theories at present current among medical men regarding the etiology of arterial degeneration, disposing at the same time of the belief that this disease is essentially one of modern life. From this alone we can judge the value of the researches of Sir Marc Armand Ruffer in the new field of science opened up by his enterprise, and one hopes that men to follow him in the work will not be lacking in the future, even if the prospect of making any further discoveries concerning the diseases of ancient Egypt does not appear very hopeful. The havoc wrought in her tombs by the plunderers and collectors who were suffered to rifle them unchecked for so many years cannot be undone, and to collect any great numbers of mummies for pathological examination would not now be possible.

The non-medical reader who may make the effort needed for reading this highly technical work may be promised a reward in the train of thought its study must inevitably set in motion in the minds of all to whom the world of imagination is as important as the world of reality. In all the speculations regarding the problem of the antiquity of man, his adaptation to changes in his environment, his migrations, and his spiritual and material development, disease as an influencing factor had been to all intents and purposes ignored until the late Sir Marc Armand Ruffer reminded us that man in common with all living things on the planet has had to struggle for his existence against disease among the myriad forces Nature has ceaselessly ranged against him. Evidence is every day accumulating that more than one branch of our species widely distributed over the earth for a period became extinct in time. How? and why? we are left to guess, but it is not unreasonable to suppose that disease was the determining factor, and that the micro-organism has played a part in the history of man no less important than climate. The ravages of the parasitic disease, sleeping sickness, in Central Africa in recent years has had a marked influence on the distribution of population in the continent, and the influence of epidemic disease on history can hardly be exaggerated. But apart from these wholesale visitations, the prevalence of particular diseases among particular races of men inhabiting certain areas of the world in the past may have had a considerable influence in shaping the destinies of the race as a whole. In Egypt prehistoric man found abundance of food and easy communications; civilization developed rapidly and a mighty empire arose on the banks of the Nile. But while these things were happening the race was becoming enervated by the climate and its increase was checked by disease. Long life appears to have been the portion of few of these people. Among the well-to-do arteriosclerosis took a heavy toll, among the poor osteoarthritis, and nearly all of the ancient Egyptians, Sir Marc Armand Ruffer seems to think, had more than their fair share of dental troubles—all this suggests the steady physical deterioration of the ancient Egyptians until the time when with the conquest of their country more vigorous strains were introduced into the population. Man as a distributor of disease hardly comes within the scope of this work, which confines itself to recording the signs of morbid change found in human remains belonging to certain periods in the history of Egypt, but one doubts not that every tribe, laid under toll to provide the country with the slaves who formed such a considerable portion of its

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population when the Empire of the Pharaohs was at its zenith, contributed its quota of disease to the common stock. It is interesting to note that Sir Marc Armand Ruffer was able to demonstrate the presence in a mummified corpse of the XXth Dynasty, of the ova of *Bilharzia Hoematobia*, a parasitic disease which, although of wide distribution, is only found to be greatly prevalent in Egypt, which is generally regarded as the country of its origin.

The reflections raised by the perusal of this interesting contribution to the literature of a profession probably as old as the human race bring one to the conclusion that in spite of the pessimists, we have every reason for congratulating ourselves that we are living in days when man's power for combating disease has been raised to the highest capacity it has so far reached in the history of the world. With the science of preventive medicine wholly unknown civilization nevertheless succeeded in maintaining itself for about five thousand years in the Nile valley, and if it survives the Genoa conference, who knows but it may not succeed in persisting into the remote future developed to a pitch far beyond the capacity of our imagination ever to grasp?

E. H. B.

A BURMESE BACKGROUND.

"THE GREEN MOTH." By G. E. Milton and J. G. Scott. (London: Murray. 7s. 6d. net.)

The fact that Sir George and Lady Scott are able to make obvious to the reader all through the reality of their knowledge of life in Burma alone makes this novel worth reading for those who like to be satisfactorily transported into a strange land or to renew their acquaintance with old haunts.

There is plenty of adventure, too, in the story of Darya Molineux, who, to hide her disappointment and sorrow after a tragic experience, went back to her Burmese foster-mother and tried to live in Burma without mixing with the European residents. We must confess that when, at the very beginning, Tom Marjoram carries Darya—who has sprained her ankle—across a rope bridge and announces in the middle that he is going to kiss her and that if she struggles they will fall into the torrent, a dismal recollection of a type of novel in which one is evidently expected to admire this kind of action made us fear that this was the introduction to the domineering hero. It was a relief to find Marjoram cast for the part of chief villain—there is a good crowd of Chinese villains as well—and to see his plans to carry Darya off in his launch frustrated by the matter of fact but noble hearted Deputy Commissioner who leads the heroine away to the conventional happy ending.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Vijaya Dharma Suri: His Life and Work." By A. J. Sunavala, B.A., LL.B. (Cambridge: The University Press. 5s. net.)

"Malcolm's Memoir of Central India: Abridged and Edited for the use of Colleges and Schools." By C. H. Payne, M.A. (London: George Routledge. 3s. 6d. net.)

"Edward MacDowell." By J. F. Porte. (London: Kegan Paul. 7s. 6d. net.)

"The Real Tsaritsa." By Madame Lili Dehn. Illustrated. (London: Thornton Butterworth, Ltd. 15s. net.)

"Spanish Galicia." By Aubrey F. G. Bell. Illustrated. (London: The Bodley Head. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Russia's Foreign Relations during the Last Half Century." By Baron S. A. Korff, D.C.L. (London: MacMillan and Co. 10s. 6d. net.)

"Jugo-Slav Stories." By Pavle Popovic. (New York: Duffield and Co. 2.00. dollars.)

"The Mercy of Allah." By Hilaire Belloc. (London: Chatto & Windus. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Gipsy Love." By Konrad Bercovici. (London: Nash & Grayson. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Cyprus: How to See it." By Alexander R. Khoori. (Alexandria: The Anglo-Egyptian Supply Association. 3s. or 15 Piastres Egyptian.)

"Son of Power." By Will Lexington Comfort and Zamin Ki Dost. (London: Thornton Butterworth, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Home Management." By 'Eva.' (London: Thornton Butterworth, Ltd. 2s. 6d. net.)

"Broken Horizons." By Dana Burnet. (London: Thornton Butterworth, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

SIR PERCY SYKES ON PERSIA.

Lecturing before the Central Asian Society at the Royal United Service Institution on Thursday, Sir Percy M. Sykes told the story of the events in Persia during the war, and his own part in them. Persia, he said, was a neutral state; but her troops were of little military value, and her grandees cared only for making money certainly out of one belligerent, if possible out of two or even three. The inevitable result was that during the course of the war there were few provinces of Persia that did not hear the tramp of alien troops. The attitude of the Persian Government towards himself was friendly so long as it appeared that the Allies were winning, but when in the spring of 1918 Germany made her last great advance, a change took place, and an official declaration was made that the South Persia Rifles were a foreign force and a menace to Persian integrity—this same force they had congratulated him upon a year before, thanking him for restoring the Persian Government and establishing order. He thought the various missions that the British Government had sent into or across Persia had served a purpose in protecting India. If the Germans had got through to Tashkent in Russian Turkestan, they would have found there enough prisoners of war to make two divisions, and they could have equipped these troops and invaded India. A good deal of constructive work was done by the British in Persia during the war; amongst other things a very fine road had been made from the Persian frontier to Hamadan, and, after the armistice, another most wonderful road had been made from Bushire to Shiraz. This had been constructed by General Douglas. In the district immediately under Sir Percy Sykes' own command a very large mileage of tracks had been opened up for wheeled traffic.

In the discussion that followed Lord Lamington said it was a deplorable thing that the South Persia Rifles had not been maintained; but the Indian Government could not find the money, and the Persian Government would not, and so the force had to be disbanded.

Sir Hugh Barnes said that an achievement which still remained was the railway from Nushki to Seistan, making connection between the Indian railway system and the Persian border. But he had read a report from India that it was proposed to pull up the rails and dismantle this line. He hoped such a retrograde proposal would not be adopted; for whatever happened the Nushki-Seistan railway was bound to be of great value in the future. Only four hundred miles separated it from the Russian Trans-Caspian line; if that gap was bridged there would be practically railway communication between India and Europe.

EASTERN PAINTINGS.

An exhibition of Indian and Persian paintings is now open to the public in the Oriental section of the exhibition gallery of the Department of Prints and Drawings at the British Museum. In addition to the main collection, which consists of Persian and Indian paintings (chiefly of the Mogul School) of the 16th and 17th centuries, examples are shown of paintings from Nepal, Eastern Turkestan, Tibet, and Siam, with a few specimens of the contemporary Calcutta School. The exhibition will remain open through the summer and autumn.

"AFRICA AND THE EAST."

Anyone who has travelled in lands in which the Church Missionary Society is at work must surely recognise the value of that work and the splendid spirit of the men and women who carry it on. The Society is now (from May 17 to June 15) holding an exhibition, "Africa and the East," at the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington; and those who have had no opportunity of seeing its work abroad are thus enabled to form a very good idea of its activities, and to do a great deal of interesting sight-seeing at the same time. India, Egypt, the Sudan, and Palestine are all represented here, to say nothing of lands farther afield, such as China and Japan, which lie outside the scope of this paper; and one and all will repay a visit. We cordially wish the Exhibition all the success it deserves, and trust that it will be the means of furthering and helping greatly the fine work of the C.M.S.

ARABS AND ZIONIST RULE.

The Arab Delegation from Palestine was received on May 10 in the House of Commons at a largely attended conference, consisting of members of the two Houses of Parliament. The meeting was organized by the National Political League. The following resolution, moved by Sir W. Joynson-Hicks and seconded by Captain Elliott, was carried with two dissentients:—

"That this conference of members of both Houses of Parliament, supported by the general public, considers that justice to the Palestine Arab case demands—(1) A national self-government of Palestinians within the terms of the British Mandate; (2) abolition of the Zionist Commission in Palestine; (3) the approval of Parliament of the terms of the Mandate when finally settled by the League of Nations; and requests the members of both Houses in sympathy with the Arab cause to approach the Prime Minister and the Colonial Secretary to press these views upon the attention of the Government."

Sir Herbert Samuel, High Commissioner for Palestine, entertained the Palestine Arab Delegation, now in London, at dinner at the Reform Club in the same evening. Lord Milner was among those present.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.**To-Day.**

May 18 (New Style).

May 5 (Old Style).

Ramadan 21, 1340 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.

Iyar 20, 5682 of the Jewish Calendar.

Lady Islington arrives in London to-day from Paris.

Mrs. Jack Hubbard has returned to 6a, Pont Street, from Cairo.

The Albanian Minister has taken 8, Onslow Gardens, as his residence.

Mgr. Fan Noli, the Albanian Minister for Foreign Affairs, has resigned.

The Maharaja Jam Sahib of Nawanagar has arrived in London from India.

Lieut.-General Sir George and Lady Barrow have arrived in England from India.

The Bishop of Madras, with Mrs. Whitehead, landed at Plymouth last week from Bombay.

Lieut.-General Sir Aylmer Haldane has arrived at 19, Talbot Square, W.2., from Mesopotamia.

M. D. Frangopoulos, Commercial Attaché at the Greek Legation, has returned to town from Paris.

Mr. Ronald Storrs, Governor of Jerusalem, arrived in England last week on three months' leave of absence.

Mr. H. Lock, General Manager of the Bank of Roumania, has left London on a visit to Roumania.

Lady Rawlinson, who has arrived on a six months' visit from India, will be at 56, Cadogan Square until the end of the month.

It is stated that the King of Egypt will go to Alexandria early in June, and thence soon afterwards to Europe to visit various European capitals.

M. Nicolas Misu, Secretary at the Roumanian Legation, left London during the week-end for Brussels, to take part in the Hard Court Tennis Championship.

Prince Nicholas of Roumania left London on May 14 for Bucharest, in order to attend the wedding of King Alexander of Yugoslavia and Princess Marie of Roumania.

The engagement is announced between Captain E. H. Baxter, 5th Fusiliers, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Baxter, of Rainhill, Lancashire, and Florence Henrietta, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Millar M. King, of Calcutta.

The Cairo correspondent of the *Morning Post* states that the King of Egypt has awarded the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Nile to Mr. R. S. Patterson, who has just retired from the post of Adviser to the Ministry of Education.

At the invitation of the Bulgarian Government, a delegate of the International Labour Office, M. Max Lazard, has left for Bulgaria to make an examination of, and present a report on, the working of the Law on Compulsory Labour, which has now been in operation for two years.

Under the auspices of the East India Association, Sir Valentine Chirol will read a paper on May 22, at 3.30 p.m., on "India in the League of Nations: What she gains." The meeting, which will be presided over by Sir Thomas J. Bennett, C.I.E., M.P., will take place at the Caxton Hall, Westminster.

The engagement is announced of Lieutenant-Commander Harold Francis Beckham Handley, R.N., son of Mr. F. F. Handley (I.C.S., retired) and Mrs. Handley, of Handley Cross, Cheltenham, and Evelyn, only daughter of Commander G. S. Walsh, R.N., and Mrs. Walsh, of Douro Lodge, Cheltenham.

Last Sunday, at Jews' College, Queen's Square House, Guildford Street, W.C., Mr. Israel Cohen, the Director of Publicity in the Zionist Organization, gave a lecture for which he chose the title of "Mr. Belloc and other contemporary anti-Semites." The meeting was under the auspices of the Anglo-Palestine Club.

The Calcutta dinner will be held at the Hotel Cecil on May 30. Lord Cable will preside, and the Right Hon. the Earl of Ronaldshay, P.G., G.C.S.I., will be the guest of the evening. For tickets (£1 is. exclusive of wines) application should be made promptly to Mr. Walter Davies, Hon. Treasurer, Downinhurst, Ealing, W.5.

Over two hundred and fifty guests were present at the banquet given to Sir Gilbert Clayton, the retiring Adviser to the Egyptian Minister of the Interior. They included Sarwat Pasha and all the Cabinet Ministers, three former Prime Ministers, the King's Chamberlain, and all the Governors and notables from every province in Egypt.

Under the auspices of the India Society a lecture will be delivered at the Victoria and Albert Museum on May 19 by Professor J. Ph. Vogel (late Superintendent, Archaeological Survey of India) on "The Relation between the Art of India and Java." The lecture, which will be presided over by His Excellency the Netherlands Minister, will begin at 3.15 p.m.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Major Alister Ralph Thomson, M.C., 7th D.C.O. Rajputs, Indian Army, third son of the late Sir George Thomson, K.C.B., Indian Medical Service, and of Lady Thomson, and Helen Mary, younger daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. George Tuchet Robertson, of Instow, N. Devon, and Kurnoul, Tirhout, India.

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We are officially informed that at the wedding, which is to take place on June 1, of Prince Alexander and Princess Marie, the first witness (*Kum*) will be H.R.H. The Duke of York, the second witness (*Stari Svat*), H.R.H. Prince Arsen Karageorgevitch, brother of the late King Peter. The Guide of the bride will be H.R.H. Prince Paul of Serbia, and the honeymoon will be spent among the Alps at Bled, Slovenia.

The engagement is announced between Geoffrey Hill, of Langham Mansions, Earl's Court Square, and Liskeard, Cornwall, son of the late Samuel Hill, F.R.I.B.A., and Adelaide Mary, second daughter of the late Lancelot Holland, Inspector-General of Police and Prisons, Colombo, Ceylon.

The marriage was solemnized at St. Mary Magdalene Church, Bournabat, Smyrna, on April 26, between Mr. E. J. C. Charnaud, son of the late Mr. Edwin Charnaud, Inspector of the "Debt Public," Smyrna, and Miss Doris Pengelley, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred W. Pengelley of Bournabat.

M. Beza, one of the Secretaries of the Roumanian Legation, is shortly leaving London for Roumania to resume the course of lectures delivered last year at the Bucharest University on the Romantic period in English Literature. As the centenary of Shelley falls next June, M. Beza hopes to give some lectures on Shelley and his cycle. He has just concluded at King's College a series of lectures on Roumanian literature.

Excavations of the Egypt Exploration Society at Tell-el-Amarna, 1921-1922, will be the subject of a lecture, illustrated with lantern slides, to be delivered at the Royal Society, Burlington House, on May 23, at 8.30 p.m. The lecturer will be Mr. C. Leonard Woolley, who was in charge of the expedition. Tickets can be obtained gratis on application to the Secretary, The Egypt Exploration Society, 13, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.

On the occasion of the Roumanian National Fête Day—May 10—the Minister and Madame Titulesco received the members of the colony at the Legation, 4, Cromwell Place, during the afternoon.

The Greek Chargé d'Affaires and Madame Rizo-Rangabé gave a luncheon party on May 10 at the Legation, and among the guests were the Grand Duchess George of Russia and Princess Nina, Sir Basil Thomson, and Major A. Boyd-Carpenter, M.P.

APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS.

The Air Ministry announces that Major-General Sir W. S. Brancker, K.C.B., A.F.C., has been appointed Director of Civil Aviation in the Air Ministry. He filled several staff appointments in India in the early part of this century, and it was there, in the winter of 1910-11, that he first flew as an observer. He went to the War Office in 1913, and was appointed Deputy-Director of Military Aeronautics in 1914, and Director of Air Organisation in 1916. In the latter part of 1917 he was appointed to the Command of the Royal Flying Corps in the Middle East, and he was promoted Major-General of the Air Force in January, 1918. In 1919 he retired in order to devote himself to the development of commercial aviation. He was created K.C.B. in the same year.

The King has appointed Mr. Alexander Ransford Slater, C.M.G., C.B.E. (Colonial Secretary, Gold Coast), to be Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of Sierra Leone. Mr. Slater is a son of the late Rev. C. S. Slater, of Plymouth, and was born in 1874. Joining the Ceylon Civil Service in 1898, he occupied important positions there until 1912, when he was transferred to the Gold Coast. In 1906 he married Dora, daughter of Mr. H. T. S. Ward, who was Director of Irrigation in Ceylon.

OBITUARY.

The death has occurred of Mr. William Wesley Masterson, American Consul at Plymouth. Mr. Masterson, who was born in 1861, was for two terms of three years Consul at Aden, and he also served at Batoum and at Harput.

The death has occurred of Sir Walter Raleigh, a most distinguished lecturer at Oxford University. During the last vacation Sir Walter made a journey to Baghdad to gather material for a section of the history of the Air Force during the War, and while doing so he contracted typhoid fever.

BATOUM REUNION DINNER.

The first annual Batoum reunion dinner was held last week at the Connaught Rooms. Captain R. E. Chilcott, R.N., was in the chair in the absence of Brigadier-Generals Cokecollis and Tyndale Biscoe. Amongst those present Colonel Dutton, Colonel Barber, Colonel Henderson, Colonel Letham, Colonel Lavers, Major South, Lieutenant-Commander Vevil and Major Wilson. The guests were Lord Raglan and Sir Percy Sykes. The latter during the evening related his experiences in Batoum thirty-two years ago.

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THURSDAY, MAY 18, 1922.

THE GOSPEL OF HATE.

The improvement in the position in India which has become so obvious during the last two months makes it possible, and at the same time desirable, to attempt an estimate of the future, based not on momentary outbursts of sentiment or passion, but on the more lasting movements discernible in the stream of national life. There is a tendency in some quarters to assume that all the trouble is over, and that the country is returning to the old apathy which some observers mistook for placidity, but in our judgment that view should be discarded once for all. There may be fewer eddies on the surface of the stream, but the increase in its pace must be accepted as a permanent fact. Indian thought and feeling will insist in finding expression more and more as time goes on: interest in public affairs will spread in ever-widening circles among the population: the peasantry will be brought more definitely into politics; and conditions will steadily become more favourable for the effective formulation of a genuine national policy. Englishmen at least should not complain at such a change, for it is the necessary consequence of their actions during the last hundred years: the magnitude of the achievement can indeed scarcely be overstated, and to those who can judge the present by comparison with the past, the future would be full of promise, if it were not for the emergence of a strange and sinister factor in the spread of racial hate. This factor may justly be described as new. In the past individual Indians may have hated individual Englishmen, or even Englishmen in the mass, but it is only recently that entire classes of Indians have been urged, unhappily not without success, to hate Englishmen in general, as a national and religious duty; and any reasoned forecast of the future must take this new factor seriously into account. It would be a mistake to exaggerate the success already achieved by this poisonous propaganda; racial hatred is still very far from being universal, and competent observers can travel widely in many parts of India without detecting its symptoms; but of its existence there can unfortunately be no question, and the rapidity with which it may extend makes of each existing nucleus a menace to the prospects of a much larger area than is affected at the moment.

The preachers of this gospel of hate fall into two classes. At the outset they were for the most part well-meaning but ignorant enthusiasts. Realising acutely the obvious defects in the national life, they laid the blame for every evil on British rule, and believed that its extirpation would suffice to bring the Millennium to India's door. Had they taken the trouble to learn the facts, they would have been forced to recognise that nearly all the defects on which they insisted were in origin definitely Indian, that Englishmen had long been working for their removal, and that the true sphere of usefulness was the stimulation of Indians to share in the work; but the gift of knowledge was denied to them, and in their ignorance they laboured to eliminate, not the defects, but the most powerful agents for reform. As time went on, these enthusiasts were reinforced by apostles of a very different type, who desired not to reform but to restore the old India, and who realised that, in order to achieve that object, British influence

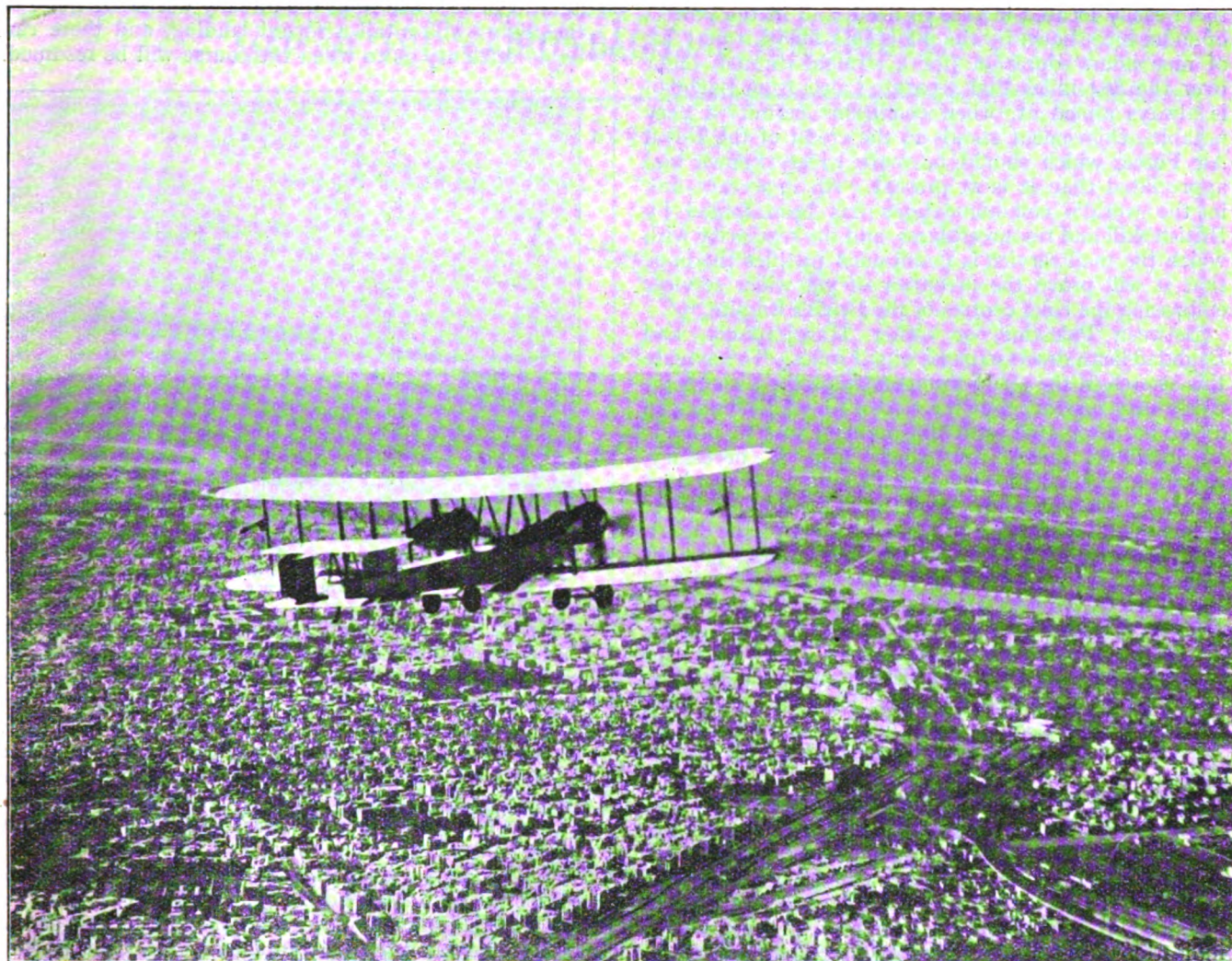
must be definitely driven out. The anti-British propaganda was thus active and virulent, while the soil was favourable to the seed. The new national self-consciousness was quick to believe good of itself, and evil of others. Year after year, crowds of young men passed from schools and colleges into active life imbued with the idea that England was the enemy. The doctrine became common form in the Press and on the platform; it was not seriously controverted, and to-day it is unquestionably one of the dominant ideas among the Indian middle classes. Of late it has extended to a wider field, for it has been presented to ignorant workmen and peasants in the mass as a short-cut to social and economic salvation; it has undoubtedly made some headway among these classes, and, from the nature of the case, a large and sudden extension among them is a definite possibility of the time, if indeed it should not be described as a definite probability in the absence of effective counteraction.

It is largely on effective counteraction that the future of India now depends. The share that Englishmen can take in this work is small. They are bound, as individuals and in the mass, to abstain from anything which offers reasonable ground for offence; they are equally bound to avoid anything which can be interpreted as fawning on the classes endowed by them with power; it is sufficient that now, as in the past, they should be guided by the traditions of the race, should ignore hatred when it is manifested, and should welcome friendly cooperation. The main burden of the task rests on those Indians, and happily for India they are numerous, who believe that the best hope for their nation lies in its development as an integral portion of the British Empire, who realise the defects and the dangers of the old national civilisation, and who aspire to effect a working synthesis between East and West. The spread of the gospel of hate would be fatal to such hopes and aspirations; left to itself, it will assuredly spread, and its eradication calls for hard and sustained effort on the part of those who cherish the higher ideal. Perhaps the most hopeful feature in the position in India to-day is the extent to which this truth is being grasped, and this precept is being obeyed. We hear from North, and East, and West of insensate manifestations of racial hatred, but at the same time we hear of increasing cooperation, of the growth of friendly social relations, and of the development of mutual respect. Much is indeed being done, but more is needed, if India is to make good her place within the Empire. Of the men of good will, far too many are still diffidently silent; they await the issue, but give no help in its decision; they have not yet learned the lesson that their position can best be defended by attack; their effective intervention at the present juncture would probably be decisive; but so long as they are content to watch and wait, the possibility of disaster remains. We ask them to consider seriously what disaster would mean. The apostles of hate talk glibly of driving the English out of India: the more probable result of their success would be the expulsion of India from the Empire for proved unworthiness of the membership which was so fully offered. The logical outcome would be an India internally free, but with the coasts policed by foreign ships, and the sea-borne trade taxed by foreigners to an extent sufficient to meet existing foreign liabilities. It would then matter little to the world how India was ruled, whether from Kabul or from Khatmandu: it might matter much to Indians, but the world would not be interested in their domestic concerns. They would have missed the chance that is now within their grasp, the chance of going steadily forward towards an equal share in the most progressive political society the world has yet known, the chance of drawing on the wisdom of the West, and of contributing their own ideas to the common stock. The choice is still open, though the position of India in the Empire has undoubtedly been prejudiced by the manifestations of the past year; it is for those Indians who aspire to the higher destiny to insist that further offence shall not be given.

BY AIR TO BAGHDAD

By H. T. MONTAGUE BELL

A TRIBUTE TO A NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE.



OVER CAIRO Under the Aeroplane are seen the Esbekiyah Gardens; at the end of the lower left wing, Abdin Palace, the residence of King Fuad; at the lower right wing, Kasr-el-Nil Bridge with a long line of houseboats (dahabeeyahs) stretching to the right.



AT ZIZA: The outgoing Air Mail meets a motor convoy which has just renewed the track across the desert.



A D.H.9a on the Cairo-Baghdad mail service, with Pilot.

BY AIR TO BAGHDAD.

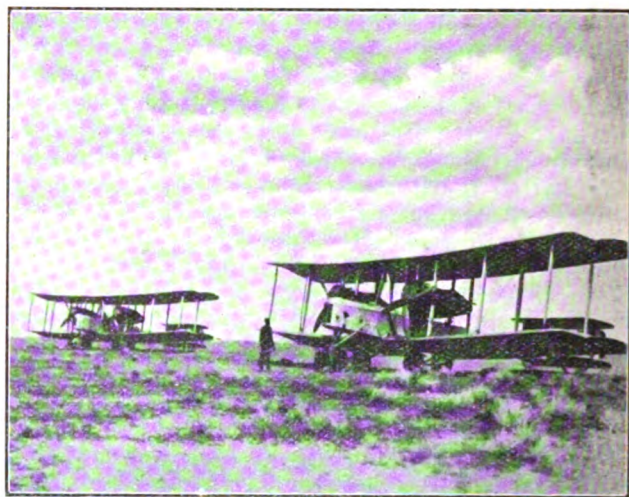
Flying has become a commonplace of the world's everyday life, but a "Passenger" by the Air Mail between Cairo and Baghdad may be forgiven for supposing that in that particular journey there are certain distinctive features which invest it with an interest not attaching to every flight. It must be a dull imagination that is not thrilled by the possibility of setting eyes in one and the same day on the historic lands of Egypt, Palestine and Mesopotamia. But it is not so much the distance actually covered that distinguishes this journey from others as the physical obstacles which have had to be overcome before a regular mail service could be attempted. In the scoring of over five hundred miles of desert in a way that not only provides the pilots with a clearly marked course, but also inspires confidence from the knowledge that a forced descent will leave them easily located in case of need, and in the powers of endurance shown by the pilots in a flight, it may be, of nine hours' duration (for a straight-through flight over the 864 miles that separate Cairo from Baghdad is always aimed at, when conditions permit) a very notable achievement stands to the credit of the Royal Air Force, which should be more widely known and appreciated than it is at present. An important link in the world's communications has been forged by British skill and resourcefulness, and the regularity with which the mail service is maintained justifies the hope that it will prove the precursor of yet wider services embracing the chief centres of the British Empire.

Between Palestine, or rather Transjordan, and Baghdad lies a desert expanse of 532 miles. To navigate this stretch in the air by compass would be a comparatively easy matter; but the risk of forced landings can never be eliminated, and the problem was to provide an infallible means by which help, if necessary, should be available for the stranded pilot. It has been solved by the ingenious expedient of passing a number of lorries and cars over the same track across the desert, and marking off a series of possible landing grounds which will act as a guide to a pilot and enable him to be located by wireless whether during the flight or when compelled to land. The work of mapping the course across the desert was carried out in June, 1921, the western half, from Amman to El Jid under the direction of Mr. John Ball, O.B.E., D.Sc. Phd., M. Inst. C.E., Director of Desert Surveys, Egypt, while the Royal Air Force, Baghdad, made itself responsible for the eastern section.

The Desert Track.

This narrow track—twin parallel lines five or six feet apart—is the pilot's sole navigating chart. On favourable ground it stands out clearly enough, whether from a height of 3,000 ft. or 8,000 ft.; but, as may be imagined, it is none too easy to pick up without any indications as to its locality, nor is it always a simple matter to follow it, when found, if the nature of the terrain has prevented the vehicles from making more than a slight impression on the surface. Occasionally the single track has been reinforced by a number of separate tracks, where the cars and lorries have spread out instead of following one another, as offering an easier mark for the airman; but for the most part the task of the pilot is to hold grimly to the single narrow streak, and should he lose sight of it at any time, there is nothing for it but to circle round in the air or to retrace his course until the track has been picked up again. Apart from the circles on the ground, with letters or figures in them, which indicate landing places, the general configuration of the desert offers an insufficient number of distinctive features to enable a machine to follow the right course the whole way without the help of the track. From the aerodrome of Amman, on the Hejaz Railway—the last place at which the store of petrol can be replenished for the eastward flight—a compass direction is sufficient to locate Kasr Azrak, or Landing Ground "C," the first landing ground, fifty miles away, which with its marshes and pools offers a conspicuous land mark. To avoid bad ground the

track has had to make a detour to the south both west and east of Azrak, but aeroplanes keeping a course due east pick it up twenty-nine miles farther on where the black mud flat, which is a feature of the lava country traversed for the next fifty miles, makes its first appearance. Here and there, where there is a chance of the track being lost, an arrow mark, with barb at each end, has been made on the ground to give the pilot or a motor convoy the direction. When the light and the condition of the ground enable the track to be sighted a distance ahead all is clear flying, and there is no need to crane one's neck over one side or the other to see whether the right course is being kept. The regular whirr of the propeller—in the case of twin-engine machines reinforced by the drone of the engines on a lower note—and no one wishes for cheerier music! On that steady rhythm hangs the success of the journey, for a "cut-out," or a few of those misfires which seem to derive additional violence from the already deafening noise of the flight, will entail a forced landing, and there can be no certainty as to when the course will be resumed.



A forced landing in the desert, owing to engine trouble. Camel thorn much in evidence.

If weather conditions are favourable—it can be very "bumpy" in the air over this stretch of country—there can be few more exhilarating experiences than this rapid thrust through the air on an "even keel." Even with scenery, as the word is generally understood, left far behind, the varied configuration of the ground has an attraction all its own. The average height of the plateau over which we are flying is about 2,000 ft. The surface consists of rolling uplands with shallow depressions; for a time black and yellow are the prevailing colours, where mud flats and basalt boulders contribute with the sand the chief features. These flats are sometimes several miles in diameter; formed as the result of evaporation of drainage water, collecting in depressions after rain and charged with sand and fine reddish yellow mud, they are as level as a billiard table. Outside the volcanic area the desert is more strictly speaking steppe country. Between November and April rainstorms sweep across it, and in the latter portion of this period at least it is covered with an apologetic verdure, over which parched tufts of camel thorn exercise a somewhat aggressive dominion. On the ground itself, as a forced landing soon reveals, nature appears far from unkindly. Innumerable wild flowers are in bloom, all stunted perhaps, except the mustard plant, but diversified enough in colour, with blue and yellow irises, marguerites white or yellow, here and there mignonette, bright patches of maiden pink, and a graceful member of the thistle family with a brown and yellow flower. Animal life is represented mainly by birds, but a convoy may be fortunate enough to restock its larder from a herd of gazelle. During March the sand grouse are busy mating, and one can watch the flocks pairing off; of jackals and hyaenas I can only speak from hearsay. The winding strips of darker green are *wadi* courses, which before many weeks have passed will be as void of vegetation as the rest

of the surface. Uncharted though the desert may be, the countless tracks by which it is scored prove that, apart from well-worn caravan routes, the Arabs find in it good enough grazing for both camels and sheep. In the course of five or six forced landings it so happened that on one only—the third night to be spent in the desert on the return journey—was a visit received from any local denizen.

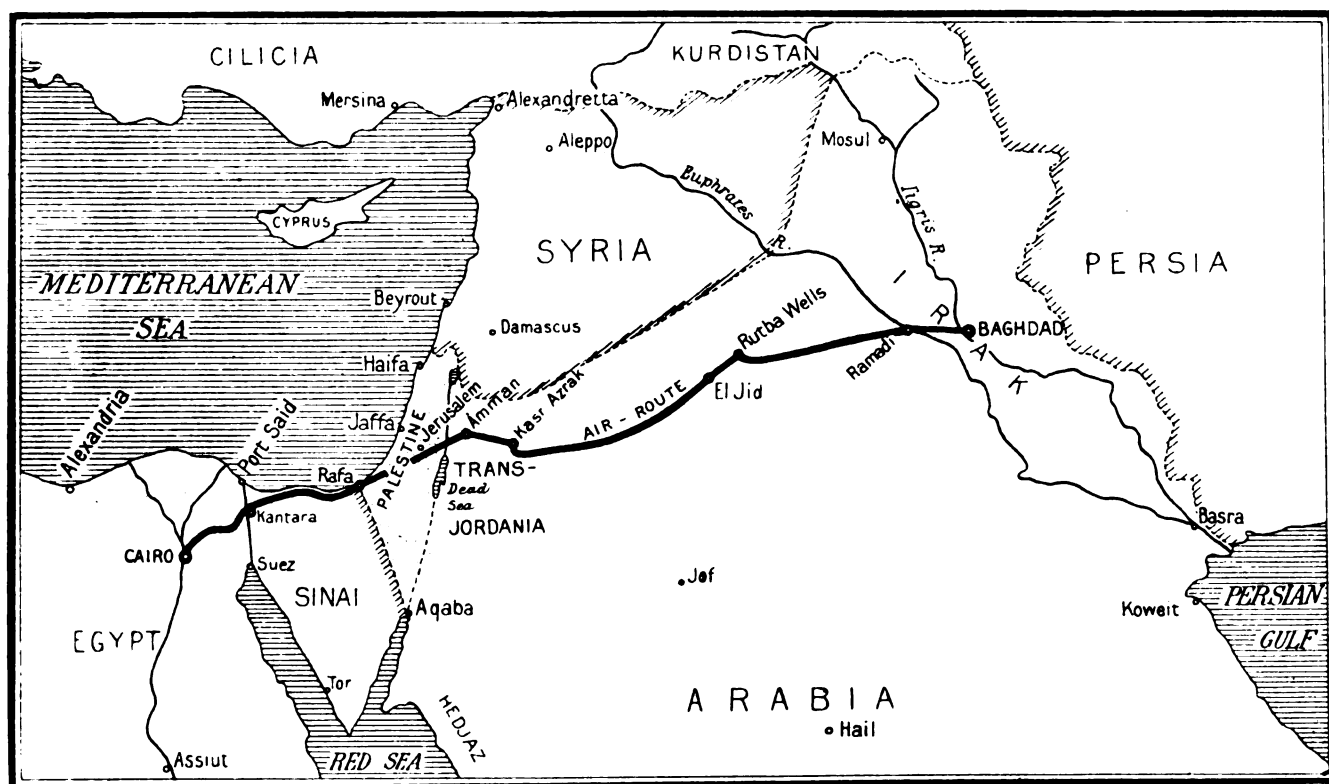
Earlier in the trip an impressive sight was afforded by a body of Arabs, about a thousand strong, mounted on camels and horses, advancing in wide formation, evidently on raiding bent. Their attitude towards His Majesty's Air Mail was a friendly one, for as the leading aeroplane passed directly over them at an altitude of only two or three hundred feet, it afforded an easy mark for any one with hostile intent. When, moreover, it is remembered what a temptation any special target is to an armed Arab in perfect friendliness towards his possible victim, we must infer that this particular

Apparently convinced by these answers, the Arabs allowed the engine defect to be remedied, and the aeroplane continued its solitary journey. Whether they would have adopted a different attitude if they had known that the replies to their inquiries were one and all inaccurate must remain a matter of conjecture.

The Psychology of the Air.

With the exception of the pilots most of those who have travelled by aeroplane between Cairo and Baghdad seem to have found the journey tedious after a time. It is true that the initial exhilaration experienced from rapid movement through the air is inclined to wear thin after two hours; but as in the case of riding a man can never become a first-class horseman until he has grown "dog-tired" in the saddle, so, I think, a long stretch in the air is necessary, if one is to learn something of the psychology of the air. My eighteen or nineteen hours in the air interspersed with almost as many days spent in the company of members of the R.A.F., filled

MAP OF THE CAIRO-BAGHDAD AIR-ROUTE



raiding party was also well disciplined. Their attitude was in keeping with the general experience of airmen along the Air Mail route, and it may be left to the individual to decide whether motives of kindness or of wholesome respect are the determining factor. There can be little doubt that the action of the Royal Air Force in picking up and flying to Baghdad a wounded sheikh found in the desert, and in procuring for him the medical treatment that saved his life has wonderfully impressed the Arabs in this part of the world and disposed them to friendliness. On the other hand, in view of the nomad weakness to take advantage of any superiority of numbers, the occupants of a temporarily stranded machine are well advised not to reveal to inquiring Arabs the full extent of their plight. On one occasion a pilot on making a forced landing was approached by a number of Arabs whose attitude was expectant rather than friendly. He knew some Arabic, and the following dialogue ensued. "Are you alone?" "No." "How many other aeroplanes are there?" "Ten." "Are they coming here?" "Yes." "Does your aeroplane talk a long distance (wireless)?" "Yes." "Have you told Amman you are here?" "Yes."

me with the profoundest admiration for the personnel of the new Service. For most pilots, I understand, it is a mild form of purgatory to be piloted by someone else. Each pilot has his own particular psychology reflected in the handling of his machine; as the psychology of no two pilots is likely to be identical, there will always be subtle differences in flying technique, and presumably a pilot does not take kindly to methods that are not his own. The layman is not worried by such considerations. Of my own experience I can only say that on the occasion of my finding myself in the air for the first time, after a few attempts to assist the pilot to balance the machine by leaning to one side or the other, as one would in a rowing boat, one quickly settled down to an unmitigated enjoyment of the novelty of the situation—and left the machine entirely to the pilot. One becomes impressed with the stability of aeroplanes, which seem equal to the worst vagaries of the atmosphere.

The day of "stunts" is over; only a fool or a foreigner attempts them outside sports gatherings. The Cairo-Baghdad flight is a serious undertaking, and a pilot needs all the skill and endurance that he can

command to carry out his task. In the first place he is probably flying a heavily laden aeroplane. The favourites with the R.A.F. for the journey are the D.H.9a's — two-seater light bombing machines. In addition to the occupant of the second seat there will be as much luggage and mail matter as can be stowed away, spare tins of petrol will be tied on below the wings and under the fuselage, and even a suit case or cabin trunk may occupy a prominent "overflow" spot. The layman novice has impressed upon him at headquarters before he proceeds to the aerodrome that an additional ounce to his personal luggage may prevent the machine from rising or bring it hurtling to the ground. The warning is right in principle; but is not always confirmed by subsequent experience. When one has been the sixth occupant of a machine, already well laden, meant to carry four or five, or has seen the Christmas-tree effect assumed by some aeroplanes, one acquires a great respect for the capacity of these seemingly frail craft. Usually the pilot knows his machine and its capabilities; and its "Plimsoll" line in his hands does not always correspond with Headquarters' theories. One's sympathies go out to the nervous passenger who, before his own personal effects were stowed on board, overheard the comment of the Headquarters' representative: "Grossly overloaded: grossly overloaded." Diffidently he approached the latter before handing up his kit to inquire whether responsibility rested with the pilot, the officer commanding the aerodrome, or the unfortunate passenger; but he derived no comfort from the laconic rejoinder: "The question of responsibility is settled at the inquest."

The author of the remark may be regarded as a solecism in the Royal Air Force, which is not given to sad reflexions or lugubrious utterances. Airmen, however, differ in one respect from the sister services. Theirs is a new science, and much has yet to be learnt before the conquest of the air is complete beyond all challenge. In R.A.F. messes accordingly "shop" is never taboo; on the contrary, the wise pilot welcomes every opportunity of exchanging notes, for he can never tell when a piece of information may not prove useful. In the air itself there are, perhaps, few surprises left, and short of an actual breakage one can hope to reach the earth at one's own pace. Landing, however, on strange ground is never without its dangers; too short a run, a soft spot or concealed boulders, and the machine may be standing on its head, a minor or major wreck, to say nothing of the fate of the occupants. In these circumstances it is not surprising that, when pilots are engaged on such an enterprise as the Cairo-Baghdad Mail, conversation in the mess should turn largely on "crashes"; for it is preferable to learn from the experience of others than to go through the mill oneself. As for the nine or ten landings that my machines made in the course of the journey to Baghdad and back one would have thought that it was the easiest of operations, for in each case, except, perhaps, one in the desert, the landing was made so smoothly that it was impossible to tell at what point the wheels touched the ground. But then, my pilots were past-masters in

their science, and one at least, holding that almost daily practice was required to ensure a perfect landing, believed in "keeping his eye in" by this means. When I recalled the fact that with the previous mail, a fortnight earlier, five machines had to be used to get two as far as Baghdad, for three had crashed one after the other, I felt relieved to find myself seated behind a pilot who took his profession so seriously. One can imagine what his feelings would be if he found himself behind a brother pilot whose speciality, if report be true, was to point out every feature of the landscape passed over, in a way that suggested that the machine was looking after itself. It was a pilot of this type—his proficiency in flying was not challenged—who brought upon himself from a senior officer passenger, whose nerves were less robust, the historic command "Fly to attention." Hardly less "jumpy" was the experience of a pilot, travelling as a passenger, who on reaching Cairo found his machine, instead of being steered straight to the aerodrome, embarking on a series of



The Judean Hills; the road from Jaffa to Jerusalem.

circles over a particular quarter of one of the suburbs. As the machine drew closer to the house-tops, he began to wonder what line of action on his part was indicated; but to his relief the circling ceased and the direction to the aerodrome was taken. The explanation came, as soon as conversation was possible, with the remark of the pilot, whose wife was living in the neighbourhood: "That was my signal for tea."

A Flight Described.

On the occasion of my recent flight as a passenger by the air mail from Cairo to Baghdad and back the start on Saturday had been postponed on account of unfavourable weather reports along the route. A heavy rainstorm at Helouan during Sunday night suggested that atmospheric conditions were still far from settled, and it was with some misgivings that the order to start, telephoned from "Egypt Group" at Heliopolis, was obeyed on the Monday. The mails were being carried in two D.H.9a machines, with a wireless operator in one

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and the passenger in the other ; a third machine destined for Amman was travelling in our company. A further storm threatened as the aeroplanes left the ground, and before the northern outskirts of Cairo had been reached it had broken over the city. But the clouds clung to the cultivated area of the Delta, and by keeping a course well over the desert the machines skirted all the way to the Suez Canal—the while in bright sunshine themselves—a sullen compact mass of bursting rain clouds. It was consequently more unfortunate for those who had ordered the start than for the occupants of the machines that the wireless equipment almost from the outset refused to work. No message reached Cairo headquarters from the mail until it had landed three hours later at Ramleh—a distance of three hundred miles—and there must needs be some speculation as to the mail's fate during this period. The journey proved, not unnaturally in view of the weather conditions, a bumpy one, but the wind was favouring and good time was made.

The presence of accompanying aeroplanes keeping a fixed formation gives a sense of companionship in the air, in addition to affording ocular evidence of the reality of those peculiarly unpleasant bumps that one is experiencing oneself. Indeed the antics of the leading machine helped in no small measure to alleviate the vagaries of one's own craft ; it seemed impossible that a body being propelled through the air at from ninety to a hundred miles an hour could suddenly rise, apparently vertically, a score and more of feet and fall again as abruptly the same distance.

The Suez Canal is passed at Kantara, and the route follows the railway line across the desert part of Sinai Peninsula. Quickly enough the surface shows signs of yielding to the efforts of vegetation, tentatively at first,

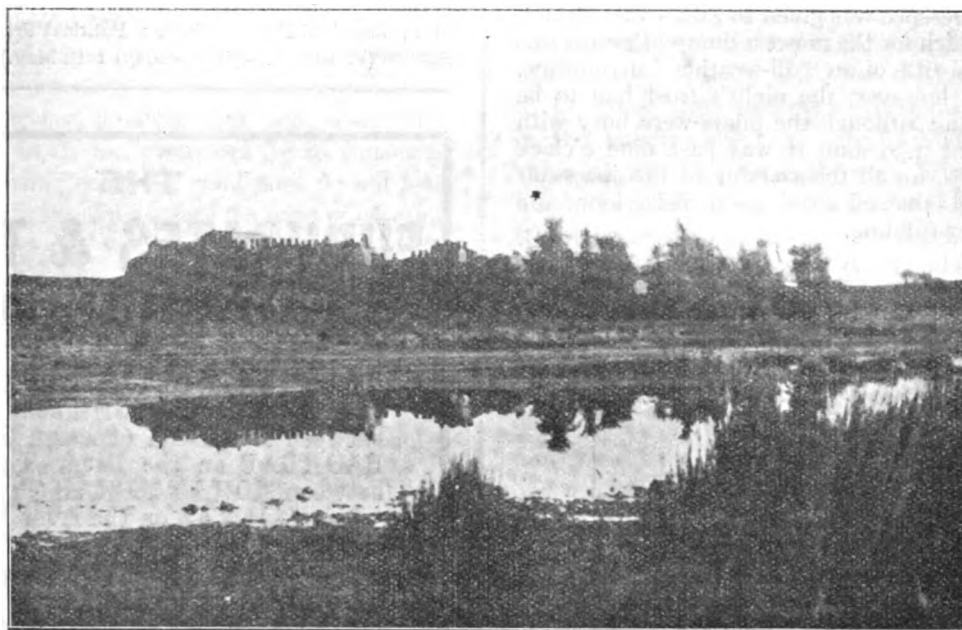
north and was seen to be heading for Ramleh, R.A.F. headquarters in Palestine. Now D.H.9a's are not supposed to land at Ramleh during the rainy season, because half the aerodrome is out of action, and the other half hardly offers sufficient room to other than light machines for landing and taking off. But the



AMMAN AERODROME: A Vickers-Vimy preparing to resume its journey from Baghdad to Cairo.

pilots of the Air Mail are prepared for emergencies Ramleh, although not expecting the machines, is on the look-out ; a judiciously placed smoke bomb supplies all the guidance necessary, and the difficult landing is negotiated by the three pilots with unerring judgment.

Trouble was in store for the mail the next day. It was Monday afternoon when the three machines landed

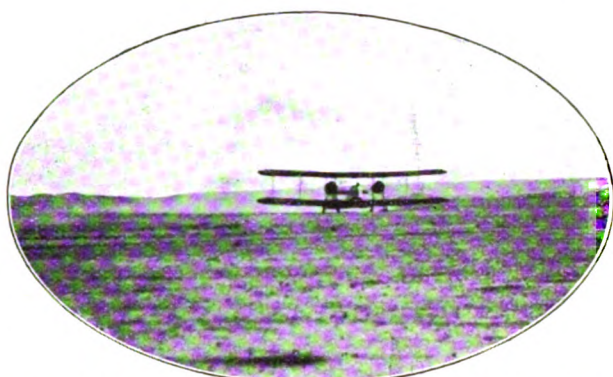


KASR AZRAK: the Azure Castle. Landing Ground "C". In Roman times an outpost of the garrison at Amman. Roman building material figures in the present ruins, Crusader and Turkish. The carp abounding in the clear pools are in all probability descendants of the fish introduced by the Romans.

but steadily improving in appearance until the full beauty of the Palestine landscape in spring comes into view. Ahead, however, anything but a land of promise seemed to await us. The course from Rafa was north-east, directly over Jerusalem, and on by way of Jericho to Amman. Over the Judean Hills hung dark storm clouds ; in the best of weathers they are the most inhospitable stretch of country of the 864 miles that separate Cairo from Baghdad, for the chances of finding a safe landing ground are remote indeed. On the day in question they looked particularly uninviting ; but we continued to head for them with a favouring wind at a steady rate of a hundred miles an hour hoping for signs of a break in the clouds that would justify a dash for Amman. But it was not to be, and the feeling of relief, I believe, was not confined to the passenger when the leading machine made a right angle turn to the

at Ramleh. At 6 a.m. on Tuesday Baghdad reported rain with a falling barometer, and a start that day was out of the question. On Wednesday the early morning inspection of the two aeroplanes bound for Baghdad revealed a leaking cylinder in one. To substitute for the mail service the third machine that had come from Egypt required the sanction of Middle East Headquarters in Cairo ; but no sooner had this been obtained than a structural strain was found in the second machine. Accordingly there was nothing for it but to await the arrival of a serviceable machine from Cairo, while transferring the wireless equipment to the substituted machine. The equipment took unkindly to the transfer and occasioned further delay. Not before Friday afternoon was it possible for two machines—still both D.H.9a's—to resume the course, and owing to the lateness of the hour only a brief flight over Judaea was

attempted, to Ziza on the Hejaz Railway, twenty miles south of Amman, where the presence of a convoy from Baghdad had caused a supply of petrol to be accumulated from which the engines could fill up prior to the long flight over the desert. Amman is the capital of Trans-Jordan, now under the rule of the Emir Abdullah. It makes up in picturesqueness what it lacks in qualifications requisite for an aerodrome. The landing ground is too small and ends abruptly in ploughed land; the district would fit in well in the Scottish Highlands, and might possibly add a point or two to their rainfall average. With the R.A.F. accordingly Amman has a bad reputation, as it is responsible almost more than engine trouble for interruptions to the Cairo-Baghdad



The end of the 864-mile flight. The Baghdad air mail arriving at Heliopolis Aerodrome, Cairo.

service. On our homeward journey it befriended two stranded Vickers-Vimy machines at Landing Ground H, and hospitably entertained their occupants when at last they arrived there; on the way out it was cheerfully avoided, and preference was given to Ziza's vast stretch of level veldt, which for the nonce a dump of petrol tins invested with the title of an "all-weather" aerodrome. In the morning, however, the night's frost had to be reckoned with, and although the pilots were busy with their machines at 4.30 a.m. it was past nine o'clock before the engines, for all the coaxing of the incessant "Contact," had thawed into good behaviour and consented to start running.

A non-stop flight of 530 miles to Baghdad had been confidently anticipated; but a minor defect in one of the machines rendered a landing at "M" advisable at the end of two hours. Within an hour a fresh start was



Pilots and Passenger at Ziza, where a vast expanse of level veldt would make an ideal aerodrome. Second and fourth from left: Flying Officer S. T. B. Cripps and Flying Officer J. Whitford, Pilots of the outgoing air mail.

made, from this point all went well, and in only a few minutes over the nine hours of actual flying the Baghdad aerodrome was reached. His Majesty's mails had arrived at their destination; a week late this time, it is true, owing to unavoidable circumstances, but still within sixteen days from London. The previous mail—a fortnight earlier—had also been delayed, at the cost of three crashed machines. Now and again in winter, almost regularly in the summer months when weather conditions are more favourable, a day or at most thirty hours suffice to link the two capitals of Egypt and Iraq. Behind this service, whether delayed or not, there stands out the same brilliant achievement of the Royal

Air Force, calling for a measure of skill, resourcefulness and endurance on the part of its keen, blue-eyed pilots to which everyone who has been fortunate enough to be a passenger by the mail can bear proud witness.

—O—

In a subsequent article I shall hope to deal with the special work of the Royal Air Force in the Middle East, endeavouring to show how the spirit and atmosphere that the Air Service engenders fit it peculiarly for the new duties it is about to undertake in that part of the world.—H.T.M.B.

TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

The subject headings are those given in the Official Report.

Greece and Turkey.—Palestine: Draft Mandate; British Gendarmerie.—Egypt: Government Appointments; Zaghloul Pasha.—Turkey: British Claims; Turkish Property in Egypt.—Italy and Turkey (Agreement).—Turkey and Greece.—Egypt (Zaghloul Pasha).—(Thursday, 4th May.)

Asia Minor.—Italy and Turkey (Agreement).—(Friday, 5th May.)

Ukraine.—Italy and Turkey (Agreement).—Greece and Turkey.—Egypt: Deportees; Martial Law.—India: Disturbances, Behar; Exhibition, Bhagalpur (Revolutionary Flag); Government Contracts.—Greece and Turkey.—Egypt.—(Monday, 8th May.)

India: Cotton; Machinery (Tenders); Salt; Primary Education; Officers' Pensions; Development Loans (British Contracts); Sedition (Repression); Surplus Officers (Retirement); Railway Locomotives.—Iraq (Oil).—India: Indebtedness and Taxation; Army Officers (Income Tax).—(Tuesday, 9th May.)

Turkey (British Interests).—Near East (Christian Minorities).—India: Retained Army Officers.—Egypt: Prohibited Meetings; Zaghloul Pasha.—India: Political Prisoners, India; Civil Service (Pensions).—(Wednesday, 10th May.)

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NOTES AND NEWS.

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The World's Oil Supplies.

While the oil negotiations at Genoa have threatened to eclipse the more immediate *raison d'être* of the gathering the Swedish scientist, M. Arrhenius, in a lecture at the Sorbonne has expressed the opinion that the world's oil supplies are nearing exhaustion. His view is that at the present rate of consumption the life of the world's oilfields is fifteen years. This is not a new theory; it has been raised time and again during the past few years and the strongest argument against it is that those best in a position to know would never display the energy they do in the development of oilfields if there appeared any great probability of this happening. Admittedly it is not a matter on which there can be any certainty, for no one is in a position adequately to estimate the resources of the world's oilfields, but allowing for this in view of the extensive petroliferous regions at present unexploited it seems obvious that, even if the reign of oil is limited as it must be, the end is not likely to be in the time of the present generation.

Lord Inchcape's Task.

The decision to appoint an "Axe" Committee for India needs no explanation in view of the financial situation of that country. There was a deficit of £22,000,000 on the last financial year, and since while taxation is low in India compared with European standards the existing economic conditions do not lend themselves to any great extension of the basis of taxation it follows that the only way to make ends meet is by the rigid curtailment of expenditure. The choice of Lord Inchcape to preside over a Retrenchment Committee could not be bettered. As a member of the Geddes Committee he has been in a position to obtain a unique insight into the question of the reduction of State expenditure, while he has a wide experience of Indian conditions both from the commercial point of view and as a member of the Council of India for many years. If it is possible to solve India's financial problem he and his colleagues may be trusted to find the way. But the solution will be far from easy for so much of the expenditure of the State is now in the hands of the provincial governments and there are very obvious difficulties in the way of any extensive reduction of the military expenditure which forms such a considerable item in the Budget.

The Conference and Afterwards.

While it is still possible that some good will come from Genoa it is difficult as the result of developments during the past week to feel the least confidence in the prospect of any really satisfactory arrangement being arrived at before the end of the Conference. So far as can be seen, indeed, Genoa has been nothing but a waste of time, and the only useful purpose it would seem to have served has been further to illustrate the impossibility of negotiating with Russia at the present time. But we knew quite enough in that respect before. The most serious aspect of the failure of the Conference is that it

will probably have a distinctly retarding effect on European reconstruction.

Egyptian Markets' Results.

Very satisfactory results were obtained by the Egyptian Markets during the past year. A substantial increase was recorded in the receipts from the cattle markets, this being mainly the result of the increase in tariffs which operated during the whole of 1921. The gross receipts from markets amounted to £107,400 as compared with £93,100 for the previous twelve months and the net revenue totalled £59,300 as against £48,400. After provision for the Government's share of the profits there remains a balance of £27,800 as against £22,800. An interim dividend of 5 per cent. was paid on the Ordinary shares, and it is now proposed to pay a final dividend of 5 per cent. with a bonus of 2 per cent., making 12 per cent. for the year as compared with 10 per cent., while a dividend of £9 7s. 4d. is recommended on the Deferred shares as compared with £6 19s. 11d.

Guardian Eastern Report.

From the report of the Guardian Eastern Insurance Company, which has just made its appearance, it is clear that this company is in a fairly satisfactory position. Last year's debit on the profit and loss account has now been reduced to £19,300, and against this there is the considerable appreciation in the company's investments, which consist entirely of British Government securities, to be taken into account. These investments stand in the balance sheet at £163,613, and their market value on April 25 was £190,627. The sound lines on which the company is developing will be gathered from the high ratio of the reserves for unexpired risks.

The Liubliana Fair.

In my recent reference to the forthcoming Liubliana Fair I made no mention of the date by which entries must be sent in. This was because the date then fixed left no opportunity for British participation, and I was given to understand that this would be altered. I am now informed that the date has been extended to the end of June which will give British firms ample time. For the benefit of those interested I would add that I have a limited supply of entry forms for the fair, and shall be glad to supply them on application.

Commentator.

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REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

EGYPT.

Cairo May 6.

The Government's Cotton Purchases.

The Government's decision to intervene on the Egyptian cotton market has not as yet had the desired effect of raising the price. In local commercial circles it is not expected that the price will rise in consequence of Government buying unless the demand from abroad becomes brisker. In many quarters the Government has been severely criticised for its action which it is stated will jeopardise the funds at its disposal. Whether the present margin between American and Egyptian is really lower than it should be it is exceedingly difficult to say. The views on this point held by those interested in the trade differ considerably. Again it is impossible to know whether the Government is right in its theory that the price of Egyptian has been unduly depressed by "bear" activities at Liverpool and Alexandria. What is known is that considerable pressure has been brought to bear on the Cabinet by a large and influential section of the agricultural community and it is no doubt as a result of that pressure and under the influence of the arguments put forward by it that the Government has again consented to become a buyer of cotton.

In principle Government intervention in such matters is unsound. Egypt is however not organised as other countries. Its present internal position is peculiar and requires peculiar handling. Consequently regarded from a general point of view there is a good deal to be said for the Government's action, and as it has no intention of loading itself to a point where it might incur any serious loss no real harm will be done.

GREECE.

Athens, May 8.

Greek Tobacco in England.

The Greek Chargé d'Affaires in London reports to the Ministry of National Economy that according to official statistics the stocks of Greek tobacco in England amounted to 58,951 bales on April 30. Of this total 21,905 bales were old Greece tobacco, while 37,046 bales were tobacco from the ports under Greek Military occupation.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Belgrade, May 5.

The Conditions of the New Loan.

At last night's Council of Ministers the proposed American loan was discussed. The Government has received a few more offers from America, England, Belgium, and France, but the Morgan Group's offer being the best, it is receiving first attention. The initial

proposal was made at Washington through the Serbian Minister, M. Gruitch, and was further discussed here in Belgrade. In well informed circles it is stated that the negotiations will be quickly concluded and that the banks have agreed to keep their offer firm after May 1 until the Finance Minister returns.

The Government has not disclosed the full details, but it is well-known that the loan is to be one of 100 million dollars, issued at 87, and bearing interest of 7 per cent. Thirty millions are to be placed at the State's disposal at once, even before the loan is passed by the Skupshtina and the remainder is to be used on railways, priority to be given to the Adriatic line and ports. Railway material is to be bought in America, but no names of firms have been specified. The Americans do not demand any control in the State revenue office or Monopolies.

The Syndicate that made the offer consists of J. P. Morgan Blair and Harrington's banking groups. One of their directors is expected shortly in Belgrade. As a result of these negotiations a marked improvement has taken place in the value of the dinar. A much greater improvement is expected shortly and it is anticipated that there will also be a revival of the trade relations with foreign countries.

The import market is daily showing more liveliness, and the enquiries for foreign goods are fairly plentiful now. It would be looking too far ahead to say that the final readjustment of the exchanges is taking place, but taking everything into consideration it would be foolish to ignore the possibility of the readjustment when all visible signs are in favour of it. The success of the Little Entente at Genoa is certainly a guarantee of more settled political conditions, and the promising prospect of this year's harvest will also have a favourable influence on the exchanges.

Miscellaneous.

Telegraphic communications with Albania have been established and also the motor car mail-service between the principal towns of Albania connecting that State with the main centres of Southern Serbia.

A Serbo-Albanian Bank is to be founded soon with branch offices in Valona, Skutari and Durazzo, and should help to promote trading relations between the two countries.

BULGARIA.

Sofia (undated).

The Exchange.

The week has been remarkable for a somewhat rapid and unexpected rise in the value of the leva. Ten days ago the rate on London was 635 levas to the £, whilst

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on the 21st the rate had risen to 570. The reasons for the rise are mainly local ones, very large purchases of levas having been made by buyers of tobacco and cereals. It is said that the Italians alone bought 150 million levas with which to purchase tobacco. At the present moment the rate on London is 600 levas to the pound sterling.

Sofia, May 10.

The Elevator Scheme.

Some time ago it was announced that an American firm was prepared to make a loan to Bulgaria, the proceeds of which were to be utilized for the construction of a grain elevator system throughout the country. A Bill dealing with this elevator system has been introduced in the Sobranje. Article 3 of this Bill says that the Bulgaria Agricultural Bank is authorised to sign a contract with the Macdonald Engineering Company of Chicago with regard to a loan for the construction of the ironwork of the elevators on the following conditions:—The American firm is bound to construct in Bulgaria the necessary ironwork for the elevators, representing a tonnage of 312,000. The necessary means for this construction are to be supplied by the bonds of a loan concluded abroad through the medium of the Macdonald Engineering Company. During a period of five years from the beginning of the work the construction of elevators with a capacity of 160,000 tons is obligatory.

The machinery, materials, and installations will have to be imported from abroad, being purchased in those countries where the bonds of the loan are placed. The enterprise will be exempted from all rights of patent duties, taxes, and other similar charges. The correspondence between the company, the bank, and other official departments will be exempted from stamp duties. The contract to be signed by the Agricultural Bank and the company in regard to the enterprise will also be free from taxation. The Bulgarian Agricultural Bank is authorised to raise a loan abroad in accordance with Article 7 of the law referring to this bank, and will be assisted by the Macdonald Engineering Company. The loan will be of £2,000,000 sterling, guaranteed by the State. The redemption of this loan will be effected in the course of 20 years by means of taxes levied on cereals. The project has not yet been agreed to.

BRITISH CONSULAR REPORTS: I.—KOWEIT.

UNSUCCESSFUL PEARLING SEASON.

The following extracts are taken from the report of Major J. C. More, D.S.O., Political Agent, Koweit, on the trade of Koweit for 1920-21:—

The year under review was unfavourable for trade, owing to the strained relations which existed between the Sheikh of Koweit and the Ruler of Nejd, as a result of which all trade with Central Arabia was entirely suspended throughout the greater part of the year, and a feeling of great insecurity existed in Koweit town itself, which was not conducive to commercial enterprise. Peace was re-established with Nejd in March, but there was not time for its effect to be appreciably felt before the close of the year. The pearling season on which the prosperity of a large number of the inhabitants of Koweit depends, was not a successful one; the number of Koweit boats visiting the fishery was small, and, owing to the state of insecurity mentioned above, the fleet was not allowed to go so far afield as usual, consequently the catch was small. In addition to this the prices realised for pearls were not high.

Imports and Exports.

The total imports by sea amounted to £634,268, and the exports to £446,398, the former showing a decrease of 40.23 per cent. as compared with 1919-20, chiefly accounted for by the reduced amount of piece goods imported, which were valued at £90,717 as compared with £384,278. The sea exports, on the other hand, show an increase of 61.6 per cent., chiefly in specie, rice, wheat and coffee, which can be accounted for by the fact that the land routes were closed throughout the greater part of

the year, which resulted in larger re-exports by sea than usual. 77.5 per cent. of the import trade was with India, 10.4 per cent. with Iraq, 8.1 per cent. with Persia, 2 per cent. with Arab coast, and the balance with America and Japan. Of the export trade 38.8 per cent. was with Persia, 25.6 per cent. with Iraq, 24.9 per cent. with India and 10.7 per cent. with Arab coast. The export percentage for Persia was much above the average, doubtless owing to the deflection to that country of a considerable amount of goods which would, normally, have found their way to Central Arabia:

Pearl Fisheries.

Koweit possesses over 7,000 pearl boats; of these, however, many have not been at sea for several years, as owing to the increased demand for labour in Iraq it is now impossible to find crews for them. The average number of boats which visit the banks is now not more than about 320, and was smaller than usual during the year under review. As stated above the season was a bad one.

Sea Fisheries.

The only truly local produce of Koweit is that yielded by the harbour fisheries, which are a valuable asset. Besides float-and-weight nets and lines, traps or tidal weirs, constructed of reed hurdles, are also employed; the fish enter them with the flowing tide and are left behind at the ebb. The majority of the fish caught are consumed locally, but a small proportion is dried and exported to Busreh and elsewhere.

Agriculture.

Neither Koweit nor its environs can boast of any agricultural resources. There are no date plantations, no fields and not many kitchen gardens. A few small villages to the south-east of Koweit supply a limited quantity of vegetables and melons. The chief agricultural centre in the principality is Jahrah. The staple crops are wheat, barley and lucern, but musk melons, water melons, pumpkins, beans and some other vegetables are also grown, and there are some 2,500 date trees. The above crops are mostly irrigated, but a small amount of wheat and barley is grown by rainfall alone. The agriculture of Jahrah might be considerably increased if more money were sunk in it. The next most important agricultural centre is the island of Failakah where wheat and barley are grown with some success on the clayey patches, also melons, lucern and some vegetables. There are some date trees towards the south of the island, but they are not in a flourishing condition, and the agriculture of the island generally is inferior to that of Jahrah. Except in the island of Failakah, less cultivation was done than usual, owing to the unsettled state of the country, and the village of Jahrah was entirely evacuated for several weeks in the autumn.

The only mineral product worked is gypsum mortar, which is manufactured by the simple process of firing rubbish in broad shallow excavations. There is a large gypsiferous tract on the outskirts of Koweit town, and it is found in several other parts of the principality.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated May 8:—Condition of Crops.—May 3—Bengal: Satisfactory rain has fallen in most of the jute districts and crop prospects there generally improved. Drought continues in North Bengal. May 8—Assam: Prospects of tea, autumn rice and outturn of spring rice fair. May 5—Punjab: Outturn of wheat very good and on the whole better than was at one time hoped. Cotton sowings are in progress but less than last year will be sown. Markets.—Cotton.—May 4—Bombay cotton market steady. Fine M. G. Oomras Rs. 399 May, Rs. 419 July. Bombay cotton arrivals from September 1, 1921, to April 29, 1922, were 2,597,000 bales as compared with 1,907,000 bales during the same period of the last year. Piece-goods.—May 4—In Bombay imported piece-goods market wholesale demands continue quite good and retail enquiries helpful. Jute.—May 5—Calcutta jute market quiet with sellers steady. Firsts Rs. 73, Lightnings Rs. 64. Hessians very firm. Heavy firm, with considerable business in Cubans. Shellac.—May 2—Calcutta market practically unchanged with limited demands. Closing quotations: T.N. Spot Rs. 187, buyers, May Rs. 186, sellers firm. Rice.—May 5—Special Straits quality rice Rs. 522.8. No change in bank rates.

The Economic Resources of Palestine.

1. GEOGRAPHICAL FACTORS.

By Leonard Stein.*

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Palestine is often pictured as a narrow strip of territory between the Mediterranean and the Jordan. This is a complete misapprehension. The Jordan is not a natural frontier. Geologically, the Jordan valley is merely a trough between two parallel ridges, created by a fracture, or series of fractures, in what was originally a uniform limestone formation. It is only part of an almost continuous rift, extending from the neighbourhood of Alexandretta, at the north-east corner of the Mediterranean, to the neighbourhood of Akabah on the Red Sea. The Jordan Valley is, in other words, no more than a southward continuation of the valleys of the Orontes and the middle Litani, and is itself continued southwards by the depression known as the Wadi Arabah. This rift is not so much a barrier as a pass. The successive series of plateaux or mountains which flank it to east and west through the greater part of its course are complementary to one another, and form, at each stage, an indivisible whole. Palestine can no more be separated from the territory to the east of the Jordan than Syria can be separated from the great cities of Homs, Hama, and Aleppo, and the remainder of its hinterland to the east of the Orontes. The Jordan must be conceived, not as bounding Palestine, but merely as dividing it. Transjordan and Western Palestine form a single geographical and economic unit.

They are also, in some degree, a political unit. Great Britain, as Mandatory for Palestine, exercises a somewhat shadowy authority over the territory to the east of the Jordan. Exactly how far to the east Palestine can in this sense be said to extend remains doubtful. There is no provision under the Treaty of Sèvres and the supplementary agreements for any intervening area between Palestine and Mesopotamia. Theoretically, therefore, Palestine ends where Mesopotamia begins. This is, however, a somewhat academic question. At an average distance of thirty or forty miles to the east of the Jordan, the plateaux begin to break into the desert and cease to be of economic interest. Skirting the desert, moreover, runs the Hejaz railway on its way to Damascus. The Hejaz railway has a peculiar significance for the Moslem world, which entitles it, for political reasons, to special treatment. For practical purposes, therefore, Palestine may be regarded as bounded on the east by a line drawn slightly short of the desert. In other words, Western Palestine has an extensive hinterland in Ajlun, Es Salt and Kerak, which disguise the historic names of Gilead and Moab. These regions are well-wooded and well-watered. Their high altitude ensures them a more temperate climate and a heavier rainfall than are usually found west of the Jordan. There is an abundance of fertile soil and ample room both for extensive agriculture and for stock-raising on a considerable scale. The potential wealth of this inland area must be taken into account in estimating the economic resources of Palestine as a whole.

The desert on the east is balanced by the Mediterranean on the west. So, too, the ridges of Gilead and Moab are balanced by those of Samaria and Judaea, which form, like them and like the intervening rift, a link in a chain extending from Southern Palestine to Northern Syria.

The coast of Palestine has been specially favoured by nature in two respects. It possesses in Haifa a natural harbour of the first magnitude. North of Carmel the coast of the Eastern Mediterranean is irregular. South of it it is almost straight. Thus, while Syria is relatively rich in natural harbours, Palestine has only one. But that one is of outstanding importance. At the southern end of the Bay of Acre, in which the entire British fleet

in the Mediterranean could comfortably lie at anchor or sheltered by the heights of Carmel to the south and by the promontory of Acre to the north, opening on to the plain of Esdraelon, the gateway of the eastern hinterland, Haifa is, in its natural endowments, without a serious rival between Alexandria and Alexandretta.

The other characteristic feature of the Palestine coast is the coastal plain. North of Palestine, the distance between the sea and the western range is always small, and sometimes inappreciable. On the other hand, on the coast of Palestine, the general slope of which is outwards towards the south-west, marine deposits of recent formation have built up a coastal plain, which broadens out from a few hundred yards at Carmel to nearly 20 miles in the extreme south. The northern half of this strip is the Plain of Sharon. The southern half is Philistia. The entire plain has almost everywhere ample supplies of underground water at moderate depths and has always been justly renowned for its fertility.

From the coastal plain rise the ridges of Judaea and Samaria, corresponding to those of Moab and Gilead across the Jordan. Judaea is, in its general character, a compact and elevated mass of limestone, ill-fitted for agriculture, but hospitable to the vine, the olive, and the fig-tree. Samaria, immediately to its north, is not a plateau, but a highland region of less austere geological structure. Hard and soft strata are intermingled, with the result that within the hill-system are valleys and miniature plains of considerable fertility.

To the north of Samaria the continuity of the western range is suddenly interrupted. A transverse movement of the earth's crust has caused a depression running from Carmel south-eastwards. That depression, under the name of the Plain of Esdraelon, divides the hills, and is continued, as the Vale of Jezreel, down to the Jordan Valley. Triangular in form, little less than 15 miles across at its widest, and seldom rising appreciably above sea-level, Esdraelon carries half-way across Palestine the exceptional richness of the coastal plain.

To the north of Esdraelon, the interrupted Western Range is continued by the hills of Lower Galilee. Lower Galilee, may be described as a less rugged and a more fertile Samaria. Here, too, hard and soft strata are intermingled. The hills are relatively gentle, though their slopes are often rocky and uneven; and they enclose a number of valleys or elevated plains admitting of profitable cultivation.

Last and northernmost comes Upper Galilee, which brings Palestine up to its northern boundary at the foot-hills of the Lebanon. It stands much higher than Lower Galilee, and is, like Judaea, an elevated plateau. Unlike Judaea, however, it is not merely a mass of naked limestone. The limestone strata have been partially covered with sheets of lava. The volcanic soil thus formed retains water much better than the limestone of Judaea. Moreover, the greater altitude of the mountains ensures a better rainfall. Thus Upper Galilee, though not conspicuously fertile, is by no means unproductive, and besides favouring the vine and the olive contains appreciable stretches of arable soil.

We have now surveyed the Western Range. The next stage to the east brings us back to the Jordan Valley, from which we started.

From a narrow strip about two miles wide at its exit from Lake Tiberias the valley broadens out into a plain eight miles across at Beisan and as much as 14 miles across at Jericho. Through the greater part of its course the valley is far below the level of the sea. Consequently, the climate is sub-tropical and unhealthy. On the other hand, the warm moist soil produces a riot of luxuriant vegetation, and is eminently suitable for the cultivation of cotton, flax, maize, rice, sugar, and dates.

One other feature of the valley remains to be mentioned. From 7 feet above the sea near its source, the Jordan falls to nearly 700 feet below the sea at Lake

* This article contains the substance of a lecture delivered recently at the London School of Economics with certain modifications.

Tiberias, and 1,300 feet below it at the Dead Sea. In the six miles between Lake Huleh and Lake Tiberias there is a fall of nearly 700 feet. Accordingly, in the Jordan and its tributaries there is a latent source of water-power which is among the foremost material endowments of the country.

Thus, regarded from north to south, Palestine may be roughly pictured as a strip some 60 to 80 miles wide, enclosed between two parallel seas—the salt sea to the west, the sea of sand and stone to the east, with the Jordan Valley running more or less midway between them, flanked by a line of highlands on either side. To the north Palestine marches with Syria and to the south with Egypt. Both the northern and southern frontiers are arbitrary political lines, which need not here be discussed in detail.

The area of the territory thus defined is not exactly known. It is estimated, however, that the area of Western Palestine is about 10,500 square miles, of which some 4,000 square miles represent what is at present the almost uninhabited desert south of Beersheba. Western Palestine, north of Beersheba, is thus a little smaller than Wales. It should be added that the land further south was once productive and well-populated, and should not be written off as permanently worthless.

Palestine east of the Jordan has never been scientifically surveyed. It is estimated, however, that it is about equal in extent to the corresponding area to the west. Deducting that part of Transjordan which has been placed within the French Mandatory sphere some 9,000 square miles remain, of which an appreciable proportion is at present an almost empty waste.

The total area of Palestine may thus be roughly estimated at about 20,000 square miles, or about two-thirds of the area of Scotland. The inhabited area consists of about 11,500 square miles and is thus about half as large again as Wales. The population of Western Palestine is officially estimated at about 700,000 and that of Eastern Palestine at about 350,000. Both estimates, more particularly the latter, are based on very imperfect data, and even in the case of Western Palestine, the margin of error is probably little short of 20 per cent.

What is certain is that whatever the population may be to-day, it is vastly less than it has been in the past. Regions which are now little better than a sparsely inhabited waste were in Roman times the seat of a dense and thriving population. On this point history and archaeology are unanimous, and are supported by evidence which meets the eye of the casual traveller on every side. The ruins of stately cities, the terraced hills, the remains of cisterns and aqueducts and irrigation channels—these traces of what was once an advanced and flourishing civilization, speak for themselves. And all this is true, not merely of the areas which still contain an appreciable population, but also of the wild and half empty tracts of Transjordan and even of what is now the wilderness to the south of Beersheba.

Some of the reasons for this visible degeneration are self-evident—the breakdown of the Roman barrier against the desert marauders, the Arab, the Mongol, and the Latin invasions, and the progressive demoralization of the Ottoman Government during the long period of Turkish rule which began in 1517.

To all this appears to have been added a gradual process of desiccation. There is a good deal of evidence to show that within comparatively recent times the climate of Palestine was considerably moister than it is to-day, and that regions which are now little better than desert were once by no means waterless. Thus a careful study of the history of the Dead Sea suggests that, in common with most of the great Asiatic lakes, it has been subject to fairly recent changes of level, and that as little as 1,000 years ago it stood appreciably higher than at present. Similar inferences may be drawn from the existence of ruins on an extensive scale (as for instance, at Petra south of the Dead Sea, and Palmyra, in the Syrian Desert), where there is to-day little or no cultivation. Again, the same conclusion is suggested

by the ease with which Egyptian, Greek and Syrian armies crossed what is now the waterless peninsula of Sinai.

Professor Huntington of Yale, who has examined this subject in detail, is definitely of opinion that desiccation has occurred on an appreciable scale in the past 2,000 years. Whether or not his views are accurate in every particular, he has produced enough evidence in support of them to suggest that hasty inferences should not be drawn from the undoubted prosperity of Palestine in comparatively recent times. It does not follow that that prosperity cannot be restored; but it does follow that its restoration largely depends on the provision of substitutes for the natural moisture which has been gradually lost.

As the combined result of war, misgovernment, and desiccation, Palestine was, at the outbreak of war in 1914, little more than a stagnant backwater. The mass of the population was apathetic and unprogressive, and was content to scratch the soil for a scanty subsistence. Such enterprising spirits as there were received no support from a corrupt and sluggish government, which at once discouraged local initiative and deterred the foreign investor. The one sign of economic life was the activity of the German Colonies in the neighbourhood of Jaffa, and on a much larger scale, of the forty to fifty Jewish agricultural settlements which had sprung up in the past thirty years on the coastal plain, in Galilee and on the fringe of Esdraelon. The oases thus created had shown what could be achieved by scientific farming under relatively favourable conditions. The Jewish Colonies in the Plain of Sharon had, for example, succeeded in producing 2,000 kilos of wheat, or 2,880 kilos of barley per hectare (2½ acres), as against a yield of 1,540 and 1,760 kilos respectively from neighbouring Arab land of good quality. The Jews had also contributed appreciably to the development of the orange growing industry, had introduced the vine on a commercial scale, had made a small beginning with afforestation, and were undertaking the scientific study of Palestinian flora at the experimental station they had established near Haifa. Their efforts, however, were of necessity on a limited scale, and were merely an earnest of what it would be possible to achieve under more favourable conditions.

Then came the war, bringing with it the almost complete cessation of such economic activity as there was. Palestine was fought over from south to north. Animals, crops, and transport were requisitioned. Such forest trees as remained were ruthlessly cut down for fuel. Under the British Administration which began its work at the end of 1917, and which became a normal civil Government in July, 1920, efforts have been made to repair this damage. Palestine however, has not yet fully recovered its equilibrium and though its future is much brighter than it was in 1914, its actual economic condition is, in some respects, still sub-normal.

(To be continued.)

AIR MAILS TO BAGHDAD.

The air mail which was despatched from London on May 4 reached Baghdad on May 12-13. The mail due to be despatched by air from Baghdad on May 13 reached Cairo on the next day, and letters included in it for this country should arrive in London about May 22. The next air mail to Baghdad will be despatched from London to-day.

The directors of Clan Line Steamers, Ltd., recommend a final dividend of 4s. per share on ordinary for the year 1921, carrying forward £102,851.

BALKAN NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

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Total reserves as per December 31st, 1920	-	53,200,000
Premium Income during 1920	-	28,300,000
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HEAD OFFICE: SOFIA, BULGARIA,

Oil Notes & News.

THE RUSSIAN OIL POSITION.

The oil situation in Russia is the subject of an interesting review which has just been issued by Messrs. Cull and Co., from which we give the following extracts:—

Until 1903, Russia was leading among the oil-producing countries of the world. Then the United States of America overtook her. Two reasons can explain that victory, viz. (1) the right organization of the American trade and (2) the mistaken policy of the Tzarist Government which limited the opportunities for oil production. The Russian State owned about 80 per cent. of the oil-bearing lands, and for the last 25 years has both withheld the granting of new concessions and increased the royalties to the State. Such royalties averaged 45 per cent. of the output and went up as high as 70 per cent. in certain cases. Such policy did not encourage production, and accordingly Russia lost her second place in the oil-producing world in favour of Mexico.

But Russian oil, in comparison with Mexican, is of a very high quality. It contains an unusually large percentage of the most valuable oil distillates—benzine, kerosene, lubricating oils, &c. In the present state of the oil trade generally, this fact adds very considerably to the value of the Russian fields.

In the middle of 1920, the Russian oil-fields were declared nationalised by the Soviet authorities. As is well-known, the chief oil-fields of Russia are situated on the Apsheron Peninsula (Baku) and in Grozny. The effect of nationalisation on the oil industry will be seen from the following figures:—

BAKU OUTPUT.

1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
Poods.	Poods.	Poods.	Poods.
427,100,000	424,100,000	450,600,000	476,900,000

From May 28, 1920, to May 28, 1921 (the period of nationalisation), the output was 152.04 million poods. At the same time the percentage of gusher oil increased to 23 per cent. from 4.8 per cent. in 1911-1913. True, towards January, 1922, there was an increase in the output, namely:—15,205,000 poods, as compared with 12,860,000 poods in January, 1921. This increase was mainly due to the amount of baled oil.

Production.

	Poods.		Poods.
Nov., 1921 ..	6,168,000	Gusher oil ..	1,609,000
Dec., " ..	7,383,000	" ..	1,501,000
Jan., " ..	7,680,000	" ..	1,600,000
			(about)

GROZNY OUTPUT.

1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
73,700,000	98,400,000	88,100,000	102,700,000

From May 28, 1920 to May 28, 1921 (period of nationalisation) about 50,000,000 poods. In 1921 the output was about 80,000,000 poods, and of gusher oil, i.e. of such oil which requires neither labour nor organization, there was more than 50 per cent.

The reduced boring clearly shows the failure of the Soviet policy. Lack of food, clothing and houses explains shrinkage

of workmen. During the first year of nationalisation of the industry 60 per cent of the workmen left the oil-bearing lands. No wonder that the boring of wells has practically ceased, as is shown by the following figures (in sajenes—7 ft —of length):—

IN THE BAKU DISTRICT.

1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1921.
65,169	51,987	47,827	43,524	about 1,700

IN GROZNY.

1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1921.
28,878	39,402	25,447	—	about 1,000

This stoppage of production is to a certain extent a blessing in disguise. Instead of being wasted, the oil waits for the producer who will know how to get it and how to use it. The nationalisation of the oil industry is responsible for its paralysis. Possibly there were some in Russia who thought that an industry, where so much is spontaneously furnished by nature (gushers), could be carried on without private initiative, and even without capital. But hard facts show that there is no salvation for the oil industry of Russia except by private efforts and by fresh private investments.

The Genoa negotiations demonstrate that the Soviet Government have to surrender to capitalism and to private initiative. The laws of economic development are stronger than artificial theorising. Lenin has admitted in one of his speeches that Communism has failed in Russia: industry is not possible without private enterprise, and the peasants want land as freehold! Hard object lessons have taught Russia what private property means. Communism is rapidly giving way to Capitalism and, perhaps in the near future Russia, will be a country with the strongest capitalistic mentality.

The British Burmah Petroleum Co., Ltd., report that the production of crude oil, including that of the Rangoon Oil Co., Ltd., for April amounted to 71,997 barrels.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting	Parity of Exchange	Latest. Quotations.
Alexandria ..	Piastres to £...	97½	97.15-32
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	106-108*
Belgrade ..	Dinars to £...	25.22½	285-295
Berlin	Marks to £...	20.43	1250-1270
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3½
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3½
Brussels.....	Francs to £...	25.22½	53.35-53.50
Bucharest ..	Lei to £	25.22½	620-650
Constantinople	Piastres to £...	110	645-665
New York....	Dollars to £...	4.86 2-3	4.44½-4.45½
Paris	Francs to £...	25.22½	48.60-48.75
Prague	Kronen to £...	24.02	230-235
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	84-84½
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	580-630
Teheran	Krans to £	50	51½
Vienna	Kronen to £...	24.02	42,000-44,000
Warsaw	Marks to £	20.43	17,500-18,500

*Nominal.

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Engineering Topics.

By Our Engineering Representative.

Disintegrating Atoms.

The investigations which have been made during the past fifteen or twenty years into the constitution and relation of the elements have been of considerable value to engineers and metallurgists, but it is evident that we have yet a good deal to learn regarding the constitution and behaviour of atoms. There appears to be no doubt that the atoms are electrical structures, all of the same general type, and that they consist of a minute charged nucleus surrounded at a distance by a distribution of negative electrons. As Sir Ernest Rutherford pointed out recently the work of Moseley has shown that an unexpectedly simple relation exists between the elements, and most of my readers are aware that according to the latest developments of science it would seem that the old-world alchemists, and the seekers after the Philosopher's Stone, may not have been so wide of the mark as our extremely ignorant fathers may have supposed. It may be some years before we are able to take pig-lead into one door of a factory and bring it out at another as ingot gold, but we are certainly getting somewhere in that direction. It appears that, apart from its mass, the properties of an element, in certain research work, were defined by a whole number which represented the charge on the nucleus and the number of the outer electrons. This number also gave the ordinal or atomic number of the element arranged in order of increasing weight. All the known elements were defined by numbers starting from one for hydrogen and ending at 92 for uranium and only a few numbers were missing. Any discussion of the structure of an atom must necessarily resolve itself into two parts: the one being connected with the laws controlling the position and movements of the outer electrons and the other the constitution of the nucleus.

It was interesting to hear that the atoms of the elements were very stable structures and in order to break them up it was necessary to use concentrated sources of energy to overcome the powerful forces holding the nuclei together. It seems that the most suitable agent for attack is the swift alpha particle from radium. The atoms were bombarded by a stream of these, and occasionally one of them passed sufficiently close to the nucleus to effect its disruption. Experiments made in this direction shew that in this way swift hydrogen nuclei have been liberated from the atoms of nitrogen, fluorine, sodium, aluminium and phosphorus, but it must be mentioned that so far the amount of disintegration has been on a very small scale.

Raleigh Productions.

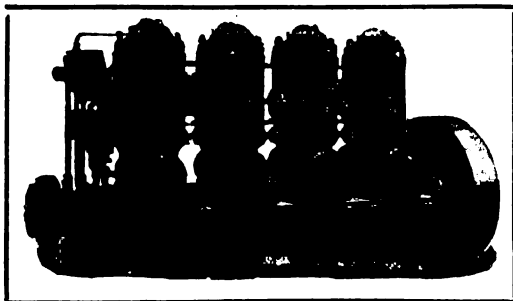
At the invitation of the Raleigh Cycle Co., Ltd., I was able to make a thorough inspection not only of

their new works but of the various manufacturing processes connected with the production of pedal and motor cycles in their older factories. As a result of this I can personally testify to the extreme care which is taken to see that every part leaves the works in perfect condition. Cranks, axles, spindles, cups, cones, frames, wheels and handlebars are thoroughly tested by experts, and finally the finished product is put under conditions as closely approximating to road work as possible. In the motor cycle department, I was particularly interested in seeing that every engine was subjected to an hour's bench test, being "run in" under their own powers. Incidentally I may say that from some figures I jotted down, I find that the lightweight engine, which is supposed to be a $2\frac{3}{4}$ h.p. engine actually develops $6\frac{1}{2}$ h.p. at 3,000 revolutions per minute, whilst practically 14 h.p. is given out by the 5-6 h.p. engine at 3,400 revolutions per minute. I noted, too, that after the motor cycle engine had undergone this test, and had been assembled into its frame, it was taken out for a 15 mile road test before being sent out to its destination.

More Records.

The Wolseley "Ten," that exceptionally fine little production which I have mentioned before in these columns, and which set up no fewer than 15 new records in the Light Car class at Brooklands last November, has just put up a remarkable performance. A few days ago it was sent round the track for 12 hours' continuous run, during the course of which it set up 13 new records, including the 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 hours', the 600, 700 and 800 miles—it ran 800 miles at an average speed of 70.21 miles per hour—and the 1,000 to 1,300 kilometre record.

I might mention that the Brookland's regulations do not now permit any attempt at 24 hours' records in one stretch, so the car was locked up for the night, and next morning was started on a further 12 hours' run, at the conclusion of which it had covered just over 1,465 miles at an average speed of just over 61 miles per hour. This constitutes the double 12-hour record for the British Light Car class and also for British cars irrespective of class. Incidentally, I may as well emphasise the fact that this model is not a specially designed racing car but a standard Wolseley "Ten," modified to suit racing conditions and fitted with a stream-line body. I should say that this is by far the most strenuous and exacting trial yet accomplished by a vehicle of the light car class and is a striking proof of the efficiency of Wolseley Standard designs, and of the strength and soundness with which these cars are built.



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Stock and Share Markets.

MARKETS DULL AND INACTIVE.

Influence of Genoa.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Tuesday morning.

Genoa has again been the dominant market influence, and an up and down tendency has been in evidence corresponding to the eternal vicissitudes of the conference. Early in the week a very dull tone prevailed, but conditions improved somewhat later, and yesterday while the tendency was still quiet a rather better tone was noticeable. What happens to the markets in the immediate future will depend very largely on developments on the Continent. It cannot be said that the omens at the moment are any too bright, and it looks as if we were in for a short period of inactive markets. Certainly the changed conditions will demand much greater caution at present on the part of the investor, and it will not be at all surprising if there is a strong tendency to hold aloof from commitments at any rate in the more speculative sections for the time being.

Prospects of Rising Markets.

One thing has to be remembered, and that is that the markets will need very little encouragement to burst into activity, and if, as is quite possible, things abroad take a sudden turn for the better then we are certain to see rising markets. The pity is that it will not be a sign of improving trade but the opposite. The real improvement in trade when it comes will be anything but a bull point for many markets.

Rush for New Issues.

The events of the past week or so can leave no doubt in anyone's mind as to the money available for investment in sound securities. New issues have been taken up as soon as they have appeared, and in most cases have been greatly oversubscribed, this being particularly the case as regards three Indian issues. In the case of one of them subscribers only received something like 6 per cent. of the amount of their subscriptions. The prospect with regard to Near Eastern Loans is now distinctly unpromising, and as the countries concerned are unable to obtain accommodation here they are naturally turning to other countries, and are finding a much greater readiness to meet their requirements.

Gilt-Edged Quiet.

A quiet tone has ruled in the Gilt-edged group. Consols are 1-8 down at 58½, the Conversion Loan has dropped a similar amount at 77.5-8, while War Loan Fives are 99.3-8. Indian stocks have been rather variable. The Seven per Cent. Loan has lost ½ at 115, the 3½ per cent. Loan is ¼ up at 69½, while the 3 per cent. Loan is also ¼ up at 58½.

The foreign group has naturally been adversely affected by happenings at Genoa, and a rather variable tone has ruled, price changes when they have taken place being mainly in a downward direction. French stocks have been dull, War Loan Fives being ¼ down at 44½. German three per cents. are unchanged at 2.7-16. Italian Rentes have further weakened, and are a point down at 24. Russians are about the same, the 4 per cents. being 9, the 4½ per cents. 12½, and the 5 per cents. 15½. Mexican securities have been a specially dull spot with the Five per cents. down to 69. Brazilians are about the same, while Chinese securities have been dull.

Industrials Inactive.

There has been very little doing in the Industrial group, but while business has been on a very restricted scale a good undertone has been in evidence in the markets, and it would obviously take very little to bring about a very marked change in the level of quotations. Tobaccos have been fairly firm, with Bats 3d. up at 79s. 6d., while Imperial Tobaccos are 6d. up at 60s. Dunlops have weakened slightly, and are 3d. down at 8s.

A steady tone has ruled in Textiles. Coats are unchanged at 3.3-16, while Courtaulds are 6d. down at 49s. Iron and Steel securities have been fairly firm. Vickers are unchanged at 12s. 3d., Guest Keens are 6d. down at 33s. 6d., while Armstrongs are unchanged at 16s. x.d.

Shipping securities have been inactive. P. and O. Deferred remain at 325. Cunards are 3d. up at 21s. 6d., while Furness Withys are unchanged at 31s. A feature of the Industrial group of recent weeks has been the activity in Indian railway securities which have shared in the revival in Indian Government securities. In some cases very considerable advances have taken place.

Oils Irregular.

A market peculiarly sensitive to external influences like the Oil is bound to be a very uncertain quantity in present conditions. During the past week Genoa has been decidedly a bear point, and the tendency generally has been one of irregularity although in some directions strength has developed. Burmahs have shed 1-8 at 5½, while Anglo-Persian Ord at 4.13-16 are a similar amount down. Mexican Eagles are 3.17-32, a gain of 1-32. With the exception of Apex, which have been in strong request, closing at 2.5-16, Trinidad issues have been out of favour, though Centrals are a shade better than the previous week at 2½. Leaseholds are unchanged at 1½.

Among Egyptians Anglo-Egyptian B are unchanged at 1.13-16, while Oilfields of Egypt are 1s. down at 6s. 6d. In the Roumanian group Phoenix have come in for further support and at 29s. are 2s. 3d. up. Steaua Romanas are 3d. down at 13s. Roumanian Consolidated are 3d. up at 14s. 3d., while Dacia Romanos are 13-16.

Eastern Banks Strong.

The feature of banking securities has been the strength of Eastern bank shares. Chartered of India are 5-8 up at 18, while National of India are 1½ up at 42. P. and O. Banks are 9-16 up at 14.9-16.

In Egyptian securities Aboukirs are 9d down at 22s. Beheras are unchanged at 8.5-8, while Gharbieh Lands remain at 1½. Sidi Salems are 1-8 lower at ¾, while Union Foncières are 1-8 up at 2½.

ENQUIRY BUREAU.

Merchants, etc., may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau," "The Near East," 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2. It must be understood that "The Near East" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.

116. Import Merchants in Adana, Cilicia, Asia Minor, wish to represent British firms for any kind of British-made goods. Own account and commission basis. Good references provided. Send catalogues and samples with prices and terms.

117. Importer in Roumania, interested in Jute trade, wishes to get in touch with firms dealing in sacks, new and old Dundee, and Calcutta makes.

121. Exporter of Greek Ores in Athens, especially of purest quality Magnesite and Chromite wishes to be connected with interested British Firms.

122. Merchant in Galatz, Roumania, wishes to enter into business relations with British firms willing to ship goods on consignment terms. Guarantees by Leading Banks given. Full details on application. Correspondence in French.

123. Import and Export Merchant in Beyrout (Syria) invites correspondence with British firms. General Merchandise. Will act as agent, commission basis, or own account.

124. Solicitor in Zagreb, Croatia, open to act for British firms requiring legal assistance in Yugoslavia. Correspondence conducted in French, German, Italian and Croatian.

125. A firm of British Merchants and Commission Agents in Liverpool desire to extend their connections in the Near East for General Merchandise.

126. Confectionery. British firm of manufacturers extending their export trade in best quality confectionery suitable for sub-tropical climates will supply details to enquiries from overseas buyers.

127. A Firm exporting all kinds of Metals and other merchandise to Egypt and India would like to get in touch with Imported in the Near East of similar goods.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

VARNA'S GROWING IMPORTANCE.

(From Our Own Correspondent)

Sofia, May 10

Although Varna has always occupied an important position in the economic life of Bulgaria, the refusal of the Allies to grant Bulgaria an economic outlet to the Aegean Sea has considerably enhanced the importance of the town. Situated in the North-East corner of Bulgaria, almost all steamships plying between the Russian ports and Constantinople call there. Trade is fairly brisk and about 15 per cent. of the goods that are landed come from England.

Varna now boasts of over 50,000 inhabitants of which some 5,000 are Greeks and a slightly less number are Jews. Most of the shipping trade is in the hands of these two races, but Bulgarians are also increasing their interest in maritime affairs. One or two companies have been founded with the object of trading with Russia. But so far their efforts have not been successful. Trade by barter is the method most in vogue and recently a boat laden with cereals left for Odessa to return to Varna with a varied collection of jewellery and furs. Up to the present the experience of Varna merchants shows that luck is the dominant feature regarding trade with South Russia.

As a summer resort, Varna claims to be the foremost in Bulgaria, numbers of Sofiotes as well as others spending their holidays by the sea. Between the town and the Royal Palace of Euxinograd quite a number of villas have been built, and as excellent bathing is to be had on a sandy shore Varna is a pleasant place at which to spend a few weeks. The landlocked bay offers good boating, whilst some distance from land there are mackerel and other fish to be caught.

No account of life at Varna is complete without a mention of Russian refugees of whom there are about 2,000 in the town. The women work in restaurants, many new ones having been started, whilst the majority of the men eke out an existence in some way or other. Altogether Varna gives to a stranger the appearance of a prosperous and thriving town, which will greatly benefit when trade with Russia is possible once more.

CONSTANTINOPLE QUAYS.

In the House of Commons on May 2 Mr. Myers asked the Prime Minister whether certain quays at Constantinople had been purchased by the Foreign Office or any other Government Department; if so, would he indicate the time and terms of Parliamentary sanction to the purchase and the price paid; whether any profits had accrued from the transaction; and to what purpose such profits had been devoted?

Mr. Chamberlain: The Constantinople quays, which are

managed by a company, have not at any time been purchased, either by the Foreign Office or any other Government Department.

Mr. Myers: Is the right Hon. Gentleman aware that the terms of the alleged transaction, as set forth in this question, showing the price paid, the amount of the profits, and the purpose to which the profits have been devoted, associated with the names of Lord Grey and Lord Hardinge, are given in Colonel Repington's book?

Mr. Chamberlain: No. I am not aware of what is contained in the book, but my information is what I have just given to the House.

Mr. Myers: If the information is to be found in that book, then, having regard to the seriousness of the situation, what action will be taken?

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

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

Anchor Line.—S.s. Vinolia for Bombay (Liverpool, June 2).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Masirah for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, May 27); s.s. Mangalore for Calcutta (Birkenhead, May 31); s.s. Maidan for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, June 6); s.s. Manipur for Calcutta (Birkenhead, June 7); s.s. Mathar for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, June 20).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Cypria for Gibraltar, Melilla, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Odessa, Novorossisk, Poti and Batoum (Swansea, May 27); s.s. Brescia for Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Ancona, Venice, Trieste, Fiume and Gravosa (Swansea, June 13).

Ellerman Line.—S.s. Maronian for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Ancona, Venice and Trieste (Liverpool, May 18).

Ellerman's "City" Line.—S.s. City of Florence for Bombay and Karachi (Birkenhead, May 19); s.s. City of Chester for Calcutta (Birkenhead, May 22); s.s. City of Cairo for Calcutta (Birkenhead, June 1); s.s. City of York for Calcutta (Birkenhead, June 15).

Ellerman's "Hall" Line.—S.s. City of Simla for Bombay, Karachi and the Punjab (Liverpool, May 29).

Glen Line.—S.s. Glenluce for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, May 18); s.s. Glenshane for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, June 1); s.s. Pembroke for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, June 15).

Holt Line.—S.s. Eumaeus for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, May 18); s.s. Glaucus for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, May 18); s.s. Pyrrhus for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, May 18); s.s. Elpenor for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, May 18); s.s. Eumaeus for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, May 25).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Cundall for Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, May 20); s.s. Incemore for Piraeus, Syra, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, June 3).

Moss Line.—S.s. Etrib for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Malta, Cyprus and Syrian Coast (Liverpool, May 20); s.s. Amarna for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, May 26).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. Gerano for Algiers, Malta, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas and Varna (Liverpool, May 20); s.s. Malatian for Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, June 7).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Egypt for Bombay (London, May 19); s.s. Macedonia for Bombay (London, May 26); s.s. Mantua for Bombay (London, June 2); s.s. Nyanza for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, June 16); s.s. Kaiser-I-Hind for Bombay (London, June 16).

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. Matiana for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, May 26); s.s. Mandala for Bombay and Karachi (London, June 2); s.s. Mantolia for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, June 9); s.s. Nevasa for Bombay and Karachi (London, June 16).

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SCINDIA, AUG. 22

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ELYSIA, SEPT. 20.

CIRCASSIA, OCT. 20.

OLYMPIA, NOV. 7.

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Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Apple Arrivals Poor.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Monday Evening.

Sugar.—Home refined has been in fair demand at unchanged rates. Tate's cubes and mineral water sugar have been steady at 53s. 6d. and 48s. 9d. respectively; while London granulated at 48s. 3d. and Lyle's granulated at 48s. 6d. have remained unchanged. Export descriptions have been firm. West Indian crystallized remains the same at 42s. 6d., while white Mauritius has shed 3s. at 43s. 6d. Cane sugar quotations are:—May 15s. 0d.; June, 15s. 0d.; August, 15s. 0d.; and September, 15s. 0d. White sugar quotations are:—May, 20s. 1½d.; June 20s. 3d.; August, 20s. 4½d.; September, 20s. 3d.; and October-December, 19s. 6d.

Coffee.—All prices are firm. East Indian is the same at 120s.; Costa Rica is firm at 118s.; and Nairobi is unaltered at 108s. The futures market has been steady. Quotations are:—May, 65s.; July, 62s. 6d.; September, 62s. 6d.; December, 60s. 7½d.; and March, 61s. 6d.

Dessicated Coconut.—A good demand has been maintained throughout the market, while quotations are on a more steady basis.

Rice.—American Java rices continue to be in good demand, while Spanish Japan rices have been neglected due to the high prices being demanded. Attention is being given to the Italian variety which is good and the price of which is comparatively low.

Green Fruit.—Arrivals of oranges have been smaller, resulting in higher quotations. There has been a general falling off in the demand for lemons, while prices have hardened. Fine fruit is scarce. The condition and quality of apples arriving have been most disappointing. Large sacrifices are being made to clear the market of bad conditioned fruit. The market for Egyptian onions has been steady.

Oilseeds.—Unsteadiness prevails. Indian linseed has been steady at 22s. 6d., while La Plata has gained 6d. at 21s. 6d. Rapeseed has risen with Toria 6d. up at 19s. Cottonseed has been firm. Indian is unaltered at 10s. 6d., while Sakellaridis is unchanged at 12s. 7½d., and Egyptian black is steady at 12s. 7½d.

Oils.—A firmer tone has characterised the market. Linseed oil has gained 1s. 9d. at 46s. 3d. Rape oil has been steady with crude at 45s., and refined at 48s. Cotton oil has remained the same as last week with the exception of Egyptian crude which has gained 6d. at 43s. Refined and deodorized are both firm at 49s. and 54s. respectively, while technical shows no change at 44s.

Oilcakes.—Linseed cake has been firm at 300s. ton. Cottonmeal cake has been steady at 280s. ton, and coconut cake and cottonseed cake at 160s. and 180s. ton respectively are the same.

CROP CONDITIONS IN IRAQ.

The Agricultural Bulletin of Iraq (Mesopotamia) gives the following particulars of crop conditions for the month ended March 15:—

As for the month of January, the month of February continued to be unusually mild and the current winter season has been exceptional in that not on a single occasion have frosts been recorded in Baghdad. Rains continued to be plentiful in Upper Iraq and there was a general and fairly heavy fall of rain early in March. The growth of all vegetation has continued and it is the general opinion of the Arab population that the desert and steppe lands are better covered with herbage than in any year which they can recall.

As previously reported, the mild season induced certain varieties of fruit trees to flower prematurely and owing to the absence of late frosts no harm has resulted. The flower spathes of the date palm have for the same reason appeared some weeks earlier than is customary, and provided insect attacks are not severe, the Arabs anticipate a good date season. Both irrigated wheat and barley are bumper crops, and here again the incidence of rust disease is likely to be the main factor which will determine the quantity and the quality of the cereal crop.

Condition of Crops.

The clearance of the Yusufiyah Canal has been completed and though labourers were obliged to defer the sowing of crops owing to the demand for manual labour in clearing the canal the area that has been sown to cereals exceeds that of previous years. The crop on this canal, though rather backward, is in good condition. There has been a considerable extension in the cultivated area commanded by the Saklawiyah. The Hillah and Gharraf crops are in prime condition. Winter vegetables are plentiful and citrus fruits continue to be marketed.

The Director of Civil Veterinary Services reports outbreaks of rinderpest in the Dialah and Busreh areas. Altogether 814 animals were inoculated; 145 died before veterinary assistance could be rendered and six infected animals were treated with success. Sheep pox was reported from Kut; 200 animals were treated with success. Fodder supply is everywhere plentiful, and the condition of stock continues to be particularly good.

Experimental Farms and Research.

Land has been prepared on all farms to receive the cotton crop. A comprehensive cropping scheme for various experiments has been prepared for the Central Farm at Rustam, where plant breeding and experimental work with cotton will be continued.

Experimental wheat on all farms is making satisfactory growth. The autumn sown flax crop at Kut has made exceptional growth and has attained an average height of 3ft. 6ins. Land has been prepared for 100 acres of cotton at the Central Farm with the primary object of propagating the seed. Four acres of land have been planted with poplar and willow cuttings on a semi-commercial scale. The analysis of soils from the Amara area was completed during the month.

District Work.

The demand for cotton seed was appreciably in excess of the supply, and despite the high cost of the seed distributed by the Government, which was designed to ensure that the cultivators would give it special attention, the demand has been well in excess of the supply. Cash payment which is demanded for the seed may later induce some of the cultivators to reduce their demand. The total amount of seed now available is sufficient to sow about 2,500 acres. The necessary records will be maintained by the District Staff of all plots of cotton grown from seed supplied by the Department of Agriculture.

Arrangements are completed for demonstration work in silk culture with headquarters at Bequba. Considerable difficulty has been experienced by the commercial firm who imported 2,000 packets of silk worm eggs, which should normally be sufficient for 4,000 families, in disposing of the eggs. The main difficulty is that of cash payment, which silk cultivators are not accustomed to. Arrangements are in train for the Agricultural District Staff to collect on behalf of the importing firm a specified quantity of silk cocoons at the end of the season. This is being done in the mutual interests of the importing firm and of the development of the silk industry. The question of arranging periodic visits of local school children to the silk depot is under

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consideration in consultation with the Department of Education.

An agricultural officer, accompanied by the Assistant Entomologist, has proceeded to the steppe lands of Upper Iraq to experiment with two imported solutions in controlling outbreaks of locusts. Owing to the heavy rains experienced in this tract in the current season, the local inhabitants are of the opinion that all the locust eggs have been killed by excessive moisture in the ground.

It is pleasing to be able to record that the local agents for the Anglo-Persian Oil Company have succeeded in reducing the price of bulk kerosine oil, Qalyan Brand, from 13½ annas to 10½ annas per gallon, which action has been much appreciated by all owners of pumps. The question of co-operative ownership of oil tanks by pump owners is under consideration.

OPIUM MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the month ended April 29 :—

The activity in opium reported in our last monthly circular of March 31 has continued throughout the present month with gradually advancing figures until we reached as high as 12s. per lb. C.I.F. for 12 per cent. The reason of this advance is not only owing to a brisk demand from consumers, but also to our depleting stocks, as the arrivals of the drug from the growing districts are small and far between. We have been informed that constant shipments of opium are being effected from the North Asia-Minor ports to Russia, which we presume are destined for the Far Eastern Markets by way of Siberia. This, as everyone understands will very soon deplete our Interior stocks, especially as our crops are getting less and less every year.

Another factor which must be taken into consideration is the high prices for labour, which growers, when they can find it, have to pay. In pre-war times the average price of labour in the Interior nowhere exceeded 10 pence per day for every able bodied man, and now it is over 12s. and at that figure farmers complain that there is a great dearth. The total amount of opium which changed hands during this month is about 15,680 lbs. and the average Sterling price paid is 11s. 3d. per lb. C.I.F. port of destination. The arrivals to date are 1,300 cases against 1,370 at same date last year, and our stock in first and second hands is now 930. The exchange is weak at Ps. 650 per pound sterling for cheque on London, and 0.68.3-4 dollars for one Turkish pound.

ASIA MINOR FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud & Co., Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended April 29 :—

Sultanas.—The total estimated arrivals to date amount to 170,450 bags as against 103,500 bags for the corresponding period of last year. The estimated sales were 166,450 bags compared with 103,375 bags for last year, while the estimated stock unsold totals 4,000 bags as against 125 bags for 1921.

Markets.—The sultana market continues in firmer tendency. It will be noted that total sales this week amount to about 10,000 boxes. Stocks during April have been reduced by about 300 tons. Remaining available supplies for export are assessed at about 1,300 tons, mostly of inferior qualities.

CURRENT PRICES.

General Produce.—Bacon : (Continental), 144s. cwt. ; (Canadian), 128s. 6d. cwt. ; (American), 100s. cwt. ; butter (Danish), 188s. cwt. ; (Australian), 170s. cwt. ; (New Zealand), 172s. cwt. ; cheese (Canadian), 92s. cwt. ; (New Zealand), 78s. cwt. ; lard, 70s. 6d. cwt. ; eggs (Danish), 16s. 6d. per 120 ; (Styrian), 12s. per 120 ; chillies, 162s. 6d. cwt. ; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 2½d. lb. ; cocoa (Ceylon good to fine), 90s. cwt. ; coffee (Costa Rica), 132s. 6d. cwt. ; (East Indian), 125s. cwt. ; (Central American), 104s. cwt. ; (Jamaica), 69s. 9d. cwt. ; (Mocha longberry), 105s. cwt. ; (Santos, superior), 71s. 6d. cwt. ; ginger (washed Cochin), 52s. 6d. cwt. ; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 11½d. lb. ; pepper (Singapore black), 4d. lb. ; (Muntok white), 7½d. lb. ; pimento, 2.1-8d. lb. ; raisins (Valencias), 67s. 6d. cwt. ; sultanas (Smyrna), 119s. cwt. ; currants (Vostizza), 71s. 6d. cwt. ; (Amalias), 59s. cwt. ; sugar (Tate's cubes), 53s. cwt. ; (Lyle's granulated), 48s. 4½d. cwt. ; (Mauritius crystals), 44s. 6d. cwt. ; (West Indian crystallised), 42s. cwt. ; (centrifugal), 14s. 9d. cwt. ; tapioca (fair Singapore), 2d. lb. ; rice (Rangoon No. 2), 14s. 1½d. cwt. ; 1½ (bran

Rangoon), 16 6s. 3d. ton ; cinnamon (firsts), 11½d. lb. ; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 6½d. lb. ; tea (Indian, common to good common), 1s. 1½d. lb. ; (medium to good), 1s. 6d. lb. ; (fine to finest), 2s. 7½d. lb. ; Ceylon (common to good common), 1s. 2d. lb. ; (medium to good), 1s. 6d. lb. ; (fine to finest), 2s. 7½d. lb. ; Java (common to good common), 10½d. lb. ; wheat (English white), 59s. 6d. qr. ; wheat (Australian), 60s. 9d. qr. ; barley (malting), 45s. qr. ; barley (feeding), 30s. 6d. qr. ; oats (English), 36s. qr. ; oats (La Plata, ex-ship), 20s. 3d. qr. ; maize (La Plata), 39s. 1½d. qr. ; flour, 47s. sack.

Metals.—Aluminium, £122 10s. ton ; antimony (English Regulus), £30 15s. ton ; bismuth, 9s. lb. ; copper (standard), £59 18s. 9d. ton ; copper (electro), £66 ton ; gold bars, 93s. 5d. oz. ; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 90s. ton ; hematite (mixed number), 97s. 6d. ton ; galvanised sheets (25 G), £16 5s. ton ; lead (soft foreign), £23 11s. 3d. ton ; manganese Poti, 1s. 1½d. unit ; molybdenite, 30s. unit ; nickel, £175 ton ; platinum, 300s. oz. ; plumbago, £16 ton ; quicksilver, £10 2s. 6d. bottle ; spelter (G.O.B.), £26 18s. 9d. ton ; tin (standard), £149 17s. 6d. ton ; wolfram, 10s. 1½d. unit ; zinc sheets, £35 5s. ton ; tin plates (20 by 14), 19s. 6d. box ; silver bars, 35½d. oz.

Chemicals.—Acids : Boric, 61s. cwt. ; oxalic, 8½d. lb. ; citric, 2s. 1½d. lb. ; tartaric, 1s. 3½d. lb. ; ammonia (sulphate) £16 11s. 6d. ton ; arsenic (white powdered), £35 5s. ton ; benzole (standard), 2s. 5½d. gallon ; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £12 10s. ton ; borax crystals, 29s. 6d. cwt. ; cream of tartar, 118s. 90s. cwt. ; Potassium : Bichromate, 6½d. lb. ; chlorate, 4½d. lb. ; caustic, £33 10s. ton ; nitrate, £37 10s. ton ; permanganate, 9½d. lb. ; prussiate yellow, 1s. 1½d. lb. ; sulphate (90 per cent.), £15 5s. ton ; Sodium : Crystals, 130s. ton ; bi-carbonate, £11 5s. ton ; bichromate, 5½d. lb. ; alkali (58 per cent.), £9 1s. 3d. ton ; chlorate, 3½d. lb. ; caustic (70 per cent.), £23 ton ; hyposulphite, £16 ton ; prussiate, 9½d. lb. ; nitrate, £15 1s. 3d. ton ; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £75 ton ; glycerine (industrial 1260 per cent.), £100 ton ; lemon oil, 3s. 6½d. lb. ; quinine, 2s. 10½d. oz. ; red lead, £36 ton ; white lead, £39 5s. ton ; white ground lead, £49 15s. ton ; sulphate of copper, £27 5s. ton ; sulphate of iron, 75s. ton.

Hides and Skins.—Ox and Heifer (first), 90 lbs. and up, 8½d. lb. ; 80 to 89 lbs., 8½d. lb. ; 70 to 79 lbs., 8d. lb. ; 60 to 69 lbs., 7.3-8 lb. ; 59 lbs. and under, 6½d. lb. ; (second), 90 lbs. and up, 6½d. lb. ; 80 to 89 lbs., 6.7-8d. lb. ; 70 to 79 lbs., 6½d. lb. ; 60 to 69 lbs., 5.7-8d. lb. ; 59 lbs. and under, 5.1-8d. lb. ; Cows (first), 60 lbs. and up, 6.7-8d. lb. ; 59 lbs. and under, 6½d. lb. ; (second), 60 lbs. and up, 5d. lb. ; 59 lbs. and under, 5d. lb. ; Bulls (first), 4.5-8d. lb. ; (second), 3d. lb. ; Kips (first), 4½d. lb. ; (second), 3½d. lb. ; (third), 2.7-8d. lb. ; Calcutta Market. Prices in rupees per 20 lb. :—Arsenic hides (cows) : Agras, 7.8 to 13 ; Durbhargas, 6 to 7.8 ; Patnas, 5 to 6. Salted cows, 4 to 7.8. Arsenic hides (buffalo), 4 to 8. Skins : Calf, 8 to 10 per 20 lb. ; goat, 200 to 240 per 100 pieces.

Miscellaneous.—Cotton : (American), 11.12d. lb. ; (Egyptian Sakel), 17.22d. lb. ; jute (first grade c.i.f.), £29 17s. 6d. ton ; jute (lightnings), £27 ton ; Oilseeds : Linseed (La Plata), £21 11s. 3d. ton ; palm kernals, £18 7s. ton ; castor seed (Bombay), £16 17s. 6d. ton ; sesame seed (China), £24 12s. 6d. ton ; soya beans, £12 12s. 6d. ton ; Oils : Linseed, £44 7s. 6d. ton ; olive (Spanish), £70 ton ; rape (crude), £44 10s. ton ; soya, £38 7s. 6d. ton ; petroleum, 1s. 4½d. gallon ; petrol, 2s. 1d. gallon ; fuel oil (ex-tank), 70s. ton ; coconut (Ceylon), £39 12s. ton ; cotton (crude), £42 5s. ton ; ground nut £44 15s. ton ; Rubber : Plantation (No. 1 crepe), 8½d. lb. ; smoked sheet, 8½d. lb. ; fine hard Para, 10½d. lb.

The Burma Railways announce in addition to guaranteed interest of 1½ per cent., an interim dividend of 1½ per cent. in respect of surplus profits, both less tax, payable July 1.

Coupons due May 15 of the Persia 5 per Cent. Sterling Loan 1911 will be paid on and after that date at the Imperial Bank of Persia, 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.4, or at Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie and Co., 67, Lombard Street, E.C.3.

THE

NORTH-WEST TANNERY

COMPANY, LIMITED.

CAWNPORE, INDIA:

Telegraphic Address :—"LEATHER, CAWNPORE."

We are the Largest Manufacturers in India of—

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PRICES CHEAPER THAN IN ENGLAND.

Fully Illustrated Catalogue sent free on application.

Cotton & Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Commercial Co. of Egypt in its report for the week ended May 5 states :—

Since our last report the futures market has been fairly active although the undertone has certainly not been as good as one would expect. This week's sensational rise in the New York market, which at one time brought high prices for near positions to about 20 cents, has but slightly influenced our market, this poor response being due to the heavy accumulation of stocks here and in Liverpool, and the very poor demand for actual cotton from the leading consuming countries. As a secondary cause of this somewhat depressing state of things may be mentioned a carters' strike which has this week seriously impeded business as is shown by the poor export figures. The prospects of an early settlement of the dispute are good. Speculation has again been more or less inactive, and it is apparent that before committing themselves on the bull side speculators would like to see a substantial reduction in the existing stocks or hear really bad reports on the progress of the new crop. The Government has this week bought very little cotton, and it is apparently not its intention to buy on rising markets. The local political situation keeps rather quiet, and on the Stock market a very firm tone still prevails, quotations all round registering considerable advances, this being especially the case with gilt-edged securities.

Spot :—Total sales amount this week to about 9,000 bales which figure includes 500 bales Sakellaridis bought by the Government ; of this total we estimate 6,600 bales Sakellaridis, 2,200 bales Uppers, 150 bales Pilon and 50 bales White. The last two days have shown considerably increased activity but the demand always remains in the inferior qualities.

The Government purchased about 500 bales Sakellaridis F.G.F. and F.G.F. to Good from 34 to 35 1-2 at the beginning of the week but afterwards withdrew from the market. The bulk of the business done has been in the grades G.F. and below although there has been a slightly increased demand for the better qualities. The basis in general remains unchanged, with the exception of Good which is slightly firmer.

Climatic conditions have been more or less favourable and the present state of the plant is satisfactory. The proportion of resowings in general has not been heavier than the normal. The water supply is hardly adequate for all requirements and complaints are more or less general.

MANCHESTER MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Friday.

The market during the past week has been distinctly dearer. The further advance in raw cotton values has stimulated demand in yarn and cloth. Although from the point of view of Lancashire higher prices for the raw material are not desirable if the increased values are maintained it will give our customers abroad more confidence in placing orders. The two mill disputes in Oldham are not considered very serious. In the cloth

section there has been a considerable demand about for the outlets of the Near East and useful orders have been secured for Egypt and the Levant. Egyptian yarn quotations have hardened, and on the whole increased demand has been met with, but the total sales have not been important. There has been a big cloth inquiry for India, and sales have been arranged in a wide range of fabrics. China has been quiet, but the auctions are to be resumed there next week. American yarn quotations have been higher, and spinners have reported more activity. Altogether the prospects of the market at the moment are the most encouraging we have experienced for some time back, and, generally speaking, higher values all round are anticipated, as the American cotton crop has had a bad start, and there is every likelihood of a shortage of the raw material during the coming season.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended May 10 :—

The past week has proved to be the most promising one we have witnessed for a considerable time—at least as far as actual concrete results are concerned. The general daily enquiry has shown improvement, and Uppers and Brown cottons have been attracting more attention. Sakellaridis, of course, still claims the largest share, but this week Sudan cotton has also been much in request (no less than 1,000 bales having been purchased on one day alone), and as we write this demand, which has been the feature of the week, shows no signs of flagging. In sympathy with American futures, our futures market has displayed an upward tendency, but the advance has not as yet been reflected on the spot, where one finds the greatest difficulty in obtaining anything like the official quotations ruling. Spinners are still fighting against the smallest advance in the price of raw material.

C.i.f. business has continued to run on quiet lines only. Manchester reports have been consistently good throughout the week, and there seems but little doubt that a real improvement in trade has at last become manifest. Business with India appears to be broadening out, whilst Egypt and other of the smaller outlets are again adding their quota. The Shanghai auctions are to be resumed next week, and it is hoped that, now that order has been more or less restored in China, the weight of that country's buying power will once again be felt to advantage. Crop reports from Egypt are, on the whole, favourable, although in certain districts complaints are forthcoming of water shortage. It is possible that this shortage may become more acute as time goes on. The acreage planted appears to be slightly in excess of the 1921 sowing. Estimated sales 4,600 bales (includes 1,700 bales Sudan). Quotations of " Good " and above in Sakellaridis are reduced 25 points ; other quotations are unchanged on the week. Fully Good Fair Sakellaridis 18.00d.

MANCHESTER COTTON REVIEW.

The Imperial Ottoman Bank report for the week ended May 13 states :—

The past week has been the best in the cotton trade from every point of view for a very long time. The settlement of the wages question for a definite period, and the strength of the raw cotton market, have combined to induce in buyers a sentiment more favourable to the placing of orders even at slightly higher prices than those recently ruling. Another factor which has undoubtedly helped the market is the slight improvement of the exchange in India and China.

Yarn.—In this market good business has been done, and prices are firmer than a week ago. The weak spots amongst producers are fewer, and the tone generally is improved. It is interesting to note from the Board of Trade returns the rapid way in which our exports of yarn are developing. Whilst from one point of view this is good it represents the loss to this country of a certain amount of weaving formerly done here, the countries to which this yarn is being exported evidently doing this themselves. Shipments of yarn last month amounted to 21,328,000 lb. against

COMMERCIAL BANK of GREECE, Ltd.

CAPITAL PAID UP—Drs. 20,000,000.

RESERVE FUNDS Drs. 10123,920,45/00.

Head Office : ATHENS.

Branches:—Piræus, Salonika, Patras, Vola, Syra, Calamata, Corfu, Cephalonia, Candia, Chios, Argos, Pyrgos, Vostizza (Aegion), Nauplia, Larissa, Triccala, Mitylene, Canoe.

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

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

MERCHANDISE DEPARTMENT:

The Bank undertakes the warehousing and sale of goods consigned

18,750,700 lb. in March, and 8,852,700 lb. in April, 1921, which was, however, an exceedingly bad month.

Cloth.—This section is perhaps not quite so firm as yarn, as the higher prices now generally quoted are acting to a certain extent as a deterrent to the placing of actual business. Nevertheless makers are in a much stronger position, and there is a tendency on the part of buyers to meet them in price. India has again been the principal buyer. China is operating more freely following the better political news. Egypt and the Levant have also shown more activity and the same may be said of South American markets. Shipments last month amounted to 302,598,200 square yards against 303,857,500 square yards in March, and 186,760,700 square yards in April last year.

Raw Cotton.—Whilst this market has maintained this upward tendency of the preceding week there have been several fluctuations, but there is a net rise on the week in fully middling American of 58 points. The strength shown has imparted itself as above-mentioned to all sections of the trade. Closing prices:—American fully middling 11.73d., Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 18.00d.

CZECHO-SLOVAK BANK RATE REDUCED.

At the monthly meeting of the Bank Committee attached to the Czecho-Slovak Ministry of Finance the Finance Minister presiding, it was decided to recommend the reduction of the bank rate from $5\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 per cent. The Committee expressed the hope that the reduction would favourably affect the industries of the country, which are suffering from a temporary depression owing to the loss of markets through the high value of the Czecho-Slovak crown. The Committee further reported that from 15th March to 15th April the fiduciary circulation had been reduced by 350 million crowns. The exchange rate of the Czecho-Slovak crown maintains its high level, a result to which the success of the State Loan floated in England and the foreign loans of the municipality of Prague have contributed.

ROUMANIAN CONSOLIDATED.

The Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields, Ltd., production for the period April 16 to 29 amounted to 1,030 tons. Development work was as follows:—Moreni, well No. 44: drilled 16 mètres, to 836 mètres, cased to 832 mètres. Well No. 51: making road and derrick foundations. Well No. 61: drilled 42 mètres, to 634 mètres. Well No. 83: depth 738 mètres, cased with $12\frac{1}{2}$ in. collared pipe to bottom. Well No. 101: Erecting derrick and cased hand-dug. Well No. 102: drilled 63 mètres, to 325 mètres. Well No. 104: Drilled 14 mètres, to 867 mètres. The first gas-sand has now been reached, and this well should strike the powerful oilsand at about 900 mètres, instead of the 920 mètres previously estimated. Well No. 106: drilled 56 mètres with rotary to 66 mètres. Gura Ocneitei well No. 4: depth 706 mètres; cleaning with corkscrew bit at bottom. Chiciura well No. 10: depth 620 mètres; lowering Mannesmann poles. Aricesti well No. 5: depth 119 mètres, loosening 18 in. casing. Well No. 6: drilled 11 metres, to 23 mètres. Well No. 7: rigging up.

THE LATE MR. A. E. BENACHI.

Mr. A. E. Benachi, whose death occurred recently at Alexandria, was a member of the firm of Choremi, Benachi and Co., and a member of the Cotton Association. He was 44 years of age, and was the second son of Mr. E. A. Benachi, who was senior partner of Messrs. Davies, Benachi and Co., cotton merchants, Liverpool, until his retirement some years ago. Mr. Benachi was educated at Rossall, and joined the Liverpool firm, of which he became a partner. He went to Alexandria ten years ago. Mr. E. A. Benachi, his father, was Lord Mayor of Athens, as well as being Minister for Trade in the Venizelos Administration during the war.

The quantity of gold extracted from the mines in India during February, amounted to 34,090 oz., valued at Rs.23,14,441.

The Burma Railways Company announces, in addition to a guaranteed interest of $\frac{1}{2}$ 5s. per cent., an interim dividend of $\frac{1}{2}$ 15s. per cent. in respect of surplus profits, payable July 1, both less tax.

A Reuter message from Constantinople states that Javid Bey, the former Unionist Minister of Finance, has been elected unanimously as the delegate of the Turkish bondholders on the Council of the Ottoman Public Debt.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.
(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35 Old Queen Street, S.W.)

Egypt.

Drugs, etc.—The Department of Public Health invite tenders for the supply of drugs required for the period of six months from October 1 next. The tenderer must be a person residing in Egypt or must have a representative in Egypt. June 15 (D.O.T.)

Blacking.—The Egyptian Ministry of War invite tenders for the supply of 30,000 lb. of blacking. Particulars can be obtained from the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1. May 16.

Sailors' Navy Blue Serge.—The Egyptian Ministry of War invite tenders for the supply of sailors' navy blue serge. Particulars can be obtained from and samples seen at the office of the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1. May 24.

Brooms and Brushes.—The Egyptian War Department invite tenders for the supply of brooms and brushes. Particulars can be obtained from the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1. May 17.

Weighing Machines.—The Physical Department of the Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invite tenders for the supply of platform weighing machines and also for counter scales and appliances. Tenders must be sent to the Controller, Physical Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo. Drawings must be furnished. Representation by an agent resident in Egypt is essential. June 1. (D.O.T.)

General Repairs.—The Inspector, South Division, State Buildings Department, Cairo, invites tenders for general repairs for ten months from June 1, 1922. May 24.

Drums.—The Department of Supplies Stores, Savoy House, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 550 drums of 4 gallons new or second hand in good condition. May 12.

Baling Cloth.—The Director-General, State Domains Administration, Sharia El Falaki, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of baling cloth, cotton sacks, and grain sacks. May 15.

Carbide of Calcium.—Tenders are invited by the Postmaster-General, G.P.O., Alexandria, for the supply of $12\frac{1}{2}$ tons of carbide of calcium. Delivery October 2, 1922. June 15.

Paper etc.—Tenders are invited by the Superintendent, Government Press, Bulaq, Cairo, for the supply of paper, bristol-board, and mill-board. June 20.

Binding Cloth etc.—Tenders are invited by the Superintendent Government Press, Bulaq, Cairo, for the supply of binding cloth and roller composition. June 24.

India.

Boiler Tubes, etc.—The High Commissioner for India invites tenders for the supply of:—1. Tubes; boiler, steel, solid drawn, of various sizes, for locomotives—No. 14,000. 2. Pins, keep, split, bright, and screws, iron, of various descriptions and sizes. 3. Mild steel plates, plain, of various sizes—125 tons. 4. Enamel ware utensils (slop pails, pots, basins, ewers, spittoons, etc.). 5. Insulator cups, porcelain or glass—No. 430,000. 6. Paints, dry, and ground in oil, of various descriptions, and driers. Forms of tender may be obtained from the Director-General, India Store Department. Tenders close on May 16 for No. 1, and on May 26 for Nos. 2 to 6.

Cast Iron Waterpipes.—The Jharia Water Board, Topchanchi, near Gomoh, on the East Indian Railway, invite tenders for the supply of 3,300 tons of 21-inch cast iron water pipes and special castings. June 7.

Girder Bridges.—The East Indian Railway invite tenders for the supply of girder bridges. Tenders should be addressed to the Secretary of the Company, 29 and 30, Nicholas Lane, London, E.C.4. May 17.

Gas Engine, etc.—Tenders are invited by the High Commissioner for India for the supply of:—(1) Gas engine, horizontal, single cylinder, and generator. (2) Scales and weighing machines. (3) Machines, lithographic, rotary. (4) Tin sheets. (5) Springs, helical and volute, for engines, etc.

Forms of tender may be obtained from the Director-General India Store Department, Belvedere Road, Lambeth. June 2 for Nos. 1 to 4, May 30 for No. 5.

Palestine.

Coal.—The Crown Agents for the Colonies, acting for the Administration of Palestine, invite tenders for the supply of 15,000 tons large Welsh steam coal, c.i.f. Haifa. Forms of tender and conditions of contract may be obtained at the office of the Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, London, S.W.1.

Bulgaria.

Bar Iron.—The Bulgarian Directorate of Railways and Ports invites tenders for the supply of:—78,300 kilogrammes flat iron bars; 136,750 kilogrammes round iron bars; 6,650 kilogrammes hexagonal iron bars; 46,250 kilogrammes square iron bars; 12,000 kilogrammes angle iron. Delivery is required c.i.f. Bulgarian, Black Sea or Danube Port within four months of the date of the order. May 26 (D.O.T.).

Yugoslavia.

Shirts and Pantaloon.—The Direction of the Serbian Army invite tenders for the supply of 100,000 shirts and 100,000 pantaloon, for delivery as follows:—25,000 pieces in 75 days, 50,000 pieces in 105 days, 25,000 pieces in 120 days. Further particulars may be obtained from the offices of the Banque Franco-Serbe, 30 Coleman Street, E.C. May 23.

SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

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

Constantinople, May 6.

Business remains feeble here, the position in Anatolia paralysing more and more the activity of our traders. Imports are restricted to absolute necessities, and consist chiefly of foodstuffs such as flour, sugar, butter, rice. The financial crisis continues.

There is no change in the market for manufactures. Transactions are restricted. It is hoped that some sales will be made with the approach of the Bairam holidays.

Sugar.—The demand locally and for the ports of the Black Sea and of Syria has strengthened the market. American sugar has been done at £21½ per ton and Dutch at £24 per ton. Sugar in customs has hardened by £T2 per 100 kilos. Quotations are:—£T26½ for American, and £T27½ for Dutch.

Coffee.—Prices have further increased in Brazil. Here the quotation is Ps.50-56 in transit. Stocks are estimated at 4,000 sacks.

Rice.—This commodity remains firm on all the European markets. Quotations:—Saigon No. 1, Marseilles shipment, 84 francs per 100 kilos; Rangoon, Alexandria shipment, £16 per ton; here Ps.16½-17 per oke.

CLEARANCE OF GOODS IN SYRIA AND LEBANON.

A Decree of the French High Commissioner in Syria and Lebanon provides that reliable importers may import goods into Syria and Lebanon without immediate payment of Customs duties, credit being allowed for a period of one month on payment of an extra ½ per cent. of the duty. In order to obtain this credit the importer must give bills for the amount, bearing interest at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum.

LIVERPOOL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At the annual meeting of the Greek and Levant Trade Section of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, Mr. J. Irving Rogers (Messrs. J. Irving Rogers & Co.) was re-elected chairman, and Mr. E. L. Kenyon (Messrs. Levy Kenyon & Parker) vice-chairman. A cordial vote of thanks was accorded to the retiring vice-chairman (Mr. Acratopulo) for his work in connection with the section during his term of office.

The following resolution was passed by the Section: "We, the members of the Greek and Levant Section, whilst considering the Hague Rules preferable to the conditions of present bills of lading, and having, therefore, already recommended their immediate adoption, consider, in common with all the leading traders' associations of Great Britain, that the said Hague Rules should form the basis of a legal enactment on the lines of the Canadian Water Carriage of Goods Act, 1910, in accordance with the recommendation of the Imperial Shipping Committee, 1921, and urge upon the Government to forthwith pass an Act to this effect."

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

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

Messrs. P. REDON, Director
B. KERESTEDJIAN
J. UNGAR

} Sub-Directors.

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HAMID BEY.
NOURY BEY.

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(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

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Jaffa.
Caiffa.
Ramallah.

CYPRUS.
Famagusta.
Larnaca.
Limassol.
Nicosia.
Paphos.

PERSIA:
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(Banque de Syrie—Affiliated Bank):

Aleppo.
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The Bank has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of Credit granted.

Exchange and Merchandise operations effected.

Company Meetings.

NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE.

The Economic Outlook.

The ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the National Bank of Greece was held on March 25 at the head office of the bank at Athens. The governor, M. D. Maximos, read on behalf of the general council of the bank the report for 1921 the chief points of which are given below:—

"The Asia Minor campaign" said M. Maximos "was carried on during the past year exclusively with our own financial resources. Foreign financial aid, which is indispensable in every war, and which constitutes one of the most important factors of success, was completely lacking. No loan or credit was granted to the Government from abroad during the whole year under review, and it became necessary for it further to intensify its financial efforts as the country was exhausted by long years of war.

"From the beginning of the Great War until to-day, Greece has received financial assistance from abroad to the extent of £6,540,000 (against the credit of £11,895,321 3s. 6d., granted by the British Government, according to the terms of the agreements of February 10th, 1918 and May 19th, 1919), of 15,000,000 dollars (against the similar credit of 48,236,629.05 dollars from the United States) and of 7,342,702.97 dollars (from the Canadian Government for the purchase of wheat), or advances in all amounting to 280,328,000 francs, but, on the other hand, she advanced for the maintenance of the French troops in Macedonia a sum of 309,468,044 drachmae (capital and interest up to the end of 1921). As these two sums approximately balance each other, owing to the rate of exchange at the time the advance was made for the French troops, the only real assistance received by Greece has been a certain quantity of war material, the share of which to be charged to her according to her general financial and economic situation (in pursuance of the terms of the agreement of February 10th, 1918) has not yet been fixed.

"The world-wide economic crisis continued throughout the year 1921. In spite of every endeavour, the economic and industrial stagnancy showed no signs of amelioration. The prevailing international political uncertainty and the difficulties in the way of business relations aggravated the economic situation to such a degree that the past year may be looked upon as one of the worst ever experienced. Unemployment was so great, especially in those industrial countries which possess a healthy currency, that, in the case of England for example, the British Premier described the position as the worst period in respect of unemployment which that great nation had to confront for a whole century, or from the end of the Napoleonic Wars. This wholly abnormal and very dangerous situation is due to the reduction of the power of consumption, owing to the want of means to pay for articles of consumption, to the closing of important markets, to the reduction of the world's trade almost to one-half of the pre-war volume, and to the fluctuations and fall of the different exchanges. Fortunately certain comforting signs of an improvement in the unfavourable conditions under which mankind had to live during the past year began to appear on the internal economic horizon at the commencement of the present year.

"In spite of the fact that the international economic situation last year was such as I have briefly described it above, and that during the whole of the year we were carrying on the greatest war that the Greek race has ever yet known, our markets showed signs of very great powers of resistance and no serious irregularity presented itself during the period under review. Trade, industry and agriculture continued their regular course, thanks to the assistance accorded them by the credit institutions of the country, whose position is excellent.

"The National Bank, although circumstances compelled it to remain at the side of the Government, and to afford it every financial assistance in its power, in order to carry on the great national work, nevertheless kept its doors open to serve the requirements of the commerce, agriculture and industry of the country. It was only the agricultural needs of Western Thrace that we were unable to satisfy as widely as we should have desired. This question will in the near future form one of our chief cares, as the future welfare of the country depends upon the exploitation of its agricultural wealth. The data which we possess, and which we are studying, show that a very great increase in our agricultural production can be achieved by systematic work. Once this is done, Greece will become one of the richest countries in Europe, thanks to her other sources of wealth as well. This object requires as a *sine qua non* the harmonious and assiduous co-operation of the three chief factors, viz., labour, capital, and the mechanism of the state. We have no doubt that the Government will devote its attention to rendering healthy the finances of the state by enforcing a programme of the strictest economy in all branches of administration and by bringing about a corresponding increase of the national revenue. We also hope that the proper measures will be taken with a view to securing a more harmonious functioning of the administrative machinery. We must, all of us, however, contribute all the aid in our power in enforcing these measures which are indispensable for our economic restoration.

"During the year under review Greece, like most other countries, passed through a period of great fluctuations in the rates of foreign exchange. The exceptional conditions in which

our country found itself during this period, the influence of which naturally affected the price of the drachma, were chiefly responsible for this result. We had need of large amounts of foreign exchange for the supplies of the army, which was fighting in places where its expenses had to be paid in foreign money. The influence of this fact on the rate of foreign exchange might have been mitigated if the Government had imposed the drachma as legal tender in the occupied territory. But, for political reasons, it was thought better not to adopt this measure. Consequently, speculation developed on a large scale, and grew to such dimensions in May last that the Government was compelled to take steps to secure a monopoly of the handling of exchange by those banks which do business in Greece. The banks, with that patriotism which has always distinguished them, placed their services at the disposal of the State, as well as part of their disposable funds in exchange. In this way, by Law 2612 of May 11-24 a Consortium of Banks was created, which included on December 31, 1921 (January 13, 1922) 25 banks with a capital of £1,636,519 of which the National Bank had covered £1,000,000. This organisation in our opinion rendered most important services to the country, since, thanks to it, it was found possible to restrict the demand for exchange and to fix the rates on the basis of the offers and the real needs of the market, and to avoid the great fluctuations consequent on speculation, the result of which is extremely harmful to the economic life of the country.

"Foreign trade shows considerable improvement in the year under review, as will be observed from the following figures, issued by the Statistics Department of the Ministry of National Economy:— Imports (1920)—Dr. 2,131,038, 321; (1921)—1,673,619,410; Difference—457,418,911. Exports (1920)—Dr. 604,112,647; (1921)—816,991,190; Difference—152,878,543. Total (1920)—Dr. 2,795,150,968; (1921)—2,490,610,600; Difference—304,540,368.

"In spite of the situation caused by the war, an improvement in our balance of trade is to be noted. Imports have fallen by 21.46 per cent., whilst exports increased by 23.02 per cent. The falling-off in imports is partly due to the fall in prices in the international markets, to the limitation of the allotment by the Consortium of foreign exchange to applicants, and to the rising of the agio. It would be advisable to make every effort to develop the agricultural products of the country by which we may attain to equilibrium in our foreign trade. Many factors contributed to compensate the adverse balance of trade, chief amongst them being remittances from emigrants. The sums remitted during the year 1921 through our bank alone amounted to about Dr. 830,000,000."

M. Maximos then supplied information about the agricultural produce of the country. The currant crop was satisfactory, as were the prices obtained. Tobacco fell short of the 1920 crop, and the same was true of oil, as the year 1921 was not a good year for olives. Other products were satisfactory, and the agrarian population was flourishing.

The special interest taken by the bank in the development and organization of agrarian credit met with satisfactory results this year as well. The favourable results noticeable encouraged the administration to persevere in their policy of fostering agriculture, a policy which, even if the bank did not derive from it any profit to speak of (owing to the low rate of interest and the expensive nature of such business), yet afforded the satisfaction that by its encouragement of agriculture the bank was fostering on more general grounds the most important wealth-producing factor in the country. The new capital invested in 1921 in agrarian credit under one form or another amounted to Dr. 73,241,309.

The Governor then reminded the shareholders that last year a Convention was signed and ratified which prolonged the privileges of the bank until the end of the year 1920, and extended them at once to the new territories. He emphasized the importance for the bank of this Convention, which assured it a long life, so that it could give it services to the country without hesitation and could handle the important questions arising from time to time in a broad spirit. He also expressed the thanks of the bank to the Chamber and the Government for the interest they took in the bank and their recognition of the bank's services to the country.

"During the year under review," continued Mr. Maximos, "The loans which we were able to advance to the Government without any inconvenience, from our disposal funds, as you will observe from the data and conventions which have been laid before you, were indeed very important. But, in the circumstances prevailing, I think that nobody can possibly claim that the bank should overlook the urgent need which dictated the granting of this assistance to the Government. Besides the fact of this urgent necessity, all due measures were taken to prevent the least difficulty arising in the way of the bank's ministering to the general needs of the country, and moreover by the action of the bank the economic situation of the country was greatly benefited. We should be forgetting the traditions of the bank were we to fail in showing the elasticity demanded by the circumstances at a moment when the whole nation, three years after the signing of the Armistice, is striving with its own financial forces to fulfil the just aspirations of the race."

"The productive business of the bank at the end of the year 1921 showed an important increase in all branches, compared with the results of the previous year. The average capital engaged in the year 1921 in these branches also showed a general increase compared with the previous year."

"The increase in the deposits with the Bank during the past year is worthy of special remark. The total deposits at sight at fixed terms, and savings-bank deposits amounted on December 31 (o.s.) 1921, to Dr. 1,909,312,000; and on December 31, 1920, to Dr. 1,191,258,000. The average for the year was in 1921, Dr. 1,517,750,000; in 1920, Dr. 948,432,000.

On the other hand, the total of deposits in general within the year, together with interest, amounted to Dr. 8,409,372,793.93, whereas in the previous year they only reached Dr. 6,522,304,004.42 or, in other words, the increase during the year 1921 amounted to Dr. 1,944,008,189.51 or 29.8 per cent. Another point worth noting is the movement under deposits and withdrawals of deposits, which reached a total of Dr. 16,295,157,610.66 in 1921, or an increase of Dr. 3,788,195,082.26.

"The profits of the bank during the year 1921, were exceptionally satisfactory. The administration feels obliged nevertheless to draw attention to the fact that these results must be considered as abnormal, as they arise from extraordinary business on the one hand, and on the other from latent profits deriving from previous years, which had to be shown after the signature of the Convention providing for the participation of the state to a considerable extent in the profits from January 1-14, 1923."

"We distributed out of these profits dividends of 250 dr. for the first half year and 300 dr. for the second half, whilst transferring to reserves during the whole year the important sum of 85,000,000 dr. We believe that no objection will be raised to this measure, proposed by the administration to the general council of the bank, as the importance of strengthening our bank by generous transfers from profits to reserves must be clear to all, seeing that the period through which we are passing is a critical one, and it is necessary that the guarantees afforded by the National Bank shall correspond with circumstances and the scale of the business of the Bank."

"In concluding this report, we cannot refrain from once more extolling the endurance which the country has displayed in the critical period through which we are passing. Although the Government has had to cope with the most difficult period of the economic life of the kingdom, on account of the great war which we are carrying on, the financial machinery has nevertheless worked smoothly. We are consequently justified in regarding the future with complete confidence."

The report was unanimously adopted.

NEW EGYPTIAN.

The twenty-first ordinary general meeting of the members of the new Egyptian Company was held on April 5, at the head office of the company, 4, rue Adib, Alexandria, Egypt.

The Chairman (Mr. H. E. Barker), speaking in French, said: The year which is just gone by and for which we now present to you the balance-sheet and accounts, was a very difficult one. The values of the year preceding had to be adjusted. Besides which, the drop in the price of cotton, as well as the curtailment of the cotton crop, made it difficult to clear up all contracts or to entertain new business. For the above reasons we have concentrated first of all on getting in our rents, and we are pleased to be able to close the year with scarcely any arrears under this heading. Furthermore, we have actively taken in hand the getting in of our annuities, and practically the greater part of our arrears of the year 1920 have been encashed. Excepting the case of one expropriation of 101 feddans we do not anticipate having to take any proceedings worth mentioning in order to have a clear and absolutely safe portfolio. The fact that we do not entertain any sale of land without making provision for a margin of at least 50 per cent. makes us absolutely secure.

Last year's sales (457 feddans) can be considered most satisfactory and the prices obtained very remunerative. Practically the whole of our lands in Upper Egypt have been sold, and there will only be slight expenses connected therewith for a very few years still; owing to the fact that we must keep on a reduced staff there for getting in the money due to us and superintending the irrigation plant. This expense will disappear in three or four years' time, and we will then be able to sell the pumping installations that we have on the sites.

We have put in a lot of work in the improvement of our estates this year and we have every reason to hope that Banawan and Seila will be well advanced at the end of the current year, all the heavy work having already been completed. We are very pleased with the results so far and our success is proved by the sales that we have already put through.

As regards Bessentaway, the problem is more difficult. We have already taken in hand 500 feddans, but we must only speak with prudence and reserve with regard to the rest of this estate as the problem of getting water to irrigate the land is a very difficult one.

We have been successful in acquiring half of the very large majority of shares of the Société Belge-Egyptienne de l'Ezbekieh. This business appears to be most promising and we have every reason to hope that it will be an investment of the very first class for our reserves. The entire property consists of 65,000 metres of land situated in the very heart of Cairo. 27,000 metres are built on and consist of buildings of the very first class and 12,000 metres are still available for building purposes. The surplus is made up of streets and out-buildings. This business has been done in half partnership with the group Allard of Brussels, so that our interests are well represented in Belgium, and we are very pleased to have secured this interesting and cordial collaboration. We will still have a few payments to make in order to obtain for ourselves the complete independence of the venture.

These difficult and very complicated negotiations which have ended so successfully for our company have been very skilfully conducted by our colleague on the Board, Mr. Edward Nathan, who during several months was constantly going to and fro between London, Brussels, Paris, Switzerland and Egypt, and it is solely owing to his personal efforts and the great responsibility which he took upon himself that your company have acquired this business.

In order to make provision for a large part of the capital invested in this business we desire to transfer to reserve account which stands to capital reserve £40,398 12 8 the "Premium account," which represents the profit on our last share issue 47,017 1 4 and to take from the carry over 42,584 6 0

making in all a general reserve £130,000 0 0

You will also have noticed that we invested the sum of £E.60,000 in scrip in order to employ our loose cash. The scrip is taken down at cost price in the balance-sheet, and, in view of our payment for the Ezbekieh business, will form our working capital for the future. We hope that the improvement in the political situation will bring about a normal state of things this year which will permit us to continue the development of the company on the lines that we have marked out.

The Chairman: I will call on the auditors to read their report.

Mr. Jamieson (for Messrs. Price Waterhouse Peat and Co.) read the report.

The Chairman then moved: "That the directors' report, together with the annexed statement of accounts, duly audited, be received, approved and adopted, and that a dividend of 16 2-3 per cent. (or 2s. 6d. per share for the year 1921), free of income-tax, be paid."

Mr. Edgard Suarès seconded.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Chairman then proposed that Mr. Edward Nathan be re-elected director of the company pursuant to article 71 of the company's articles of association, which was seconded by Mr. Edgard Suarès and carried unanimously.

Mr. Roche then proposed that Messrs. Price Waterhouse Peat and Co. be re-elected auditors of the company, which was seconded by Mr. A. Lanari and carried unanimously.

The proceedings then terminated.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Egyptian Markets, Ltd.

The report for the year ended December 31 states that the number of cattle market days lost during the year was 91 as compared with 1,602 during the year 1920. At December 31, none of the company's cattle markets was closed in consequence of cattle plague. The gross receipts from the cattle markets, exclusive of slaughter houses, show an increase of £11,697 as compared with the year 1920, the total being £60,512 against £54,815. This is in a great measure due to an increase in the tariff charges sanctioned by Government in May, 1920, and which operated during the whole of the year under review as compared with 7½ months in 1920. The gross receipts from the general markets for the year under review were £39,039 as compared with £36,722 for the year 1920, an increase of £2,017. The net receipts from the slaughterhouses worked during the year were £1,236 against £1,553 during 1920, a decrease of £317. One slaughterhouse was taken over by the Government in March, 1921, leaving 43 with the Company against 44 during the year 1920. The expenses in the trading account show an increase of £3,057 under rents, salaries and wages, and a decrease of £2,002 for cost of maintenance and repairs of markets. The net profit derived from this source is £4,616 as compared with £8,064 for the previous year, a decrease of £3,448, due to the abnormal trading conditions in Egypt during the year. The net revenue from all sources for the year 1921 amounted to £59,292 18s. 7d., as compared with £48,416 18s. 11d. during the previous year, an increase of £10,875 19s. 8d. After deduction of the amount of £24,800 12s. 3d. which it is estimated will be required to meet payment of the Government share of profits, for 1921, a balance of £34,432 6s. 4d. remains, which, with the amount of £11,351 14s. 4d. brought forward from 1920, makes a total of £45,784 0s. 8d. to be dealt with. After meeting the fixed charges of the annual premia for the amortisation of the share capital and debentures, amounting to £3,789 1s. 6d., debenture interest £2,840, and carrying the sum of £5,000 to reserve, as compared with £2,500 for the year 1920, a balance of £34,154 19s. 2d. remains available for distribution. The directors recommend the payment of a final dividend (No. 35) on the ordinary shares for the year ended December 31, 1921, of 5 per cent. and bonus of 2 per cent., making with the interim dividend of 5 per cent. paid in November, 1921, a total of 12 per cent. for the year, absorbing in all £20,064, and in accordance with the terms of the memorandum of association of the company, and subject to the settlement of the proportion of profits due to the Government and to such corporation profits tax as may be payable, the payment of a dividend (No. 12) on the deferred shares at the rate of £9 7s. 4d. 19/300 per share for the year 1921, which will absorb £2,810 1s. 7d. and leave a balance of £10,380 17s. 7d. to be carried forward, which balance is also subject to the settlements above referred to.

THE NEAR EAST.

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THURSDAY, MAY 25, 1922.

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At the time of going to press letters due from Greece and Bulgaria have not been received.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

An Adriatic Settlement.

The negotiations for a settlement of the Fiume problem and other, lesser problems attaching thereto have come to a satisfactory conclusion; and M. Nintchitch and Signor Contarini, who opened them about five weeks ago, are to be congratulated on having well laid the foundations of what will, we hope, prove to be a good understanding between Yugoslavia and Italy in the Adriatic. For, as we observed at the time of the first meeting, the negotiations opened in a spirit of good will, and it is good will that has brought them to a successful ending. Nevertheless, there were lately some signs of restlessness, especially on the part of Yugoslavia, and there was always a risk, if no great one, of another hitch, if not a rupture; and it is gratifying to learn that the avoidance of such a misfortune is in some measure due to the good offices of the British experts. That British assistance was not entirely welcomed by Belgrade is clear from our Correspondent's letter which appears this week; and it is, therefore, all the more agreeable to find that it has been so successful and so valuable.

Terms of the Agreement.

By the agreement just reached—which at the time of writing awaits the final approval of the Belgrade Government—it is arranged that a joint commission shall preside over the reorganisation of the Free State of Fiume, and shall be in charge of the organisation of the harbour. It is also to delimit the eastern portion of the boundary fixed by the Treaty of Rapallo. It is to consist of three Italians and three Yugoslavs, and any disputed point is to be left to the arbitrament of the Swiss President. Italy agrees to hand over Sushak, and Yugoslavia undertakes to do everything in her power to assist the resumption of traffic between Fiume and the interior; while Zara is to have a hinterland, in order that it may resume traffic with the interior and the neighbouring islands. Moreover, an agreement regarding the protection of minorities is to be embodied in the new Treaty, and a commercial treaty is also to be prepared, either separately or also for embodiment in the main Treaty. The settlement appears to be as satisfactory as could have been expected; and if not actually quite out of the wood yet, both parties may be congratulated on being very nearly so according to all appearances.

The Greek Cabinet Crisis.

The Ministerial crisis in Greece, after the failure of M. Stratos to command the support of the Chamber, has been solved by the formation of a Coalition Cabinet under M. Protopapadakis as Prime Minister, with both M. Gounaris and M. Stratos in the Ministry. If this arrangement is loyally supported by both Gounarists and Stratists, it should prove the best possible way out of Greece's difficulties. The country has to face the evacuation of Asia Minor, which, whatever the personal opinion of individuals regarding the step, is bound to be seized upon as a political weapon by those who can fix technical responsibility upon their opponents. If both M. Gounaris and M. Stratos are members of the Cabinet that has to accept the inevitable, they cannot throw stones at one another, and if the formal signature of the Greek Government to any treaty embodying the evacuation is affixed by another leader, the position of the two protagonists *vis-à-vis* the country is not compromised to the same extent. In view of the fact that it is to the interests of the Allied Powers to save Greece as much political unrest as possible and to have her acting in friendly cooperation with them, in spite of all the troubles that they have brought upon her, it is strange that they hesitate to take the one step which would go far towards stabilising the political situation in Greece—the formal recognition of King Constantine. The present position is entirely anomalous; the Allies' attitude towards the King is petty-minded, and does Greece harm, without helping them in any way. On this point Great Britain should think of her own reputation for common honesty and fair play. It is conceivable that France will no more think of recognizing King Constantine than she will of abandoning the idea of receiving reparation from Germany. There is no need for the British Government in this matter to be tied to the French chariot-wheel.

Turkish Atrocities.

Once again the Western world has been profoundly stirred by reports of Eastern methods of dealing with enemies. The Turkish Nationalists, appreciating the fact that the time-honoured straightforward massacre attracts too much attention in Europe beyond the Danube, have set about ridding themselves by other means of enemy subjects or sympathisers in their midst. Collecting large numbers of their intended victims, they have marched them to and fro over the Anatolian highlands in the depth of winter until the inevitable and intended end came. The Allied Powers

rightly denounce the ruthless barbarity of the Turks, but in proposing a commission of inquiry into the matter again lose sight of the only practical way of attaining the object in view. It is desired to protect minorities in Turkish territory. There is only one feasible way of doing this ; it is to prevent the Turks from feeling the necessity of destroying or oppressing those minorities. Turkish history is made up of periods of laudable tolerance towards alien subjects and periods of systematic extermination. The problem for the Allies is to see that the capacity for tolerance is never over-ridden by other considerations.

Turkish Psychology.

In replying to a question put by the Hon. Aubrey Herbert, who has consistently worked for the adoption of a sane policy in regard to Turkey, Mr. Austen Chamberlain suggested that the Turkish atrocities of the last few years could not be associated with the Greek landing at Smyrna, because they had begun before that event. We shall not be accused, it is to be hoped, of seeking to exonerate the Turks, if we put forward the thesis that the atrocities have been perpetrated from a perverted, but none the less genuine, instinct of self-preservation. During the Great War there was an outcry in every country for imprisoning all enemy subjects. Whether Greece is embroiled or not, the Greeks are always enemy subjects to the Turks, if Turkey is at war, and in view of their numbers in Turkish territory they are regarded as a very formidable menace. To shut up all the Greeks in prison would be a physical impossibility, even if the plan commended itself to the Turks: the only alternative, according to Turkish lights, is to put them out of harm's way by massacre or deportation. Turkey has been at war continuously since 1916; the landing of the Greeks at Smyrna, therefore, in 1919 was merely an episode, but it made the Greek subjects of Turkey a graver danger than ever and called for more effective measures of dealing with them.

The Safeguarding of Minorities.

The Allied Powers are to blame for sending the Greeks to Smyrna, and M. Venizelos who accepted and welcomed the mission on behalf of Greece was singularly blind or indifferent to the fate of his fellow-countrymen in Turkey. On this point it is the fashion to maintain a conspiracy of silence when Turkish atrocities are being discussed. There will never be peace in the Near East until the psychology of the peoples is studied and understood. So long as the Turks consider themselves to be fighting with their backs to the wall—the fact has been repeatedly urged in these columns—they will adopt what they regard as precautionary measures against enemy subjects in their midst. If, therefore, the Allies want to safeguard these people from oppression and worse, they must see to it that the Turks cannot look upon their subjects of foreign extraction as actual or potential enemies. In other words, there must be the guarantee of integrity of Turkish territory—always subject to good behaviour—which Mr. Lloyd George's instinct prompted him to suggest when he spoke of the Turkish homelands. Unfortunately he forgot his own statesmanlike utterance, and sent Greek troops to Smyrna as a pawn in the game against the Italian Government of the day. From that ill-omened move have sprung far more than half of the present troubles in the Near and Middle East.

The problem will not be solved by commissions of inquiry, which can only establish facts already well known, especially as their findings, as in the case of the Smyrna incident and the Serbian annexation of Montenegro, are liable to be suppressed, when truthful and exhaustive.

Iraq and the Mandate.

Reports have appeared in the daily press that King Faisal has definitely refused to accept the Mandate of Great Britain over Iraq. It will be a matter for surprise if this bald statement represents all the facts of the case. For some time past King Faisal has been drawing attention to the difficulty of his position in view of the Mandate. The word has been seized upon by the Nationalists of Iraq and has been made to appear as aggressive and as objectionable as the word "Protectorate" in Egypt. It was hoped that a formal treaty between the two countries would overcome the difficulty, as there was no question of Iraq's dispensing with British help. A treaty as between two equal contracting parties, it was thought, would provide unchallengeable evidence of the country's independence. The British Government agreed and a document satisfactory in all its actual clauses has been drafted. Unfortunately, King Faisal holds that his difficulty will not be met by the mere absence of any reference to the Mandate, which is the proposal put forward by the British Government; he wants a definite statement in the Preamble to the effect that the Mandate is abrogated and replaced by the Treaty. To this the British Government replies that it cannot repudiate the Mandate without challenging the whole basis of the League of Nations. The Mandate is Iraq's charter of proper treatment that the League has imposed on the Mandatory. If Great Britain repudiates it, her action will be followed by repudiation in other quarters, and there will no longer be any safeguard for the countries which are not yet able to stand alone. This point of view has been placed before the Iraq Government.

The Danger of Delay.

King Faisal's difficulty, no doubt, remains: but there must be some way out of it. Possibly, it would not loom so large, if things were made easier for him in other directions by the British Government. As pointed out in our leading article a fortnight ago, Great Britain has not "played the game" in leaving King Faisal with an empty exchequer and without executive authority. If both these drawbacks were simultaneously overcome, the people of Iraq would have other things to think about than whether a Mandate—regarding which some have very vague and probably erroneous ideas—is compatible with the teachings or traditions of Islam. Above all, it is a case of *Bis dat qui cito dat*. The trouble with Turkey, the trouble with Egypt—both have arisen or been accentuated by dilatory handling. If trouble with Iraq is to be avoided, the point now at issue—which has already been under discussion for five or six months—must be settled at once. There could be no better use for the Geddes axe than that it should descend on the necks of those responsible for protracted negotiations. It will be too late to wield it when additional military expenditure is called for in Iraq.

Iraq's Disabilities.

There are other directions in which a little expert interest in Iraq on the part of Great Britain would provide King Faisal's régime with a better chance of

making good. His Majesty's Government has dumped its surplus goods on an already slumping market; it has introduced one of the most expensive monetary systems in the world, and has not provided Iraq with any paper money at all. Iraq has to pay sterling for Indian notes. If she had any credit, she could issue her own notes, and this she would do, provided that she were allowed to do so. Further, it is hard to justify the policy that refuses to allow her to retain a working balance until her credit is reestablished and her customs revenue is assured. His Majesty's Government has certain matters on its hands which cannot be settled satisfactorily for a very long time; it has others which, if given careful consideration and undivided attention for a short space of time, could very easily be settled on a sound basis. It is a thousand pities that these comparatively small matters, but vital to the Empire's peace of mind, have to put on one side, and allowed to become aggravated, on account of the major pre-occupations.

The Indian Frontier.

Last week the cable told us once again of negotiations giving the promise of a long step forward in the pacification of Waziristan, but the details furnished do not strike us as very encouraging. Roads to provide lateral communication in the North will of course be useful, and we may agree that for a time at least they will furnish peaceful occupation to those tribes which join in the undertaking, but roads by themselves will not suffice to cure the evils which lie at the root of the recurring unrest. It is, we think, generally agreed that poverty is one of the greatest, if not the greatest, of these evils, and in order to cure it you want not merely roads, but goods to move along them. The discovery of some mineral, such as oil, in paying quantities would probably be a speedy and final remedy, but unfortunately there are no grounds for expecting such a development, and it is not easy to suggest alternatives coming within the bounds of possibility. For all that it is worth while to insist on the fundamental feature of the problem, because the more attention is given to it, the greater is the hope of a solution. Make roads by all means, but do not neglect the attempt to make profitable use of the roads when they are made.

India and the Opium Trade.

The statement defining the attitude of the Indian Government to the opium trade reached this country aptly enough, for the somewhat hectic agitation regarding cocaine has of late shown signs of widening, and some letters have appeared denouncing India as demoralising the world by the continuance of its exports of opium. The Indian case may be stated shortly as follows. For an indefinite number of centuries India supplied most of the world with the purest and least noxious form of opium, in fact the champagne of the trade. Ten or fifteen years ago, India backed Philanthropy to the amount of four millions sterling yearly, but Philanthropy could not stay the course, and the race was won by Demoralisation, for when the Chinese were deprived of their champagne, they took to the more noxious local product, or to the highly concentrated forms of the drug which some other nations were only too ready to sell. India will put no more money on Philanthropy, but she is willing to back International Control, if that somewhat uncertain animal can be trained; on this point the news from the Geneva stable is not altogether encouraging, but

the next active move must come from the Commission of the League of Nations, not from any producing country acting by itself.

International Control.

The difficulties in the way of international control can be appreciated from the fact that among the chief producers of opium are Asia Minor, Persia, Afghanistan and China, countries where the writs of the League of Nations can as yet scarcely be said to run. A report in our commercial columns last week spoke of the depletion of the Smyrna market for the drug by constant shipments to Russia, probably *en route* for the Far East, and we do not see what authority is likely to stop that traffic just now. In Persia politics are far too uncertain to leave any hope of action in such a matter. The Ameer could probably stop production in Afghanistan if he wanted to, but nobody is in a position to bring pressure to bear if he is not inclined to act. The central government in China has tried, and its failure is notorious, nor can we count on such a rapid recovery in its strength as to enable it to dominate the distant provinces where the drug is chiefly produced. Control on paper is of course perfectly feasible, but we fear that really effective control is unattainable in the present temper of Asia.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Monday Evening.

Back to Business.

Genoa has petered out; the statesmen and the editors depart. Everybody is home again, but it cannot be said, "never more to roam again," for Genoa is to be transferred to The Hague in a few weeks. In his farewell speech in Italy, Mr. Lloyd George maintained that Genoa had been a great success, not so much for what it had done as for what it had begun to do; the first instalment was exciting enough, but nothing to the thrills we shall get if we only take the next number. One seems to have heard all this before: "man never is, but always to be blest," and there are many sceptics abroad. The Prime Minister declared that peace was in the hearts of the peoples. But the existence of a military alliance between Germany and Russia is confirmed, and this can only aim at the reduction of Poland and Lithuania and other border States. The contrast is somewhat marked. Moreover the Bolsheviks were not so anxious to do a diplomatic and commercial deal with ourselves as some enthusiastic spirits had supposed; and the solid common-sense of Mr. Hoover

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as to the worthlessness of attempting agreements or business with Moscow has not passed unnoticed.

Mr. Lloyd George has made as valiant an effort for peace as he formerly did for war, and no doubt he will say that victory can no more be achieved in a day in the one case than in the other. That is true, but there is not the same popular "will to victory," as the Germans would say, in the struggle for peace. A pact for non-aggression is all very well, but it does not harmonize with the aggressive treaty between Moscow and Berlin. We are to have a great speech by the Prime Minister on Genoa this week at Westminster, but unless he deals with that contrast effectively it will be rather heavily discounted.

A Government Defeat.

It was unlucky that the Government should have been defeated in the House of Commons at this juncture. They were attempting to economise, by making teachers' pensions contributory; the amount—some two millions odd—was relatively small, but the principle was important. The teaching profession did very well out of the war, and they have no intention of giving up a single ounce of their pound of flesh; with the result that they lobbied members, and put fear into their hearts. Everybody knew that the Government was right, but members ran away, and the Anti-Waste people were nowhere to be seen.

The teachers will have done themselves harm in the long run by their action. The Geddes report suggested that their salaries should be reduced, but the general public thought the recommendation went too far, and the advice was shelved. Now the teachers have shown themselves unwilling even to contribute to their own pensions, although every other department of the State service does so; with the result that the public will think they are too grasping altogether, and refuse to support them in future. It was a bad mistake in tactics, and will do the teachers more harm than the Government.

Ireland.

It seemed at first sight as though there would be nothing to add to my last week's note on Ireland, for the negotiations between the Provisional Government and the Republicans broke down again. But on Saturday, to the general surprise, it was announced that an agreement had been arrived at. The published details, however, of the concordat only make the situation worse, for they amount in fact to fairly complete surrender on the part of the Provisional Government to the Republicans.

Two results seem likely to ensue. In the first place, it is more than doubtful whether the treaty as ratified by the British Parliament will be ratified by the Sinn Féin Assembly, in which case the whole settlement is liable to be reopened. In the second place the Provisional Government have apparently abandoned their first desire for an agreement with Ulster, and are giving way to the Republican demand for a war on that province, which has long been ravaged by the independent troops. Should that attempt be carried out, it would obviously be impossible for the British Government to stand aloof.

To quote an authoritative statement in one of the weekly papers: "Many landowners in the South and West propose to sell what they can of furniture and stock, write down their mansions as a total loss, and depart from Ireland. . . . In several towns in Munster attempts at readjustments (of wages and prices) have ended in the proclamation of miniature Soviets. This will not endure, for the peasant proprietor, on whom the small country towns depend for their existence, will reduce his buying and selling to a minimum, force down the standard of living, and present the amateur Communists with a *fait accompli*. In Connaught a land war has recommenced; those menaced are not the Protestant ex-landlords, but the big graziers, who are Catholic and nominal Nationalists."

The truth of this melancholy picture in the *Outlook* cannot be disputed; it implies the progressive destruction of civilised society in Ireland, and it is having its effect on England, whither these poor refugees naturally flock. It is increasing the Conservative belief in firm and stable government in this country, and it is rendering the position of Liberal upholders of Home Rule very difficult.

A City Election.

There was a by-election in the City of London last week, consequent on the retirement of Mr. Balfour—it goes very much against the grain to write "Earl" Balfour, his new title—and a little mild and decorous excitement was aroused. The Conservative Association proposed Mr. E. C. Grenfell, a very well known and popular banker, as candidate, and it seemed unlikely that there would be a contest. But Sir Vansittart Bowater, who had once been a Lord Mayor of London, butted in, and as he was also a Conservative, the contest became a personal one, the only discernible principle at stake being that the one represented the financial and the other the commercial interests of the City. In the end finance won, by ten to six thousand votes. Mr. Grenfell is not an orator, and I should doubt whether he has any political ambition, but he will speak with great weight on high finance, and in that respect he will add strength to the present House of Commons.

Business Changes.

In other respects the City is changing. The banks have reverted to pre-war hours, and the Stock Exchange has decided to go back to speculative business, or what strict moralists call gambling in contangoes. This step has been avowedly taken in the interests of the small houses on the Stock Exchange, which have had some difficulty in living of late, and which complain that the regular investment business has been to a great extent taken from them by the big banks. I gather that there is some truth in this, but there is a good deal of criticism of the decision to return to speculative business. It certainly enlarges the business of the Exchange, but it means taking risks, and not only the public but the brokers often burn their fingers at the game.

However, I suppose that is their business. I remember the story of a clergyman who preached a moving discourse against gambling. Congratulated afterwards in the vestry by his churchwarden (who was also a banker) on the soundness of his sermon, the parson confessed that he would never have been able to preach with such sincerity, had he not lost his Easter offering in the Kaffir market.

Cricket.

The summer seems to have come at last, but the cold winds of early May have left their mark on the cricket scores. Already there have been nearly twenty completed innings of less than a hundred. This suggests at first sight that the batting has been mastered by the bowling, but Mr. Sidney Pardon, who is the best current writer on cricket matters, disputes this conclusion; indeed he holds that the bowling is of even lower quality than the batting, and prophesies that if we are in for a spell of hot weather and hard wickets, the scores are likely to be heavy. On the whole, it is evident that we are still nowhere near the pre-war standard.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

From Our Own Correspondents.

EGYPT.

Cairo, May 13.

The Sudan Controversy.

A veritable tempest is raging in the vernacular press on the subject of Lord Allenby's speech at Khartoum and the claims of the Egyptians to the Sudan. The press seems to have lost all sense of proportion in its campaign, and the hysterical outcry of the extremists appears unfortunately to be having its effect on what one would normally regard as the rational-minded element; for the Constitution Commission has taken the somewhat unexpected step of putting on record in its report that the Sudan constitutes an inseparable part of Egypt; that it is under the sovereignty of, and owes allegiance to, the King of Egypt, who should be styled King of Egypt and the Sudan; and that its limits and its form of government should be settled in a separate law. There can be no doubt that the Commission has been led to take this step by the outcry in the press and by its desire to allay the excitement which at present exists; for it knows full well that the question of the Sudan cannot be discussed with Great Britain until after the Constitution has been promulgated and Parliament has been convened. Moreover, it is noteworthy that when Mr. Lloyd George's speech of February 28 to which to-day such lively exception is taken, was first published here, no comment whatsoever was made, nor did the inclusion of the Sudan amongst the reserved subjects arouse any criticism. One cannot help thinking therefore that the present outcry is entirely due to a desire on the part of the Opposition to weaken the position of the Cabinet.

The Mixed Tribunals.

The question at issue between the Mixed Courts and the Egyptian Government, *viz.*, the scale of pay, has advanced a step further since I last referred to it. As may be remembered, the Mixed Courts claimed a raising of the scale of salaries, first, because it has not been altered since the Tribunals were created in 1876 and no longer responds to the altered conditions of life obtaining to-day, and secondly, because the introduction of the new régime has increased the importance and the dignity of the position which these Courts are called upon to fill. Conversations on the subject had already been engaged with the Egyptian Government earlier in the year, but the promise then given had not been realised, and the Judges, returning to the charge, had sought the support of their respective Diplomatic Agents.

Last week the Judicial Adviser went to Alexandria and had an interview with the President and other members of the Court of Appeal. As a result of this interview the Court appointed a special committee consisting of the President, the Vice-President, one European and one Egyptian Counsellor and the Procureur-General, to go to Cairo and lay the matter again before the Prime Minister. The interview took place last Sunday, and I gather that assurances of a nature satisfactory to the Judges were given by the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice. For the time being, therefore, diplomatic pressure will not be brought officially to bear on the Egyptian Government. It is, however, sincerely to be hoped that the Cabinet will hasten to meet the claim of the Mixed Court Judges, which is all the more reasonable and worthy of consideration seeing that their colleagues in the Native Courts have had their scale of pay successively raised until many of them now draw higher salaries than members of the Mixed Bench who had been specially selected and brought to this country, and that they agreed without demur last year to the Government's proposal to increase the Mixed transfer and registration fees so as to bring in an additional annual revenue of L.E.100,000

although at the time they were already feeling sore at the ungenerous treatment they were receiving.

The Departure of Sir Gilbert Clayton.

The departure of Mr. Patterson, Adviser to the Ministry of Education, has been followed this week by that of Sir Gilbert Clayton, Adviser to the Ministry of the Interior, and in a week or so the only Advisers who will remain will be the Financial and Judicial Advisers, to whom special duties are to be assigned under the proposed Treaty. Sir Gilbert Clayton's departure has aroused widespread regret. He has served most of his time in Egypt, first in the Egyptian Army, then under the Sudan Government, during the war as Director of Intelligence and Political Adviser to the Egyptian Expeditionary Force, and during the past three years as Adviser to the Ministry of the Interior. His has been no easy task; for the Interior even under normal conditions bristles with political and administrative problems, but he has the satisfaction of knowing that he has bridged over the difficult and delicate period intervening between the 1919 troubles and the introduction of the new régime in a manner which not only has proved satisfactory to everyone but has shown his ability and gained him the respect and confidence of all who have come in contact with him.

A visible sign of the position he holds in the opinion of the Egyptians has been afforded by the presentation of a casket which the Governors in the provinces and the cities have made to him and by the banquet which was given in his honour by leading notables from all over the country. The sincerity of the expressions of good will and regret which were voiced by the speakers as well as the warm send-off he had this morning at the Station should console him for the loss of his post, which, as Sarwat Pasha pointed out in his speech, he

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knew he would lose as soon as the policy which he backed was introduced.

The Traffic in Narcotics.

The Egyptian Government has this week promulgated a decree forbidding the importation of narcotics, including opium, cocaine and morphia, without special permission. There is no doubt that some such measure was badly needed, for cocaine-taking has increased very much of late years and it is only to be hoped that the penalties inflicted will be such as will act as a deterrent.

The Irrigation Problem.

Mr. Dupuis, who was engaged last summer by the Egyptian Government to advise it with regard to the execution of the various irrigation works, the technical details of which have been approved by various public commissions, left last week after presenting his first report. The main question on which he has been asked to advise is the order in which the various works should be undertaken, so that the restricted amount of money at the disposal of the Government may be expended in such a manner as to meet the pressing agricultural needs of the country and produce more immediately remunerative results. The fight in reality is between new works to provide more storage accommodation, and thus more water throughout the year, and improvement in the existing system of distribution and drainage so as to make the present supply go further than it does now; and Mr. Dupuis has been occupied in collecting the views of the cultivators, who after all are the people most directly concerned.

There is, I understand, a good deal to be done with regard to the improvement of the existing system, for at present many estates are not fully productive because the drainage is defective, while remodelling of the distribution system would benefit estates at the tail end of canals which at present get their proper share of water only in really good years. On the other hand there is a crying need for more summer water, which can be provided only by the creation of more storage accommodation, and the present year, when the White Nile levels are far lower than they have ever been and the cotton crop is threatened, is an illustration of the relief which more storage accommodation would bring to the country.

It will be interesting to see the conclusions arrived at by Mr. Dupuis in regard to this intricate subject, which is further complicated by the fact that opposition to the erection of new irrigation works is in many cases prompted not by the conviction that improvement in the existing irrigation and drainage system is more pressing but by hostility to the erection of such works in the Sudan, owing to the belief, unfortunately fostered by the Zaghoulis for their own ends, that this would place Egypt at the mercy of Great Britain! Those who nowadays still cling to the belief that the White Nile Dam will give Great Britain complete control over Egypt shut their eyes to the fact that if she really wanted to secure control in this manner the refusal of the Egyptians to build the Dam on the White Nile would not prevent her. After all Great Britain could herself easily provide the few millions required for this work if she deemed it a necessary part of her Imperial armour, and in view of the illustration which this year's low Nile has afforded of the dire need of more storage accommodation the refusal by the Egyptians to agree to construct any works in the Sudan savours of cutting off their noses to spite their faces.

IRAQ.

Baghdad, May 11.

Tribal Wisdom.

The tribal party, to the evolution of which reference was made some weeks ago, have during the past few days asserted themselves in no uncertain manner. None realised better than they that the conference at Kerbela was organised by the extremists to obtain an expression of opinion unfavourable to the Mandate

from the tribal leaders and their religious heads. The tribal sheikhs, however, saw through the manoeuvre, refused to sign any anti-Mandate resolution, and at the close of the conference proceeded *en masse* to Baghdad, where they spent several days working out their ideas and their demands and reducing them to writing. Meanwhile several of the more important sheikhs had interviews with the King and with the Adviser to the Ministry of the Interior, and are understood to have set forth their ideas very plainly. The memorandum prepared by and signed by all the most important sheikhs of the country was a comprehensive document and laid special stress on the necessity of King Faisal's loyally accepting the Mandate, and upon the unsuitability of a very large proportion of the persons who are being given important Government appointments.

The result of a long series of interviews is that the sheikhs have been persuaded not to hand in their Memorandum, but it is understood that King Faisal has promised to make careful enquiries into the points raised by them and to meet their demands as far as possible. It is clear that not only King Faisal himself but also the whole of the Baghdad effendi class are profoundly stirred by this action by the tribal sheikhs. The effendi class always professes to look down on the tribesmen as savages possessing no intelligence in political matters and quite unable to unite for concerted action, and the events of the past few days have seriously upset all their hypotheses. The general results, however, are good. A steadying influence has come into play at a moment when it was badly needed, and the eyes of those who think that the views of a noisy minority of semi-educated effendis in Baghdad are necessarily those of Iraq as a whole have been opened. Things in Iraq have during the past few weeks been very critical, but the Government has survived one very important stage of the crisis, and it is hoped that lessons will have been learned which will be of assistance in the future.

Budget Difficulties.

Another crisis no less serious is very close at hand in the Budget for 1922-23. Rumour is busy with the expedients which are to be adopted in order to make both sides balance. It is said that the salaries of all officials are to be reduced, that large savings in the budget of the Ministry of Defence are to be made by the introduction of conscription, and even that certain areas of Government land are to be sold. It seems probable, however, that any discussion or publication of the Budget proposals will now be held over until the National Assembly meets; for the electoral law was published this week, and it is said that the elections are to be held at a very early date.

The Electoral Law.

The new law has met with a good deal of criticism and up to date but scant approval. The criticism has, however, been lacking in sting, and most of it does not deserve any attention. It would be interesting to know how it comes about that Sulaimaniyah has been included among the *lewas* which make up the State of Iraq, as set out in the first section of the law. Sulaimaniyah is an entirely Kurdish *lewa*, which has all along remained independent of the Arab Government in Baghdad and administered under the direct control of the British High Commissioner; and no signs are yet visible that any considerable body of opinion in that *lewa* wants to be included in the State of Iraq. The definition of an Iraqi is given as: "all Ottomans living now in Iraq and not claiming to be nationals of a foreign State." Round this definition centres one of the chief zones of criticism. In the first place there are many who indignantly assert that they are not Ottomans and that to call them so is an insult, while others maintain that the definition is too wide and allows many persons who are not really Iraqis to vote as such. It is pointed out that all Armenian, Assyrian and Turk refugees now living in Iraq obtain a vote under this definition, and the opinion is given that such persons should not be allowed to vote, as it is not yet shown that they have a permanent stake in the country. On the other hand

it is by no means certain that these persons want a vote, and it may well be that they will claim to be nationals of Turkey or of the hoped-for Armenian State.

The Assembly is to consist of 100 members of whom five will be Christians, five Jews and 20 tribal representatives. The remainder will be elected by the vote of the whole body of electors. The country has been divided into three electoral circles corresponding to the old vilayets of Basrah, Baghdad and Mosul, and it is laid down that the representatives of any constituency must be from among the inhabitants of the circle in which the constituency is situated. This ruling has come as a great blow to Baghdad, for it had confidently expected that it would be able to send a horde of politically minded advocates and others to most of the tribal districts and by securing their election, leave the administration of the country entirely in the hands of the Baghdad effendis; they are showing their disgust and disappointment in having their effective area thus circumscribed. The suffrage is given to all persons over the age of 21 who pay taxes to Government or to a municipality, or who inhabit a house on which taxes are paid and who are not suffering from any legal disability. Preparations are now being made to hold the elections at an early date.

The Muhammerah Conference.

A Conference was held during the past week at Muhammerah attended by delegates from the Iraq Government, the Sultan of Nejd and the British High Commissioner, to discuss points at issue between the King of Iraq and the Sultan of Nejd and to settle the boundary between the two States. A complete agreement was reached on all points. It was decided that it was not practicable to delimit a frontier between the two States topographically, but that it was better to allot certain tribes to each State, and to impress on these tribes the necessity of observing their respective tribal boundaries. By this arrangement the Dhafir, who recently attacked the Iraq Camel Corps and Desert Police near Nasiriyah, are allotted to Iraq. The representative of Iraq was Subih Bey, Minister of Communications and Works; and of the Sultan of Nejd, Ahmad Ath Thanaiyan, who is well known in Baghdad, where he was for some time representative of Ibn Saoud.

Sir Arnold Wilson arrived in Baghdad from London by air mail on April 29, having completed the journey in only nine days, and left again for Muhammerah on May 2 whence he is said to be going to Shiraz.

PALESTINE.

Jerusalem, May 14.

A War Memorial.

A simple but impressive ceremony took place last Sunday in St. George's Cathedral, when a small window was unveiled by General Wardrop, O.C. Troops in Palestine, in memory of the officers and men belonging to the 60th London Division, who fell during the Palestine campaign of 1917. It was this division which received the surrender of Palestine on December 9, 1917. The Prince of Wales' Volunteers, who have garrisoned Jerusalem for the past two years, paraded with their band, and towards the end of the ordinary Sunday morning service the whole congregation, civil and military, assembled under the window. Kipling's "Recessional" was sung, Sir Wyndham Deedes, Acting-High Commissioner in Sir Herbert Samuel's absence, read a passage from the Book of Wisdom, General Wardrop followed with a brief statement about the window and its donors. It had been given by the surviving officers and men of the Division, and designed and in part executed by men who had been present at the time of the City's surrender. The unveiling of the window was performed by General Wardrop, while the "Last Post" was sounded in the distance by bugles and drums. On this occasion the "Last Post" had an added poignancy; this was the last public appearance of the Prince of Wales' Volunteers before leaving Jerusalem

twenty-four hours later. It was no doubt inevitable in the interests of economy, but it is a matter of keen regret that an English Christian Regiment is now replaced in the Holy City by Hindu troops.

Lectures and Entertainments.

Having in mind its limited number of enquiringly-minded members, there can surely be few places more hardly beset than Jerusalem in the way of lectures. The lecture-season usually begins in the late autumn, rises to a furore by the early spring, and dies away gradually after the close of the tourist-season. The lecture-going public is not very numerous—a few of the more earnest officials and a few earnest wives of officials, a very much smaller number of members of the innumerable religious bodies, and the inevitable schoolmistresses. These are raised to a respectable total by the presence of other lecturers, who out of sheer *esprit de corps* come along to swell the audiences of their colleagues. Jerusalem would seem to be an elaborate mutual improvement society; there are times of the year when there are four to five lectures a week to be attended (and if you can endure lectures in other languages as well as in English, this number can easily be raised to seven or eight).

A long course at St. George's was brought to an end last week when Mr. H. C. Luke, the Acting-Governor of Jerusalem, lectured on the "Subdivisions of Islam." The course began early in January and continued week by week. The first group of lectures was devoted to Jewish subjects, during Lent Christian topics were dealt with, and after Easter a short series was given on Islam. Public interest seemed chiefly to be attracted by the lectures on Jewish subjects, those on Christianity and Islam attracting comparatively small audiences. At present Mr. W. J. Phythian-Adams, Assistant Director of the British School of Archaeology and Curator of of Palestine Museums, is giving to crowded audiences a course on geography, history and archaeology of the eastern Mediterranean. Certainly lecture-going might be ranked first among the dissipations of the Jerusalemite.

There are concerts in plenty; but they are not strongly supported by the British element. "The Jerusalem Musical Society" came into existence at the beginning of the year, and it has organised fortnightly classical concerts. On the whole, they have maintained a fairly high standard both in quality of programme and performance. But the society has served to expose the unmusical nature of the British community as a whole; the audiences have been about ninety-five per cent. Jewish, while the performers, both professional and amateur, have been almost exclusively Jewish.

It is an undesirable aspect in Jerusalem social life that whatever activity develops, in spite of the best intentions to the contrary, it always and quickly assumes to itself a "single community" complexion. There is the Sports Club; this is predominantly a British official coterie. Others are not definitely excluded: in fact an earlier effort to create an avowedly Government Official's Sporting Club was frowned out of existence by the High Commissioner. But the result is nearly the same as if all but the British community were barred. The reason, of course, lies entirely in the habits of the majority of the other residents; the type of Palestinian who has the money to spare to join such clubs has very different views as to what constitutes healthy recreation. On the other hand, the Musical Society is predominantly Jewish; this again is unintentional. To the Oriental, European music is very much of an acquired taste, requiring a prolonged residence in the West; and it is regrettable but true that the British official rarely possesses an educated musical taste. Yet again there is the Jerusalem Dramatic Society. This draws, though in much smaller numbers, on much the same type as the Sports Club. There do, as a matter of fact, appear to be one or two Palestinian Jews among them; but on closer inspection they turn out to be the owners of the large entertainment hall hired by the Society for its performances.

This last Society has, during its existence, given two very creditable displays. Last October it did "Twelfth Night," and last week it performed a modern play called "The Dawn of To-morrow." The Society specially distinguishes itself by its stage management, and the external details of presentation, which have so far been irreproachable. In actual acting powers it is perhaps below average amateur standard, since it draws its talent from a very restricted circle. But the disciplined order and punctuality that have so far marked its public performances, call forth the awed admiration of the older established Jerusalem residents. It is the normal thing, for example, for a Jewish theatrical performance to begin an hour late and finish somewhere about two the following morning. The skill of the performers is usually of a very high order, only the trouble is that where forethought is demanded in the organisation of detail, there is always a delay or a breakdown in the arrangements. We strike here one of the root defects—or, not to beg the question, characteristics—of the Russian Jewish temperament; though careful of the content it is careless of the form.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Belgrade, May 11.

From Genoa.

A report that Mr. Lloyd George is going to arbitrate between Yugoslavia and Italy has not been received enthusiastically in Belgrade, but since their cause is so obviously just the Yugoslavs are ready to put their neck under the very sharp axe. However, it is feared that even the attempts of Mr. Lloyd George may be fruitless, since the Italians cannot realise that the only way of settling the differences is by executing strictly the treaties concerned. The new Italian policy of splitting the dispute into small questions and treating each separately has been definitely rejected by the Yugoslavs, and at last night's meeting the Yugoslav Government decided either to have everything settled in Genoa, or to go before the Tribunal of the League of Nations and obtain a settlement in that way.

The Italians now disown the letter of Count Sforza in which he promised in the name of the Italian Government a loyal execution of the Treaty of Rapallo.

Relations between Albania and Yugoslavia.

The question of future relations between these two neighbouring States is, if not altogether vital, of very great importance to both of them. Because of the Italian policy of turning the Albanians against the Yugoslavs the latter must always make suitable counter-moves, and seek to bring the Albanian people nearer to them.

Bulgaria is suspected of cherishing hopes of stirring up the trouble in the southern provinces with the aid of Albanian outlaws, but that must be crushed in the most energetic manner. Recent disturbances in Macedonia are held here to show signs of Bulgarian initiative although they originated in Albania, in the so-called neutral zone. The Yugoslavs have already renounced all territorial claims against Albania, but in spite of that, frontier differences will always remain and unless cordial relations are firmly established these differences will always give cause to "incidents" and a lot of ammunition will be used up quite unnecessarily.

Not even the greatest expert could draw the frontier between these two States without being unjust and almost equally hard on both nations, because their respective peoples are so intermixed. Constant fights in the past have created very strong feeling between the two nations and the consequences are still felt; therefore it is very necessary for both of them to lay old, harmful, methods aside and to take together a new path which may lead them to friendship and peace.

Monastir has been the scene of another explosion, on a much smaller scale, but quite sufficient to frighten badly everybody in the town.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, May 6.

Roumania and Genoa.

The external situation is at the present moment the Government's chief anxiety; it is not too bright, for there is little hope here that the Soviet Delegates will give a satisfactory reply to the Note of the Allied and neutral powers. In general, however, Roumania is well satisfied with the way things are progressing at the Genoa Conference, both in respect of the questions which directly concern her, and with the part she is playing at the Conference; for her delegates have been admitted to all the principal Committees and especially to the one that is handling the Russian question. The local Press is commenting favourably on the attitude taken by the Little Entente in appealing to their senior colleagues to maintain solidarity among the Allies.

The Bessarabian Frontier.

Rumours were lately spread that fighting had taken place between the Soviet and Roumanian troops on the Dniester frontier. The Ministers of War and Interior hastened to deny these rumours categorically, explaining that the whole affair reduces itself to a few attacks from starving Bolshevik gangs, whose chief object is to plunder the villages on this side of the Dniester. As such attacks are almost everyday occurrences along that particular frontier—and they are easily repelled—the Government emphatically repeated that there is not the slightest ground for anxiety as far as the defence of the Roumanian frontier is concerned.

Martial Law on the Dobruja Frontier.

Owing to the frequent attempted incursions on the part of *Komitajis* along the Dobruja boundary a few months ago, the Roumanian Government was compelled to introduce Martial Law within the zone of 30 kilometres along the Dobruja frontier. Since such disturbances have not reoccurred and in answer to a request from a delegation of Dobruja Senators and Deputies, the Government has now consented to reduce this military zone to fifteen kilometres.

British Soldiers in Bucharest Cemetery.

By arrangement with the Imperial War Graves Commission the remains of five British soldiers buried in various parts of Roumania were conveyed to Bucharest and were permanently buried here on April 27 in the portion of the Lutheran Cemetery acquired by a recently formed Anglo-American Cemetery Committee. The names of the soldiers in question were: Private R. Bobley, 12th Hampshire Regt.; Private James Stirling, Seaforth Highlanders; Lance-Corporal A. Scott, Seaforth Highlanders; Corporal H. Mott, Royal Engineers; and Private Darvill, Royal Engineers. The remains had been located and conveyed to Bucharest by Captain A. F. Menzies, representative of the Commission in Macedonia. A portion of the burial service was read by the British Chaplain here, the Rev. Claude Hinscliffe. The ceremony was attended by the British Minister at Bucharest, Sir Herbert Dering, and others present were: Col. F. J. Duncan, Military Attaché, Mr. Millington Drake, First Secretary to this Legation, H.M. Consul, Mr. L. Keyser; Commander W. A. Thompson, Head of the British Naval Mission to Roumania; the American Consul-General, and a number of British residents.

Coalmine Catastrophe.

Public feeling was deeply affected by a disaster which occurred the other day at the Armaka coalmine near Petroshani (Transylvania), Roumania's principal coal-field. In one of the galleries a terrific explosion took place owing to an electric current coming in contact with the natural gases in the pit. Unfortunately there were about 150 miners at work in this particular gallery at the time of the explosion, and more than 100 of them lost their lives. The majority of the victims were found carbonized and many others torn to pieces by the explosion, which was heard five miles away. As such a catastrophe is so unusual an event in this country, this mishap has been vested with the character of a national misfortune, so that at the burial of the victims—which was done at the State's expense—the King, and

two members of the Cabinet, and many other high officials were present. Lists for public subscription for the relief of the victims' families are being circulated throughout the country, to which the State and the public are responding very generously. The King headed the list with 100,000 lei.

Roman Remains in Transylvania.

While excavations were being carried out at Cluj (the capital of Transylvania) for the purpose of erecting a large building, a portion of a ceiling in mosaic was unearthed, which is ascertained to date back to the Third Century—about the time of the Roman occupation of Dacia. The other portion of the ceiling cannot be brought to light, as it is under the foundation of the adjacent house. This is not the first discovery of Roman remains at Cluj, for it is known that this town is built on the ruins of the famous Roman fortress "Napoca," which was abandoned by the Roman Legions during the Third Century at the order of Emperor Hadrian.

General News.

A British Naval Mission, headed by Commander W. A. Thompson, has arrived at Constantza, for the purpose of re-organizing the Roumanian Navy.

The First of May was celebrated by the working class without any incidents.

The Minister of Domains and Agriculture has announced that the dividing of the land among the peasants in the whole of Transylvania will begin very shortly, commencing with the farms belonging to the State.

Bucharest, May 14.

Roumanian Aeroplanes.

The Aircraft Department of the War Ministry celebrated last Thursday the christening of the first series of ten aeroplanes built in the country. Divine service was conducted by the Primate of the Roumanian Orthodox Church in the presence of Genral Nicoleanu, Col. Rujinski, M. Silisteanu, the French, Italian, Czechoslovak and Yugoslav Military Attachés and many Roumanian pioneer aviators. The aeroplanes are of the "Brandenburg" type, with two seats and fitted with 220 H.P. engine. The actual cost of the machine is 185,000 lei, and it is said that a similar machine from abroad would cost 1,500,000 lei.

Departure of the King and Queen.

The King and Queen of Roumania left on May 14 for Athens, *via* Constantza, on a Roumanian destroyer. This sudden departure is due to a telegram received from Prince George on Sunday morning, announcing that Princess Elisabeth's condition has taken a turn for the worse, and that an operation must be performed owing to the setting in of pleurisy. This news, which spread like wildfire throughout the country, has saddened the Roumanian people, with whom Princess Elisabeth was always a great favourite. On hearing the news many social functions were postponed, including the *Soirée dansante* at the Polish Legation, and it was further noticed that no official person was present at the races on Sunday, although it was the Roumanian "Derby Day," on which occasion even the Royal Family never failed in previous years to be present. On Tuesday services of intercession for the health of Princess Elisabeth will be held in all the churches of the country.

King Ferdinand before leaving Bucharest signed a decree-law, by which General Vaitoainu, the Prime Minister *ad interim*, together with the Ministers' Council, have the right to exercise the regal prerogatives during the Sovereign's absence from the country.

War Indemnities from Germany.

The Roumanian Government has decided to renounce the 2782 horses accorded by the International Reparations Commission as war damages from Germany, in order to have them replaced by locomotives, tools, machinery and other metal goods, part of which have already begun to arrive from German factories.

General News.

M. Tanner, the Minister of Finland, left Bucharest for Helsingfors on Monday, May 8. Although under the pretext of leave, it is rumoured that M. Tanner's

departure is definite, owing to the suppression of the Roumanian Legation at Helsingfors, which measure was recently taken as an economy.

The *Monitorul Oficial* of May 11, announces the appointment of M. Nicolae Cerchez as Director of the Postal, Telegraphic and Telephonic Services, in place of M. I. Pitulescu, who has been transferred to the Ministry of Communications as Technical Councillor.

It is reported that the British Cruiser 'Cardiff' has arrived at Simla, having on board Rear-Admiral Tyrwhitt, Commander of the British Naval Squadron at Constantinople, who will visit Roumania's ports.

TURKEY.

Constantinople, May 12.

The Turko-Italian Agreement.

Until the Italian Government fulfils the promise to communicate to the British Government the details of the arrangements made with the Sublime Porte, the mystery surrounding the matter will remain. According to the official statement made by Izzet Pasha to a local journal on May 9, only "an exchange of views" has taken place, and the surveys to be made after the conclusion of peace by Italian experts, "involve no engagement." Izzet Pasha then declared: "The present negotiations bind neither of the two parties, and only signify, in reality, a simple promise between those interested. If the survey which will be carried out by Italy in certain parts of our country produce favourable results, the economic questions interesting both countries will be the subject of further investigations."

It will be noted that Izzet Pasha spoke of "the present negotiations," thereby implying that no definite conclusion had been reached, but in the same breath he mentioned a "promise" which nevertheless is not binding. It is to be feared that Izzet Pasha, who is justly regarded as an honourable and straightforward

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soldier, has listened to evil counsellors. Incidentally there is at present no indication of the manner in which the negotiations were—or are—being conducted, but it is worthy of note that M. Carasso, who is now an Italian subject, but who was largely instrumental in organising the Committee of Union and Progress in its early days, is now—or was recently in Rome.

The details of the agreement, so far as they are known, have already been published in the European Press, but it may be asked why, if that agreement is so innocent in nature, has such secrecy been maintained? Why also are Izzet Pasha's explanations couched in such ambiguous language as to be unintelligible? Why, moreover, is the Angora Government so intensely annoyed about the matter? The Kemalist representatives both in Rome and in Constantinople have been instructed to protest and to inform the Italians that the Angora Government considers any agreement that may have been concluded as illegal and therefore invalid. At the same time, a certain tension has arisen between the Italians and the Kemalists on account of the evacuation of the Sokia area, which was apparently carried out by the Italians without giving the Kemalists sufficient warning to enable them to reoccupy the territory in question. The Kemalists insist that the Italians acted deliberately at the instigation—needless to say—of the British, for the Kemalists are apparently convinced that in comparison with British statesmen, Machiavelli was a child. Would it were so!

The Political Situation in Anatolia.

Information regarding the political situation in Anatolia has been exceedingly meagre during the last few weeks, but there can be little doubt that a crisis of no little importance has arisen in Anatolia. According to reports from sources that have been usually reliable, the Angora Government will not be able to maintain an army in the field for another winter. If this is true—and there is good reason to believe that such is the case—the reasons for the crisis are not far to seek. Even a cursory study of the Turkish press at the present moment is sufficient to indicate the line of argument which is the basis of the policy of the Angora Government. Britain and France, in the first place, are apparently definitely estranged from each other—a result for which the Kemalists, or rather Young Turks, have been striving indefatigably ever since the Armistice; Italy is pursuing a purely opportunist policy; Germany is now allied to Russia, and Russia is allied to Anatolia. On June 1, if the calculations of the Angora Government are accurate, the French will invade Germany, and there will be a complete reshuffle, which may result in strong trumps falling to the hand of the Angora Government. From the outset, the Anatolian press has openly foretold and the Stamboul press presaged in more veiled terms, the failure of the Genoa Conference. In both cases the original inspiration doubtless emanated from M. Araloff, the Bolshevik envoy in Angora, who has been playing Codlin to General Pellé's Short.

In these circumstances, all talk about a renewal of hostilities upon a large scale may be safely discounted for the time being. No one knows better than the Kemalist General Staff that a successful offensive against the Greeks is at present out of the question on account of the insufficiency and imperfection of transport, apart from other serious difficulties, and the Greeks have realised that there is nothing to be gained from making another attempt to capture Angora. June 1 is the day for which each side is waiting.

The Micro-Asiatic Movement.

Nothing has ever more clearly demonstrated the remarkable *esprit de corps* which is the most striking characteristic of the modern Greek spirit, than the developments which have followed the menace of the re-establishment of Young Turk dominion over Smyrna. The Venizelist movement has been practically absorbed by the Micro-Asiatic Movement, and both Constantinists and Venizelists have, for the moment at all events, buried their differences. The "deserters", officers and soldiers who have been kicking their heels in Constanti-

nople for the last eighteen months, are returning to Smyrna and will be restored to their ranks. Every Greek knows perfectly well that no Greek Government could possibly consent to the unconditional abandonment of the Christians of Ionia to the Young Turks, and in this respect the Government of M. Gounaris has secured the support of its bitterest enemies. No one has worked harder to produce this result than the Greek High Commissioner in Constantinople, M. Triandaphilakos, whose fatherly counsels on the one hand, and skilful pleading on the other, have apparently reduced partisan heat on both sides to the cooler temperature of common-sense. It may be that both sides have made certain mental reservations, but M. Triandaphilakos has at all events scored a great success in his own quiet way, and may yet make still further progress.

The American Testimony.

The report of Major Yowell and his three colleagues concerning the treatment of Christians in Anatolia, which was published in *The Times* of May 6, has been the subject of animated controversy in foreign circles here. As usual, the subject has been debated from partisan points of view, and what both sides have forgotten is that the value of the report lies not in the statements made, but in the status of its authors. Similar reports have been published during the last two years, but they have always emanated from interested parties—Greek or Armenian. The American report, is, however, the first authentic statement on the subject that has been obtained for the information of the general public from reputable eye-witnesses. Educated and cultured people of the status of the four officials of the Near East Relief Commission who are responsible for the report, may have made mistakes and may even have exaggerated to a certain extent, for human nature is fallible, but deliberate invention cannot be attributed to them. Their report, therefore, can only be discounted to the extent that is necessary when ordinary human failings are taken into account. Moreover, as their statements completely harmonise with what is known to have happened before when the same individuals dominated the Turkish Empire as those who now dominate Anatolia, the report, when all allowances are made, forms one of the most damning indictments of Young Turk rule that have ever been formulated.

The Arrival of the Irish Guards.

The Irish Guards upon their arrival marched through the town to their quarters, preceded by a drum and fife band. General Sir Charles Harington took the salute at Taxim Square, and all the British who witnessed the sight felt a thrill of pride as the splendid body of men marched past.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, May 5.

Attitude of the Greek Community.

Those who have watched the agitation among the "Greeks" of Cyprus for union with Greece for many years past can hardly be surprised by the present situation, or by the audacity which is now displayed by their leaders. Step by step they have advanced, taking advantage of the far too great measure of freedom, always abused, which has been allowed them. A more glaring example of their presumption can hardly be given than that just manifested at Nicosia. A draft law is under consideration which provides for an increase of the stamp duties to be levied on leases of properties, contracts, receipts, etc. The King's Advocate recently requested the advocates of Nicosia, as a body, to express their views respecting the proposed measure. In their reply, which has been published in the Greek Press, they state that, while unanimously disapproving of any such increase of taxation, they are unable to express any opinion on the details of the Bill, as they are firmly of opinion that the present Legislative Council is not lawfully constituted, and consequently that no act passed by it can have any legal or binding force.

The Greeks have in fact reached the limit of audacity, puerile as it is. They refuse to sit on the Council, and then contend that without them the Council cannot legally act! While residents and older officials are not surprised, visitors to the island may well be astonished, and wonder why some drastic remedial action is not taken to meet a situation which no other Power would for a moment dream of tolerating.

General News.

Owing to the death of one of the Maronite Members of the Legislative Council, an election will presumably be held shortly. Possibly it may be decided once more to hold a general election; but in such case the Greeks would no doubt abstain from sending candidates, and there would merely be a repetition of their late tactics.

Dr. S. G. Papadopoulos, now practising in London, has been requested by the Hellenic Government to represent Greece at the International Medical Congress, to be held in London in July.

Dr. E. Corsellis has been appointed Chief Medical Officer. The appointment gives great satisfaction in all communities. Dr. Corsellis has been for many years in the island, as District Medical Officer at Limassol, and has on many occasions acted as C.M.O. A farewell dinner has been given to Dr. and Mrs. Corsellis at Limassol, where they will be much missed.

The close time for partridges and francolin has been extended, being now from February 15 to September 14: while shooting of hares and other game is from August 12 to February 14. The fee for a gun licence is raised from 10s. to £1.

A British Club in Constantinople.

It is a matter for regret that the steps taken in Constantinople for the formation of a British Club have not yet been crowned with success; but in view of the present economic position in Turkey the temporary failure cannot create surprise. At a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on May 12 it was formally resolved that the time was not opportune at present for proceeding with the proposal put forward by a sub-committee, that a special campaign should be started to raise the £5,000 required for the first year (a guarantee of only £2,000 was obtained). But it was arranged that the work of the sub-committee in keeping in touch with the members of the British community should be continued in order that the first favourable opportunity might be taken for proceeding with the scheme.

The Zionist Delegation which left for the United States a few months ago, has succeeded so far in raising £350,000 for the Palestine Foundation Fund.

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MEDITERRANEAN & NEAR EAST

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ROUMANIAN PORTS ALSO FROM—
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SOUTH WALES PORTS TO GIBRALTAR
GENOA LEGHORN NAPLES PALERMO
MESSINA CATANIA BRINDISI BARI
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Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be written as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper.

EDUCATION AND JERUSALEM.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—In your issue of yesterday's date, you refer to an attempt made in Jerusalem to organise a body of persons who could supply courses of higher study, such as are at present needed in Jerusalem. You say that Mr. Ussischkin prevented Jewish scholars from assisting the scheme, because he held it constituted an attack on the projected Hebrew University. Whatever may have been the attitude of Mr. Ussischkin (and I have no information respecting it), it is certain that Dr. Eder, one of his colleagues on the Zionist Executive in Palestine, welcomed the formation of "a mixed committee for the promotion of Oriental Studies." He wrote a letter to the *Doar Ha'Yom*, saying "anyone who regards this as opposed to the contemplated Hebrew University, understands neither the spirit which prompted the ideal nor the steps that are being taken towards its fulfilment."

The *Palestine Weekly*, which you have described as a paper of "strong Zionist" tendencies expressed in its issue of April 7 great annoyance at the "discourtesy" and "foolishness" of the Jews who abstained from attending the meeting called to promote the scheme. Its comments are, indeed, quite similar to your own:—"it is just another example of the bane of the Palestinian in general—to read into every innocent detail the most sinister politics, and of the Jew in particular to succumb to his special weakness—a hyper-trophied suspicion."

The Zionists in Palestine are not as sectarian as your Correspondent supposes.

I am, etc.,

ARTHUR D. LEWIS.

"Ashleigh,"

Cannon Hill Lane,
Merton Park, S.W.20.
May 19.

THE DODECANESE.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—In a fervent and eloquent Appeal for the cause of the "Friends of Italy" Movement in London with which he concluded the splendid concert given yesterday at the Wigmore Hall, my esteemed colleague and Hon. Sec. of the Movement, Chev. T. Sambucetti, mentioned Mazzini's noble dream for Italian unity and his high moral "Credo" which included liberty for all nations.

I quite understand Chev. Sambucetti's noble zeal for everything that tends to promote the study of Dante's language, beautiful specimens in which he himself, and a few of his English girl pupils, recited to their audience yesterday. But, thinking that words can have little or no value unless they are accompanied by deeds, I feel tempted to ask my dear colleague:—Does he think that the high-principled Credo of the great Italian patriot and martyr of Italy's freedom is acted upon to-day by his own country with regard to the Dodecanese? And does he think that the continued harsh and really unspeakable measures of the Italian authorities there, aiming at suppressing the expression of the national conscience of the Dodecanesians, "—as Greek as a Greek people can be," as the editor of the *Church Times* puts it—and breaking their social structure, are likely to make the Dodecanesians forget their Hellenic nature, or promote the "work of peace," also mentioned in yesterday's concert?

I am, etc.,

C. S. HOURMOUZIOS,

Of the Foreign Press Association in London.

49, Prince's Square,
Hyde Park, W.2.
May 15.

In reply to statements recently made in the House of Commons the Turkish Press Bureau in Paris announces that since the Armistice "the most rigorous justice and most perfect order have not ceased to reign in Turkey," and describes the statements made to the contrary as "fantastic assertions."

GREAT BRITAIN AND EGYPT.

Egyptian Press Views.

While the people recognize that the period is one of transition and of preparation for the serious business which awaits the Parliament when elected, they are restive under the restraint which prohibits the holding of public meetings either of men or women. Petitions are being presented to King Fuad directly—not through the Government—praying that this may be removed. The position of the King is much discussed, and there appears to be a desire to approach H.M. directly, not through Ministers, who are always regarded with suspicion. The subject receiving most attention for the time being in the native Press is that of the Sudan. The theory that the country and the whole Nile valley form part of Egypt, as one and indivisible, is accepted as unquestionable. The past history of the Sudan is represented as fully bearing out this claim, and by a curious process of reasoning the benefits conferred by British Administration are attributed to Egyptian influence. There is still no reference to the question of a garrison. The desire for the return of Zaghoul Pasha and his fellow exiles is wide-spread and insistent.

The *Akhbar*, in a leading article, says that the British have quietly and persistently pursued a definite policy, which aims at severing the Sudan from Egypt, and setting up a Sultan—perhaps the Mahdi's son—under British protection. The dreams of British imperialists regarding the control of Egypt and the Sudan would so be realised. It has been said that England regards the latter as a valuable ransom to be given by poor Egypt. The English will not think of evacuating Egypt until they effect the entire control of the Sudan, the produce of which will then be transported, not through Egypt, but by way of Berber and Suakin. All the sources of the Nile being controlled, they will construct dams and irrigate whatever areas they choose, to the possible detriment of Egypt. "Is our Government alive to all this or will it remain silent till it is too late?" Ever since the ominous declaration of January, 1899, Egypt has apathetically looked upon the Sudan as if it were a foreign country. The English have recently observed there with great ceremony an anniversary, their aim being to treat the Sudan as a part of the British Empire. Not a word was said about Egypt, as if her ties of language, religion, customs, and interests counted as nothing. In the past it was the Egyptian Government that conferred decorations upon distinguished Sudanese; but now England assumes the sole right to bestow them, the Sudanese not being recognised as belonging in any way to Egypt. Formerly Egyptian officials were wont to go to the Sudan to cultivate friendly relations and mutual interests, as between two brothers. Now Lord Allenby goes there, while our (Egyptian) Ministers take no interest in the country, or shirk the fatigues and inconvenience of the journey, although the Sudanese question has so vital a bearing on the situation. Sidky Pasha, now Minister of Finance, went unofficially to the Sudan in 1919. Why does he not go there officially now? Why does not the Government advise King Fuad to go there, and remind the people of what his predecessors did for the country? Responsible officials should be roused to action, for the matter is of pressing importance. Egypt without the Sudan is the burial ground of her people. Sidky Pasha, in the introduction to a long report which he made, says:—"Of all the stabs given to Egypt since the occupation of 1914 the declaration of 1919 was the

deepest and most painful. If a blow so deadly was given while Britain was associated with Egypt, what is to be the result when the Sudan is completely severed and claimed by Britain?" When the deputation of Sudanese visited England they were not allowed to pass through Egypt, as if it were a plague spot closed by quarantine. It was supposed that they went to negotiate a separate treaty. Sidky Pasha has denied this, and said that there was no truth in the assumption that the Sudanese desired closer relations with England. The deputation evidently went under the pressure of British influence, not of their own initiative. The Government says the writer, instead of prohibiting public meeting, should devote its attention to the all-important matter.

The Ex-Khedive Abbas II.

Both the *Ahram* and *Akhbar* publish an account of an interview which the Editor of the *Progrès de Lyons* had with the ex-Khedive Abbas Hilmy before a visit of the former to Egypt. "The statements of the Allies," said the ex-Khedive, "during the war, respecting the self-determination of nations had their effect in the East, and especially in Egypt, in view of the aid given to the Allies by Egyptians. They sought their freedom, and seeing that they remained under alien rule they began to take steps themselves. Like Ireland and India they sought to be rid of 'protection,' and will no doubt succeed in the very near future. My country is on the threshold of new freedom." After a pause, he said: "I do not attach importance to the manoeuvres of the British Government regarding independence; for it is sufficient to read the reservations in order to realise that no steps are really being taken to abolish control. The present policy of Britain towards Egypt is due to the movement to boycott English trade. I am sure that an Egyptian who understands the real interests of the country and puts aside personal considerations, will demand the release of Zaghoul and his compatriots. "There," he said, "are my views and hopes for my country, which will be fulfilled sooner than many Europeans imagine."

The *Mokattam* says that the women of Egypt, not being allowed to hold meetings, attend lectures at places where they are able to speak, and express their views. They recently assembled to hear one by Dr. Ibrahim Zekki in the American College. A deputation of ladies will go to Abdin Palace to present two petitions. One, signed by 2026 women, addressed to King Fuad, asks for the return of Zaghoul on account of his age and indifferent health. His Majesty, they say, they are sure will not allow freedom to some of his subjects and not to others. They pray for long life for the King and for Zaghoul Pasha. The other petition prays that the Premier will take steps to abolish the custom of holding *Zars*. (A *Zar* is a sort of *fete des dames* having for its object the casting out of devils, or curing of epileptic and other complaints. Women of all classes assemble for a *Zar*, either at some Saint's tomb or in the privacy of the harem. The process of exorcism consists in working the demoniac into violent excitement by the recitation of spells, by burning incense, etc. This often leads to great expense. Sheep, fowls, or other victims are killed, and the flesh distributed to guests and visitors. Sometimes the patient is required to obtain jewelry or special articles of dress, etc. Liberal presents are made to the female exorcists. Educated ladies consider it is high time that a stop should be put to these proceedings.)

The Freemasons.

The Grand Master of the Cairo Lodge, Idris Bey Ragheb, has sent a petition to the King, begging that he will bring about the recall of Zaghoul and other exiles. The Press supports a proposal, widely approved, that the contributions which it is customary to give to the poor at the end of Ramadan (*Zekal el-sitr*) should this year be sent to poor Turks in Anatolia. If this is carried out it is to be hoped that the gifts will really reach the sufferers for whom they will be intended. The Banks are sending considerable sums of money to King Fuad, to be distributed by him at his discretion.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE SERBO-ALBANIAN FRONTIER.

"A DIFFICULT FRONTIER (Yugoslavs and Albanians)." By Henry Baerlein. (London: Leonard Parsons. 6s. net).

A mesquin little book, which, however, is not without knowledge, has been written on the frontier between Serbia and Albania, by Mr. Henry Baerlein. He has called it "A Difficult Frontier." The frontier is, indeed, so difficult that it hardly appears. Its map is hidden in one unostentatious page, which at first sight, escapes the reader's attention altogether. The frontier is, in fact, only an excuse for a propagandist pamphlet. In the index, there are scarcely any place-names, which occur inevitably in any serious work dealing with delimitation.

Mr. Baerlein is not a champion of the Slavs, but of the present Yugoslav Government. The Serbs and the Montenegrins have their faults, but they have also their great virtue of courage, and they deserve a more chivalrous defence than that accorded to them by the author. I can imagine a snobbish and peevish old lady, who believed herself a friend of Sir Hamar Greenwood, writing an eulogium upon similar lines with regard to that statesman's Irish policy. Belgrade is the spiritual home of Mr. Baerlein, and he regrets, apparently, that Yugoslavia has any frontiers.

Take, for instance, his references to Montenegro, which he thinks was once a grand country. He speaks, in language of almost touching simplicity (page 20) of the Montenegrin Vespers on the Christmas Eve of 1703. "Those," he says, "who participated in the Montenegrin Vespers, were not likely to forget the incidents of that impressive ceremony." Here the ceremony is impressively described—the blessing of the weapons, the candles still in the quiet, frosty air, etc. "Then every house was visited in which there was a Moslem and the choice was given them of repudiation or of death. With such missionaries and with such subjects as these to work upon, you could not quite hope that the negotiations would be pacific. Many of the Moslems, young and old, were slaughtered"—and so on, with a description of the "chosen men," who were weary but content with their night's work, at its end in the rudimentary cemetery at Cettigne. One wonders what happy phrases Mr. Baerlein would have found to have described the more spectacular battue outside the Louvre on St. Bartholomew's Eve, if he had been a friend of Charles IX and of Catherine de Medici, and whether he would have felt sympathy for the fatigue of the "missionaries" on that occasion.

Montenegro ceases to have anything fine about it (including frontiers) the moment that it is opposed to Belgrade. Mr. Baerlein tells (page 75) of a (nameless) Mohammedan priest, who became Orthodox and was appointed a major in the Montenegrin Army. The said priest was supposed to have killed 500 of his parishioners because they would not be baptised. "Since the Montenegrins did not restrain that over-zealous man, the villagers were not in favour of that country." Again (page 102), he speaks of the "thoughtless voice of the mob of Montenegro," though he can be jubilant when a Montenegrin in Yugoslav pay insults a British officer, Captain Brodie.

His references to the Italians are always direct. On page 110, he states that Prenk Bib Doda was assassinated by the Italians, which was not the report of Mr. Morton Eden, the British official who was with Prenk Bib Doda at the time.

The book is written in a curious style, and the reader is half puzzled to know if it is a school-boy's writing, or a foreign school-master translating, as for instance (page 31): "It is true that several towns with large Albanian majorities were made over to the Serbs—very much, as it turned out, to their subsequent advantage—yet, being separated from their hinterland, this was a doubtful gift." And again (page 64): "They (the Serbian authorities) have, like most of us, sufficient to

regret—for example, the person whom they sent to Pëc, when they wanted the land to be distributed, was King Peter's Master of the Horse. He was thoroughly unsuitable and caused a great deal of dissatisfaction." Why?

The author judges the Albanians by their past history, and not their present achievement; he criticises them by the standard of their most primitive customs of yesterday and not the sacrifices and progress that they have made. On parallel lines, England should be judged by the superstitions of the West Country and the ignorance of Lincolnshire peasants.

He spends several pages in an austere, if not entirely grammatical, castigation of the League of Nations and its intervention in the Yugoslav advance in Albania. According to Mr. Baerlein, this advance never really occurred. The explanation of the League's action is, that Mr. Lloyd George was too busy to think of this question and had allowed "some incapable person," whose identity, oddly enough, never transpires, to act in his name. This poor fool "was so little versed in the business that he did not even know that the League of Nations is not a gendarme to carry out the decisions of the Ambassadors' Conference." He really ought to have known better than that. "He should also have known that the League of Nations does not, except if invited to arbitrate—concern itself with the unliquidated problems left by the War, such as the Turkish question." Who is this anonymous idiot? But Albania had ceased to be a Turkish question in 1913 and in 1921 had been admitted into the League of Nations, and so was twice emancipated. All this is really written to prove that the present frontier is inequitable because the Yugoslavs may be raided by the Albanians. Mr. Baerlein carefully omits to say that, after France, the Yugoslavs have the second biggest armed force in Europe, equipped with modern weapons, and a population of 15 millions, and a country many times the size of Albania, while the Albanians are only 1½ million and have no organised army and only antiquated weapons.

This book is worth reading, if it can be procured from a lending library, as a study of inefficient propaganda.

I. M.

SIR JOHN MALCOLM ABRIDGED.

"MALCOLM'S MEMOIRS OF CENTRAL INDIA." Abridged and edited for Colleges and Schools. By C. H. Payne. (London: Routledge. 3s. 6d. net.)

Sir John Malcolm's "Memoir" ranks definitely as a classic, and any tampering with the text calls for justification. We think Mr. Payne makes out a good case for the rather drastic treatment he has applied. The original is badly arranged, encumbered with much dead matter, and frequently obscure; it is indispensable but nearly unreadable. Mr. Payne gives us practically all the valuable historical portion, arranged in short chapters, clearly printed on decent paper, with a useful sketch-map, all for the very moderate sum of three and sixpence; and in these hard times the price is by itself sufficient justification, for it brings the best part of an inaccessible classic within the reach of nearly everyone. The editing has been well done, but there are a few obvious errors, or perhaps misprints, such as the date 1491 for Timur's invasion (p. 10), or 1577 for Aurangzeb (p. 18), which should be corrected if a further edition is called for.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- "Pedalling in Pianoforte Music." By Algernon H. Lindo. (London: Kegan Paul. 4s. 6d. net.)
- "China's Place in the Sun." By Stanley High. (London: Macmillan & Co., Ltd. 8s. net.)
- "Near Eastern Affairs and Conditions." By Stephen Panaretou. (London: Macmillan & Co. 1s. 6d. net.)
- "The Enchanted Canyon." By Honoré Willis. (London: Thornton Butterworth, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)
- "The Hawk of Egypt." By Joan Conquest. (London: T. Werner Laurie, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.**To-day.**

May 25 (New Style).

May 12 (Old Style).

Ramadan 28, 1340 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.

Iyar 27, 5782 of the Jewish Calendar.

Lady Crosfield returned to London last week from Paris.

M. Jan Masaryk, Counsellor at the Czecho-Slovak Legation, has returned from Prague.

Mr. A. O. Lamplough, who is generally expected home at this time of year, is lying ill in Cairo.

The Governor of Bombay on May 20 unveiled a statue to Lord Hardinge on the Apollo Bunder.

General Sir John and Lady Maxwell have returned to 103, Lancaster Gate from the South of France.

M. Yovan Yovanovitch, the Yugoslav Consul-General, and Mme. Yovanovitch, have returned from Paris.

It is stated from Bombay that the Maharajah of Bikanir has sailed for England, acting on medical advice.

M. Gregoire Michalesco, Commercial Attaché at the Roumanian Legation, is back in London from the Legation in Paris.

M. R. Th. W. Djuvara, Secretary at the Roumanian Legation, is back in London, after accompanying Prince Nicolas to Paris.

The marriage of Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Albert Stern, K.B.E., C.M.G., and Miss Helen Orr Lewis will take place at Cannes on Tuesday, June 6.

Air Vice-Marshal Sir John Salmond had the honour of being received at Buckingham Palace on May 17 by the King upon his appointment as Air Officer Commanding, Iraq.

Lady Grey Egerton has left London for Bombay, where she will join Sir Philip Grey Egerton, and will proceed with him to Australia for two months, returning to London in October.

The Duke of York is due to leave for Belgrade on Saturday. A special delegation, presided over by the Military Attaché in London, who is now at Belgrade, will meet him at the Roumanian frontier.

The King has conferred the G.C.M.G. upon Lieut.-General Sir James Aylmer Lowthrop Haldane, K.C.B., D.S.O., in recognition of services as General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, his Majesty's Forces in Iraq.

A marriage has been arranged between Otto M. Lund, only son of Captain and Mrs. Albert Lund, 38, Lowndes Street, Belgrave Square, S.W., and Peggy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Harrison, Colaba Hill, Bombay.

The Grand Duke and the Grand Duchess Cyril, who have left Cannes, will be present on June 1 at the marriage at Belgrade of the King of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes and their niece, Princess Marie of Roumania.

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Admiral Sir John de Robeck arrived at Victoria last week on his return from the Mediterranean. He handed over the command of the Mediterranean Fleet to his successor, Vice-Admiral Sir O. de B. Brock at Marseilles on May 13.

Monsignor Barlassina, Patriarch of Jerusalem, is now in England, sent officially by the Holy See, to discuss the possibility of entering into negotiations with the British Government respecting the problem of Zionism in Palestine.

The Indian Gymkhana Club have an interesting list of cricket fixtures for 1922, with their customary match against the M.C.C. at Lord's on July 28 and 29. Their new ground at Osterley was due to be opened yesterday (May 24) in a game against High Wycombe.

M. Titulescu, Roumanian Minister in London, left London on May 21 for Paris, to meet M. Bratianu, Roumanian Prime Minister, who has just returned from Genoa. He was due to leave Paris yesterday for Roumania, thence to go to the wedding of Princess Marie.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (May 14):—Prince Carol, Princess Helen, and Prince Michael, accompanied by Princess Irene of Greece, the sister of Princess Helen, arrived last Tuesday at Sinaia from Athens.

The Moslem Festival of Eid-el-Fitr which marks the conclusion of the month of fasting will be observed at the Mosque, Woking, on Sunday, May 28. Among those expected to be present are the Persian Ambassador, the Afghan Minister, the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires, the President and Secretary of the Palestine Delegation and representatives of the Hejaz and Iraq.

The annual Sir George Birdwood Memorial Lecture will be delivered at the Royal Society of Arts to-morrow afternoon by Sir Thomas W. Arnold, Professor of Arabic, School of Oriental Studies, the subject being "Indian Painting and Muhammadan Culture." The chair will be taken by 4.30 p.m. by Lord Peel, Secretary of State for India.

It is with much regret that we learn that Princess Elizabeth has had a relapse following her attack of typhus, and her condition is now serious. Unless a change for the better takes place within the next week, it is anticipated that the wedding of King Alexander of Yugoslavia and Princess Marie of Greece will be postponed.

At the Walker Galleries, New Bond Street, an exhibition was opened on May 22 of water-colour drawings of India (chiefly Cashmir and Central India) by Mrs. Lucy Pelling Sultan Ahmad. The exhibition is open until June 3. At the same galleries is being held an exhibition of water-colours of the Sands and Waters of Egypt by Bridget Keir—this closing on May 27.

A reception in honour of Sir Herbert Samuel, High Commissioner for Palestine, and of Lady Samuel, is to be given by the Council of the English Zionist Federation on Tuesday evening, May 30, at 8.30 p.m., at the Empress Rooms, Royal Palace Hotel, Kensington. Further particulars can be obtained from the secretary, English Zionist Federation, 44, Bedford Row, W.C.

Colonel Georges Ostoitch, Military Attaché to the Legation of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, will be in attendance on the Duke of York during his Royal Highness's visit to Belgrade for the marriage of King Alexander and Princess Marie of Roumania. The King and Queen of Spain will be represented by the Prince of the Asturias, and the French Republic by Marshal Franchet d'Esperey.

JERUSALEM AND THE MISSION.

The Jerusalem and the East Mission is thirty-four years old. It is not a missionary society: it is the representative of the Church of England in the Near East, "beginning at Jerusalem," and the J.E.M. Fund exists to provide the Bishop in Jerusalem with the means for supporting, consolidating, and expanding the work of the Church. The Bishop represents the whole Anglican Communion at the Mother City of the Faith; and it should be remembered that the Anglican Communion embraces the great daughter Churches of the Dominions and the Episcopal Church of America. Archbishop Benson reconstituted the Bishopric in 1887, after a lapse of five years, appointing to it Archdeacon G. F. Popham Blyth, who had just retired after twenty-five years' service in India and Burmah. The Bishopric possessed then not a stone or a foot of ground. The Bishop collected, by personal letters of appeal, throughout the English Church world, the funds out of which he built and maintained the Cathedral, Bishop's House, Clergy House, schools, library, and medical work at Jerusalem: church, hospital, and schools at Haifa, Beyrout, and in the Lebanon: churches and schools in Egypt: and established chaplaincies at many stations and outstations in Egypt and Cyprus. At the close of the twenty-seven years of his episcopate the Church of England was firmly established in the Near East, and in almost every case in its own buildings; and this made it possible to reopen immediately the Church's work—spiritual, medical, and educational—in Palestine as place after place was liberated. To our soldiers these stations of the Mission, and especially the Cathedral at Jerusalem, have been centres of comfort and fellowship. The Mission stands for what is best and truest in missionary service. Missionary societies make their appeal to different sections of Church thought at home, but the J.E.M. makes its appeal to *all* sections of the Church, because it is the authorized and authoritative representative of the Church itself at the capital of Christendom.

The Annual Meeting of the J.E.M. was held at Church House on May 16. The Bishop of London, Chairman of the Council, presided, and the speakers were Viscount Goschen, C.B.E., who has lately returned from a visit to Palestine, and Archdeacon Stacy Waddy, Archdeacon of the Church of England in Palestine, who is on short leave from Jerusalem. The Hoare Memorial Hall was well filled, old and new friends of the work mustering in the most encouraging way. After the opening prayers, and the reading (by Archdeacon Beresford Potter, Archdeacon in Cyprus) of a short passage from Isaiah, the Bishop of London made a few introductory remarks. He emphasized the necessity of maintaining a fair and true representative of our Church in Palestine.

Lord Goschen, while modestly describing himself as only a recent visitor to Palestine, showed a thorough grasp of the many-sided problem of the country and its needs, and of the value of the Mission in its spiritual, medical, and educational work. He made no reference to the difficulties besetting us as Mandatory Power for Palestine, but dwelt rather upon the spiritual aspect of our trust; the moulding and establishing of the youth of Palestine, of whatever creed; the immense possibilities of the task, and the immeasurable promise of the future; and the duty of the laity to care for and so supply the temporal necessities of Church work, so that those to whose hands the actual labour was entrusted might be time-free and mind-free for their task. He had travelled extensively in the Empire and off the beaten track, and had seen there the clergyman and the layman at their ceaseless and unassuming work; and their question was ever, "Do they know over in England about the work?"—"not 'my' work, not even 'our' work, but always *the work*." He could not help feeling that people at home knew far too little of the work being done abroad. He was asked to address the students at St. George's College, and had hesitated to comply, feeling the difficulty of finding common ground between them and a traveller like himself, but he had spoken to them as a College man to College men, and in that had found a point of contact. He was convinced that these boys, of many races and many creeds, gained through their education a mutual understanding and a sense of fellowship which would endure even though the stress of later life might throw them into opposite camps. The speaker made a warm and sincere appeal to the audience and to lay people generally to give to the Church in Palestine that support to which it was entitled and which was essential to it in the sacred and far-reaching work entrusted to it. It was a most impressive speech—sober, dignified, and earnest.

Archdeacon Waddy also sounded the grave note of our Christian and our Imperial responsibilities in Palestine. After long oppression the people of the land were lifting their heads in fresh hope once more, because of the coming of the British.

They looked to us for justice, fair play, and freedom to expand. England had freed Palestine at a terrible cost, as the great military cemeteries everywhere bore witness; our men had given their lives for Palestine: "we must not let them down" by undervaluing our charge and our responsibility. He was no pessimist, but very deliberately he warned us people at home that the problem of Palestine was also the severest testing of our Empire. The hopes and the faith of the people centred in us, and if we failed them now the Land would be the worse rather than the better for our coming. He was amazed at the hunger of the people for English education, for the help of the English Church: they desired and demanded that the education should be Christian, they would not thank us for an education shorn of its religious principles. The boys and girls passing through our schools were the hope of the country and its promise for the future. He had been called an anti-Semite because he had criticised the programme of political Zionism. With Jewish hopes and ideals for the revival of Jewry he was full of sympathy, but there was no denying the fact that the extremists, though a minority, were upsetting the balance of peace in Palestine, and that many manifestations of anti-British feeling out there were due to their activities and pronouncements, with which the Arabs were beginning to identify the British Government. He had many Jewish friends, and was frequently asked by them: "Why does the British Government persist in dealing with Zionism as if it were the expression of the whole of Jewry? It is *not*." One Jew said to him, after the Jaffa riots of May, 1921: "I have lived here for thirty years in peace with the Arabs, and never saw anything like this before." Another Jew told him how an Arab sheikh, on hearing of the riots, galloped from his village to the Jewish Colony to see if his friends there needed his help. If the British Government persisted in its present policy it would be doing a grave injustice, not only to the Arabs, but to the majority of the Jews themselves who were not political Zionists. He paid a feeling and sympathetic tribute to the Eastern Churches. They longed for the help of our Church and would allow her every privilege of counsel, even of criticism, which such fellowship in reconstruction implied. The mission of our Church in Palestine was constructive, not destructive: it stood for justice and for help: it commanded an unique trust from all.

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THURSDAY, MAY 25, 1922.

EGYPT AND THE SUDAN.

It may well prove to be fortunate both for Egypt and for Great Britain that the Egyptian Constitution Commission should have committed the indiscretion of announcing its intention to incorporate in the draft Constitution a clause equivalent to the annexation of the Sudan by Egypt. The simultaneous publication of a draft Sudan convention, drawn up by Rushdi Pasha a year ago for the benefit of the Egyptian Delegation then about to visit London, proves that Egyptian designs on the Sudan are not a sudden development. As a matter of fact the attention of the Egyptian Nationalists has been directed towards the Sudan for some time past, and unfortunately their propaganda efforts have been furthered by the action of Egyptian officers and officials in the service of the Sudan. At the time of Lord Allenby's visit in 1921 it was found that seditious circulars, printed in Egypt, and addressed to "Our Sudanese Brethren," had been surreptitiously distributed in the Sudan. The Sudanese were called upon to resent British slavery and to clear their country of the tyrant colonizers. Egypt and the Sudan were to join hands to expel the intruders. A further call to revolution was made in a second circular, also purporting to emanate from a "Party of Ulema"; yet another document dealt with alleged English plots against Islam and was a direct appeal to fanaticism at its worst. It is significant of the attitude of the Sudanese that the receipt of these circulars was at once notified to the Government, and a native paper in Khartoum denounced the interference of the Egyptians in Sudan affairs, thereby drawing upon itself the hostility of the authors of the circulars, who devoted another to recommending that the paper should be boycotted. It would have been strange indeed if none of this poison seed from Egypt had found favourable ground in the Sudan, especially as the natives are now being more widely used in the official and business world; but probably the most noticeable result of the propaganda was that it brought home to a number of Sheikhs and notables the danger of the withdrawal of British protection, and led to a deputation to the Government to urge that, if there was a possibility of Great Britain withdrawing from the Sudan, due notice should be given to the Sudanese, in order that they might take betimes their own measures for dealing with Egypt. The implied threat would only be lost on an Egyptian who knew nothing of Egypt's previous relations with the Sudan and was out of touch with present conditions in the country.

If, as is probable, the British Government, from a laudable desire to avoid embittering the negotiations then in progress, refrained from taking the Nationalists to task for their intrigues in the Sudan, the omission would inevitably encourage a section of Egyptian opinion to believe that the Sudan was to be had for the asking. In the London negotiations it was expressly stated that the Sudan was a reserved subject; not a *chose jugée*, be it noted, but a matter in regard to which discussion was to be invited at a later date. It is entirely in keeping with the Oriental mind that the distinction should be seized upon as further proof that Great Britain, if pressed, would not lay undue stress on the retention of the Sudan. From this stage to the wording of Rushdi Pasha's convention and the clause in the draft Constitution is a comparatively small step. Moreover the Committee engaged upon the Constitution

is encountering some opposition because it has been appointed by the Government instead of being selected by the new Parliament when elected and convened. There will always be, therefore, the temptation to justify its own existence by pandering to a popular cry. Now THE NEAR EAST has accepted wholeheartedly the policy of Egyptian independence and yields to none in a sincere desire to see the experiment a complete success in the interests both of Egypt and of Great Britain. But no true friend of Egypt with any real knowledge of the situation would encourage the Egyptians to imagine that they could take over the Sudan or will be allowed to do so. Reference has been made to the Egyptian officers and officials at present employed in the Sudan. The departure of the British from the country would be the signal for the forcible disappearance of every Egyptian left behind. The Egyptians should be under no mistake on this point. Whether the Sudanese approve or whether they disapprove of the presence of the British in their midst, there can be no shadow of doubt that they would not tolerate a single day of Egyptian overlordship. On this point their minds are already made up, whereas the Egyptians, to judge from their attitude towards the question of the Sudan, are living in a fool's paradise. If by any chance their claims were to be conceded, they would experience a rude awakening and the safety of the new State would be at once imperilled. Independent Egypt will have enough troubles within its borders for many years to come, without seeking others in an attempt to enforce its rule on unwilling Sudanese.

In the interests of the three countries concerned the British Government should lose no time in making a definite announcement on the future status of the Sudan. Already Lord Allenby has drawn the attention of the Egyptian Prime Minister to the impropriety of the Commission's incorporating in the draft constitution for Egypt any clause dealing with the Sudan, on the ground that the Sudan is one of the points reserved for future discussion between His Majesty's Government and the Egyptian Government. But this warning is not calculated to deter the extremists, who have had ample opportunity to gauge the value of persistent agitation. Again, although the Sudanese are not likely to support any movement for the exchange of Egyptian for British guardianship, some at least may have had their minds unsettled by trying to determine what the possible effect would be of placing more power in the hands of the native. The gradually increasing numbers of educated effendis will naturally be attracted by thoughts of high office; the Sheikhs and religious leaders may imagine that they themselves would occupy the centre of the picture, with greatly enhanced authority not only over their own tribes or sects but also generally over the whole Sudan. No good, however, can come of these dreams at the present time, and it is kinder to the potential dreamers and to the people as a whole to give them other things to think about. On the other hand Egypt is entitled to know how she stands in regard to her future supply of Nile water, for it must be remembered that a large number of Egyptians will enter the comity of free nations with a somewhat uneasy conscience, knowing nothing of the British frame of mind that renders an unfair distribution of the Nile water unthinkable. The only prospect in view for the average Egyptian is a hostile Sudan treating Egypt in the matter of her water supply as Rushdi Pasha proposes to treat the Sudan. Simultaneously with the declaration of the new status of the Sudan these misgivings can be dissipated by the transfer of the whole question of Nile regulation to a joint Board which will leave Egypt as confident of equitable treatment as she has reason to be to-day. As it is impossible to foresee the course of political events in Egypt and to know when the negotiations for a treaty with Great Britain can be resumed, there is strong ground for settling the status of the Sudan at once. Delay will only encourage the Egyptian camel, having found that he can insert with impunity his head into the Sudan tent, to attempt to follow with his whole body.

THE TURKISH ORTHODOX CHURCH.

BY THE REV. W. A. WIGRAM D.D.

Any old resident in the Ottoman Empire would consider the title of this article as the strangest contradiction in terms if not evidence of profound ignorance on the part of its author. Christians who are Turkish subjects we know, more varieties of them maybe, than we can readily enumerate; but a Turk has always been, as such, a Moslem; all varieties of Christians have been "Rayahs." Religion has always been the determinant of a man's nationality, and one who changed his church and having been *e.g.* Orthodox became Exarchist, was considered on all hands to have changed his nationality also, to have ceased to be Greek and become Bulgarian.

In this changing world, however, when everything that you have is apt to be somebody's else, and even your identity is liable to be taken from you, some attempt is being made to depart from this, the main rule on which the Ottoman Empire has been organized in the past, and to find a Turkish nationalism that shall not depend on religion, and a variety of Christianity that shall be "Orthodox" and yet Turkish.

Whether it is possible for an Islamic empire to remodel itself to this extent is the question, and an interesting question. Young Turks are always sure that it can—when they are in Europe; even as they are sure that the Ottoman Empire can and will reform itself in various other ways: very plausible are the reasons they produce to account for the fact that it has not begun to do so yet. Still, when in Europe that most attractive person, the educated Ottoman, is apt to sit a bit loose to Islam, though he may not always declare his abandonment of the faith of his fathers. On the spot, the problem sometimes looks a little different, and men find that they have under-rated the dead weight of ecclesiastical conservatism, which insists that Church and State shall work in the old way. In any case, the circumstances of the foundation of this "Turkish Orthodox Church" are of sufficient interest to be put on record.

There are scattered in Anatolia, a very fair number of a peculiar people known as the Karamanlis or Karmanlis. Those interested in making out a good case for their numbers, put them at about 500,000 in all; and their villages—for villagers they usually are—are found for the most part in the districts of Afium Kara Hissar and Ak Hissar. They are just one of the many strange survivals in that land, which has been the bridge between Europe and Asia since history began, and where most of the migrating tribes and transitory rulers seem to have left traces of their passage. In language, the Karamanlis are Turks, and are presumably so in blood also, though they write the Turkish language, (such of them, that is, as do write at all), in the Greek script. Nevertheless, they are Christian in religion, and as they belong nominally to the Orthodox Church, they have always been counted as "Roumi" or Greek, by the Ottoman authorities.

Now, some attempt is being made to enrol these people, or to get them to enrol themselves, in a new branch of the Christian Church, that is to be at once "national" or Turkish, and "Orthodox." They are said to "own" 200 churches, which probably means that the bulk of the inhabitants of that number of villages have joined the new body. By Turkish law, the church fabrics would remain "Greek" property, for at least as long as one old woman in the village remained "Greek" in confession; but the excellent

code of law by which Turkey is theoretically governed, has not always much relation to the facts. Further, some 500 priests have (or are said to have) enrolled themselves in this new church, and these are governed by "four priests, endowed with the power of canonically ordaining the Bishops and performing episcopal functions." Their leader is one Papa Eftim, "Archbishop" of Kaisariéh. An ecclesiastical purist would probably ask for more details about these holy functionaries! Was it not once said in England,

"How easily are Bishops made,
By man's or woman's whim.
Wesley his hands on Coke hath laid,
But who laid hands on him?"

We remember a beautiful little episode in "Mesopot" (some eight or nine hundred years ago, of course). "Why do you not consecrate the cemetery, Padre?" said the General. "Must have a Bishop for that, Sir," said the Padre. "Clerk," said the General promptly, "Take down this routine order. 'The Reverend A. B. is appointed temporary Bishop (acting) with this force, till further orders.' Now go ahead, Padre." Is it possible that Mustapha Kemal has played a parallel role to that, in Angora? However that may be, here these "Bishops" are. Further, they are said to have translated the Bible, and some at least of the service books, into Turkish, or—as other accounts say—to be using an "old Turkish version" of the scriptures. Of this we can only say that the Bible Society, which would be much interested in such a text, disclaims all knowledge of it!

According to Turkish accounts, these Karamanlis are of old Turkoman stock, and their ancestors migrated into Anatolia in Byzantine days. It is certain that there was then a fairly steady stream of such immigration. They were often enrolled in the army, though they proved, at times, rather treacherous allies. It was for instance the desertion of the Turkoman auxiliaries to their invading kinsfolk, that decided the field of Melazgerd against the Emperor Romanus in 1071, when he was opposing the advance of Alp Arslan and his Seljuks. When settled in the land, they adopted Christianity as their religion, and naturally became members of the Orthodox State church. When the Anatolian provinces of the Greek empire were lost, and fell to the Turk, these settlers clung to their adopted faith as Orientals will, and so were recognized as "Rayahs" of the "Roumi millet" when the Ottoman Empire was organized.

There are several reasons why they should now desire change, and why a Turkish Government should be willing to assist them.

One of these reasons is undoubtedly that feeling of nationalism that is a new, but very real force in the East. They feel that they are Turks, and yet Christians, and they wish to keep their religion and yet to express their nationality. It must be remembered that, to a Greek, the Orthodox Church is a Greek inheritance. Only the tongue of the new Testament must be used in it, and the notion of allowing a non-Greek to rise to any high rank in its hierarchy is as absurd and unthinkable as the notion (prevalent not so very long ago), of promoting a Welshman to be Bishop of a Welsh see. This feeling has cost both the Anglican and Greek churches dear, and has resulted in more than one harmful schism. It is then quite comprehensible that Turkish Christians should wish for a Turkish church, even as the Bulgarian Christian desired a Bulgarian church.

The traditional Ottoman policy towards Rayahs has



ASK FOR

WHITE HORSE WHISKY



BY APPOINTMENT

always been *divide et impera*, and the Angora Government at this moment is mainly desirous of two things. One is to show its independence of Constantinople, and the other to annoy the Greeks. Both of these objects are served by the recognition of a "Turkish Church," so their attitude is reasonable enough. To these we may add another consideration.

It is known, of course, that the Phanar in Constantinople is a focus of what you may call, according to your point of view, Pan-Hellenic policy, or anti-Turkish intrigue. Turks are apt to reply to this intrigue—are replying in fact—by the use of the only weapon that they understand, *viz.*, massacre. Now if you happen to be a Karamanli (an Orthodox Christian that is, but yet forbidden by birth to hope for any promotion in the Church, and a natural prey for the baser financial agents of the Phanar), it may well be that you cannot get up much enthusiasm for being massacred on behalf of a political propaganda that, to you, spells only oppression, and that you may welcome the idea of a church of your own, that will keep you Christian, will give you an opening, and will not cause you to be massacred.

The attitude of the Phanar authorities towards the new body is still doubtful. Their wisest course would probably be to recognize a new, if small, national Church, and to admit it to membership in the federation of autonomous bodies that form the "Orthodox" Church at large. Such recognition would give them considerable influence in the new body, and would perhaps enable them to check certain rash experiments in theology and Church government, to which its rulers seem inclined at the moment. Such a course, however, requires a good deal of wisdom and altruism in an organization that has pronouncedly pan-Hellenic sympathies. There was some talk of encouraging all Greeks in Anatolia to affiliate themselves to the "Turkish Orthodox" church, and even to allow the body a patriarch (?) of its own. Whether this will be allowed by the Turks, who wish to use the new movement as an instrument to injure the Greeks and to demonstrate their own independence of Constantinople, is more doubtful.

On the information available, an Englishman may wish for the prosperity of the new body, and for the establishment of friendly relations between it and the Greek Church. Turkish policy is now admittedly that of allowing neither Greek nor Armenian to exist in what is left of the old Ottoman Empire. The Turks consider them too dangerous an element to allow there, and they are quite prepared to massacre, in fact are actually massacring in order to carry this policy out. Further they know, having been laboriously taught the fact by recent experience, that they can massacre with impunity, because no European Power is in a position to interfere, even when it wishes to do so.

On this point, on the existence of his right to exterminate an element that he counts dangerous to his rule, the Turk is neither civilized nor civilizable. He is like a man, otherwise sane, who is mad on one point, and with whom it is a waste of time to argue, on that point. The more polished and attractive the individual Turk, the more efficient and merciless he is in massacring the inconvenient; here the writer is speaking of men, now high in Ottoman service, of whom he has personal knowledge. To ask them to extend the rights of civilization to Armenian or Greek, now, is like asking one of Alva's officers (right gallant and polished Spaniards all of them), to spare the rebel and heretic Hollander!

But the Turk is also a kindly gentleman, when he does not feel cause to fear; he has some wish to stand well with Europe, to be considered civilized, to persuade statesmen to acquiesce in his abolition of the Capitulations, and he knows that if you are in the habit of murdering your own subjects, it is difficult to ask European Powers to leave such of their subjects as reside in Turkey unprotected in your hands. Therefore, he will not massacre, unless he sees reason, and if he

sees that his Christian subjects are "Turks" and not Greeks, it is possible that he may not massacre. Hence we may be glad to see those Christians whom we cannot protect, acquiring a position where maybe, they will not need protection, and at worse will be no worse off than before!

KURDS AND THEIR WAY.

A correspondent in Kurdistan writes (April 12) :—

We are having a very peaceful time at present in Kurdistan and I see no reason why it should not last. There will always be, of course, spasmodic murders and attempted murders of the officials of any Government (Kurdish included) of this area, because it is the



A Kurd in his own country.

custom of the country. In the absence of football and other amusements it is a normal outlet for Kurdish feelings. On the whole the population are well contented, and a good spirit prevails between the big people who really matter and the British Political Officers. If this spirit persists, it will offer an excellent basis for the future administrative structure, whatever form that may take.

TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

The subject headings are those of the Official Report.

South Persia Rifles (British Officers).—Italy and Afghanistan.—Egypt (Zaghloul Pasha).—Sudan.—Peace Treaties, Commissions : Treaty of St. Germain ; Treaty of Trianon ; Treaty of Neuilly ; International Danube Commission.—India : Potable Spirits (Imports).—(Thursday, 11th May.)

Peace Treaties : Bulgaria (Allied Officers' Pay).—Egypt (Sudan).—British Missions (Ex-Enemy Countries).—India : Prison Treatment ; Moplah Rebellion (Trials).—Asia Minor : Turks and Christian Minorities ; Statement by Mr. Chamberlain.—British Army : Messing Allowance, Iraq.—Egypt : Suspended Newspapers ; Negotiations ; Sudan ; Judges' Salaries ; Deportees, Seychelles.—India : Military Stations (Illumination) ; Marine Officers (Pensions) ; Leper Act.—(Monday, 15th May.)

India : Racial Distinctions Committee ; Police Forces ; Prisoners ; Civil Servants (Free Passages) ; North-West Frontier.—Palestine (Anglo-American Agreement).—Egypt (Prohibited Meeting).—Asia Minor (Turks and Christian Minorities).—(Tuesday, 16th May.)

Abyssinia (Slave Trade).—Vienna (Meat and Milk).—Asia Minor (Turks and Christian Minorities).—India : Military Requirements.—Palestine : Mandate ; Roman Catholic Tribunals.—India : Air Mail Service ; Royal Air Force.—(Wednesday, 17th May.)

A councillorship on the Madras Corporation has been offered to Mrs. Devados, the wife of a local judge. The offer is worthy of note, as being the first of its kind to be made to a woman in India.

According to reports received at Haifa, Atta Pasha El Ayyubi, the Syrian Minister of the Interior, and other officials have been dismissed. Damascus merchants are said to have started a boycott of French goods.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

In consequence of queries, the Editor thinks it advisable to state that the quotation from any article does not necessarily imply that the views expressed are shared by "The Near East." On the contrary, an attempt is made to include as far as is possible in the available space all sides of the various questions discussed.

A Settlement in the Near East.

The *Saturday Review* of April 29 remarks on the present indeterminate situation in Anatolia, and, having sketched the dangers of delay, concludes :—

There has not been, and is not, any armistice, and fighting has taken place. The delay in reaching a settlement continues, and appears likely to continue indefinitely. The proposal of an armistice was merely a suggestion, and the agreement itself was apparently nothing more than a recommendation. It is very clear that something much more decided in its character is required to bring about peace and a settlement, and it is to this that the three Allies must address themselves now with all possible speed. At first the Greeks, or rather the Greek Government, were understood to be willing to accept the armistice as proposed, and even the agreement with some reservations. Not so the Kemalists. They have only now replied to the Allies, and by what is in effect a refusal. They say that if the Allies will first cause the withdrawal of the Greek Army from Asia Minor, then, and not till then, will they agree to consider terms of peace. Not the terms laid down by the Paris Conference, but terms which they themselves will lay down, among them being the retrocession of Eastern Thrace in its entirety. Mustafa has been talking very loudly and aggressively, but it is easy to understand that he thinks his position would be much improved if the Greek evacuation took place at once, for then he would be rid of the "sanction" or guarantee implied by the presence of the Greek forces—the only restraint on his actions. To this the Allies can hardly assent, nor can Greece be expected to do so. Meanwhile Greek-opinion has definitely turned against the peace proposals of the Paris Conference, particularly against the withdrawal from Asia Minor, and it is stated that the Greek army in that quarter will, as we intimated two or three weeks ago might be the case, form Smyrna and the Smyrna district—the ancient Ionia—into a separate state. Significant of the hardening of the Greek attitude is the reconciliation now going on between the Royalists and the Venizelists, hitherto at daggers drawn since the return of King Constantine. It is therefore all too plain that things are back where they were before the Paris Conference, with this difference—that the situation has worsened appreciably in the interval. Surely the Allies should act. In this matter at least France, we think, may perhaps now be depended on to co-operate effectively with Britain, for the Kemalists, who are hand in glove with the Bolsheviks, have not kept their promises to her, and are quite likely to cause serious trouble for her in Syria, where she has already trouble enough. What is Lord Curzon going to do about it?

Palestine.

In the *Army Quarterly* for April, "Auspex" writes on "The Political Reasons for the continued Occupation of Palestine." After outlining the general march of events in the Holy Land from our occupation to the present day, he points out that the protecting British troops dislike their task and "are sympathetic with the Arab." He continues with comments on the Mandate and on the Constitution :—

The Mandate has not yet been confirmed, and there seems to be some doubt as to the legality of some of the acts of the High Commissioner while it is in abeyance. Our status in Palestine is that of an Army of Occupation. International law gives no power to the military occupier of a country to interfere with domestic questions such as the sale of lands. But however this may be, it is clear that we are creating for ourselves a very serious embarrassment in Asia. Probably there is no question at the moment so fraught with danger to the British Empire as the Khilafat movement. For some unexplained reason the advocates of the Khilafat movement have not yet begun to cite the treatment of the Palestine Arabs as one of their grievances, but that, no doubt, will come, and it is a point on which we are least qualified to reply. We are, in fact, between the Devil and the deep sea, a metaphor which must not be taken literally when I add that on the one hand stands a section of International Jewry and on the other the Arab population of Palestine.

It is very curious to find that the strongest advocates of Zionism in this country belong to the Evangelical Church, who are always well versed in the prophecies of the Pentateuch, and who have more than an intuition that they themselves are the descendants of the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel. It is useless, no doubt, to point out to them that the Jews never held sovereignty over Palestine for more than 250 years; that they were, on their own showing, invaders with very ruthless methods of warfare; that they fought interminably among themselves and that they submitted to conqueror after conqueror both before and after the birth of our Lord. On the same line of argument, the Moors have a better claim to Spain, the Italians to England to say nothing of all the other corrections that have been made in the map by the relentless march of history. The Jews have ever been the finest propagandists in the world, not excepting even the Irish. They wrote their own history. You find no mention of them as a Chosen People in any contemporary writings or inscriptions. Indeed, with the doubtful exception of the Moabite Stone, you find no mention of them at all. But they had inspired writers, and these have brought immortality to their literature. I suppose that if the Moors had had the same eminence in literature and the same genius for amassing wealth they, too, might have been heard at the Peace Conference.

The military occupation has been estimated to cost 2½ millions sterling during 1922-23, and it is perhaps in the hope of saving some of this large sum that the Government has published its draft constitution, a scheme very carefully prepared to placate Moslem susceptibilities, but not in the least likely to remove the causes of unrest. The rock

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on which the ship of Zionism will split is the Legislative Council, which is to be composed of 10 official and 15 unofficial members. Out of these 15 the High Commissioner is to nominate 2 and 1 is to represent the Chambers of Commerce. It will be noted that in any matter, such as immigration or land, the official and nominated members with the 2 Jewish members will outvote the Arabs. Moreover, as an additional safeguard against the will of a democracy, the High Commissioner will have power to disallow any ordinance or to reserve any ordinance for the Royal Pleasure, and even if he gives his assent His Majesty may disallow an ordinance within one year after the High Commissioner has assented to it. Such a constitution is not at all likely to conciliate the Arabs; it will provoke a storm among the Zionists. In the present temper of the country it would be most impolitic to reduce the garrison which alone stands between the two contending parties. One of the grievances of the Arabs is that persons who regarded themselves as owners are now being required to sign leases. They were owners until Abdul Hamid declared himself to be their landlord, and they made no resistance partly because it was useless and partly because their taxes were made very light. In 1908 the Young Turks tried to sell their lands, but desisted when they realized what a storm they would provoke. As successor to the Turks, the British Government may technically have been justified in regarding itself as legal owner of these lands, but a very bad impression was caused, which may now be removed by the recent announcement that it has recognized the private ownership of the land at Beisan.

In sending their Delegation to London the Arabs feel that they are making a last appeal to the English people: their disappointment if they find that their appeal has been made in vain may take a form which will cost us a far larger army of occupation to say nothing of the feeling it will provoke among Moslems throughout the world.

The East.

In the *English Review* for May, Mr. Richard Curle has an interesting descriptive article on "The East." For the most part it is a musing picture, but he drops into one philosophic passage, thus:—

I don't pretend to appraise the glamour of the East. To begin with, I don't know the most glamorous Orient lands, and, in any case, the cloak hung too loosely. I reached it at an age when the focus of impressionism has changed and when you cannot read easily into the external world the romance of your own cravings. But the East is still the East, complex and tenacious. One stands bewildered before this pageant, which, like an iceberg, has its chief being out of sight. And yet in perspective the very diversity of mankind is understandable through the study of a single human being. Who knows the East, its motives and its movements, but who knows his next-door neighbour? Such knowledge as we have possesses the doubtful value of empirical investigation and is rendered differently according to its interpreter. I confess that I can't render it at all in any concise form, though merely to say "The East" brings before me a whole series of unified impressions whose totality is wordless. In those Eastern realms of blazing sunlight, where the footing of the West is a mere imprint upon the sands of centuries, there is a haunting suggestion of black magic. It knits them together, the happy races and the sombre, in an obscure Oriental brotherhood whose roots are sunk in immemorial origins. The psychology of Asiatics may often approximate outwardly to our own, but there is a something at the back which the arguments of democracy do not touch, or those abstract words that govern the conduct or express the desires of Occidentals.

We come to them with our logical theories, and behold, they have their own about which they do not argue. The East is weary of the West, weary of its logic, weary of its tutelage. It has accepted from us a smattering of political idealism, but merely, so to speak, as a basis of argument. Easterners don't appreciate in the slightest many of our most cherished illusions, but we can only approach them through our own standards and they can only obtain their wishes by pretending to aim at the goal of these standards. We talk to them of freedom and they reply, "Well, give us freedom," but the one freedom they want is freedom from us. Words, remember, do not have a universally equal significance. What the Oriental really wants is a return to some sinuous Eastern mode of life where the order of things is fixed within and chaotic without.

Indeed, there is much at once incoherent and statuesque about the East. Like the jungle, it decays and grows in the intensity of a silent struggle. Deep down it has its own philosophy of quiescence, that bedrock of the aged Oriental consciousness, but on the surface the jumble of its life is appalling. The generations may alter their external modes, even their external opinions, but the race-mentality remains steadfast. The further I left the East behind me, the more did I conceive of it as a kind of abstraction. All you will ever notice is the sheath of its nerves, which veil an idea more powerful, more universal than any other idea in the whole world. But if I could explain what that idea is I should have ceased to be a European. For me to understand Asia would be a contradiction in terms.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

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Results of the Conference.

At last after many weeks of vicissitudes the Genoa Conference is over, leaving matters, in the economic sphere, very much where they were before it. The Allies are certainly no nearer the solution of the problem of a settlement with Russia, while in place of the intended pact of Non Aggression for ten years we have the unsatisfying substitute of a pact for a few months—a pact which is rendered more doubtful by the circumstantial reports of military preparations by Russia on the Polish frontier. Both these fundamental questions will come up for settlement again at The Hague provided that there are no international developments in the meantime to prevent a further Conference. Whether there is any greater prospect of an agreement in Holland than in Italy must remain to be seen. The Conference at Genoa did not accomplish all that was expected of it because it was impossible to dissociate economics from politics. It may be that the next month or so will have a tonic effect since Russia and Germany will have opportunity to reflect that the way not to obtain credits (which they must have) is to continue to pursue the course they followed at Genoa.

Economic Relations in the Balkans.

So much for the broader issues at Genoa. As regards the Near East it cannot be said that any happier results have been achieved, nor is this surprising as the Russian question was allowed to monopolise the proceedings. There has been no appreciable advance in the direction of a settlement of the Greco-Turkish imbroglio, while a question of almost equal importance, that of the economic relations between the Balkan countries, has been dealt with in anything but a satisfactory manner. If one thing is obvious it is the absolute necessity for the removal of all vexatious restrictions on commercial intercourse between the various States. I am no advocate of free-trade. No one realises more fully than I do the need for protection in certain well-defined cases, but in regard to countries situated like the Balkan States the only hope for rapid reconstruction is by unhampered commercial activity. But those who have most to gain by this are the last to see it, and so there were strong objections on the part of the Little Entente to anything but freedom in respect of tariffs, and the Conference took their point of view, an inevitable development no doubt in view of the trend of the other negotiations but none the less regrettable on that account.

The P. and O. Disaster.

Widespread regret will be aroused by the news of the disaster to the P. and O. liner, Egypt, which on Saturday evening collided in a fog with a French cargo boat, the Seine, and went down almost immediately. There was, unfortunately, a serious loss of life which would have been much greater but for the gallant efforts of those on the Seine. It may be reckoned a fortunate circumstance that the disaster did not happen at another season when the vessel would have had its full complement of passengers returning from leave and the casualties might have been

much more serious. It is of tragic interest to recall that Lord Inchcape, referring at the general meeting of the P. and O. Company in December last to the Company's success in having no serious accident during the year, said "I am almost afraid to mention this record for the past year in case it should be broken during the year now current."

The Cotton Position.

As usual about this period cotton is beginning to come in for considerable attention, and as is invariably the case very conflicting reports are forthcoming with regard to the prospects of the coming crop. The price of cotton, it will be noted, has been hardening for some time, but whether this is justified at the present juncture is extremely doubtful. It is to be presumed that the reason for it is the operations of speculators in anticipation of a shortage, while a contributory cause is possibly to be found in increased purchases by the trade as the result of the slight but growing improvement in the markets. Other causes no doubt have operated, but speculation I imagine to be the principal influence. Eventually, as I have pointed out several times, the price must go up substantially, if only for a period, when the world's markets are once more in a position to take their normal requirements. But that time is apparently still some way off, and it is as certain as anything is that any appreciable rise in the price of cotton goods which must inevitably follow a pronounced rise in the price of the raw commodity can only have the effect of restricting the market outlets.

Land and Mortgage Company of Egypt.

A feature in the report of the Land and Mortgage Company of Egypt of special interest is the recommendation that the uncalled liability of £15 per share should be cancelled. When the company was formed the shares were of the value of £20, but this was reduced to £18 in 1886, and of this sum £3 is paid up. The large debenture issue has been an obstacle hitherto to the proposed step, but the debenture obligations have now been greatly reduced and there should therefore be no opposition to the carrying into effect of a highly-desirable measure from the point of view of the shareholders.

Commentator.

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Commerce and Industry.

REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Belgrade, May 11.

American Loan and the Government.

Yesterday the Council of Ministers had a long meeting, which lasted from 9 till 2 o'clock, to discuss the American loan offers. All the offers were compared and it was decided that that of Blair's group was the best. Subsequently two of the Ministers went to M. Pashitch, who is still unable to attend at his office as a result of his recent accident, and advised him of the results of their meeting. M. Pashitch agreed that Blair's group's offer should be accepted in principle, and that M. Koumanoudi, the Minister of Finance, should sign an agreement with this group.

The Minister of Finance is now preparing a draft of the agreement, and immediately it is signed by both parties the Minister of Finance will be able to draw cheques on New York through the National Bank to the value of 10 million dollars in cash and 15 million dollars for materials. It is expected that the Minister of Finance will have the agreement prepared and signed in the next few days and since the signatures of the American contracting group are already in Belgrade, no unnecessary delays are anticipated. In the course of the next few days the Parliament will have to pass a Bill authorising this loan and fixing the regulations for a sinking fund and other necessary measures for repayment. The loan is to be of the amount of 100 million dollars at 8 per cent. interest per annum and the issue price is 87.

The only communique that has been issued by the Government with regard to the negotiations is as follows:—"At to-day's meeting of the Council of Ministers the Minister of Finance has received authority to conclude an agreement with Blair's Banking Group." At four o'clock two Ministers went to the Royal Palace to advise the King of the decision.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, May 14.

The Little Entente and Genoa.

Part of the Roumanian Delegation returned to Bucharest from Genoa last Wednesday. The members expressed satisfaction at the outcome as regards economic questions, especially at the grant of full economic freedom to every state. It was proposed at the Conference that the Little Entente states should accept free trade by abolishing the different import and export restrictions and by granting the most favoured nation's clause to all countries. The Little Entente delegates, however, showed a united front in offering strong opposition to these demands, with the result that every State has the right to choose the measures it thinks suitable for its own commerce.

Banca Generala Notes.

As is known the Peace Treaty of Versailles compelled Germany to repay to Roumania the total value of the Banca Generala Notes issued by the Germans during the time of the occupation of this country. The total

value has been established by the Banca Nationala—who withdrew these notes from circulation—at 2,780 million lei. For the purpose of settling this debt and many other similar questions the German Government is sending a delegation to Bucharest, which is due here on May 20, to negotiate with the Roumanian Ministers of Finance and Foreign Affairs. It appears likely that the Roumanian Government will prefer to receive in settlement German goods needed for the country's reconstruction instead of payment in cash at different dates.

New Export Regulations for Cattle and Foodstuffs.

In order to check profiteering and to reduce the present high cost of living, the Government has decided to introduce the following export regulations for cattle, fish and other food products:—

The export of the following foodstuffs is entirely prohibited: Eggs; milk and its bye-products (butter, cheese, etc.); raw, smoked and salted fish and salted meat; fats of all kinds (lard, bacon); vegetable oils; fish in every form; caviare excepting black caviare.

The following may be exported with a special authorisation and subject to the conditions shown below:—

Horned cattle (oxen, cows, rams) only from Transylvania, Banat, Bukovina and Bessarabia; "Podolia" oxen from the age of six upwards; cows from the age of eight upwards; rams from all parts of the country. Export permits for these cattle will be granted on condition that the exporter provides the home market with a quota of 50 per cent. at the price of four lei per kilogram for live oxen weighing from 250-300 kgs. and six lei for those over 300 kilograms. Cows will be sold under the same conditions at three and five lei per kilo respectively, and rams at four lei per kilo.

The export of pigs will be allowed only against a special permit and under the following conditions:—The exporter will have to provide the home market with a quota of one-third at the price of six lei per kilogramme of live pigs weighing 80 to 150 kilos, and at seven lei per kilo for those over 150 kilos.

The export of onions and potatoes (old crops) is free with a special authorisation only from Transylvania, Banat and Bukovina. The exporter will provide the home market with a quota of one-third at the price of 1.50 lei per kilo for onions and 0.50 lei per kilo for potatoes.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated May 15:—

Condition of Crops.—Further additional rainfall in Bengal jute districts has improved prospects of jute crops. Sowings on high lands in full progress. Prospects of other crops good.

Markets.—Cotton.—May 11—Bombay cotton market steady. Fine M.G. Oomras Rs. 419 May, Rs. 439 July. Bombay cotton arrivals from September 1 to May 6 were 2,677,000 bales as compared with 1,977,000 bales during the same period of the last year. Piece-goods.—May 11—In Bombay imported piece-goods market wholesale demands quiet; retail enquiries fair; ruling rates steady and local goods moving freely. Picketing in United Provinces strengthening. Jute.—May 13—Calcutta jute market very firm. Heavies firm but quiet. Hessians very firm. Firmness of jute and gunnies due more to local bulls buying than to export orders. Shellac.—May 12—T.N. Rs. 102. Business passing. Rice.—May 12—Rangoon. Big Mills Special Straits Quality Rice Rs. 520.

Negotiations are reported to be under way in Vienna for the creation of a selling syndicate of all the Czecho-Slovak iron companies.

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By LEONARD STEIN. *

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It will now be convenient to survey the economic situation as it actually is and then to indicate briefly the grounds which exist for expecting a quickening of economic life in the near future. Agriculture naturally comes first. Palestine is mainly an agricultural country. The official statistics for 1919 show that 61 per cent. of the population of Western Palestine were engaged in farming, while in Transjordan there is no other occupation of any importance.

The principal cereal crops are wheat, barley, and millet. The output in metric tons is as follows:—

	1919—1920	1920—1921
Wheat	45,800	75,200
Barley	25,800	51,900
Millet	15,300	30,400

These figures, like those that follow, relate only to Western Palestine. No statistics exist for Transjordan, and an appreciable addition, which cannot be precisely estimated, must be made on this account. It will be seen that the 1920-1921 crops were almost twice as large as those of the previous cereal year, which were grown under something like war conditions. Even so, Palestine is not self-sufficient in respect of her wheat supply, and is accustomed to import largely across the Jordan from Hauran—a conspicuously productive area, of which the greater part is now included in the French Mandatory sphere.

On the other hand, the high-grade barley of the Gaza District is exported—mainly to the United Kingdom—in appreciable quantities. The exports amounted in 1913 to nearly 19,000 tons. There is also, as a rule, a small exportable surplus of millet.

In addition to cereals, Palestine produces considerable quantities of fruit and vegetables. Vegetables are grown in great variety, but are mainly reserved for local consumption. The only exception is in the case of water-melons, of which about a million are exported annually to Egypt, Syria, and other Mediterranean markets.

The fruit-crop is of much greater importance. The principal products are olives, oranges, grapes and almonds, of all of which there is, in some form, an exportable surplus. The olive flourishes in every part of the country. The output is partly reserved for local consumption and partly exported in the form of olive-oil or soap. There are some hundreds of small oil-presses, with an estimated average annual output of 3,500 tons of olive-oil. Much of this is utilized for the manufacture of soap, the annual production of which has reached as high a figure as 9,000 tons and which finds a ready market in Egypt and Arabia. The principal centre of the soap industry is the Moslem city of Nablus.

The output of oranges amounted in 1920-1921 to 17,077 metric tons, as compared with 13,300 in 1919-1920. There is a large export trade, which rose from 456,000 boxes in 1905, to 870,000 in 1911, and 1,608,000 in 1913. Of the 1913 exports, more than half went to Liverpool. Since the war the trade has declined, and only 831,000 boxes were exported in 1920-1921. This will, however, probably prove to be a temporary setback due to abnormal conditions arising from the war, and there is no reason why the trade should not at least regain its former dimensions. The prospects for this season's crop are promising and it is anticipated that the total crop for 1921-1922 will amount to one million boxes, all but a small percentage of which will be exported. It may be noted in passing that the Arab and Jewish orange growers of the Jaffa District have recently formed a combine for the management of the export trade—a fact which suggests that Jews and Arabs are perfectly capable of working together in their common economic interests.

* This article contains the substance of a lecture delivered recently at the London School of Economics with certain modifications.

As regards almonds, this year's harvest is estimated at 2,227,000 lbs. from the Jewish colonies, together with about 700,000 lbs. from other sources.

Vine-growing is almost entirely in the hands of the Jewish colonists, by whom the wine industry has been mainly built up. Their annual pre-war output of wine averaged a little over a million gallons, of which 80 per cent. consisted of dry red wine. They also distil yearly about 6,600 gallons of cognac, and obtain, as a by-product, 13-15,000 lbs. of tartar. The wine finds a market in Egypt and the Eastern Mediterranean, and was exported to the value of £60,000 in 1913. In 1920-1921 the value, in spite of higher prices, fell to £50,000; and in view of the contraction of the world-demand for wine, it may be doubted whether any large expansion of this industry is to be anticipated.

Apart from wine and soap, pre-war Palestine possessed no important industries, with the exception of the manufacture of *articles de piété*—the olive-wood and mother-of-pearl ornaments which are sold in considerable quantities to tourists and were exported abroad in 1913 to the value of £21,000.

Thus before the war, the economic importance of Palestine was almost negligible. Its local production of food-stuffs, coupled with a small export trade in barley, oranges and wine, and supplemented by the expenditure of tourists and charitable contributions from abroad, just sufficed to enable the mass of its somewhat inert and unenterprising population to maintain a humble standard of subsistence.

The present place of Palestine in the world's markets can be seen at a glance from its trade and shipping returns. In 1913 the imports via Jaffa and Gaza were valued at £1,420,925 and the exports at £906,533. A substantial addition must be made for traffic through Haifa, for which no pre-war statistics are available. Since the war Palestine has been busily replenishing her exhausted stocks at inflated prices, while her productive capacity has been temporarily checked and her markets contracted.

Thus in 1920-1921, the total imports were valued at £5,521,633, as compared with £1,420,925 in 1913, and the exports at only £E.771,701, as compared with £906,533. As compared with 1919-1920, exports slightly declined and the apparent adverse balance of trade rose by nearly a million pounds. The figures for the first nine months of the current financial year (Apr.-Dec. 1921) show that there has been a slight recovery in exports, which are £E.32,211 in excess of those for the corresponding months of 1920. Imports, however, have also risen by £E.405,171, and the apparent adverse balance is more pronounced than ever.

It remains only to refer to the shipping returns. Steam-shipping only is here taken into account. In 1913 the steam-shipping entered and cleared consisted of 1238 vessels of a total tonnage of 1,961,702. In 1919-1920 the figures were only 357 vessels of 466,714 tons. In 1920-1921, they had risen to 720 vessels of 809,033 tons. Even this figure, however, is small and is well below the 1913 standard.

It may be added that as a result of the transfer of the Austrian Lloyd vessels to Italy, the Italian flag predominates in Palestine ports, and British shipping, though it comes second, is by no means as fully represented as it very well might be.

(To be continued.)

Messrs. De Zoete and Gorton have removed to 63, Gresham House, Old Broad Street, E.C.2.

The supply of rolling-stock in Czecho-Slovakia has greatly improved, and there is a considerable surplus of trucks.

Sir Charles Stewart Addis, K.C.M.G., has joined the board of the Eastern Telegraph Company.

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Engineering Topics.

By Our Engineering Representative.

Re-energising Magnetoos.

In the construction of magnetoos for motor car, motor boat, and motor cycle ignition several points have to be considered, not the least of which is that steel retains imparted magnetism not only in relation to the length of time to which it has been submitted to the magnetic influence, but also in relation to its hardness. As a general thing the harder the steel the less the magnetic properties it obtains under treatment but the longer it will retain them. It follows, therefore, that if magnet steel is not unduly hard it will become fairly well saturated, as an electrician would call it, and if it is hard its saturation will be correspondingly less. It also follows that if it is soft it becomes highly magnetic but loses its magnetism comparatively quickly. For magnetoos as high a magnetic saturation as possible is desirable, which usually means fairly soft magnets. These give an intense spark, but as they lose power after a time they may need re-magnetising after varying periods of service. A number of methods may be adopted to bring back this lost power, the usual procedure being to apply an electro magnet for a series of short periods to the poles of the magneto magnets. To do this properly it is necessary to take down the magneto, and as most car owners are averse to touching their magneto more than is absolutely necessary this method is not in favour. A magneto re-charger, in which a motor car firm of international repute are, I believe, interested, is so designed that the re-conditioning of the magneto can be carried out whilst it is on the car, and as this prevents any risk of upsetting the timing or damaging the armature windings it is a method which should be certain to become popular. The method employed consists in connecting one lead to the terminal post and the other to a ground connection and giving a series of shocks of about 4 seconds duration; the pressure of the supply being about 15 or 20 volts and the current of a value of about 25 amperes. A large London depot is adopting the method as standard and as part of its service system. In this case the re-charger operates on a 110 volt, 60 cycle, single-phase circuit and the current was converted to continuous current by means of a rectifier. This, I noticed, was of a simple design, and comprised the usual lead and aluminium plates in an acid solution. These, with an ordinary type of switch on the alternating current side and an ammeter on the direct current side were contained in a small neat case. A twin cable was plugged into circuit and taken to the magneto which was in service on a small car of well-known make. The ground or earth wire was attached to the exhaust pipe for convenience, although naturally any other part of the chassis would have done provided it were not insulated from the engine frame carrying the magneto. The application

of four or five brief "shocks" was quite sufficient to bring the magneto magnets up to full strength, and the cost of the work, as will be seen, was very low. Quite a number of these re-charging sets are already in use in one of the Dominions, although as yet they are not so well known in this country.

British Boiler Production.

The works at Hyde, formerly owned by Messrs. Tinkers, Ltd., and recently acquired by the Spearing Boiler Co., are being re-equipped and adapted to the construction of water tube boilers on a large scale. The present capacity is 3 large boilers per week, but extensions are being carried out with a view to increasing this capacity considerably. The firm has ordered a large set of electrically operated plate-bending rolls capable of dealing with plates of 1.25 inches in thickness and up to 20 feet in length, a feature of this apparatus being a hinged bearing which will permit of the finished cylinder being withdrawn without trouble from the top roller. The machine is driven by means of a 75 horsepower electric motor through accurately cut gearing, and a feature worthy of special notice is that the rolls are fitted with an electric braking device. A 20 horsepower motor is used for the adjusting of the top or bending roll, and a feature of engineering interest is that each end of the roll is clutch operated so that adjustment may be made for bending plates for the construction of taper or conical boilers or cylinders. Considerable improvements have been made recently in British boiler practice, and overseas buyers in particular should make a point of keeping in touch with all developments.

Prague Motor Exhibition.

Under the auspices of the Prague Automobile Club, a successful Motor Exhibition was held in Prague at the end of April. The industry in Czecho-Slovakia is likely to receive desirable impetus from the publicity provided by the Exhibition, at which British goods were effectively shown. The chief distributor in Czecho-Slovakia for the Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd. (Mr. J. O. Jech of Prague), had a particularly good stand, and showed all the principal Dunlop products from cycle tyres to solids.

Midland Club's Hill Climb.

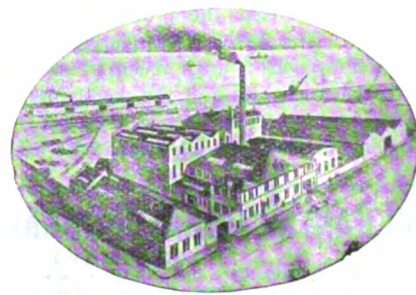
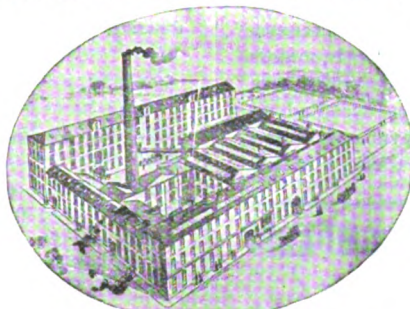
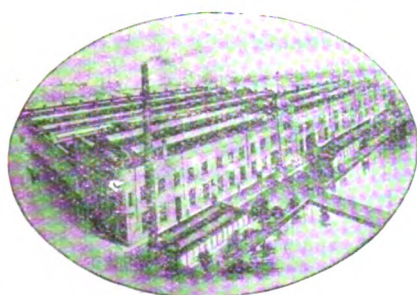
In the Midland Automobile Club's hill climb on Shelsley Walsh, an event is to be included for ladies driving fully-equipped touring cars. There will also be the usual closed and open trials with cups for fastest time and formula wins and a team event for clubs affiliated to the R.A.C. To meet the wishes of several intending spectators certain alterations are to be made in the surface and sides of the road to ensure greater safety for both competitors and onlookers.

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British Consular Reports.

II. BUNDAR ABBAS.

The following extracts are taken from the report on the trade and commerce of Bundar Abbas for the Persian year ended March 20, 1921, by H.M. Consul at Bundar Abbas, Mr. A. W. Fagan, I.C.S. :—

Only a very small proportion of the goods landed at Bundar Abbas is consumed in the place itself; the bulk is forwarded to Kerman, Yazd and other distributing centres in the interior. Bundar Abbas is simply the gate of South-Eastern Persia, through which goods pass on their way to and from the interior. The population is estimated at about 16,000 persons, about two-thirds of whom usually migrate to Minab and other parts of the district in the summer partly to escape the excessive heat, and partly to gather in the date harvest. The inhabitants are of a very mixed strain. The better class merchants are of Persian origin, but among the lower classes negro, Arab and Baluch blood predominate. The local language is a patois known as Bandari, a conglomerate dialect in which can be discerned traces of Arabic, Baluchi, Persian and even Swahili. The official language however is Persian, and the better classes can also speak and write it correctly. There is also an increasing tendency to learn English, and instruction in that language is now given in the local school by a native of India; many of the rising generation, therefore, should possess a practical knowledge of the language in a few years' time. The British Colony consists of about 100 Hindus from Shikarpur and about 40 Khojas.

Landing Arrangements.

The roadstead is an open one and very shallow, but on account of the islands is very sheltered. Port, in the European acceptation of the word, there is none; there are neither wharves nor lights, and, owing to the shallowness of the water, ships are compelled to anchor about one and a half to two miles out. A buoy in about 5 fathoms at low tide, placed and maintained by the Royal Indian Marine authorities, marks the best anchorage at a point $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the shore at the nearest point slightly east of the British Consulate, and about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the Customs pier. Many ships, however, anchor opposite the town as it is more convenient for discharging cargo.

The various shipping agents maintain about a dozen lighters in all, into which goods are transferred from steamers. The sea is very seldom rough enough to interfere seriously with lightering, but ships are more often delayed by calm weather than by rough, since in the case of a large shipment the lighters at the disposal of the agents concerned are often insufficient to take all the goods in one trip, and have to discharge their goods and sail out again to the steamer, a process which, if there is little or no wind, is laborious in the extreme. Moreover, goods are landed on a short masonry pier, which possesses no cranes, and is high and dry at low water; lighters can therefore only come alongside for about four hours at high water, and have frequently to wait a long time before they can discharge their cargo.

On the pier goods are handed over by the shipping agents to the Hamal Bashi, who for a fixed charge conveys goods from the pier to the Customs-House, and from the Customs-House to the merchant's warehouse. Goods lying on the pier are exposed to all weathers, and though the construction of a shelter has often been mooted, it has not so far been effected. Rain falls so seldom that the problem only occasionally becomes prominent. The status of the Hamal Bashi has recently undergone modifications; until recently no written agreement was in force between him and the merchants, and he accepted no liability for claim for damage. In 1914, however, a written agreement was executed between the Hamal Bashi and the

leading British and Persian merchants, under the terms of which the Hamal Bashi accepted full responsibility for goods while in his charge, i.e., from receipt on the pier until delivery at the merchant's warehouse; he also deposited a substantial monetary guarantee to cover losses, and various rules were drawn up to expedite the handling of cargo. The Hamal Bashi arrangement is not altogether satisfactory in practice as the presence of a middleman between the Lighterage Company and the Customs tends to confuse the question of responsibility, and increases the leakage of goods.

The Customs premises are very confined, and owing to lack of space much confusion frequently prevails. Goods can be either placed in an open courtyard, when no charge is made and no responsibility accepted by the Customs, or they can be placed in a Customs warehouse, in which case the Customs accept full responsibility and make a small charge. The upper storey of the Customs building (formerly a Portuguese factory) is utilized by the Deputy Governor of Bundar Abbas as his office and official residence, and if that were vacated by him, the congestion in the Customs premises would be relieved, additional accommodation secured and traffic in the courtyard considerably reduced. The majority of merchants leave their goods in the courtyard to avoid the extra expenditure, and primitive though the system is, it works fairly well in practice and few complaints are received. Demurrage is charged at the expiration of 10 days on all goods. Merchants are entitled to have their own bonded warehouses, in which case they are at liberty to make their own arrangements for the conveyance of goods from the pier to the warehouse, and are not compelled to utilise the services of the Hamal Bashi. This is much the most satisfactory system to adopt for a large importer, but in practice only shipping agents can take advantage of it as importers generally do not receive their bills of lading until a week after the arrival of the goods.

Trade Routes.

Goods having passed through the Customs and reached the consignee's warehouse have then to be sent up by him to the interior. Caravans start from a particular spot on the outskirts of the town and goods have to be conveyed from the merchants' warehouses to the starting point. The monopoly of this carrying trade is let out on contract for 300 toman per annum and the lessee charges 2 kran per camel load and 1 kran per donkey load from the warehouses to the starting place. The means of transport are camels, donkeys and mules, the last mentioned, however, being scarce and expensive. Kerman is the chief centre to which goods are sent, and the journey to that place takes about 40 days for camels, and about 30 days for donkeys. The journey to Yazd takes about 60 days for camels and 50 days for donkeys. A camel will carry about 400 lbs. and a donkey about 180 lbs.; loads have to be distributed equally on each side, and packages should not therefore exceed half that weight nor 40 inches in length for camel transport and 26 inches for donkey transport. Consignments received from the United Kingdom are generally re-packed and covered with tarred sacking before being forwarded. The roads are extremely rough and goods are exposed to all weathers. The trade routes have been comparatively safe during the year 1920-21, only one minor robbery having been reported in the district.

(To be continued)

The second Buda-Pest Orient Fair will be held from June 17 to 20.

In the House of Commons on May 22 the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Payment of Calls) Bill was read a second time.

The Algerian Oilfields, Ltd., announce that the production from the leased area for April amounted to 149,700 kilos.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the week ended April 30 amounted to £8,792; total for the year £25,533. For the corresponding period of last year, receipts amounted to £10,343; total for the year £29,317.

BALKAN' NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

FOUNDED 1895

Capital paid up	5,000,000
Total reserves as per December 31st, 1920	53,200,000
Premium Income during 1920	28,300,000
Amounts insured of Life branch exceed	150,000,000
Branches maintained: Fire, Life, Marine, Casualty and Re-insurance of all branches.	

HEAD OFFICE: SOFIA, BULGARIA.

Stock and Share Markets.

BUSINESS ON SMALL SCALE.

Quiet Tone Prevails.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Tuesday morning.

There has been very little doing in the markets during the past week. The termination of the Genoa Conference had no influence one way or the other, its unsatisfactory ending having been already discounted, and the principal factor during the past week has been the possible effect of the new regulations, which came into force yesterday, permitting transactions for the account. It was generally anticipated that there would be a great increase in the volume of business, but this has not proved to be the case, and the tone yesterday was surprisingly quiet. No doubt the reversion to pre-war conditions will have a healthy effect on business in due course, but probably not to the extent expected, for many brokers are not taking at all kindly to the idea of carrying over, and quite a number are understood to have informed their clients that they do not propose to undertake such business at all.

Colonial Loans.

After the outstanding success that has attended recent issues the result of the New South Wales Loan came in the nature of a surprise. It was a $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. issue offered at 95, and over 90 per cent. of the stock was left with the underwriters. Another similar issue is being made this week for the Straits Settlements, and it will be interesting to see how it goes. Should it meet with a similar fate one can only form the conclusion that the reduction of the rate of interest on capital has now gone ahead of the economic conditions.

The Small Investor.

A matter in connection with recent issues, indeed with many issues since the war, that calls for comment is the treatment meted out to small investors. It would really seem that many companies do not desire to encourage small holdings. Occasionally in the case of a loan that is heavily oversubscribed the statement is made that subscriptions of a moderate amount have not received an allocation. But companies are very glad to have the small investor's money when an issue is only just subscribed. Obviously it is a matter that requires attention, for it is distinctly in the interest of the companies themselves that the small investor should receive consideration. Many companies have shown during the past few years that they realise this by dividing the shares so as to make them more accessible to the ordinary investor.

Gilt-Edged Dull.

A dull tone has prevailed in the Gilt-edged market. Consols at 57.5-8 are 7-8 down, the Conversion Loan is 5-8 down at 77, while War Loan Fives at 99.11-16 are 3-8 up. Indian stocks have been fairly steady. The Seven per cent. Loan is $\frac{1}{4}$ down at 114 $\frac{3}{4}$, the 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Loan has shed $\frac{1}{4}$ at 69, while the 3 per cent. Loan is $\frac{1}{2}$ down at 57 $\frac{3}{4}$.

Generally speaking inactivity has prevailed in the foreign group, there being a tendency to wait and see what follows on the Genoa Conference. French stocks have been inclined to droop, War Loan Fives being 2 down at 42 $\frac{3}{4}$. German 3 per cents have been a specially dull spot and close 7-16 down at 2. This is of course attributable to the outlook for the end of the month. Italian Rentes remain at 24 $\frac{1}{2}$. Russians have been dull, the 4 per cents. being $\frac{1}{2}$ down at 8 $\frac{1}{2}$, the 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cents. $\frac{1}{2}$ down at 12, and the 5 per cents. $\frac{1}{2}$ down at 15. Peruvian Corporation issues and other Peruvian stocks have provided a firm spot. Other South American stocks are much as before.

Industrials Quiet.

The Industrial market has been inclined to be stagnant, with prices inclined to irregularity. It has been

in fact, quite one of the duller weeks of late. No doubt presently things will show a tendency to brighten up, but, of course, the general outlook is anything but encouraging, and until international conditions improve it would be too much to expect any great development in this market.

Textiles have been exceptionally a firm spot. Coats are unchanged at 3.3-16, while Courtaulds are 1s. 3d. up at 50s. 3d. Tobaccos have been steady. Imperial Tobaccos are unchanged at 60s., while Bats are 6d. down at 79s. Dunlops have hardened to 8s. 6d. Iron and Steel securities have been variable. Vickers are 9d. down at 11s. 6d., Armstrongs are 16s. 6d., while Guest Keens are 9d. up at 34s. 3d.

Shipping securities have been rather dull. P. and O. Deferred are 5 down at 320. Cunards are unchanged at 21s. 6d., while Furness Withys are 1s. down at 30s.

Oils Dull.

On the whole the market has been rather idle during the week. A certain amount of activity developed yesterday, but it soon passed away. A little business has been done in options, but dealers generally are showing considerable reluctance to undertake this kind of business. Burmahs are unchanged at 5 $\frac{3}{4}$, while Anglo-Persian Ord are 1-16 up at 4 $\frac{3}{4}$. Mexican Eagles are 1-32 down at 3.9-16. Trinidad issues have been about the same. Apex are unchanged at 2.5-16, Centrals are 2.5-16, a decline of 1.16, while Leaseholds are unchanged at 1 $\frac{1}{4}$.

Among Egyptians, Anglo-Egyptian B are 1.11-16, a decline of 1-8, while Oilfields of Egypt are unchanged at 6s. 6d. In the Roumanian group Phoenix are 28s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., a decline of 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., Steaua Romanas are 3d. up at 13s. 3d., Roumanian Consolidated are 2s. 3d. up at 16s. 6d., while Dacia Romanos are 4 $\frac{3}{4}$.

The French *Journal Officiel* for May 4 contains a Presidential Decree, dated April 28, abrogating the provisions of the Decree of December 11, 1915, which provided that the favourable Customs regime applied to certain Tunisian products on importation into France and Algeria was to be accorded to such goods when carried in Allied or neutral vessels. In consequence, the specially favourable Customs regime will now be applied only to goods carried in vessels flying the French flag.

ENQUIRY BUREAU.

Merchants, etc., may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau," "The Near East," 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2. It must be understood that "The Near East" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.

116. Import Merchants in Adana, Cilicia, Asia Minor, wish to represent British firms for any kind of British-made goods. Own account and commission basis. Good references provided. Send catalogues and samples with prices and terms.
117. Importer in Roumania, interested in Jute trade, wishes to get in touch with firms dealing in sacks, new and old Dundee, and Calcutta makes.
121. Exporter of Greek Ores in Athens, especially of purest quality Magnesite and Chromite wishes to be connected with interested British Firms.
122. Merchant in Galatz, Roumania, wishes to enter into business relations with British firms willing to ship goods on consignment terms. Guarantees by Leading Banks given. Full details on application. Correspondence in French.
123. Import and Export Merchant in Beyrout (Syria) invites correspondence with British firms. General Merchandise. Will act as agent, commission basis, or own account.
124. Solicitor in Zagreb, Croatia, open to act for British firms requiring legal assistance in Yugoslavia. Correspondence conducted in French, German, Italian and Croatian.
125. A firm of British Merchants and Commission Agents in Liverpool desire to extend their connections in the Near East for General Merchandise.
126. Confectionery. British firm of manufacturers extending their export trade in best quality confectionery suitable for sub-tropical climates will supply details to enquiries from overseas buyers.
127. A Firm exporting all kinds of Metals and other merchandise to Egypt and India would like to get in touch with Importers in the Near East of similar goods.
128. General Commission Agent and Merchant in Cairo, Egypt, open to represent British manufacturers and merchants on commission. Can also export all kinds of Egyptian products.

Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Lemons in Strong Demand.

(From Our Own Correspondent).

London, Monday evening.

Sugar.—Home refined has been in moderate request at steady rates. Tate's cubes and mineral water sugar have both shed 3d. at 53s. 3d. and 48s. 6d. respectively. London granulated is 3d. down at 48s., as also Lyle's granulated at 48s. 3d. Export descriptions have been quiet. West Indian crystallised is firm at 42s. 6d., while white Mauritius has advanced 1s. to 44s. 6d. Cane sugar quotations are:—May, 14s. 9d.; June, 15s.; August, 15s. 3d.; and September, 15s. 3d. White sugar quotations are:—May, 20s. 3d.; June, 20s. 3d.; August, 20s. 3d.; September, 20s. 4½d.; October - December, 19s. 9d.

Coffee.—Prices are steady. East Indian is the same at 120s. Costa Rica shows no change at 118s., while Nairobi is unaltered at 108s. The futures market has been steady. Quotations are:—May, 64s.; July, 62s. 3d.; September, 62s. 3d.; December, 60s. 3d.; and March, 60s. 9d.

Dessicated Coconut.—Sales have declined considerably during the week, while prices have fluctuated slightly.

Rice.—All rices have been in good demand, and prices generally are unchanged.

Green Fruit.—As regards oranges the market has taken a turn for the better. Large arrivals are to hand this week with the usual slump in prices. Large shipments are afloat, and prices are expected to be low if the demand does not improve. The lemon market is like the weather, very uncertain. For the last few weeks very little business has taken place, and prices have been unsteady, while this week the market has been almost cleared with the arrival of further shipments. Sicilian and Naples lemons have been chiefly favoured, a ready market being found for them. Large quantities of Tasmanian and Australian apples have just arrived. The condition of the fruit shows a slight improvement on previous shipments. The market being light, merchants are holding back the best quality Egyptian onions in anticipation of obtaining high prices for them.

Oilseeds.—A lower tendency has prevailed. Indian linseed has shed 9d. at 21s. 9d., while La Plata has shed 1s. 3d. Rapeseed has advanced with Toria 3d. up at 19s. 3d. Cottonseed is lower with Indian 1s. 3d. down at 9s. 3d., while Egyptian black and Sakellarides have remained steady at 12s. 7½d.

Oils.—A firm tone has been in evidence. Linseed oil has dropped 1s. 3d. at 45s. 6d. Rape oil is firm with crude at 45s. and refined at 48s. Cotton oil remains unchanged in all cases, the quotations now being Egyptian crude, 43s., refined 49s., deodorised, 54s., and technical 44s.

Oilcakes.—Linseed cake has been steady at 300s. ton. Cotton-meal cake is the same at 280s. ton, while cottonseed cake and coconut cake show no change at 180s. ton, and 160s. ton respectively.

ROUMANIAN CROP OUTLOOK.

(From Our Own Correspondent).

Bucharest, May 14.

Up to the present Roumania's agricultural situation is very satisfactory. The rains which have fallen during this spring make the fields look very promising as far as the future crop is concerned. Both the big and small farmers, seeing that nature is helping them, are doing their utmost not to leave a single acre of arable land unploughed and unsown. Good reports have been received not only from the districts along the Danube, the granary of the old Kingdom, but also from the agricultural regions of Transylvania and Bessarabia.

POOR CYPRUS HARVEST.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cyprus, May 5.

The barley harvest is now proceeding in the plains. It is in poor condition, owing to lack of rain during the critical months of March and April. The total rainfall of the (financial) year was only 13.37 inches—considerably below the improved average. The wheat harvest is expected to be considerably below the average.

EGYPTIAN CROPS.

The following particulars of the crop conditions in Egypt are given in the Bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture for the month of April:—

Cotton.—Weather, was on the whole, favourable, though somewhat changeable in some provinces. Scarcity of water has been badly felt in Lower Egypt, and in some cases has delayed sowing. Complaints with regard to shortage of water have also been reported from certain provinces in Middle Egypt, especially from districts lying at the tail ends of canals. Sowing, watering, resowing and thinning are in progress. Slight attacks of cut-worm and aphid have been reported from some districts. On the whole germination is satisfactory.

Wheat.—Weather was, on the whole, favourable. Rust and smut have been reported from nearly all the provinces, but caused no serious damage to the crop. Harvesting the early-sown crop has begun in Beni Suef, Faiyum, Minya and in the provinces of Upper Egypt.

Barley.—Harvesting is general in Lower and Middle Egypt, and has been practically completed in Upper Egypt. Slight attacks of rust and smut have been reported from several provinces, but damage done has been insignificant. The yield is expected to be slightly above the average.

Beans.—Harvesting is general in Lower Egypt and is nearly completed in Middle and Upper Egypt. The yield is expected to be a little below the average.

Bersim.—Slight attacks of cut-worm and dodder were reported from Lower and Middle Egypt. The last cutting is being taken and the seed crop is being left to ripen.

Onions.—Harvesting is in progress in Middle Egypt, and in Upper Egypt is nearly finished. The yield is expected to be below the average.

Lentils.—Harvesting is finished and threshing is going on. The yield is a little below the average.

LONDON FUR TRADE REPORT.

The report of the London Fur Trade Association on the April raw fur skin sales states:—The sales now completed have been attended by a very large number of buyers fairly representing the countries interested in fur skins. The quantities of the staple articles were again large, but the quality on the whole was not up to the January standard. There was good competition

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considering the season of the year and the unsettled condition of trade in general. The home trade bought freely in their favourite articles, such as skunk, opossum, wolf, silver, cross, white, red and kitt fox. The American trade bought fewer goods than usual. From France the attendance was rather smaller than at the last sales, but fair quantities of most articles were purchased. Germany again was a considerable buyer in the staple articles and in fine furs. The comparison of prices is with those of January last.

Badger, unaltered; black bear, declined 10 per cent.; brown bear, declined 10 per cent.; grizzly bear, declined 20 per cent.; white bear, unaltered; beaver, large skins unaltered, middling and smalls declined 15 per cent.; civet cat, unaltered; chinchilla declined 15 per cent.; ermine, mostly dressed skins of poor quality, sold cheaply, the few raw skins declined 15 per cent.; fisher, declined 20 per cent.; fitch, declined 20 per cent.; blue fox, unaltered; cross fox, finest skins unaltered, others declined 10-15 per cent.; grey fox, declined 10 per cent.; red fox, better sorts declined 25 per cent.; common sorts declined 10 per cent. Mongolian unaltered; silver fox, best silvery skins unchanged, blacks and common skins declined 20 per cent.; white fox, fine grades unaltered, lower grades declined 10 per cent.; South American fox, best goods advanced 15 per cent., lower grades neglected; white hare, unaltered; kolinsky, unaltered; Persian lamb, unaltered; lynx, sold at full January rates; American marten, declined 30 per cent.; baum marten, declined 30 per cent.; stone marten, declined 30 per cent.; mink, declined 20 per cent.; mole, unaltered; monkey, advanced 40 per cent.; black musquash, declined 10 per cent.; brown musquash, declined 10 per cent.; southern musquash, advanced 10 per cent.; nutria, unaltered; American opossum, declined 10 per cent.; otter, advanced 15 per cent.; raccoon, advanced 15 per cent.; Russian sable, mostly withdrawn, the few lots sold were slightly easier; skunk, prices for good sections showed a decline of 10 per cent., but quality and colour were not equal to the January goods, south-western and southern skins declined 20 per cent.; squirrel, declined 10 per cent.; wolf, best Canadian unaltered, medium sorts advanced 25 per cent., lower grades unchanged; wolverine, slightly higher; fur seals, North West Coast sold at good prices, others mostly withdrawn.

Australian Furs.—Australian red fox, unaltered; Australian opossum, unaltered; wallaby, best qualities advanced 15 per cent., lower qualities unaltered.

Chinese and Japanese Furs.—Civet cat, slightly lower; red fox, declined 15 per cent.; goat rugs, declined 10 per cent.; black goat skins, declined 15 per cent.; grey goat skins, unaltered; white goat skins, none offered; kid skins and crosses, very little alteration; kolinsky, advanced 15 per cent.; slink lamb, advanced 10 per cent.; Thibet lamb skins, slightly easier; Thibet lamb robes, slightly easier; leopard, advanced 10 per cent.; marmot, large skins unaltered, small advanced 20 per cent.; mink or weasel, declined 20 per cent.; pahmi, unaltered; white rabbit, best skins advanced 10 per cent., poorer skins declined 10 per cent.; raccoon, unaltered; wolf, declined 10 per cent.; Japanese badger, unaltered; Japanese fox, unaltered; Japanese marten, none offered; flying squirrel, a poor collection, mostly unsold.

TENDERS INVITED.

*Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.
(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35 Old Queen Street, S.W.)*

Egypt.

Drugs, etc.—The Department of Public Health invite tenders for the supply of drugs required for the period of six months from October 1 next. The tenderer must be a person residing in Egypt or must have a representative in Egypt. June 15 (D.O.T.)

Weighing Machines.—The Physical Department of the Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invite tenders for the supply of platform weighing machines and also for counter scales and appliances. Tenders must be sent to the Controller, Physical Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo. Drawings must be furnished. Representation by an agent resident in Egypt is essential. June 1. (D.O.T.)

Baling Cloth.—The Director-General, State Domains Administration, Sharia El Falaki, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of baling cloth, cotton sacks, and grain sacks. May 15.

Carbide of Calcium.—Tenders are invited by the Postmaster-General, G.P.O., Alexandria, for the supply of 12½ tons of carbide of calcium. Delivery October 2, 1922. June 15.

Bulgaria.

Telephone Accessories.—The Bulgarian Post and Telegraph Authorities invite tenders for the supply of:—1 amp. fuses; cartridge fuses for protection from lightning; 3 amp. fuses; line annunciators; carbon lightning arresters. Tenders must be accompanied by a deposit of 5 per cent. of the total amount and may be submitted for each or all of the items. This call for tenders is identical with the one which was notified on January 18 last, and may, therefore, be a fresh call for tenders in connection with the former contract. June 15. (D.O.T.)

India.

Copper wire, carsake elements, tubs, electric cable and web equipment.—The High Commissioner for India invites tenders for the supply of:—Wire, copper, for telegraphic purposes, 205 tons; Carsake elements, No. 1, for Leclanche cells, No. 32,000; Tubs, ablution, galvanised iron, No. 8,750; Cable, electric, V.I.R. insulated tropical class, single braided, single and twin lead sheathed and twin flex, 200,000 yds.; Web equipment (carriers, cartridge, haversacks, etc.). Further particulars may be obtained from the office of the Director-General, India Store, Department Belvedere Road, Lambeth, S.E. June 9.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ..	Piastres to £...	97½	97.7-16
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	106-108
Belgrade ..	Dinars to £...	25.22½	290-330
Berlin	Marks to £...	20.43	1314-1316
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3½
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3½
Brussels.....	Francs to £...	25.22½	53.21-53.45
Bucharest ..	Lei to £	25.22½	630-600
Constantinople	Piastres to £...	110	645-665
New York	Dollars to £...	4.86 2-3	4.45-4.45½
Paris	Francs to £...	25.22½	49.20-49.23
Prague	Kronen to £...	24.02	232-237
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	86.9.10-86.11.16
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	580-660
Teheran	Krans to £	50	51½
Vienna	Kronen to £...	24.02	42,000-44,000
Warsaw	Marks to £	20.43	17.750-18.750

*Nominal.

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18/4/21 ITALIAN 3½% RENTES	23	£ 25

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SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

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

Alexandria, May 11.

The Alexandria Bourse.

During the past week our market has suffered a sharp setback all along the line due partly to the less reassuring news received from Genoa, and partly to realisations by holders wishing to profit by the prolonged rise that has taken place.

Constantinople, May 8.

The imports of the past week compared with the figures of the two previous weeks show a marked increase. Generally there has been great activity in the port. A hundred vessels of various tonnage have touched at the port.

Carpets are in strong request for Great Britain, America, Belgium and France. Prices are steady and unchanged. There have been important arrivals of mohair from the neighbourhood of Karahissar and Bolovadine. Sales have been effected at remunerative prices. The opium market is very firm, there being an active demand for America.

HOPS IN CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.

The Czecho-Slovak statistical office publishes the following information concerning the cultivation and output of hops in Czecho-Slovakia for 1921. The corresponding figures for the previous year are given in parenthesis:—

The total area in the Czecho-Slovak republic devoted to the cultivation of hops was 7,627 hectares (8,361 hec), of which 7,627 hectares (8,317 hec) were in Bohemia, 40 hectares (41 hec) were in Moravia, and 6 hectares (3 hec) in Slovakia. The total output of hops for 1921 throughout the Czecho-Slovak republic amounted to 299,330 kilogrammes (526,560 kg) of which quantity 288,445 kilogrammes (522,080 kg) were contributed by Bohemia, 1,545 kilogrammes (3,300 kg) by Moravia, 340 kilogrammes (280 kg) by Slovakia.

BULGARIAN LOAN.

Reuter's Sofia correspondent in a message dated May 16 states:—Tenders were recently invited for 500,000 bonds of the Bulgarian National Loan, the first subscription to which took place in February. It is now announced that several foreign houses put in offers and that the best terms were those submitted by the Graphische Anstalt of Budapest, to whom accordingly the bonds were allotted, the price offered being 14.50 Hungarian kronen per bond, payable at the rate prevailing for the krone on May 11, the day on which the bonds were allotted.

The Land and Mortgage Company of Egypt recommends a dividend of 6 per cent. for the year.

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

LOSS OF P. AND O. LINER.

We much regret to announce the loss of the P. and O. liner Egypt which was sunk off Ushant on Saturday last. The liner came into collision with the French tramp steamer Seine and sank within twenty minutes with the regrettable loss of 102 lives, 16 of which were passengers. Rescue work was very quickly carried out by the s.s. Seine and French warships which arrived from Brest shortly after the catastrophe.

The Egypt, which is of the gross tonnage of 7,941 tons, was built in 1897 by Messrs. Caird & Co., Ltd., at Greenock, and was employed during the war first as a hospital ship and subsequently as a relief vessel for conveying passengers to India. Her sister ships, the Arabia, Persia and India, were sunk during the war with a total loss of 1,175 lives. The s.s. China is the only remaining vessel of this class.

The P. and O. Company, it is worth recording, have had a wonderful record of freedom from disaster in peace time. Only 39 lives have been lost over a period of 50 years, 25 in the steamer Carnatic in 1869 and 14 in the s.s. Oceana in 1912.

KYRENIA'S UNSAFE HARBOUR.

Effect on Industry.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cyprus, May 5.

The town and district of Kyrenia have recently petitioned the Government for a reconstruction of their small harbour in the north of the island—a work which should certainly be provided for as soon as ever circumstances permit. Soon after the British occupation the harbour was constructed. It has not been a credit to the Government or its designers; as, far from having protected shipping, it has proved under certain conditions of weather a place of considerable danger, and several disasters have occurred within it. The Government has replied that as the work would cost £50,000 it cannot be undertaken at present. Locally it is considered that it could be carried out for not more than half that sum. It is represented that trade has suffered a good deal and continues to dwindle owing to the present serious impediment to progress in the district. Much sympathy has always been felt, by British and Cypriots alike, for the people of the Kyrenia.

SHIPMENTS TO CZECHO-SLOVAKIA via TRIESTE.

A recent announcement in the *Prager Tageblatt* states that, according to the terms of the final regulations of the commerce and navigation agreement between Italy and Czecho-Slovakia, a Czecho-Slovakian custom house has been set up in Trieste harbour with sufficient space to conduct the official proceedings laid down by the special agreement. The Italian customs authorities allow transit goods to pass under Czecho-Slovakian seal; but the rights of the Italian authorities in respect to carrying out the duties of the customs control and the harbour police are not limited in any way by the agreement.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

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

Anchor Line.—S.s. Vindelia for Bombay (Liverpool, June 2).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Masirah for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, May 27); s.s. Mangalore for Calcutta (Birkenhead, May 31); s.s. Maidan for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, June 6); s.s. Manipur for Calcutta (Birkenhead, June 7); s.s. Maihar for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, June 20).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Warwickshire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, June 7); s.s. Arracan for Rangoon (Middlesbrough, June 10).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Monroe for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (Birkenhead, June 1); s.s. Clan Macmillan for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, June 12).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Cypria for Gibraltar, Melilla, Algiers,

Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Odessa, Novorossisk, Poti and Batoum (Swansea, May 27); s.s. Brescia for Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Ancona, Venice, Trieste, Fiume and Gravosa (Swansea, June 13).

Ellerman Line.—S.s. Flaminian for Gibraltar, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas and Varna (Liverpool, June 25).

Ellerman's "City" Line.—S.s. City of Cairo for Calcutta (Birkenhead, June 1); s.s. City of York for Calcutta (Birkenhead, June 15).

Ellerman's "Hall" Line.—S.s. City of Simla for Bombay, Karachi and the Punjab (Liverpool, May 29); s.s. City of Karachi for Bombay, Karachi and the Punjab (Liverpool, June 15).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—Steamers sail fortnightly for Malta, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz and Braila.

Harrison Line.—S.s. Actor for Calcutta (Liverpool, May 31); s.s. Huntsman for Calcutta (Liverpool, June 15).

Henderson Line.—S.s. Bharno for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, May 31); s.s. Amarapoorra for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, June 14).

Glen Line.—S.s. Glenshane for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, June 1); s.s. Pembrokehire for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, June 15).

Holt Line.—S.s. Eumaeus for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, May 25); s.s. Jason for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, June 1); s.s. Mentor for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Swansea, June 8).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Incemore for Piraeus, Syra, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, June 3).

Moss Line.—S.s. Amarna for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, May 26).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. Malatian for Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, June 7).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Macedonia for Bombay (London, May 26); s.s. Mantua for Bombay (London, June 2); s.s. Nyanza for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, June 16); s.s. Kaiser-i-Hind for Bombay (London, June 16).

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. Matina for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, May 26); s.s. Mandala for Bombay and Karachi (London, June 2); s.s. Mantolia for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, June 9); s.s. Nevasa for Bombay and Karachi (London, June 16); s.s. Warfield for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, June 24); s.s. Morvada for Bombay and Karachi (London, June 30).

Prince Line.—S.s. Black Prince for Tunis, Malta and Alexandria (Manchester, June 3); s.s. Syrian Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Syria and Cyprus (London, June 8); s.s. Sailor Prince for Tunis, Malta and Alexandria (Manchester, June 17); s.s. Tudor Prince for Malta and Alexandria (London, June 28).

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Cotton & Cotton Goods.

MANCHESTER COTTON REPORT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Saturday.

During the past week we have experienced a dearer and healthier market, and there is no doubt that the present position is distinctly more encouraging than has been the case for some months back. Producers have booked orders more freely and it is estimated that there is now more machinery running in Lancashire than has been the case for the past eighteen months. This applies to both spinning and weaving. Many manufacturers have had to turn down orders owing to immediate delivery being required. This point emphasizes the position of affairs in our outlets abroad, and goes to show that the stocks are getting very low. Manufacturers of piece goods have reported a very big enquiry. The situation in Egypt gradually improves, and some steady buying has taken place for those outlets of the Near East. Prices in Egyptian yarns have gone against buyers, and an increased trade has been put through. Producers in this section are stronger. A very encouraging business has been done for India in piece goods, and rather more activity has been displayed by buyers for China. Sales have been recorded for South America and the Continent. American yarns have continued firmer and at the beginning of the week a very large offtake was registered. Taking the market as a whole the position at the moment is the healthiest for quite a time, and traders generally are optimistic with regard to future developments.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds & Gibson report as follows for the week ended May 17:—

Another good week has been witnessed in this section, and at the moment there appears every likelihood that the trade will continue to buy for some time to come. The demand has again been of fair dimensions, and Upper and Brown cottons have again attracted some attention, although as usual the bulk of the sales have been made from Sakellaridis and Sudan. Up till now, holders of spot cotton have shown a distinct inclination to meet the demand, and it is really remarkable, for this market, that after a fortnight during which trade has steadily improved, and with a strong and active American market in the background, an advance in prices at Liverpool of only $\frac{1}{4}$ d.— $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. has taken place. There are signs, however, that certain qualities are already getting thinned out, and to-day there was a tendency for prices to harden slightly, although so far this has not been reflected in the official quotations. The selection of F.G.F. Sakellaridis has been modified considerably during the past fortnight, and there is little doubt that in the near future buyers will find it more difficult and more costly to fulfil their requirements, particularly if the water shortage in Egypt assumes a serious character. The Alexandria market a fortnight ago was being supported by the Government there—to what extent is not known—but under the present changed

conditions, we doubt if Government support is required at all, in spite of the large stocks which are held there.

Manchester reports have been consistently good. India and Egypt are furnishing the chief support, but there is also an improved enquiry from China and several of the minor outlets. Spinners and manufacturers are naturally making the most of the "bullish" feeling which is prevalent here and are taking a firmer stand for improved rates. This is having the effect of temporarily checking business, but should bring its own reward in the long run. C.i.f. business has shown some improvement. Total sales, 4,000 bales (including 800 Sudan). Quotations are raised 50 points all round. F.G.F. Sakellaridis 18.50d.

MANCHESTER COTTON REVIEW.

The Imperial Ottoman Bank report for the week ended May 20 states:—

Business continues to improve in this market, and the general tone is again stronger. During the past week operations have been on a fairly free scale, though by no means commensurate with the amount of enquiry received and negotiations entered into. Merchants are hesitating. On the one hand they have no desire to be obliged to make purchases later on at higher prices than those now ruling, but on the other hand the commercial cotton crop is not yet dead, and they are inclined to view the rise of 3d. per lb. in the last three weeks with suspicion.

Yarn:—Prices have advanced all round, and a healthy demand is being experienced. The greater firmness of spinners, of course, acts as a brake on the forward movement, and at the prices ruling during the previous week a very large business could have been done. Whether, even now, spinners are producing at a profit seems to be a debatable question, and it does not seem unreasonable therefore to expect them to maintain their standard for firmer prices as long as orders are obtainable at them.

Cloth:—A big turnover has been done in the cloth market at slightly advancing prices, principally in a great number of small lots rather than in contracts of outstanding size. The opinion is maintained that, if more confidence were felt in the present price of the raw material, large lines would be booked, but all transactions are more or less under the influence of a feeling that quotations have gone ahead too suddenly to withstand a set back at this early stage of the cotton growing season. Early forecasts of the American crop have too recently been entirely falsified by later experience for the lesson to be easily forgotten. India and China have again provided the strongest support, and for the first time for a considerable period quite an appreciable amount of trade is reported for Turkey.

Raw Cotton:—This has been fairly adequately dealt with above. Demand in Liverpool continues strong, and sales during the past week have been large. At the close of the week hesitancy was observable on the part of dealers for the rise, owing to the confused weather reports to hand from America. Closing prices are as follows:—American Fully Middling 12.13d., Egyptian Fully Good Fair 18.75d.

The Clothing & Equipment Company of Egypt

(S.A.)

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THE NEAR EAST.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Rutenberg Concession.

A certain amount of not unnatural uneasiness has been caused by the announcement that Mr. Rutenberg, a Jewish engineer from Russia, has secured a concession for the exclusive development of the water-power resources and the provision of electric energy in Palestine. At first sight it seems strange that a monopoly of this sort should be given to a Russian, and the worst fears are aroused when it is found that a preliminary order for machinery has been placed in Germany. There are, however, certain aspects of the matter calculated to reassure public opinion. In the first place Mr. Rutenberg, in spite of his somewhat sensational political history, is actually an engineer, who has devoted two years' study on the spot to the water conditions and power requirements of Palestine, at the instance of prominent British Jews, one at least of whom is a member of the Cabinet. His scheme has been examined and approved by the Colonial Office, and it is only in a technical sense that Sir Herbert Samuel, the High Commissioner in Palestine, is responsible for granting the concession. If Mr. Rutenberg's scheme goes through, it will be because it is supported by official Jewry, to whom Great Britain as Mandatory Power must look for the economic development of Palestine. A mistake has been made in allowing it to be thought that this was a hole-and-corner concession with an unknown foreigner who would proceed to exploit the country for his own personal ends. If the Jewish bodies interested in the future of Palestine will come forward and announce that the scheme will be carried through with their support, there will doubtless be a tendency to overlook the antecedents of Mr. Rutenberg and to give him the credit that he deserves for his enterprise in making an exhaustive study of Palestine's water-power. As to the order for machinery given to Germany, it is a very small one, and will, it is to be hoped, cause the question of further contracts to be carefully considered.

Genoa and Eastern Frontiers.

One of the results attributed to the Genoa Conference is the growth of a conviction in the minds of some at least of the delegates that changes will have to be made in the frontiers fixed by the Paris Conference. If an attempt should be made to give effect to this view, it is to be hoped that no half measures will be adopted. Not only Poland has an unstable frontier; it is even proposed to add to the number by introducing a further

unworkable arrangement in regard to Thrace. The settlement that the Allied Powers sought to introduce in the Near East bristles with injustice. The Treaty of Sèvres has had to go; but the Treaty of Neuilly was even more unjust. Europe is now at a sufficient distance from the end of the war to feel the want of a settlement which, when introduced, will stand the test of a few years' actual working, and will not merely conform with the greed and prejudices of the moment of its elaboration. We would urge a reconsideration of the frontiers so badly drawn in Paris, not in the interest of any one nation, but for the benefit of the whole group concerned. If the question can only be reopened, it will be found that lapse of time has clarified some of the views that seemed so sacrosanct three years ago in Paris.

Charges and Counter-Charges.

The proposal for an inquiry into Turkish treatment of Greeks and Armenians is reported to have aroused strong resentment on the part of the Angora Government. That is only what was to be expected, no doubt, but when Angora declares that the proposal is put forward only for the purpose of delaying the peace settlement many people surely will rub their eyes. To put it mildly, Angora hitherto has shown no feverish desire to push on the peace negotiations, and why it should imagine that Great Britain—or any other European Power—should desire to delay a settlement, it is difficult to understand. In any case there is no good reason why an inquiry of the kind should not proceed *pari passu* with negotiations for peace; although it would undoubtedly be well, indeed absolutely necessary, to keep the two subjects entirely distinct from one another. On the other hand, if there is an inquiry into the alleged outrages, it would be just as well to accept some of the suggestions put forward by the Turks and their friends for making the inquiry as full and impartial as possible. If charges brought against the Turks are to be investigated, let the Turks be given a chance once and for all of proving, if they can, charges which they have brought against the Greeks. And since the question of religion has been thrust so much to the fore, it would be well to have Moslem representatives upon the Commission of Inquiry.

Turks and Arabs

The statement made by Dr. Rechad Bey, in his address to Members of Parliament last week, that the Turks did not ask for lands inhabited by the Arabs, seems to have had a disturbing effect upon Anglophobe Egyptians. These people would naturally prefer to

think that Rechad Bey was mistaken, and one of them has been telling the Cairo correspondent of the *Morning Post* that he himself has actually seen, when in Palestine, "a copy of a letter from Mustapha Kemal to an organisation in Palestine encouraging restiveness pending the 'inevitable re-entry of the Turks into Palestine.' " In view of the past relations between Turk and Arab it is difficult to believe that the Arabs, however sore they may feel in Syria and Palestine against the French and the British, can seriously contemplate allowing the Turk to resume his pre-war rule over them, even if the French and the British withdraw. But it would not be at all surprising to learn that the Arabs, or some of them, had been coquetting with the Kemalists in the belief that France and Great Britain would, if the worst came to the worst, save them from the consequences of such folly. Indeed, the Arabs in their agitation against political Zionism have not hesitated to say that they were better off under the Turk than under the British, and in the North their brethren have said the same thing repeatedly about the French. Whether the Turks "ask for" lands inhabited by the Arabs or whether they do not, they are very unlikely, we imagine, to rule over them again in the near future; but it cannot be denied that their propaganda in those lands has had a success which really is astonishing.

Egypt and the Sudan.

In our leading article last week reference was made to Egyptian intrigues in the Sudan. Both in the administrative and in the educational sphere it was inevitable that Egyptians should be drawn upon for the Sudan Civil Service, and one would have expected to find after a lapse of years among those so selected some of the *esprit de corps* that they must have noticed in their British colleagues. How little reliance, however, can be placed even on those in the highest positions is well illustrated by an incident during Lord Allenby's recent visit, of which a report reaches us by way of Egypt. In one of the provinces of the Sudan Lord Allenby addressed the notables who had come to meet him, repeating much that he had said to a more influential gathering in Khartoum regarding the future relations of Great Britain and the Sudan. As the Egyptian Mamour of the place was an excellent English scholar, he was asked to interpret Lord Allenby's remarks to the audience. In so doing he deliberately mistranslated the speech, giving it the opposite meaning to what the High Commissioner had said. The Civil Secretary of the Sudan Government was fortunately present, and understanding what the Mamour was saying, jumped up, seized him by the shoulders and thrust him out of the way. He then informed the audience that the Mamour had been telling them a series of black lies and proceeded to give them a correct rendering of Lord Allenby's remarks.

"Political" Murder.

Yet another "political" murder has to be added to the appallingly long list of such things which Egypt has produced in the past few years. The latest victim is Bimbashi Cave, an efficient and popular officer of Police, who was murdered in daring fashion in broad daylight. Thanks to the pluck of a lady who pursued one of the murderers on her bicycle, three arrests have been made, and it is much to be hoped that the crime will be brought home to its perpetrator, and that exemplary punishment will be meted out at once to him. This kind of thing cannot be allowed to go on, and we are not surprised

to learn that the leniency shown in recent cases is regarded in Cairo as having been utterly misplaced, and as being accountable to a large extent for the present crime. Unless Egypt is to drift into a state of terror and anarchy, responsible Egyptians who, we hope, do heartily condemn murder and assassination, however "political" it may be, must make their views known, and lead public opinion into healthier channels than those in which it now appears to be flowing.

Consuls in Egypt.

The Egyptians plume themselves upon their politeness and their urbanity, and it would be regrettable indeed if in gaining their independence they should lose any of their good qualities. Yet they have taken a step which has caused umbrage in the Consular Corps, and the incident, as reported by correspondents of the London Press, certainly wears a strange complexion. In connection with the Bairam reception at the Palace, it has been usual for the Consular Corps to receive invitations in its diplomatic capacity, so to say; but last week those invitations were lacking, although the Consuls were informed that they would be received on the same footing as Notables. Now, under the Capitulations, which have not yet been abolished, the Consuls have been regarded as representatives of the sovereignty of the various States; and quite apart from any question of taste or manners, the change was regarded as of political importance. The Consuls, therefore, protested, and negotiations of some delicacy were opened up. As a result, the Corps was eventually permitted to attend the reception as usual, but was received separately, not with the diplomatists as in previous years. In all probability we have not heard the last of the incident, and in any case the question will have to be settled definitely before the next official reception.

Officers of the S.P.R.

In the House of Commons recently, Sir Charles Yate raised the question of the treatment accorded to British officers engaged on service with the South Persia Rifles up to the time of its disbandment. These officers were offered a two years' contract under the Persian Government, and were to receive six months' pay if the contract was broken through no fault of theirs; but in point of fact, on the disbandment of the Rifles they did not receive even the two months' pay awarded to the Persian officers as compensation; and Sir Charles Yate wanted to know what steps the Government intended to take in the matter. The reply he received was that "as the contracts of the officers mentioned were never actually signed owing to the breakdown of the arrangement made with the previous Cabinet at Teheran" . . . no claim would be pressed against the Persian Government. That may satisfy the lawyers, but it is hardly likely to satisfy any ordinarily honest man any more than it will the officers concerned. "Signed" or "unsigned" the pledge was surely implied, and we should have thought that H.M. Government would, if it felt unable to put pressure on Teheran in the matter, liquidate the debt of honour itself. The officers concerned could not, we presume, have been engaged without its consent, and to quibble over the point of the "signing" their contracts strikes us as disingenuous in the extreme.

Indian Politics.

The latest news indicates that India continues tranquil, so much so indeed that there is some ground for anxiety lest ardent politicians should forget the lessons of the

past year. Most of these gentlemen sat loosely on the fence while the non-cooperation movement was threatening the ruin of the country : now they are saying glibly that non-cooperation is dead, and basing on that assertion new demands tending to their own greater glory. As a matter of fact even the discredited programme of concrete measures has not been abandoned by the non-cooperators' organisation ; some provinces are clearly trying to shake themselves free, but the North still talks of boycott, and civil disobedience, and other nostrums of the kind ; and the time for writing the obituary of the movement has not yet come. The most optimistic view consistent with the facts of the moment is that which the cable last week attributed to Sir Sankaran Nair, that the impetus of the movement, as it has hitherto existed, is exhausted, and that replenishment of its funds is doubtful ; we believe that view to be justified, but it would be most unwise to overlook the possibility of a recrudescence.

Dangers of the Future.

Even if we grant that the programme of the non-cooperators is a thing of the past, we must recognise that the ideas underlying it are still widely held. As we have so often pointed out, the essence of the movement is to secure reaction by way of revolution, and its fundamental object is to extirpate from India the influence of the British Empire, which has offered to the masses of the people a chance, such as they never had before, of moulding their own destinies on democratic lines. The attainment of that object would be followed inevitably by the restoration of the old régime of social privilege and spiritual domination. Such ideals are still very much alive, though the measures hitherto taken to attain them may be said to have failed. We must then expect that new programmes of revolution will be attempted when favourable opportunities occur ; we may hope that they will fail to make any serious impression on the masses as whole, but we are bound to recognise that the danger will remain until the natural leaders of the people have succeeded in getting into closer touch with reality.

Hobson's Choice.

A rather absurd example of the unreality of Indian politics was furnished by the recent meeting of the Liberal League at Lucknow. The Liberals are nervous lest Sir Harcourt Butler, whose term of office expires early next year, should be succeeded by another "official" Governor, and they demand that the appointment shall be made "from the ranks of eminent men in public life." Whether any "eminent man" is in the least likely to accept the post is a question which does not seem to have occurred to them. Even in the old days, the United Provinces were notoriously the most arduous and anxious charge in India ; things are worse now, mainly because the local leaders, with a few honourable exceptions, have been content to remain either passive spectators or active critics of the Government's attempt to maintain order ; and at the present moment it is tolerably certain that the post would not appeal to any eminent public man unless he is also an eminent fool. If the Liberals want to have any say in the matter, their first business is to see to it that the post is reasonably attractive ; otherwise they will have to put up with whatever they may get.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Monday Evening.

The Debate on Genoa.

Mr. Lloyd George's account of Genoa was listened to by the House of Commons with respect rather than enthusiasm. He would not admit that he had failed, but even his optimistic spirit could hardly claim that he had succeeded. And his description of the negotiations with the Bolsheviks only deepened the impression that they are impossible to deal with.

The reply to the Prime Minister was feeble in the extreme. Mr. Asquith was even less effective than usual. Mr. Clynes said nothing in a great many words. Lord Robert Cecil was virulent and vitriolic, but his fanaticism once again defeated its own purpose.

There is to be a further discussion this week on German reparations. But the real interest of this debate will lie in the fact that America is now about to lend a hand, through the Morgan financial house, in financing a German loan. This momentous decision, which is not officially approved by Washington but assuredly not privately disapproved, will probably have more effect in stabilising the West of Europe than any political action. It will relieve Germany of the fear of a French attack, and will relieve France of the fear of impending bankruptcy, both of which have been factors making for war in the two countries.

As to the rest of Europe, opinion here is confused and indefinite. The Poles accuse the Russians of amassing great armies for their destruction, the Russians accuse the Poles. Nobody knows what is true, and I doubt whether the ordinary man in the street cares very much. He regards the Poles as entertaining political ambitions and a form of Imperialism which they cannot achieve, but which may easily become a menace to their neighbours ; and as to the Russians, he does not believe a word they say.

The Irish Crisis.

The unreality of last week's debate on foreign policy was at least partly due to the threatening nature of the new Irish crisis. It was fairly evident from the agreement between Mr. de Valera and Messrs. Collins and Griffith that the Provisional Government had capitulated to the Republicans ; and from speeches by these leaders which followed almost immediately upon the signing of the Concordat it was clear that the underlying idea animating the agreement was a combined attack upon Ulster—what de Valera called "a concentration on the North-East Corner."

In addition, the Republicans were solidly against the Treaty with Britain, which seemed likely to go by the board—they have never made any secret of their attitude on this matter—and it became evident that under the Concordat the right to a free general election would be as illusory as that of freedom of speech under the new régime in Ireland.

The British Government, of course, respects the Treaty, although the English people have seen with sorrow the absolute incapacity of the Irish to build upon that basis during the past six months. But if the Treaty is to be torn up and Ulster attacked, a new situation arises, and Mr. Lloyd George accordingly summoned Messrs. Griffith and Collins to London to hear from them an account of the position at first-hand. Long conferences have been taking place over the week-end, and it is unlikely that Parliament will rise next week without an official statement being made.

It is necessary to add that the increasing number of Irish refugees who are crossing every week to England absolutely destitute is having a powerful effect on public opinion. These are Catholic as well as Protestant, and many of them have been stripped of all their possessions and their homes burnt down by alleged Republicans, whose policy seems to be merely that of Bolshevism and plunder.

It is understood that the British Army is being strengthened in Ulster, for use in the event of a Republican invasion, and the Ulster Government have also done their part by rounding up a large number of

Sinn Feiners within the province. Indeed, the capacity of the Belfast Government for prompt action contrasts strongly with the proved impotence of the Southern Executive under Mr. Michael Collins.

Whitsun.

In these circumstances, the Whitsun recess of Parliament will be for a few days only, and the remainder of the session is likely to be crowded and busy. There is no longer any expectation of a General Election; even the advocates of an appeal to the country now admit that it would be impossible before October. And business men are still firmly of opinion that it should be postponed until the end of next year—a view which is privately endorsed by both Liberal and Labour men, neither of whom have found much encouragement in recent events for their policy.

Summer Days.

The summer has come with a rush, and a day or two after shivering over a fire all London was sweltering in a heat-wave. The conscientious stuck to their desks; the others seized the opportunity of seeing the riot of blossom and colour in the country—although they could have seen it in London had they looked, for even St. James's Square looked young and cheery with two or three laburnums out.

Luckily, London is at last beginning to resume its pre-war aspect. Sir Alfred Mond has cleared away some of the wretched temporary Government buildings from the parks, and flowers are beginning to replace the bureaucrats. In the Embankment Gardens a band is playing once more, and office-boys make love to flappers as in the good old days; the Cockney has not lost his capacity for public endearments on the slightest provocation.

Troubles of the Mummers.

The fine weather has brought misfortune to one profession. One play after another is being taken off, and several theatres are closed. There has again been a run of short runs—the shortest was four nights a week or so ago—and the dramatic critics are once more discussing the misfortunes of the boards, "their cause and their cure." Even "Cairo," which was expected to run for years, is coming off soon.

From what one hears, the public are now more critical, and expect better stuff than they tolerated in the hectic war-years; unluckily they get rather worse plays. The result is that the trade of dramatist is very precarious; nobody except Barrie and Milne seem able to make a success of it. Apparently we want some new dramatists rather badly.

A Dog-Collar Fight.

There is every prospect of another ecclesiastical row. Dr. Harris has made a terrific attack on the Broad Churchmen in a large controversial book; he smites them hip-and-thigh, and accuses them of Unitarianism and a few other heresies, as well as of psycho-analysis and neo-Malthusianism. His book is a clever attack from the point of view of rigid orthodoxy, and my impression is that the Modernists deserve a good deal of it—they have been rather asking for trouble lately. It will be quite impossible for them to leave this indict-

ment unanswered, and they have some quite heavy guns, or at least canons, in their camp. Nor will reply be very difficult, for Dr. Harris, like a good controversialist, is silent as to the weak points in his own case.

By the way, as evincing the public interest in theology, I heard recently that Dr. Gore's book, "Belief in God," which was only published last autumn, is already in a sixth edition. For a bishop to be among the best-sellers is indeed a novel experience.

The Week's Books.

The literature of the week has not been very exciting. "The Russian Turmoil" (Hutchinson) by General A. I. Denikin, is a record of war and revolution. The author admits that a revolution was inevitable, but he points out that in 1917 the troops at the front were better equipped than before, and that discipline was not particularly bad until the Soviets and the notorious "Order No. 1" destroyed it.

I take off my hat to "The American Language" (Cape) by H. L. Mencken, a stupendous work. Those who want to know the colloquialisms of America will discover a fearsome collection here, but they must not trust the author as to the kind of English which he suggests is spoken in England. He thinks, for instance, it is quite usual and proper for an Englishman in England to call his sweetheart "a tart," as a kind of affectionate diminutive. If Mr. Mencken ever comes courting here, he had better make a few enquiries first.

The third volume of Mr. John Buchan's "History of the Great War" (Nelson) has just reached me. I have not mentioned the two previous volumes in this column and the fourth and last is still to come. But of the many histories of the war that I have looked into, I say at once and with conviction that this is the history for me.

"Would that mine enemy had written a book," cried Job before the days of cricket. Mr. Warwick Armstrong, who conquered us last year at the wickets, has just published with Methuen "The Art of Cricket," an excellent little book. He discusses his conduct of the game in the Test and other matches, which aroused some criticism at the time, and he says a good deal about the style and methods of various English cricketers. There is also a quite admirable chapter on captaining a team—a matter on which he speaks with more authority than any living contemporary.

One does not criticize "Late Lyrics and Earlier" (Macmillan) by Thomas Hardy; one simply thanks whatever gods Mr. Hardy is willing to recognise for this latest gift from Wessex. It opens with a semi-apologetic preface, but there is no sign whatever of failing powers, or diminishing courage to take the stark view of life which has always characterised our greatest writer.

Many will like the new series of "Studies in Literature" (Cambridge University Press) by Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch; and to this I may add "Excursions in Victorian Bibliography" (Chaudry and Cox) by Michael Sadleir, who has produced something more than a bibliography of that period. Quite clearly there is a reaction in favour of the Victorians, and our sense of perspective is returning. If Mr. Sadleir were not so good a novelist—he is the author of "Privilege," a book that will live—he might make a first-rate critic now that, by his own confession, he has lived down his first extravagances. But now that he has made the *amende honorable* to the Victorians, I hope he will leave criticism to the professors and produce another novel.

Perhaps I may also mention "Maria Chapdelaine" (Macmillan), which has just been published in England. By common consent it is the novel of French Canada, and one of the most impressive pieces of fiction that I can remember.

OCELLUS.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

From Our Own Correspondents.

EGYPT.

Cairo, May 20.

The Constitution Commission and the Sudan.

The sensation of the week has been the publication in an Egyptian review of a draft convention to be signed between Great Britain and Egypt with regard to the future status of the Sudan. This draft was made and read to the Sub-Commission of the Constitution Commission by Rushdi Pasha, who, however, it is said, did not authorize its publication. The explanation of its publication is that it was drafted for the Official Delegation, one of whose Secretaries is the Editor of the review in which it has now appeared; but it is untrue that it ever received the official approval of the Delegation. That the members of that body should have accepted the proposals made by Rushdi Pasha would indeed have been very surprising, for the whole draft shows such an exaggerated view of the situation, and its provisions are so unreasonable and display such a disregard for the British claim for a share in the administration and for the interests of the Sudanese themselves, that its presentation to the British Government could have had but one result, that of its immediate rejection.

It seems indeed a thousand pities that this draft should have been published, and, to go further, that the proposals which the Sub-Commission have submitted to the Constitution Commission should have been circulated to the public before any definite decision had been reached. At a moment like the present the premature publication of such details can only result in unduly raising the hopes and exciting the feelings of the public, while at the same time making more difficult the task of those who are sincerely working towards a final and a satisfactory settlement.

The Mineral Resources of Egypt.

The lecture delivered by Sidky Pasha on the subject of his visit to the Red Sea area attracted a large audience, which included a noticeable number of Egyptians, and the Minister of Finance gave some highly interesting details of the work which is being carried on there. At the present moment over six hundred and fifty tons of oil are extracted daily, or about two hundred and twenty thousand tons per annum. Most of it comes from Hurgada, which is the most promising area being worked at present, and, it may be remembered, saved the fuel situation in Egypt during the war. The best oil comes, however, from Gernsa, where petroleum was first discovered in 1886 by mere chance by a company which was searching for sulphur.

As regards the manganese mines, which are principally on the East side of the Sinai Peninsula, active work is going on, and about three hundred tons per day are being extracted. But the phosphate industry at Safaga, although normally a very paying one, producing as much as one hundred and twenty-two thousand tons in 1921, is for the time being stagnant, owing to the large amount in stock and the depressed state of the market.

The Minister paid a great tribute to the work done by foreign companies in prospecting and working this area, and he made an appeal to his fellow-countrymen to take more practical interest in this subject in regard to which any enterprise would certainly prove remunerative. In view of the fact that, with the population increasing as rapidly as it is doing, agriculture will prove inadequate to provide for the people's needs, he looked to the mineral resources of Egypt as a means of meeting the difficulty, for a proper expansion of the work would provide employment for a large number of Egyptian workmen; it could supply the country with all the petroleum and phosphates it required, and by enabling the royalties to be increased, without unduly handicapping the industry, it would contribute an important addition to the financial resources of the

State, which will have to meet very heavy calls in the near future.

The Treatment of Eye Diseases.

The latest report of the progress of the ophthalmic hospitals in Egypt contains an interesting reference to the debt which Egypt owes in this respect to the late Sir Ernest Cassel. It is twenty years since that generous and charitable man placed the sum of L.E.400,000 at the disposal of the late Earl of Cromer for the training of Egyptian medical men in the science and treatment of diseases of the eye. A commencement was made by the establishment of a single travelling ophthalmic hospital and by the appointment of Dr. A. F. MacCallan, who was entrusted with the work of teaching Ophthalmology and organising the fight against what is one of the most terrible scourges from which Egypt has ever suffered. Slowly the system has been developed until to-day each of the fourteen provinces is provided with a permanent specially built hospital, together with three additional hospitals in Gharbia and five travelling hospitals in tents. The whole of the work is carried out under the direction of Dr. MacCallan by Egyptian surgeons whose special education, he mentions, has been the outcome of Sir Ernest Cassel's original benefaction.

The serious nature of this ophthalmic scourge is evident from the statistics which show that in 1920 ten per cent. of the cases examined at the hospital were found to be blind in one eye, and five per cent. in both eyes, the principal cause of blindness being acute conjunctivitis; and the boon which the movement started by Sir Ernest Cassel is constituting for the country can be gauged from the fact that whereas in 1910 the total attendances of out-patients numbered 109,000, 14,000 new patients were treated and 25,000 were examined; in 1920 out-patient attendances increased to over one million, 108,000 were examined and 95,000 new patients were treated. The capital expenditure which these hospitals have involved has been L.E.100,000, and the annual cost of the service including ophthalmic clinics at Government primary schools in thirteen of the capital towns, where invaluable work is being done in improving the eyesight of the rising generation, is only L.E.33,000. Considering the present scope of the work, this annual charge cannot certainly be considered excessive, but when one bears in mind the extent to which the whole Egyptian nation is suffering from this terrible scourge, the allocation of such an insignificant credit for treatment of such a vitally important matter certainly does not redound to the good sense and foresight of those in the Egyptian Government responsible for the outlay of the country's money to the best advantage.

PALESTINE.

Jerusalem, May 14.

A Moslem Board Demand.

Some eighteen months ago a "Jewish National Council," elected by the whole of the Palestine Jewry, was appointed to treat with the Administration on all matters touching internal Jewish affairs. To counter-balance this, a purely Moslem Board was set up, chosen by a more rough and ready elective system, and known as the "Supreme Moslem Council." In their hands is placed the administration of the large Wakf funds (religious endowments), and the control of internal

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Moslem affairs. Within the last few days they have considerably harassed the Civil Secretary with the demand that he shall instruct all the District Governors of the country to fine every Moslem found deliberately violating the fast of Ramadan.

Lord Apsley and the Arabs.

Lord Apsley, the son of the proprietress of the *Morning Post*, is at present visiting Palestine. As a result of the attitude towards political Zionism consistently maintained by the *Morning Post*, Lord Apsley received the warmest welcome from the Moslem Christian Association. His public statements have produced nearly as great a sensation as did those of Lord Northcliffe. The latter was fully expected to smile on Zionist activities here; and the Jews were disagreeably startled when he saw fit to do nothing but frown. On the other hand Lord Apsley was expected to encourage the Arabs in their opposition to the British Palestinian policy; but he has hugely delighted the Jews by telling the Arabs not to expect Great Britain to withdraw its Balfour Declaration promise, but to expend their energy in seeking to co-operate with the Jews in the rebuilding of Palestine.

Jerusalem, May 21.

The Strike "Fever."

Palestine at the moment is suffering from an outburst of strikes. It is true that there are not many of them, and that they are not very big ones. But, as with everything else in this country, it is not the thing as it is that matters, but the thing that it is supposed to stand for, the tendency that it may represent, and the complexion that it assumes when looked at in the light of high politics. To the onlooker the labour conditions seem to be top-heavy. The new immigrants come along extremely well versed in higher trade-union tactics, looking at Labour from an idealistic point of view, insisting on being employed and paid by the group instead of individually. This group, *kvutsa*, makes the contract with the employer and makes itself responsible for the sharing out of the pay. In one instance in Jerusalem, a daily Hebrew newspaper employing such a contracting group, set up intertype machines, and so required fewer workmen. When the old contract expired the management refused to re-employ the same number as before. The entire group then adopted strike tactics—"peaceful picketing" and "moral persuasion" (two men are now in prison, and I believe, two in hospital). The "strike" is still in progress, but the management of the paper is persevering and brings out its daily issue without interruption, and seems likely to win the day. The editorial staff have taken to manual labour and find it exceedingly easy; they had at first determined to reduce the contracting group from fourteen to eight; they now find that they can publish their paper with the help of only two skilled typesetters.

In Jaffa the strikes are on a larger scale—one in a large new factory for the manufacture of "silicate-bricks," and the other among the employees of a large building contractor. The strike in one case is a protest against the employment of non-members of the trade-union, and in the other, against the dismissal of employees without the consent of the trade-union. The Jaffa strikes are being conducted in good order, while the newspaper episode has led to vicious assaults—not by the strikers on strike-breakers, but apparently by hired bravos inspired by the Labour Union.

This, no doubt, sounds very commonplace outside of Palestine; but here the impression is not pleasant. Zionists idealism we can understand and sympathise with; but the unattractive aspect is the introduction at the same time of labour tactics which have no bearing on Zionism, however you regard it, and which tend seriously to baulk its smooth progress and supply a basis to the fears of the Arab and the jeers of the anti-Semite; while on purely material grounds the effect is as bad as can be. Palestine's salvation turns on the introduction into the country of productive labour and capital. It could, doubtless, go on in its old way as the recipient of the world's charity, but that is scarcely

what Jews want in the way of a "National Home." Unless the "National Home" is to be a pauper establishment on a large scale, the Zionist adventurer who is by way of being a capitalist and employer of labour must be encouraged and protected. There is a demand that Government should interfere and check these damaging labour disputes; though it is difficult to see what exactly Government can do. It is the Zionist future itself that is at stake and it is clearly to the interest of the Jewish immigrant type to make things easy for capital and would-be employers; but it is actually held by some that the "Achdut ha-Avodah," which organises and subsidises these strikes, has, at least, the moral support of the Zionist Commission. But that we can scarcely believe.

Effects on the Arabs.

The effect on the Arab is curious. One Arabic paper, the *Miraat esh-Sharq* (representing Christian-Arab opinion), makes the following comments and suggestions: "Strikes are nothing strange in Europe, although strange in Palestine. The present age is the age of the working-men. And wethink that before very long, the reins of Government will be in the hands of the working-men in every country of the world. . . . Our intention is to arouse our brethren, the Arab working-men, and to explain to them that their own affairs will never be set in order so long as they possess no organisation to protect their rights in time of need. Will the time come when we shall see organised Arab Labour in Palestine? We must organise labour parties in every department. Once we have done this we shall be able to create a public opinion in the country, and the Government will have to take it seriously and extend to it an attentive ear."

On the other hand, another Arab paper, *es Sabah* (the organ of the Palestinian Arab Delegation which is now in England), follows the more beaten track. After detailing the various strikes, it goes on to say: "This proves clearly what manner of condition the economic state of the Jews has reached, and what is hidden within the bosoms of these Bolshevik workmen. We have long demanded of the Government that it should punish them and eject them from the country, which is not accustomed to such human diseases as these—but it has not paid the least attention."

It is all very well to say that this is infantile, but this is the impression which, as the Haycroft Commission of the Jaffa Riots of May 1, 1921, showed clearly, so easily spreads in Arab circles as a result of the curious blindness of the Jews to the effect produced by their activities on the minds of the nervous and highly susceptible natives of Palestine.

Transjordanian Humour.

The Government of Transjordan seems to be gifted with a sense of humour. As is well known, there are constant complaints from some of the isolated colonies and villages, especially in Galilee, of the incursions of Bedouin from Transjordan, experts in cattle-lifting and midnight surprise attacks. These have necessitated the posting of strong bodies of police to watch the fords of the Jordan above and below the Sea of Galilee. A few days ago *es-Sabah* gave the following paragraph: "Travellers from Amman tell us that some days ago brigands launched an attack on a party of wayfarers on the high-road near Jericho and robbed them of everything they had after a severe battle which was waged between the two parties, and in which an Arab from Salt was killed. We understand that, as a consequence, the Government of Transjordan will request the Government of Palestine to give permission to subjects of Transjordan to carry arms in the midst of Palestine in order that they may defend their lives from attacks of murderers and brigands."

[In a communication that we have received from the Governorate of Jerusalem it is pointed out that the report of disturbances between the villages of Dura and Daheriyah given by our Jerusalem Correspondent as an extract from the vernacular press, in a letter appearing in THE NEAR EAST of April 27, contains certain exag-

generations. The total casualties for both villages were eleven (not sixteen) killed and twenty wounded. No machine guns were used; no trenches were dug, nor was the affray in any sense organised or "officered." The situation was immediately taken in hand by the Police, and the two villages have been bound over under the Prevention of Crime Ordinance. The Government did not send armoured cars to the spot. We may state that there was no suggestion in our Correspondent's letter that the report need be taken *au pied de la lettre*.]

BULGARIA.

Sofia, May 17.

Genoa and Bulgaria.

News received from the Bulgarian Delegation at Genoa makes distinctly pleasant reading. M. Stambolisky has succeeded in securing the attention of the Conference on two matters which are relevant to the economic recovery of Bulgaria. Reparations and the economic outlet to the Aegean Sea will, it is reported, be considered by the Conference; and Mr. Lloyd George, supported by the French and Italian Delegates, paid a warm tribute to the loyalty shown by Bulgaria in carrying out the Peace Treaty. This is the first time that Mr. Lloyd George has openly praised Bulgaria, and the fact has not passed without comment. The Bulgarian Delegates expect to be back in Sofia towards the end of May, in order that the Ministers may attend the Agrarian Congress.

The Wrangel Plot.

A brief reference was made in my last letter to the arrest of Colonel Samohvaloff, a senior officer of General Wrangel's Army. From an examination of the papers found in the possession of Colonel Samohvaloff it appears that the Wrangelists had established a first-class secret service agency in Bulgaria. All important details relative to the Bulgarian Army, the State railways, the leading banks, and other matters have been studied by the Wrangelists and reported on as completely as could be wished. Followers of General Wrangel say that their object in collecting this information was to combat any Communistic movement. The Government declare, however, that Wrangel's object was to obtain control of the country in conjunction with certain Bourgeois parties.

The truth probably lies between the two theses, although most people attach greater importance to the Government's point of view. Meanwhile all members of Wrangel's Army have been ordered to register themselves, and some twenty senior officers have been arrested and are to be deported. Wrangel's soldiers are highly incensed at the arrest of their officers, and are threatening to make trouble.

Amongst the working classes, the effect has been to discredit Wrangel's Army. On the other hand, the Bourgeois parties say that the whole affair has been greatly exaggerated and that the Government, having become friendly with the Soviet at Genoa, is anxious to give the latter a proof of its amity. In any case, what strikes an impartial observer is the undesirability of Wrangel's Army being in Bulgaria at all. It is too big a force for a country possessing only 6,500 soldiers. The Allies, and particularly France, were responsible for its being brought into Bulgaria, and therefore the greater part of the responsibility for the present state of affairs falls on them.

One unfortunate factor is that on the entry of the Army, the present Government is reported to have signed a convention, granting the Wrangelists certain rights. The Russians now claim that in arresting and deporting Wrangelist officers, the Agrarian Government is going back on this convention. The situation is very complex and can only be cleared up when the Allies allow Bulgaria to have an Army commensurate with its needs.

The Municipality of Sofia.

In spite of being urged by the Opposition press not to sign the decree which confers on the Government the

right to choose the Sofia Mayor and Councillors, the King has affixed his signature to the document in question. The Agrarians will, therefore, be responsible for the administration of the capital.

The Forest of Rilo.

The dispute between Italy and Bulgaria anent the forest of Rilo is coming to a head. The forest of Rilo was owned by the clergy, who are very much opposed to a concession for the working of the forest granted to an Italian group. The Bulgarian Government has now proposed that the matter should be settled by a mixed Arbitral Court, the President of which is to be a Swiss, and the other members an Italian and a Bulgarian respectively.

Compulsory Labour.

To-day the women of Sofia are due to commence their spell of compulsory labour. Girls and women between the ages of 18 and 35 years are forced to work for the State for three months, but on payment of 20,000 levas (£33) exemption is granted. Many of the girls will be employed in the different Ministries, whilst others will act as "Clerks of the weather," railway ticket-collectors, and so forth.

Owing to the fact that summer is approaching, the compulsory labour law is not very popular with the feminine sex and in several cases engaged couples have hurried on their marriage in order that the girl may escape from her three months' spell of work!

ALBANIA.

Tirana, May 15.

Foreign Representations.

France has just nominated her consul at Scutari, M. Béguin Billcoq, as Chargé d'Affaires in Albania pending the despatch of a Minister Plenipotentiary, which doubtless will not be long delayed. The delay in appointing a French representative in Albania is attributed to an "incident." Last November, after the decision of the Conference of Ambassadors to accord recognition to the Albanian Government, France designated M. Krajewsky as her representative at Tirana, and asked for his recognition. Now, M. Krajewsky was well acquainted with Albania, for he had served there first as Consul and then (in 1913-14) as Delegate on the famous International Commission of Control. But he was also for three years with Essad Pasha, whose memory is loathed in Albania; and for this reason the Tirana Government felt that his presence might open up old sores, and begged France to choose another representative. Happily, the appointment of M. Béguin Billcoq puts an end to this "incident," and, it may be hoped, begins a new era of regular and cordial relations between the two States.

Apropos of foreign representatives in Albania, I may refer to Signor Castoldi, the Italian Minister. On February 20, after the arrival of the British Minister, Mr. Eyres, Signor Castoldi presented a Note to the Tirana Government, drawing attention to his own position as *doyen* of the Corps Diplomatique. [The Albanian Government replied that Signor Castoldi had not presented his Letters of Credence and that the Consulta had not asked for the approval of Albania to his appointment. At the time of writing, Signor Castoldi is absent, on leave in Italy; and rumour has it that the Consulta intends to appoint a Minister *en règle* to represent Italy at Tirana.

The Delimitation of Frontiers.

The International Commission for the frontiers of Albania has already settled the frontier between the sea and the lake of Scutari, and is now at work in the region of Kastrati and Klementi, where Yugoslavia, in her desire for annexation, is raising difficulties. In regard to the Southern frontier, the neutral zone which was delimited at Paris has just been evacuated by the Greeks; but as an error, which left outside the land between the two lakes of Prespa, had here been made, Albania has despatched a fresh Note on the matter,

The League of Nations.

On the 12th instant the Council of the League of Nations assembled at Geneva, where Earl Balfour, the British delegate, in speaking of the efforts of the Commission of Inquiry sent to Albania, paid homage to the work of the League and to the good offices of the Albanian Government in the pacification and the organisation of the country. The Albanian delegate, M. M. Frasheri, requested the League to send yet another delegate to Albania to supervise the execution of the clauses concerning the evacuation of the Southern borders, so as to avoid any possible difficulties that might arise between Albania and Greece. The League assented to this demand, and it has already nominated a delegate who will shortly arrive at Kortcha (Koritza).

The General Situation.

The internal situation is satisfactory. The Government continues its work of disarming the population, and it is hoped that no difficulties will be encountered.

Parliament, which ought to have met on April 1, will not meet now until September 1. This measure has been taken at the wish of the representatives of the nation, and not as an extraordinary measure imposed by the executive authority.

ANCIENT EGYPT.

An account of Egyptian excavations during last winter was given by Professor Flinders Petrie at University College last week. Of three square miles of tombs of the First Dynasty, by the old forts of Abydos, 500 were cleared of sand. Many alabaster bowls and objects of copper and ivory were obtained in the Royal Cemetery, where there were skeletons accompanied by little granaries for the sustenance of the departed spirit on its journey. Still more remarkable was the evidence of the custom of killing a number of courtiers—60 or 70, as the lecturer suggested—on the death of the King. This was an effective way of ensuring stability of government. When the time came the courtiers' end was generally painless, for they were first stunned with sandbags; but apparently this was not always done effectively, one picture on the screen showing that the victim had made an effort to escape after burial. There was a cats' burial place, with little pots that had contained milk—the first evidence obtained of food being provided for the spirits of animals. At Oxyrhynchus there was a great building which excited curiosity, and, on being examined proved to be a vast Roman theatre with seating for eight or ten thousand persons. Why the Romans should build this great theatre in such a place was an unsolved puzzle.

THE SOKOL GATHERING.

In connection with the forthcoming Sokol gathering, to be held on August 12, 13, 14 and 15, M. B. Bogdanovitch, of the Adriatic Bank, Liubiana, sends us the following interesting particulars:—

On March 5, 1862, Dr. Miroslav Trysh and M. J. Muller founded a gymnastic Society in Praha under the name of the *Telosvishna Yednota Prashka* in opposition to the existing German *Turnverein*. Two years later this Czech society changed its name to "Sokol Association," and this was the beginning of the big "Sokol" movement. The word "Sokol" means "falcon," and in that word the whole idea of this movement is explained. To spread his wings, to soar above his oppressors, and then—to stoop, to pounce on them and kill them dead. Now, after independence has been won, the aim of the Sokol Organisation is to bring the young people up in the spirit of their forefathers, to make them worthy, in mind and in body, to be the citizens of the free Slav States.

In August we shall see them here in force. Not only Yugoslav, but Czech, Polish and other Slav Sokols will gather in Liubiana to give a gymnastic display worthy of their traditions. There will be over 25,000 Yugoslav Sokols present, men and women; from Czechoslovakia 11,718 are prepared to come over, and one hopes that notwithstanding all the transport difficulties, they will be able to attend the gathering, all of them. At the time of writing, one does not know exactly how many other Slav Sokols will attend, but the estimates point to another 8,000 more Sokols and to about 34,000 non-Sokol spectators from all over the world as well.

In one gymnastic display 15,000 men will execute mass movements; this huge body will work in harmony as one man and will show to the world the perfect mutual understanding which results from a common iron will.

I believe this will constitute the record as regards number of persons executing massed movements.

Quite naturally, all the Sokol Societies are working their hardest to make this gathering a complete success and so to show the world that all Slavs are but one body and one mind, that the same will, the same force that gave their forefathers the power to hold out in servitude, then fighting hard to regain their liberty, still prevails to defend what their fathers have achieved in fair fight.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

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

ZIONISM: THE U.S. SENATE RESOLUTION.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—The United States Senate, on May 3, passed the Lodge resolution, which reads as follows:—

RESOLVED: That the United States of America favors the establishment in Palestine of the national home for the Jewish people, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of non-Jewish communities in Palestine, and that the holy places and religious buildings and sites in Palestine shall be adequately protected.

On behalf of the Palestine National League of America, we hereby submit the following facts in regard to the above resolution:

1. No hearing was held by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on this resolution, although our League requested such a hearing.

2. The Foreign Relations Committee of the House held a hearing at which five witnesses appeared who strongly opposed the resolution. Of the five witnesses two were well-known Jewish Rabbis, one professor in one of the foremost universities of America, who had been in Palestine, and two members of our League. The testimony against political Zionism was so strong that the House Committee has not, up to the present, passed the resolution and it is doubtful if it ever will. The testimony was published in a special pamphlet by the Congressional Record.

3. As to the motives which led Senator Lodge and Representative Fish to introduce the resolution, it is sufficient to quote the *American Hebrew* of April 28, which states: "Dr. Weizmann sent an S.O.S. call to America . . . a young Boston politician suggested the approach to Senator Lodge. Lodge is coming up for re-election. Certain forces in Massachusetts are bitterly opposed to the faithful, senatorial war horse. He is neither happy nor sure in the campaign. The Senator heard the argument and answered the plea." . . . "Young Hamilton Fish, of New York, also has senatorial aspirations." The New York *Sunday Times* of May 7, in an editorial entitled, "Confusion worse Confounded," denounces the Lodge resolution, and exposes the motives which led to it.

4. At the hearing it was brought out that the Zionists in America number only thirty thousand, that they do not represent American Jewry, that there are, among the Jews, many bitter opponents of political Zionism.

5. Several leaders of thought in America, including some of the most eminent professors, and scholars, who are acquainted with the situation in Palestine, are strongly opposed to political Zionism.

P. S. GEORGE,
Chairman, Publicity Committee.

F. I. SHATARA,
President.

The Palestine National League,
85, Washington Street,
New York City.

May 8, 1922.

THE CYPRIOTE ROADS LAW.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—We live here under the most autocratic Government in the world. The Cypriote, accustomed to autocratic rule in the past, may perhaps not be always conscious of the truth of what is stated in the opening sentence of this letter.

The latest proof of the fact is contained in a Law passed in Council last week. Its title is the Roads Law 1922. Clause 3 authorizes any labourer employed by

the Director of Public Works to enter upon any land near to any existing or intended road and there do all acts necessary for making or repairing any road. Clause 4 authorizes the same individual to dig, cut and carry away any timber, stone, gravel or any other material, for the purpose of making or repairing any existing or intended road. Clause 5 provides that any person who has sustained damage or loss may obtain compensation by giving notice within two months to the Director of Public Works. Unless these two parties can come to an agreement, the matter must be settled in the District Court.

Now every one who has lived in the Island, and every one who has property of any kind, knows only too well that the Cypriote peasant has no scruples whatever about entering on land and carrying off what he wants. The men composing road-parties are just as careless on this point as the villager, so that, instead of a law to facilitate entrance to land, matters should be left as in the past; and if further legislation is necessary provision should be made for obtaining the consent of the owner of the property.

Some of us pray that His Majesty may be advised to disallow the Roads Law 1922.

I am, etc.,

GEORGE L. HOUSTON.

Kyrenia, Cyprus.

May 12, 1922.

PARTY POLITICS IN GREECE.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—The contents of a letter—or at least that part of it pertaining to the figures—in the issue of your journal of May 4, under the heading "Party Politics in Greece," are so ridiculously absurd that, had not the remarks made therein constituted an accusation reflecting directly on a journal which has always stood very high on the pedestal of Press accuracy, I should have spared myself the trouble of replying to them.

I completely fail to see where the writer gets the figure 263 from! But, pardon, I was forgetting that he himself is not included among "those who were not in direct touch with the political pulse of the moment." How comes it then that he, being not only "in direct touch" but also present throughout the sitting of the Assembly obtained such erroneous and misleading information with regard to the happenings in the Chamber on the sitting of 5-18th March, 1922? If the author of the letter considers it worth his while to call on the Keeper of the Minutes of the Parliamentary Proceedings he would regretfully ascertain that the number of Deputies present in the Chamber at the time the vote of confidence was taken was 303 and not 263 as he so cocksurely states. Of those 303, 164 voted in favour of M. Gounaris, 86 against, and 53 (not "10") refrained from voting. The 10 Ministers were, of course, neither included in these figures nor did they vote.

I must ask the author of the letter to read once more—more carefully this time—my notes in your issue of April 6. He will then readily see that I did not say that "the Mussulman Deputies did not even appear at the sitting of the Chamber." What I did say, and what I now repeat, was that "the Mussulman Deputies forming part of the group of Independent anti-Venizelists did not even appear at the sitting of the Chamber." In fact, not only did these, 21 in number, abstain from the sitting, but they even issued the following *communiqué*:—"The group of Independent Mussulmans which last Friday voted against the Government, not wishing to make the position more difficult, has decided to abstain from to-day's sitting of the Chamber." It should be mentioned here that in addition to the 21 Mussulmans, M. Calogeropoulos and his three adherents also refused to vote and left the Chamber a few minutes before the vote of confidence was taken.

So where do M. Gounaris' "sound working majority of 89" and my "crude and misleading explanation of a second crisis being averted" come in? In accordance

with the laws of arithmetic 164 less 139 (86 Liberals and 53 Stratists and Macedonians) would only leave 25. How these 25 votes could be considered a sound working majority with the Damoclean sword in the shape of 25 Deputies (Independent Mussulmans and the Calogeropoulos quartet) hanging threateningly above the Government's head, nobody but the writer of the letter would be able to understand.

I have no complaint to make in regard to the two last paragraphs of the letter under reply, the writer being naturally entitled to his own opinion.

I am, etc.,

YOUR ATHENS CORRESPONDENT.

Athens.

May 17.

THE SERBO-ALBANIAN FRONTIER.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—One can sometimes learn a good deal from a critic and I should like to express my appreciation of I. M. who has reviewed in your columns my book "A Difficult Frontier." He says that "its map is hidden in one unostentatious page, which at first sight escapes the reader's attention altogether." Messrs. Stanford, the map-makers, and my publishers did indeed think that by putting it opposite the title-page they were giving it a position where it could not fail to attract the most superficial reader. They were evidently wrong and perhaps your critic will advise them what they ought to do in my next book.

That, I think, is about all I have to learn from your critic, whereas he is clearly in need of some instruction. He obviously does not know the name of the notorious Moslem priest who is alleged to have killed some 500 of his late parishioners for refusing to follow his example and enter the Orthodox Church. Neither does he seem to be aware that General Phillips of Scutari showed in the clearest fashion that he disapproved of Captain Brodie, whose outrageous invasion of Yugoslav territory was met, as I have shown, with firmness, extraordinary forbearance and courtesy. Your critic actually says that I am jubilant because this gentleman was insulted by the Yugoslavs. When, referring to last autumn's consideration of the Yugoslav-Albanian frontier, I say that Mr. Lloyd George, being at that time preoccupied with other things, presumably allowed some incapable person to act in his name, your wonderful critic can only ejaculate "Who is this anonymous idiot?" I believe I showed that this person acted in an unwise manner. "He really ought to have known better than

Cunard Line

MEDITERRANEAN & NEAR EAST

REGULAR FREIGHT SAILINGS FROM
LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER GLASGOW
AND SOUTH WALES PORTS TO
GIBRALTAR ALGIERS MALTA PATRAS
PIRAEUS SYRA VOLO SALONICA
:-: SMYRNA CONSTANTINOPLE :-:
ROUMANIAN PORTS ALSO FROM—
LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER AND
SOUTH WALES PORTS TO GIBRALTAR
GENOA LEGHORN NAPLES PALERMO
MESSINA CATANIA BRINDISI BARI
ANCONA VENICE TRIESTE AND FIUME

FREIGHT SAILINGS FROM
LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER LONDON SWANSEA
ANTWERP AND ROTTERDAM TO GREEK LEVANT
AND BLACK SEA PORTS

ALSO FREIGHT SAILINGS FROM
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that," says your critic. He observes that my book is inefficient propaganda; but has it not effectively produced a gem of criticism?

I am, Sir, yours, etc.,
HENRY BAERLEIN.

Bath Club.

May 27.

(The above letter is published exactly as received.—Ed.)

ANGORA AND LONDON.

We are indebted to Mr. A. P. Tully for the following account of an address given by Dr. Réchad Bey to Members of Parliament in the House last week:—

Heretofore there has been little or no direct contact between those who make our laws and direct our foreign policy and the authorised representatives of the Angora—or Constantinople if it comes to that—Turks. Two official missions have come to London, one headed by Békir Samy Bey (then Foreign Minister), and one by Yousouf Kemal Bey. Both came into contact, obviously, with the Foreign Office, as also with a certain limited number of people already well posted in Turkish matters. But there has been no contact between the ordinary M.P. and Angora officials. Hence, when Turkish matters have come up in the House, the huge majority of members might as well have been listening to a discussion on Einstein. A happy initiative was therefore taken the other day when, in response to a whip signed by about a dozen Members of various shades of party and views, some thirty or forty met last Wednesday in one of the committee rooms to hear Dr. Nihad Réchad Bey, Angora Representative in London, and to ask him any questions they might wish.

Amongst the conveners and those present were:—Sir Martin Conway (in the chair), Mr. Montagu (late Secretary for India), Major H. Barnes, Major A. B. Boyd-Carpenter, Sir John Butcher, Brig.-Gen. G. H. Cockerill, Viscount Curzon, Capt. Walter Elliot, Mr. W. Graham, Mr. W. G. Howard Gritten, Com. the Hon. J. M. Kenworthy, Mr. Ormsby-Gore, Sir J. D. Rees, Bart., Mr. Tom Shaw, Brig.-Gen. H. Conyers Surtees, Lt.-Col. John Ward and Col. J. C. Wedgwood.

Space does not permit me to quote Réchad Bey's speech in full, but the following *resumé* of the proceedings is, I think, sufficient for all practical purposes.

After the Chairman had expressed his thanks and welcome to Réchad Bey and his pleasure at the opportunity thus afforded of getting facts at first hand and asking direct questions, Réchad Bey in his turn expressed his appreciation of the kindness and courtesy extended to him.

Turkey, he went on to say, had been little known and much misrepresented in Europe and particularly in England, and the mistaken nature of the treatment to which she had been subjected by Europe was at length being realised after the passing of almost three years and a half since the Armistice. Two scales were used for Turkey, and the principles of nationalities and similar theories (such as the *status quo ante* declaration prior to the Balkan War) were only applied when they were to Turkey's disadvantage. The Smyrna landing of the Greeks and similar moves in the effort to reduce her to a subject race with no vestige of the most elementary rights of an independent nation had roused all Turkey and the whole of Asia besides. An unjust peace was of no use to anybody, not even to the races Europe sought unjustly to benefit. France and Italy had early recognised their error, and a better and more broad-minded spirit was even becoming evident in England. Would that it should develop into real and understanding friendship!

Turkey required a just and durable peace containing no germs of future conflict, and such a peace was impossible unless old methods and prejudices were cast aside and the facts looked at squarely. Both politically and economically the Treaty of Sévres and the policy it represented had proved unworkable failures.

After retracing the history of recent years the speaker demonstrated the falsity of the "religious persecution" theory, and pointed to the treatment of the Christians in Turkey ever since the foundation of the Ottoman Empire. The Turks were then all-powerful and could have either exterminated the Christians or have converted them by force if it had been a principle of the Moslem faith to do so. But instead of that they had respected their Churches and their languages, and had even granted a large measure of autonomy to each community which had survived to this day. Contrasting this with the treatment meted out to Moslems in Macedonia, Crete and elsewhere, he cited figures

showing the enormous reductions due to persecution and pressure of all kinds ultimately resulting in forced emigration to find security; and referring to the continual readiness of Turkey to accept inquiries by neutral and impartial people into population statistics (which the Greeks refused) as well as into the massacre accusations on both sides, he complained that either these neutral investigations were never granted or, when they were and the results proved favourable to the Turks (as in the case of the Inter-Allied investigation in Smyrna and the Geneva Red Cross inquiry in the Marmora coast region) the reports were never given publicity in this country, although every Greek or Armenian tale on doubtful or no authority at once enjoyed the run of the Press.

Turkey only asked for a just peace—the Turkish portions of Turkey for the Turks with complete political and economic sovereignty she had the right to ask, and, as to the minorities question, the troubles had been political and not religious. Turkey desired calm and appeasement in these matters, and the non-Moslem elements must decide to be once again loyal citizens and not be stirred up to revolt and sedition by foreign encouragement and interference. Turkey never intended, and had never intended, to oppose Islam to Christianity. On the contrary she looked with great disfavour on those who, for political reasons, attempted to make capital out of such matters and embittered political matters with a religious flavour.

Questions were then invited by the Chairman, and the first was a distinctly hostile one from Col. Sir J. W. Greig, who attacked the Turkish treatment of British prisoners and said that that explained the *prima facie* prejudice against the Turks. Col. Aubrey Herbert intervened and pointed out the terribly poor condition as to rations etc. of the Turks themselves, and quoted the "melting away" of a whole Turkish division under such circumstances, of which he had personal knowledge. Réchad Bey quoted the opinion of numerous British and French officers and men as to Turkish treatment of prisoners as well as the reputation of the Turk as a "clean fighter." Mr. Ormsby Gore enquired as to the position of Angora as to the Straits. Réchad Bey declared that Angora could not consent to the Greeks holding either Gallipoli or any portion of the Marmora Coast; but the permanent liberty of the Straits to all nations would be quite possible. Other replies were:—*To Captain Elliot*. A buffer state in Thrace was quite possible and even useful. *To Sir Charles Yate*. Bulgaria could certainly have access to the Aegean. A corridor between Turkey and Greece was desirable since Turkey desired no Greek frontier, if it could be avoided. *To Major Glyn*. The reason for the separation of the Governments of Angora and Constantinople arose from the Allied occupation of Constantinople. He did not say that the day that the occupation ceased the two Governments would coalesce, but it was certain that as soon as the capital was in safety and not at the risk of any outside attack there would be only one Turkish Government. *To Captain Elliot*. A treaty of peace and amity had been signed with Russia which first recognised Turkish claims. Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia were States forming part of the group of federated republics connected with Russia, and Turkey could neither comment on nor interfere with their domestic affairs. Enver was an adventurer at present fighting against the Bolsheviks. Turkey did not want Enver, and he had no connection whatever with Angora. Minorities must be dealt with by guarantees by all countries.

The proceedings terminated by the thanks of those present to Dr. Nihad Réchad and by his thanking every one for the attention and great courtesy accorded him.

TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

The subject headings given are those of the Official Report.

India (German Insulators).—Iraq.—(Thursday, 18th May.)

Trade and Commerce: Binoculars (India).—Constantinople (Allied Censorship).—Asia Minor (Turks and Christian Minorities).—Albania.—Egypt (Deportees).—India: Civil Service; Bills of Lading.—Royal Navy: Turkish Dreadnoughts.—Egypt.—Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Payment of Calls) Bill (Read a second time).—Egypt.—Government of the Sudan Loan (Amendment) Bill.—(Monday, 22nd May.)

India: Civil Service; Burma (Constitution).—Palestine: Arab Delegation; Vatican Mission.—Iraq; Oil Concessions; British Mandate.—Asia Minor (Turks and Christian Minorities).—Egypt: Barakat Pasha; Elwy El Gazzar Bey.—India: Bye-elections; Constitutional Reforms.—(Tuesday, 23rd May.)

India: Civil Service (Pensions).—Indian Subjects, Uganda.—Egypt: Zaghloul Pasha; Constitution Commission (Sudan); Sudan (Lord Allenby's Address); Minorities (British Protection).—(Wednesday, 24th May.)

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

In consequence of inquiries, the Editor thinks it advisable to state that the quotation from any article does not necessarily imply that the views expressed are shared by "The Near East." On the contrary, an attempt is made to include as far as is possible in the available space all sides of the various questions discussed.

Paris and the Near East.

In the *Fortnightly Review* for May, Mr. H. Charles Woods writes on "Paris and the Near East." After making a detailed survey of the various proposals of the Paris Conference—of which in general he approves—he outlines certain defects in conclusion, enumerating them as follows.

(1) Whether the admission be palatable or not, it is necessary to remind my readers that the Turks, and particularly the Turks of the Nationalist Party or of the Committee of Union and Progress, are the last people to forget that the concessions proposed to them have been practically wrung from Europe and from Greece. This fact means that, even should peace be secured, the Allies will be compelled to deal with a very different Turkey from the one which would have emerged had other, or even the same, terms been given to her directly after the armistice. Whilst, therefore, there can be no doubt as to the desirability of the cancellation of the threat to remove the Sultan from Constantinople at some future date, and of the promise to withdraw the Allied forces now in occupation of that city, this evacuation should be postponed, not only until the ratification of the treaty, but until such time as the Turks have indicated their willingness actually to put its terms into operation.

(2) The provisions made, or rather not made, for the protection of the Armenians seem to me to be among the most unsatisfactory features of the whole proceeding. Before and during the war these unfortunate people not only suffered more heavily than any other element of the Ottoman population, but, in contradistinction to the Greeks, many of whom might emigrate to Greek territory should they so desire, they (the Armenians) have no home country, except the now cut-down and Bolshevised Republic of Erivan, to which they can go. Moreover, if it be true to contend, as I have always contended, that Mr. Wilson's and Mr. Lloyd George's promises made to Turkey before the armistice are binding, as they are now being treated as binding, then it is equally justifiable to insist that every endeavour should be made to realise the undertakings of the same gentlemen to the Armenians. Conditions in America, in Europe and in Turkey have changed since then, but this does not mean that the future should be dismissed almost by the expression of a pious hope to the effect that the League of Nations will obtain satisfaction of the traditional aspiration of this race. No stone should, therefore, be left unturned to try to safeguard the lives and properties of a people who are entirely dependent upon the Powers. Thus, should it be impossible (as I think it is impossible) to secure a new Armenian national home at the expense and independent of Turkey, then conceivably some arrangement might be made either for the return of the districts of Kars, Sari Kamish and Ardahan to the Republic of Erivan and for the cession to that State of small parts of the Turkish vilayets of Erzeroum and Van, or, in the alternative, for the creation of an autonomous Armenian district in North-Eastern Asia Minor or in Cilicia. If the Turks are unwilling definitely to agree to such concessions, and after all their agreement is now necessary, surely all parties to the final treaty, including Turkey, who will probably then be admitted to the League, should pledge themselves to accept whatever may be the decision of that body upon the Armenian question.

(3) The adopted scheme of partition for Eastern Thrace and the fact that the status of Western Thrace as an integral part of Greece has not been changed still leave Bulgaria without an adequate access to the Ægean. Although hardly satisfactory, this access was guaranteed under the Treaty of Neuilly, and under a treaty (never, I believe, published, but signed at Sèvres on August 10th, 1920, and still presumably operative) by which the port of Dédé Agatch was declared of international interest and under which Bulgaria has the right to apply to the League of Nations for the appointment of a commission to ensure the proper carrying out of the agreements connected with that port. Now that apparently fresh arrangements are suggested for the protection of minorities not only in Eastern but also in Western Thrace and in Thessaly, it would seem highly desirable that some plan should be devised, not to modify, but to ensure the permanent enforcement of undertakings the non-fulfilment of which is dangerous to the general peace and unfair to Bulgaria.

In the foregoing pages, wherein I have purposely omitted references to what are of necessity technical questions of finance and of the capitulatory system, I have expressly avoided a detailed discussion upon the probable attitudes of Greece, of the Constantinople Government and of the Angora Nationalists towards the Paris decisions. Whilst at the time of writing (April 8th) those attitudes are still uncertain, as Greece placed her interests in Allied hands last autumn, it would seem that her Sovereign and her Government are hardly likely officially to refuse the mediation now offered to them. If this be so, than as Cabinet crises and stormy sittings of the Chamber are the rule rather than the exception in Athens, there remains only the possibility that some committee or organisation of Hellenic national defence may endeavour to damage the interests for which it claims to be working by creating a revolutionary or independence movement in Asia Minor—a movement which might temporarily frustrate the execution of the international agreement. For all practical purposes Constantinople and Angora are possessed of a common policy, and therefore, whereas the Government of the former place is reported to have replied to the Allied proposals in a manner equivalent to their acceptance, it is to be hoped that the Nationalists will not demonstrate serious obduracy by quibbling over what are really details. The conditions now elaborated may not be perfect, and they may not include the complete and absolute fulfilment of the terms of the National Pact. But they embody a solution which should be acceptable to and accepted by all parties. On this ground the widest credit is due to Lord Curzon for the part which he played in Paris, and for this reason recalcitration by Greece or by Turkey, in itself injurious to them, would place either or both of these countries in the wrong before the civilised world.

THE INDIA SOCIETY.

The India Society, 3, Victoria Street, S.W.1, has just issued in pamphlet form the reports adopted at the annual general meetings of 1920 and 1921, together with rules, a list of members, and the future programme. The Committee, it is stated, is anxious to encourage in every possible way original and competent research regarding the numerous manifestations, past and present, of Indian art. The lectures to be given this year include a series on the influence of Indian art on that of other countries in Asia.

THE PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

The 57th Annual General Meeting of the Palestine Exploration Fund took place on May 30 at the rooms of the Royal Society, Burlington House, under the presidency of Sir Herbert Samuel. A report of the meeting will appear in a subsequent issue.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

ANCIENT INDIA.

"THE CAMBRIDGE HISTORY OF INDIA. Volume I. ANCIENT INDIA." (Cambridge University Press. 42s. net).

The issue of this volume, the first of six, marks the end of the epoch when any single individual, however gifted, could be regarded as an authority on the whole history of India. The mass of knowledge has become far too great for that; and India must now come into line with the West, and recognise periods and departments of inquiry, each to be handled by a separate group of specialists. The Cambridge History is designed on these lines, and the volume before us is the work of a large number of authorities, drawn not from Cambridge alone, but from Oxford and Edinburgh, London and Manchester, Yale and Columbia, and Upsala. As a corollary it must be admitted that no individual reviewer, however insolent, can be in a position to deliver judgment *ex cathedra* on their work. The most he can do is to offer an appreciation of the book as it appears to him; and the present writer feels impelled to begin by offering his humble and hearty thanks to Professor Rapson and his learned team for having brought within manageable compass an enormous mass of facts and theories, which have hitherto been so scattered as to make it impossible for ordinary students to form any just idea of the present state of knowledge. This duty performed, we may try to explain what the book contains, and how its matter is presented.

The volume before us brings the history of India from the earliest times to just beyond the Christian era. It is not, and could not be, final, but, to quote the preface, "it attempts to represent the stage of progress which research has now reached in its task of recovering from the past the outlines of a history which, only a few years ago, was commonly supposed to be irretrievably lost." It is little more than a century since the sky was pitch dark: we are now in twilight, but not more. The first bright star fixed in the firmament was the work of that great Englishman, Sir William Jones, and many lights have been added since his time, mainly by Western scholars, though Indians are now helping more and more. The mischief of it is that each star of fact tends to generate a nebula of theory, sometimes so extensive as to suggest that the day has at last dawned, and the plain man wants most of all to know what he may safely accept as fact, what theories he may regard as probable, and what guesses he will be wise to ignore. In the writer's opinion, this book exactly meets such requirements. Facts are dis-

tinguished throughout from theories, theories are graded as probable or possible, wild guesses are ignored or summarily discarded, and, while nobody is likely to suggest that every contributor is correct in every judgment, the treatment of the material is so eminently sane and reasonable as to produce a feeling of confidence which increases as we read. To say so much is to say that the book is a great success, and, in the strict sense, indispensable to everyone who wants to know anything about the India of the past.

Before leaving the matter of the book, it is necessary to say that there are a few mis-statements of fact in the opening chapter, which describes the geographical features of the country. So far as the physical geography is concerned, this is well done, but the attempt to incorporate administrative details of the moment seems to us a mistake, and it is here that errors catch the eye. We read of a Lieutenant-Governor in Lahore, where the race is as extinct as the dodo; we read that the Ganges is not bridged below Benares, and we think of the great bridge at Sara Ghat; or we read of a railway constructed "of late" from Ahmadabad to Hyderabad in Sind, and we search for it vainly in the latest Indian "Bradshaw." These are of course the merest trifles, but *hors d'oeuvres* should give an appetite for the banquet, and these trifles may lead some readers to suspect the accuracy of more important statements further on.

As to the presentation of the matter, the book is an example of the well-known merits and defects of the co-operative method. It does not 'read itself' as Gibbon does; one must set to work to read it, and sometimes with paper and pencil at hand. The balance is unequal in places; Dr. Barnett on the South is almost cruelly concise, while Mr. Bevan loads his chapter on Alexander the Great with details of little interest for the student of India. Treatment by periods again makes it difficult to follow the development of institutions such as slavery, caste, or land tenure, and we should often be glad of more connective tissue than has been furnished. But against these drawbacks must be set the outstanding merit that each period is treated by a master who inspires our confidence, and, after all deductions have been made, our predominant feelings as we finish reading are gratitude and admiration.

A word must be added of the admirable collection of plates, which illustrate the text in the scientific, happily not the popular, sense of that much-abused word. The coins, antiquities and works of art reproduced are not merely things to look at, but they make the text intelligible where it would otherwise be most difficult. The account of the Greek Kingdoms in the North, to take the most conspicuous instance, is built up in a really wonderful way on the evidence of coins; it is by no means easy reading, but even the amateur can follow it with the aid of the reproductions of this evidence, and no one can fail to appreciate the portraits of such Indian kings as Eukratides or Heliocles. Bibliographies, chronology, and index occupy nearly 100 pages, and, together with adequate maps, contribute materially to the value of the book to serious students.

A CYPRUS GUIDE-BOOK.

"CYPRUS: HOW TO SEE IT." By Alexander R. Kheori. (Alexandria: The Anglo-Egyptian Supply Association. 3s.)

This small guide-book aims at giving information in concise form to travellers who contemplate a visit to Cyprus. Unfortunately, except during the heat of summer when there is a large influx of holiday visitors, especially of Greeks, from Egypt to Mt. Troódos, the island still fails to attract tourists. This is not surprising, since steam communication is very indifferent, and the hotels leave much room for improvement. Strange to say no effective steps have been taken to develop a tourist trade, and the Government, if it does not discourage, certainly does nothing to promote it.

A History of the Arabs in the Sudan

and some account of the people who preceded them and of the tribes inhabiting Darfur. By H. A. MACMICHAEL, D.S.O., Sudan Political Service. In two volumes. Royal 8vo. £4 10s net. Not sold separately.

"Obviously inspired by profound knowledge of the country and all its problems. . . It is a masterly piece of research work." *The Morning Post*.

The Ballads of Marko Kraljević

Translated by D. H. LOW, formerly Lecturer in English in the University of Belgrade. With a plate, reproduced from a drawing by Olive Carleton Smyth. Demy 8vo. 15s net.

"The translation itself is excellent and well balanced between the Scylla of 'fine writing' and the Charybdis of baldness; and it is sufficiently literal to retain something of the atmosphere of the original."—*The Near East*.

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The heat of summer, which is very oppressive, is not favourable for tours except in the mountain heights.

It is unfortunate that the illustrations, reproduced from photographs, quite fail to do justice to their subjects, being so blurred that the principal features are in many cases indistinguishable. There are various errors and misprints which should be corrected in future editions. It is, *e.g.*, incorrect to say that snow covers Troödos from November to May. The mountains are only covered after heavy falls, disappearing as a rule after a few days. Much more might well have been said regarding Mt. Troödos, its fine forests, and points of interest. One of the picturesque spots is Mesopotamos so called from its situation between two streams. One of these, says the writer, has given its name to the place *Mesopotamos* which means "Internal River." Here "turpentine trees grow side by side with a peculiar tree called 'Androclia' by the natives." The tree referred to is the arbutus, mentioned by the author in a previous page. It grows abundantly all over the Troödos range. "The pines, laden with their nuts, look like some quaint Christmas trees." Walks and mountain climbing will repay you "as you will surely discover new lovely nooks and outlandish spots that will attract your pen or palette . . ."

With a little more trouble the booklet might be made a much more useful and reliable guide than it now is. It is of very convenient size for the pocket.

WHIMSICAL SMILES.

"I HAVE ONLY MYSELF TO BLAME." By Elizabeth Bibesco. (London: William Heinemann, 7s. 6d. net.)

Princess Bibesco has made an attractive volume of slight episodes illustrating elusive, subtle sentiments. She succeeds in catching the flying moment and putting the passing mood on to paper. It seems to us that this volume will appeal to women very much more than to men, for it is the women who are portrayed with sudden intimate little flashes of insight, whereas the men are described—although, as Princess Bibesco is never at a loss for the illuminating word, often brilliantly described—only as their exterior manners show themselves to the world. She possesses one gift very necessary when an impression has to be vividly conveyed in few words: she is able to produce, with the true magic art, the atmosphere that she has chosen for her background, and we are taken straight, without any fluster, in to her charming rooms and sunlit gardens.

In a way it is a pity that these sketches, with their alluring titles, their sprinkling of wit and their cunning mixture of the expected and the unexpected, should so certainly lead the reader fascinated from one to another until the whole book has been devoured, because after so much of this fare we are inevitably left with an utterly unsatisfied feeling. These ladies, with their complex emotions and their whimsical smiles, playing for ever at a complicated game of skill which is given the name of love, in what a drearily artificial world they live! In spite of the fact that their creator is at pains to show us how modern they are, we are reminded of charming creatures eternally coquetting on an eighteenth century painted fan. But although we may be left wondering whether it was worth doing, we shall almost certainly return to those stories which we thought were the most successful—"Tout Comprendre" and "The Ball" for instance—to admire with how clever a touch it is done.

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MUSICAL NOTES.

GRAMAPHONE RECORDS.

There remain in the May issue of "His Master's Voice" a few records which, though not perhaps of great distinction, are nevertheless pleasing.

Miss Irene Scharrer is heard in Chopin's Valse in E minor and in his Prelude in F sharp minor; they are both gracefully played, with facile refinement. The reproduction is well done, though some of the subtler details are a little lost.

Cedric Sharpe has arranged for the 'cello "The Question" and "The Answer" of the blind composer, Wolstenholme, but not even his delicate and very perceptive playing can make either of them of any worth. It seems a great pity that so excellent a record should have been made of pieces so consistently undistinguished.

Of two of John Ireland's songs—"When Lights go Rolling round the Sky" and "Hope the Hornblower"—Peter Dawson has made a magnificent record. Everything, both in voice and in accompaniment, is reproduced with most commendable clearness, and for those who do not mind Ireland in his less original moods, this record is one to buy. "Hope the Hornblower" is a much better song than the first, and in it Peter Dawson indulges freely in that downright exhilaration and verve which are the bases of his popularity. No song could have proved better suited to his breezy style.

Lovers of opera will be charmed to have the record that Clarence Whitehill has made of Wotan's Farewell ("Leb' wohl, du kühnes, herrliches kind!" from "Die Walküre"). It is a piece of rich and dignified singing, at once restrained and full.

It is a curious and rather lamentable fact that the more "popular" records are often clearer (particularly the vocal ones) than those of more artistic interest. Here, for instance, is that excellent comedian, Ernest Hastings, singing, so that every word and inflexion can be heard, "And yet I don't know" and "Matilda." The first, expressing the witty doubts of a Yorkshire miser, is a funny classic, but the second, a hit—not too sly because it has to appeal to the music hall audience—at the operatic style, is also quite good fooling.

Those in this country and abroad who love the pretty ballad are scarcely on the decrease, and they will, I am sure, flock to purchase the record which Violet Essex has made from "A Brittany Love Song" and "Piccaninny, mine, good-night." There are any amount of piquant obviousnesses in both, and all well reproduced!

The Coldstream Guards are delightful in some selections from Sullivan's "Box and Cox." This is the kind of music, light, tuneful and fresh in which the band excels, and it is really beautifully played. Particularly is the tone of the wood-wind notable, but there is admirable discipline in all the instruments. The facile "Lullaby," for instance, is played with the easiest mastery.

ANDANTE.

A story lies in the writing of a novel by Mr. Maurice Samuels. A Roumanian by birth, he was educated at Manchester. Going to America in 1914, he enlisted with the American Army, and later served on the Intelligence Staff in Paris. The fascination of the City held him after the war, and he stayed on. "The Outsider" is a novel of the cafés; of the mysterious persons who earn their living in that city by odd and shady means. It will be published early next month by Constable and Co.

An interesting ceremony on May 27, in the Hall of St. Michael and St. George in the Palace of Valetta, united all classes of society when Lord Plumer presented war service badges and awards to members of the St. John Ambulance Association. Lady Plumer attended in V.A.D. uniform, supported by the strong contingent of Malta V.A.D.'s. After the ceremony in the great hall Lady Plumer assembled the V.A.D.'s in the State Drawing Room and read to them Princess Mary's letter thanking the V.A.D.'s for their wedding present.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.**To-day.**

June 1 (New Style).

May 19 (Old Style).

Shawal 5, 1340 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.

Sivan 5, 5682 of the Jewish Calendar.

Mr. Imre Schwaiger has arrived at 39, Brook Street, from India.

Lady Sinha has arrived from India. Lord Sinha is still undergoing a rest cure in a nursing home.

Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy, Vice-President of the Indian Legislative Assembly, has arrived from Bombay.

Colonel Douglas Capitaneano, Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation, left London last week for Vichy.

Sir Alexander and Lady Roger have left for Constantinople and will return to London about June 25.

M. Titulescu, Roumanian Minister in London, is expected to arrive in London this week from Paris.

Mr. Rudyard Kipling has become vice-president of the Anglo-French Society.

The Bulgarian Minister, M. Stancioff, accompanied by his daughter, was due to arrive in England last Tuesday.

M. Pantcho Doreff, Counsellor to the Bulgarian Legation, and M. A. Angeloff, Secretary, have been appointed to Alexandria.

M. Stambolisky, the Prime Minister, with the rest of the Bulgarian delegation returning from the Genoa Conference, reached Sofia on May 25.

The Lady Rawlinson, on May 27, at Buckingham Palace, had the honour of being invited to luncheon with the King and Queen.

Kathleen, Viscountess Falmouth and the Hon. Pamela Boscawen have arrived at 16, Buckingham Palace Gardens, S.W., for the season on their return from India.

Mr. O. E. d'Avigdor-Goldsmid, of Somerhill, Tonbridge, president of the Anglo-Jewish Association, and Mrs. d'Avigdor-Goldsmid have arrived in Jerusalem on a short visit.

The Prince of Wales has, says the Cairo correspondent of *The Times*, accepted the invitation to visit Egypt, and according to present arrangements will spend June 10 in Cairo.

M. Rade Valdets, a Yugoslav sculptor, has been honoured with sittings by Princess Marie of Roumania, as he has been commissioned to prepare a bust of the future Queen of the Triune Monarchy.

Admiral Sir John de Robeck, Bt. (upon relinquishing his appointment as Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean, and upon his appointments as Commander-in-Chief Atlantic Fleet), had the honour of being received by his Majesty at Buckingham Palace on May 27.

Sir John Salmond left last week for India, along with two high Air officers, in order to investigate and advise on the future use of the Air Force in India, and to report on the subject to the Indian Government. After completing his tour, Sir John Salmond will proceed to Iraq, to take up his new command.

The King has granted to Mr. W. J. Dille, Professor at the Polytechnic School, Cairo, Royal licence to wear the insignia of the Third Class of the Order of the Nile, conferred on him by the Sultan of Egypt (now the King of Egypt), in recognition of good services rendered by him.

A marriage has been arranged between Major and Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel R. S. Wilson, late Lancashire Fusiliers and Egyptian Army, son of the late Colonel T. Wilson, C.B., of Mossley Hill, Liverpool, and Gladys, Cemaes, Anglesey, and Beatrice, elder daughter of the late Charles B. Lucy and of Mrs. Lucy, of High-Meadow, Cloughton, Birkenhead.

The engagement is announced of Captain Leslie Eric Barton, I.A. Foreign and Political Department, youngest son of the late Mr. William Barton, of Preston Deanery, Northamptonshire, and of Mrs. Barton, of Bexhill-on-Sea, and Mary Francis, only daughter of the late Mr. Maurice Dominick Daly and Mrs. Daly, of Cleve Hill, Cork, Ireland.

A wedding has been arranged and will take place in June between John Francis Clare O'Brien, Captain, late Royal Engineers, of the Egyptian Civil Service, younger son of Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Charles R. M. O'Brien, K.C.M.G., Governor of Barbados, and Esther Mary, eldest daughter of Charles Frederic Milward, of The Leys, Alvechurch, Worcestershire.

Mr. A. D. Home, Sudan Political Service, H.M. Consul for N.W. Ethiopia, removed in March the Consulate to Dangila in the north of Agaumdir. Agaumdir is included in the territories ruled over by Ras Hailu, Governor of Gojjam. Hitherto the residence was at Gondar, the capital of Abyssinia prior to its partial destruction by the Emperor Theodore.

It is stated that the marriage of King Alexander, King of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, with Princess Marie of Roumania, will now take place on June 8 instead of the 1st of this month, as previously arranged. The Duke of York, who will attend the wedding as the representative of King George and Queen Mary, had arranged to leave for the Serbian capital on May 27, but it was announced last week that the departure of his Royal Highness has been postponed until Saturday next.

Bishop Marsh-Edwards, of Ringwood, has undertaken the work as honorary secretary of the "Syrian Patriarchate Educational Fund," in succession to the late Mrs. Finn, of Kensington (who was the widow of a former Governor of Jerusalem). The object of the fund is to provide monetary assistance for the furtherance of

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education in the schools with the Patriarchate, and for the provision, when possible, of funds to enable candidates for Holy Orders to continue their studies at our Universities.

The Annual General Meeting of the Lebanon Hospital for Mental Diseases, Asfuriyeh, near Beyrouth, will be held at the rooms of the Royal Society of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, W.1, to-day (June 1). Tea will be served at 4 p.m., and the meeting will follow. It is hoped that the following, among others, will be present: Sir Robert Armstrong Jones, Dr. E. W. G. Masterman, Dr. Bedford Pierce, Dr. A. T. Schofield, Dr. Fortescue Fox, Mr. C. E. Mott, Mrs. Arthur Buxton, Lady Scott Moncrief, and Miss Gibb (the Matron).

Our Port Said Correspondent writes (May 15):—Brigadier-General Sir Gilbert F. Clayton Pasha, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., late Adviser to the Ministry of Interior, left Port Said last night on the Bibby s.s. 'Leicestershire.' He was officially received at the station by the Sub-Governor Hussein Bey Sabri, and Archer Bey the Commandant of the Suez Canal Police.—His Excellency the Governor Mahmoud Sidkey Bey having travelled down with him. Sir Gilbert was invited to a reception in his honour given by the Governor, when various representatives of the Government Departments here came to bid farewell. Among others who came down to Port Said to see him off was Sherei Pasha, a large landowner in Minieh Province, and a personal friend of Sir Gilbert Clayton. His departure will be much regretted by large numbers in Egypt, and not least by the many Egyptian officials of all grades who had relations with him in his official as well as private capacity.

SIR PERCY SYKES ON CYRUS.

Lecturing before the Persia Society (at 74, Grosvenor Street, W.) on May 24, Sir Percy Sykes described the career of Cyrus the Great. Among the very great figures of history, there was perhaps no one, he said, about whom we had learned so much in comparatively recent times. Previously all our information had been obtained from the writings of Herodotus and the Holy Scriptures, but quite recently a cylinder had been found called the cylinder of Nabonidus—the last of the Babylonian emperors—saying that he had marched his troops against Cyrus, King of Anshan. This had led to further search, other cylinders had been found, and it had been proved that the original founder of the Achaemenian dynasty had had a son, who had conquered a great deal of Elam and made it into a province called Anshan. Thus there had been a double line of kings and it had been as Prince of Anshan that Cyrus had made his entry into the world's history.

Having briefly recounted the story of Cyrus's earlier conquests, the lecturer told the story of the war against Babylon. When the city fell Cyrus rewarded those who helped him, amongst others the Jews. Those who so desired were sent back to Jerusalem. One reason for this probably was that Cyrus intended to attack Egypt, and desired to have a strong party in Jerusalem favourable to himself, Jerusalem being on the borders of the desert going to Egypt. Connected with the fact of Cyrus's favourable attitude towards the Jews was the other fact that throughout the Bible the Persian Empire was never condemned to Hell as were those of Babylon, Assyria and Elam again and again by the Hebrew prophets—who were, it was to be remembered, the political as well as the spiritual leaders of their people. Cyrus enjoyed the unique position of being highly praised in Holy Writ and also by the Father of History. He was a splendid character. Soldiers would appreciate the daring of the man who, when he undertook the conquest of Lydia, had marched a thousand miles from Hamadan into Asia with a hostile Babylonia on his flank and, very possibly, a hostile Egypt as well. As a man he had been reasonable, accessible and of high ideals, one of his maxims being that no man should rule unless he was proved to be abler than the people he ruled over. Xenophon said of him: "Cyrus was able to inspire all with so great a desire of pleasing him that they ever wished to be governed by his opinion."

Among the lantern slides with which the lecture was illustrated was one showing the tomb of Cyrus as it existed thirty years ago. The picture showed a small bush growing out of the tomb. This bush, said Sir Percy Sykes, had become a large tree in 1916, whose roots were thrusting asunder the stones of which the tomb was built, so that water was getting in. The tomb would have been rapidly destroyed; he saved it by having the tree removed.

THE MOSLEM FESTIVAL AT WOKING.

On May 28 at the Mosque, Woking, the Moslem Festival of Eid-ul-Fitr-Kuchich (Little Bairam) was observed. Among those who attended were Lord Headley, the Princess Aziz and Sadiq of Mongrol, the Afghan Minister, the Turkish Charge d' Affaires, the Chief Secretary of the Persian Embassy, the President and Secretary of the Palestine Delegation, the Nawab Sahib of Tohrul, and representatives of Mejaz and Irak. Moslems from Arabia, Syria, India, America, Afghanistan, Turkey, China, and Java constituted the congregation. Khwaja Kamal-ud-Din, the Imam of the Mosque, who conducted the service, delivered the address, in which he said that things created were sustained, and brought to their final perfection under a perfect system of laws and regulations, which he would sum up under three heads: the law of creation, the law of sustenance, and the law of evolution, and Allah was the creator, sustainer, and evolver of the various worlds around us. That mysterious power was the same as the laws and forces of nature, which worked as did the Creator, and so it was that science and religion were in perfect harmony. He exhorted his hearers to study the Koran, on every page of which was inscribed the name of Allah reproduced in 99 forms, each one of them representing his various attributes. If they lived up to these attributes their morality would be secured; to deviate from them would be to tread the path of sin. As God was merciful, so let others be merciful to others, even though they were not of their nationality.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1922.

A SETTLEMENT OF THE TURKISH QUESTION.

Under the heading "The Turkish Orthodox Church," Dr. W. A. Wigram contributed in last week's issue of *THE NEAR EAST* an important article on the Karamanlis, a little known body of Turkish Christians in Anatolia. It appears that the Angora Government, satisfied of the *bona fides* of their sense of Turkish nationality, but confronted with the tenacity with which they have clung for centuries to the Christian faith, is encouraging these Karamanlis to form a Turkish Orthodox Church of their own. Already they claim two hundred "churches" and five hundred priests, under the government of "four priests, endowed with the power of canonically ordaining the Bishops and performing episcopal functions." One of the four priests is "Archbishop" of Kaisariéh. Dr. Wigram embodied in his article a fund of information regarding these Turkish Christians, and is, no doubt, right in hinting that there is much in connexion with the new Church that might not satisfy an ecclesiastical purist. The importance of the establishment of a Turkish Church, however, is obvious. Inasmuch as the movement originated with or has the approval of the Turkish authorities—for the present the Angora Government; because the jurisdiction of Constantinople does not extend to Anatolia—it suggests that the quarrel of the Turks with their Christian subjects is based not on religious, but on political grounds. That this is so has long been known to those more intimately acquainted with Turkish affairs. Dr. Wigram himself bears witness to the fact. He writes: "On the existence of his right to exterminate an element that he counts dangerous to his rule, the Turk is neither civilized nor civilizable. He is like a man, otherwise sane, who is mad on one point, and with whom it is a waste of time to argue on that point. The more polished and attractive the individual Turk, the more efficient and merciless he is in massacring the inconvenient. . . . But the Turk is also a kindly gentleman, when he does not feel cause to fear: he has some wish to stand well with Europe, to be considered civilized, to persuade statesmen to acquiesce in his abolition of the Capitulations, and he knows that if you are in the habit of murdering your own subjects, it is difficult to ask European Powers to leave such of their subjects as reside in Turkey unprotected in your hands. Therefore, he will not massacre, unless he sees reason; and if he sees that his Christian subjects are 'Turks' and not Greeks, it is possible that he may not massacre."

Dr. Wigram was thinking of the Karamanlis only. To ask the Turks to extend the rights of civilization to Armenian or Greek now, he wrote, "is like asking one of Alva's officers (right gallant and polished Spaniards all of them) to spare the rebel and heretic Hollander." But does it necessarily follow that the Turk can never be rid of his fear of the Greek or Armenian? He could

be, we are confident, if the Allied Governments had the least knowledge of the psychology of the peoples of the Near East and would apply it in a settlement of the Turkish question. There was a time when the Armenians were sufficiently contented under Turkish rule to aim at carrying out their political development within the Ottoman Empire. It was the period when they supplied the Sultan with his most intelligent and most trustworthy officials. "The sword to the Albanians, the pen to the Armenians" was the formula of the Turkish administration of those days. Then came Russia's interest in the Caucasus, and she appeared as a rival of Turkey for Armenian support. Great Britain could not afford to be outstripped by Russia as a champion of oppressed nationalities, and she too took up the cause of reform in Asia Minor. The Armenian movement, which originally in the hands of the Armenians themselves meant no harm to Turkey, assumed a different complexion, and was organised for revolution. Abdul Hamid became suspicious and then alarmed; the hideous massacres followed, and the Great Powers, which had done so much to bring them about, were powerless then as they are to-day when Turkey's victims are Greeks. On every single occasion when massacres have taken place in Turkey during the last hundred years—and the list is an appalling one—the motive can be shown to have been fear (which may sometimes go masked under the euphemism "military necessity") and not, as is generally supposed, religious fanaticism. It is at least arguable, therefore, that, if the Allied Powers can convince the Turks that they have nothing to fear from their non-Turkish fellow-subjects, an effective safeguard will have been found for minorities in Turkey.

The problem, then, for the Allies is to eliminate irredentism from Turkish territory. They have failed in the attempt to do this by handing over tracts of Turkish territory to Greeks, and it looks as if they must fall back on the device of guaranteeing Turkish integrity at least for a number of years. There is no room for sentiment in tackling the problem; only a matter-of-fact solution will avail. In this connexion it may be well to bear in mind the Turkish Orthodox Church. When the Greek Patriarchate has adjusted its political squabbles over Royalism and Venizelism, and settled down to a more dignified interpretation of its religious role, it might not be too much to ask of it that it should devote its great influence to establishing and maintaining peace between Greeks and Turks in Turkey. Its first step should be to extend the hand of fellowship to the Turkish Church, welcoming it as a useful factor in establishing better relations between the ruling race and the Christian minorities. Apart from any higher motive prudence should prompt those minorities to give the new régime in Turkey a fair chance. Greece has shot her bolt as far as the coercion of the Turks is concerned, and the Allied Powers have shown that they will not take on the task themselves. It may be that the Turk is incapable of reform, and that the fact will once more be established beyond all challenge within a few years. By that time the Balkan States may have lived down their present-day bitternesses and be ready again to combine against the Turks. The idea embodies a far more practical proposition than any available to-day, and has the double advantage of insuring peace at once in the Near and Middle East, of which all the nations concerned stand in such urgent need.

TRAVEL NOTES.

EGYPT AND THE SUDAN.

Railway Traffic and the Suez Canal.

A recent paragraph in "A Londoner's Diary" in the *Evening Standard* suggests that up-to-date notes on travel in the East may possibly serve a useful purpose. Under the heading "Tourists in the sand" the writer of the Diary tells of a friend "just back from Jerusalem" who "was mourning over a little difficulty that has cropped up." The bridge thrown across the Suez Canal during the war, he states, "is being removed, so that tourists from Cairo desiring to do the overland route have some seven miles to traverse across sand getting from one railhead to another." I doubt whether this picture was ever quite true. To-day in any case it is a complete anachronism.

—o—

The railway bridge across the Suez Canal at Kantara was removed actually last year. Between Kantara West, where the Cairo-Port Said trains now stop, and Kantara East on the other side of the Canal there is very little more walking to be done than the actual length of the pontoon bridge on the water; there are the Customs sheds to be negotiated, it is true, but at a guess I should say that the length is not greater than that which separates the steamer and train at Dover.

—o—

There was no justification for the removal of the railway bridge, and we may be perfectly sure that, if France had occupied the position that is Great Britain's in regard to Egypt and Palestine, the French majority



In the Temple Area of Karnak.

on the Suez Canal Company would never have thought of insisting upon the bridge being taken away. The inconvenience entailed by their high-handed action is not quite so great as suggested in the *Evening Standard*, although enough to cause the Company to be anathematized by travellers, who would otherwise be able to take a through carriage from Cairo to Jerusalem or *vice versa*. As things are the journey is broken at Kantara West, passengers cross the Canal on foot, and only at Kantara East can they join, if they wish to do so, a Wagons-Lits coach for Jerusalem.

—o—

Luggage is transferred at a charge of two piastres each package. One effect of this tariff and of the absence of supervision is to encourage the Egyptian porter to collect the luggage of as many passengers as possible, regardless of the time he may keep any of them waiting. A certain amount of wholesome discipline would enable parties to cross the Canal more expeditiously, and would perhaps be better for the luggage. But the major desideratum is that the railway bridge should be replaced, and it is to be hoped that pressure will be brought to bear upon the Suez Canal Company to allow this to be done before long.

The Journey to Khartoum.

After this digression I return to the point at which these Notes were broken off. In connexion with Luxor it is permissible to express one's regret that the public-spirited action of Lord Carnarvon in carrying out further excavations among the Tombs of the Kings should have recently met with such scant success. For two seasons, I understand, no discovery of importance has been made. Digging continues, however, unremittingly, and visitors to the Tombs are fascinated



The Ramasseum at Thebes; built by Ramses II., part of whose colossal statue is seen lying on the ground.

as they watch the human dredger at work—an endless chain of natives toiling with their panniers of soil or rock to the top of the dump where the contents are tipped out, and hurrying down again to repeat the operation.

—o—

Between Luxor and Assouan there are at least three places worthy of separate visits—Esneh, Edfu and Kom Ombo—but as a rule they will be made to serve as special excursions from one or other of the termini of this stretch of narrow-gauge railway. At Kom Ombo there is a temple for those who are not already surfeited; those who are not ashamed to confess to a strain of materialism may be even more impressed by Kom Ombo's entirely modern monument—the sugar factory. It is not actually the largest of those belonging to the Société Générale des Sucreries et de la Raffinerie d'Egypte; but it has, perhaps, the most imposing setting of any, for the close proximity of the desert in all its unredeemed bareness serves to enhance the particularly luxuriant growth of the cultivated area.

—o—

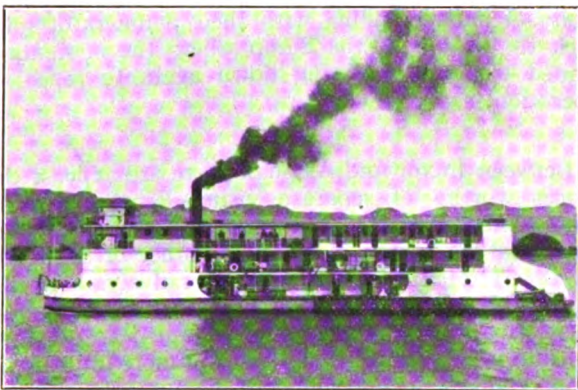
Assouan.

Not the least charm of Assouan is the fact that its scenery presents an abrupt contrast to that of the rest of Egypt. It is still the battlefield, as it were, of those two irresistible forces, the Nile and the granite hills that sought to bar its way. To the primeval wildness of this spot on the earth's surface the river has added its picturesque touches, while over both the brilliancy of Egypt's sky sheds a radiance of its own. At first sight the rigid rectilinear severity of the Assouan Dam might be held to be wholly incongruous in such a setting; its very stupendousness, however, saves it, and the genii of the spot, I fancy, for all their fury at the first desecration of their solitude, have learned to think kindly of the intruders who conjure out of that massive rampart the roaring torrents that rush in angry disorder under rainbow arches in the floating spray. *Pace* the genii, however, Egypt or Great Britain or both will have made only a half-job of it until the huge volume of water that passes through the sluices of the Dam is utilized for power purpose. No one will want to see the scenery spoiled by unsightly power stations; but it should be possible to harness the energy available without creating eyesores in the way of buildings inappropriately placed.

A short run of twenty-five minutes brings the traveller from Assouan to Shellal, passing through the granite quarries which supplied so many of the Pharaohs with material for their temples and statues. At Shellal the Sudan Government steamer is awaiting a train, and the most attractive part of the journey begins. The boat is as comfortable as one could wish it to be; the scenery never lacks interest for a moment, and one's only regret is that this part of the journey should last for little more than thirty-six hours.

—o—

For half the distance between Shellal and Wadi Halfa the influence of the Assouan Dam is reflected in the appearance of the Nile. Villages are seen on the edge of the river or even in it. The land that was formerly cultivated has been sometimes entirely covered with water; in other cases a strip just above the level of the river has been saved. Where required the villages have been rebuilt at Government expense on higher ground, and liberal compensation was invariably paid. So liberal indeed must it have been that the villagers would seem to be living on it still; for often it is difficult to discover any other means of livelihood, when the new dwellings have been perched in the midst of a particularly barren stretch of ground. We are passing, however through Berberine territory, the chief and best source of Egypt's native servants. The able-bodied men repair to Cairo and other towns for domestic service, leaving their womenkind, the older men and the children to eke out a meagre existence at home, supported, no doubt,



A Sudan Government Steamer, between Shellal and Wadi Halfa.

by some of their savings, until such time as they themselves return for good, with wonderful tales of the big city, and such objects of admiration in the way of table linen and cutlery as they may have been able to glean as the fruits of close attention to their work.

—o—

The white plates let into the walls above the doorways have a more legitimate origin. There is a neatness about the villages with their four-squared houses which bespeaks a well-ordered if not an actually prosperous community. Occasional boats hugging the banks are a reminder of the part naturally played by the river in the country's communications; indeed the whole trip from Cairo to the frontier brings home to one with much emphasis the fact that Egypt is the Nile and the Nile Egypt. In many parts of the river journey the cultivated area must be too restricted to provide for much more than the immediate wants of the owners; the domestic animal is not much in evidence, women predominate as far as can be judged from the signs of life revealed to the passenger on the steamer. Even to these remote spots the great controversies of the day have penetrated; but female emancipation and the length of skirts have been merged into one and the same question. It has been solved. The greater the measure of emancipation from male thralldom, the longer the skirts—for the very good reason that a trailing robe obliterates footprints in the sand. Why should a husband know where his wife goes?

—o—

At Wadi Halfa the traveller enters the Sudan. One is struck at once with a difference in the moral atmosphere from that of Egypt, and it is borne in on one the more one sees of the Sudan. The native shows a greater measure of self-respect than his counterpart of Egypt, and for this the Administration deserves full credit. The first notice that meets the eye on leaving the steamer at Halfa is sufficiently arresting—no tips are to be given to the porter conveying luggage from the boat to the train. What lies behind it cannot be better expressed than in the official notice:—

Travellers, while in the Sudan, are particularly requested to refrain from gaining an easy reputation for generosity by giving money to children, beggars or other people who have not earned it. At present the population of the Sudan has not been demoralised by indiscriminate almsgiving, but it will not require much of this to make the demand 'bakshish' as importunate and annoying to travellers as in Egypt itself, and cause a considerable number of natives to forsake the paths of honest industry for the unwholesome existence of preying upon others.

The Governor-General trusts that all travellers will consider this as a personal request from himself, and at the same time would inform them that if they desire to give any money for the benefit of the inhabitants, contributions for hospitals or relief of deserving cases amongst the poorer classes will be carefully administered by the Governors, and that he himself will gratefully receive contributions for what is the Sudan's greatest need, viz. EDUCATION.

ARMENIANS AND ANGLICANS.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has received a specially illuminated letter from the Catholicos of all the Armenians, together with the Patriarchal Decoration of the First Order of St. Gregory, the Illuminator. This letter and decoration have been presented by the Catholicos, as the head of the whole Armenian people, in token of the gratitude felt by the Armenians for the sympathy shown by the Archbishop of Canterbury, in the words of the Patriarchal letter, "towards the chronic sufferings, persecutions, and martyrdom of the innocent people of the land of Armenia and of our Church in the East." The formal presentation to the Archbishop was made by Dr. Abel Nazarian and General Bragatouni in Lambeth Palace Library last week.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

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Yugoslav Loan Negotiations.

The course of Yugoslavia's loan negotiations is apparently proving anything but smooth. The news a week ago was to the effect that a loan had been definitely arranged with an American group, and that the signatures of the parties were alone required to complete the agreement. From our Belgrade Correspondent's despatch this week it will be seen that there has been a hitch in the negotiations over the question of the terms of the loan, which the Americans, it is reported, desire to vary in their favour. Meanwhile another group has entered the field with a more favourable offer, and it would seem probable, therefore, that, unless the first group is prepared to recede from its position, the question of a loan will again be in the melting pot.

Bulgarian Reparations.

Bulgaria has been accorded a few weeks' grace for her reply to the demands of the Inter-Allied Commission. There has been a certain amount of doubt as to the attitude the Government would take up, but the latest reports suggest that the proposals will be agreed to, not very willingly perhaps, but because it is recognised that this course offers the best hope for the country's reconstruction. It is essential that Bulgaria should obtain loans for railway construction and similar projects, and it is beginning to be realised, our Sofia Correspondent points out, that there is no prospect of financial assistance abroad without the support of the Inter-Allied Commission. The experience of some of their neighbours, who are unhampered by reparations, has no doubt helped to convince them on this point.

Egypt's Trade Position.

Elsewhere will be found particulars of Egypt's trade during the first quarter of this year. There was a large increase in exports and a considerable decrease in imports with the result that the adverse balance of trade for the corresponding period of 1921 of £E.10,447,000 has been turned into a favourable balance of £E.3,339,000. From the financial point of view the decrease in imports is unsatisfactory, our Cairo Correspondent points out, as it means smaller revenue receipts, but on the other hand the alteration in the trade balance means a considerable strengthening of the country's position economically. Whether the present state of things will continue will depend on a number of factors, the most important being the demand for cotton, and as regards imports the extent to which it is necessary to replenish supplies. These and other contingencies make the economic outlook somewhat uncertain.

Egyptian Markets.

While the past year—despite the unsettled position—was a satisfactory one for the Egyptian Markets Ltd., the chairman, Lieut.-Colonel A. St. John Cooke, D.S.O., made it clear in his speech at the general meeting that the current year has commenced under not very favourable conditions. The company has been

suffering, he pointed out, from the attempt organised to boycott British institutions and goods; and at one time as many as 48 of their markets were closed for varying periods of time. "At the beginning of this month we were informed," he added, "that all of these, with the exception of six, had resumed business, to the great relief of the bulk of the population and the merchants using our markets. I am glad to say that a telegram has been received this morning which says all markets have now come in except Shandawil, so that that is better than we had really anticipated." The effect of the boycott was a diminution of receipts up to May 13 of £8,175, but Colonel Cooke expressed the hope that this deficit would be reduced before the close of the year.

The Trade Outlook.

The trade position at the present time does not admit of easy generalisation. There is beyond question an improvement, but it is not universal, and while some trades are able to report a better demand abroad, others have the opposite story to tell. Definite success at Genoa would have been quickly reflected in the trade returns, and the moderate results of that conference will, it may be feared, leave commerce much where it was. Trade can only flourish where there is unmitigated confidence, and that there cannot be until it is established beyond a peradventure that the world is really settling down again after the disturbing effects of war. As it is, the tendency is to take no risks, and to wait on events. In other words, traders in all countries are looking to the politicians, and on their capacity to effect a settlement of outstanding questions depends the development of commerce and the solution of the problem of the exchanges. Perhaps what was impossible in the atmosphere of Genoa will prove more possible of accomplishment in the more practical surroundings of The Hague. It is profoundly to be hoped so, for the world, as I have pointed out before, is not in a position to endure indefinitely a state of economic stagnation. That way obvious dangers lie, and it is in the interests of all that the path of trade endeavour should be reopened at the earliest possible moment.

Commentator.

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REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

EGYPT.

Cairo, May 20.

Improved Economic Position.

From the purely economic point of view the statistics of the foreign trade of Egypt for the month of March just published show a marked improvement. The total imports for the first quarter of the year amount to L.E. 10,496,000, which is L.E. 8,900,000 less than at the same date in 1921. Exports amounted to L.E. 12,500,000 as against L.E. 6,500,000 and re-exports to L.E. 1,335,000 as against L.E. 2,403,000. There is, therefore, a trade balance of L.E. 3,339,000 in favour of Egypt as compared with an adverse one of L.E. 10,447,000 at the end of the first quarter of 1921. From the purely financial point of view as far as the Ministry of Finance is concerned this state of affairs is bad, as owing to the very much higher tariff on imports the large decrease in their value means a diminution in revenue receipts but as far as the economic position of the country is concerned the readjustment of the trade balance is a healthy sign.

Under imports the most important decreases were in meat, wheat, and wheat flour (of which 1,100 tons and 31,000 tons respectively were imported as against 36,000 tons and 112,000 tons in the first quarter of 1921); petroleum and oil-fuel, which decreased considerably in value but increased in quantity; coal and worked-iron and steel. The most important increase was in cotton textiles, which jumped from L.E. 1,400,000 to L.E. 1,900,000, and increased very considerably in quantity. (The items in which the greatest increases were registered were cotton piece-goods dyed in the piece and cotton piece-goods bleached).

Under exports eggs showed a marked increase as also did onions, cotton-seed, cotton-cake and, of course, cotton, which doubled in value and increased by 50 per cent. in quantity, a little over one-and-a-half million cantars being exported in the period.

The United Kingdom somewhat increased her share of imports, while those of the United States of America and Argentina showed a remarkable decrease owing to the falling off in wheat and wheat flour purchases. There was a slight contraction in the U.K. share of exports due to a smaller proportion of cotton purchases but the U.K. still takes the major share although the U.S.A. by comparison had a greater increase in its purchases.

Trade between Egypt and the Sudan was much reduced, imports into Egypt falling from L.E. 290,000 to L.E. 197,000 and exports to the Sudan from L.E. 740,000 to L.E. 391,000. The main causes of the decrease in imports into Egypt was a falling off in the cattle and a decrease in cereals, while sugar, flour and cotton piece goods were in the main responsible for the reduction in exports to the Sudan.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Belgrade, May 19.

Loan Negotiations.

The loan offer of Harington's and Blair's groups has been altered. The Americans are not content with 8 per cent. per annum, and demand a further 12 per cent. commission on all purchases effected in the United States. As it is stipulated in the contract that 70 per cent. of the gross value of the loan has to be spent in buying in the open market in America, it does not take long to see what this means. The verbal promise to keep the offer firm until the arrival of the Finance Minister was cancelled by some newly arrived delegate of the group.

A slight change in the situation may again be expected since a new group is making a more favourable offer. Colonel Kratz, representing some Canadian-American

group, is offering 100 million dollars at the issue rate of 87 at 7 per cent. interest per annum, the net amount being payable in cash. It is proposed that the loan should be secured on the Yugoslav River Syndicate and Monopolies, but that the group's representation on the boards of directors should only be in an advisory capacity.

The prolongation of the negotiations is having a very bad effect both on trade and the exchange. The tendency is still to unload stocks, but less so than before; while as regards the exchange everything is brought to a standstill, both sellers and buyers being equally afraid of any considerable transactions.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, May 17.

Reparations.

It is reported that the Inter-Allied Commission have granted the Bulgarian Government until June 30 to reply regarding Reparations. The Sobranje will be convoked on June 1, and as the Agrarian Congress will then have been held, the Government will have the whole of June to put into force the conventions demanded by the Inter-Allied Commission. This is assuming that the Government will accept the Commission's proposals. The indications lead one to believe that they will do so. They are gradually realising that without the support of the Inter-Allied Commission they will not be able to obtain a foreign loan. As soon as foreign bankers see that Bulgaria is going to behave sensibly it is possible that money for railway construction and other useful work may be found.

A Sugar Concession.

It is announced that a concession for starting a sugar factory at Provedia, a town near Varna, has been granted to Mr. Burt-Andrews.

Sofia, May 22.

Reparations.

The Inter-Allied Commission have just informed the Government that the Reparations Commission at Paris have agreed to grant a delay until July 20 for the reply regarding Bulgaria's Reparation payments during 1922. Needless to say this news has been received with much gratification. The Sobranje will be convoked on June 1, which will give ample time for discussion of the Commission's Note. Meanwhile the Commission are considering the question of the fiduciary circulation and also the new tariff charges.

Trade on the Danube.

A month ago the Austrian Danubian Shipping Company restored their transport service. Loads of merchandise not exceeding a wagon will be carried from Vienna as far as Rustchuk.

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The Economic Resources of Palestine.

III.—THE COUNTRY'S POTENTIALITIES.

By LEONARD STEIN.*

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An attempt has been made to sketch the economic situation exactly as it is, and the resulting picture is by no means impressive. It would, on the other hand, be a profound mistake to draw hasty inferences from a superficial examination of what are, in reality, transient phenomena. The present economic development of Palestine is far from being the measure of its economic resources. For a variety of reasons, many of which have already been alluded to, those resources remain largely untapped. To-day, however, Palestine is entering upon a new stage in its economic history. The dead hand of Ottoman misgovernment has been replaced by an enlightened and progressive Administration under British auspices. That fortunate change has been accompanied by what is at least equally important—the concentration upon Palestine of Jewish idealism, energy, and capital in a degree disproportionate to the intrinsic merits of the country from the purely economic point of view. Those merits are in themselves not negligible; and, supported by what may be called imaginative finance, the resources of Palestine may now be expected to be developed with more than normal completeness and rapidity.

The present agricultural production of Palestine is, as has been seen, comparatively small. But a glance at the recent report of the Government Director of Agriculture will show that of about two million hectares available for arable cultivation, the total area under annual cropping is only about half a million hectares. In other words, nearly seventy-five per cent. of the cultivable area is at most half-cultivated. This is partly due to the shortage of ploughing cattle, as a result of ruthless requisitioning during the war. But even if the cattle were restored to their normal numbers the uncultivated area would still remain a very large percentage of the whole. This view is fully confirmed by the recent report of the Official Land Commission, which showed that of the State Lands, Tribal Lands, and large estates, a very considerable proportion are quite inadequately utilized.

It should, moreover, be understood that these reports refer solely to Western Palestine. Gilead and Moab, with their healthy climate, their well-watered and fertile soil and their scanty population have a far greater future than all Western Palestine put together.

Nor, again, should it be forgotten that even the cultivated area is, as a rule, cultivated on a minimum scale. The experience of the Jewish and German Colonies has proved, as has already been shown, what can be achieved by irrigation, by fertilization, and by the use of agricultural machinery. These Colonies are, it is true, for the most part in the more favoured districts. It would be rash to assume that what is possible in the Plain of Sharon is equally possible on the stony hills of Judaea. Nevertheless, just as dry-farming has re-claimed the barren wastes of Tunis, so there is no reason why, under scientific cultivation, extensive areas in Palestine, which at present yield next to nothing, should not become vastly more productive than they are.

What is true of the plains and in part of the hills is also true of the Jordan Valley. The sub-tropical climate of the valley and its moist soil make it suitable for a number of commercial crops. Promising experiments have already been made in the cultivation of cotton and tobacco; and there are possibilities in sugar, and flax, as well as in maize, rice, and dates. So far from being utilized, the soil has hitherto been allowed very largely to run to waste and to lose itself in swamps. Drainage will not only add appreciably to the productive area but will also tend to render it habitable by extirpating

malaria. Work of this kind has already been done on a small scale near Beisan where the construction of two canals at a cost of £E.3,000 has drained a pestilential swamp and converted it into some hundreds of acres of fertile soil.

What is true of cereals and commercial crops is also true of fruit, vegetables and flowers, which Palestine is capable of growing in great variety and profusion. Fruit-preserving, tomato-canning, and the extraction of essential oils are industries which it should be possible to develop and for which a market could be found in Egypt and the Eastern Mediterranean. It has been found, moreover, as the result of experiments now in progress, that the Indian silk-worm thrives in Palestine, and the efforts which are being made to introduce the silk industry seem not unlikely to succeed.

The mineral resources of Palestine, with one important exception, to which reference will be made in a moment, appear to be inconsiderable. Even where minerals exist, it is in most cases doubtful whether they are present in payable quantities. There is, for practical purposes, neither coal nor iron. There are, however, traces of other minerals, some of which may prove to be worth exploitation. Near Es Salt, in Transjordan, there are asphalt deposits estimated at 144,000 tons. In the same area are phosphate beds, estimated at 150,000 tons, with a content of from 50 to 70 per cent. Again the waters of the Dead Sea show appreciable traces of bromide and potassium salts. They also contain magnesium salts in considerable quantities. A typical analysis of water lifted from a depth of 1,100 feet shows nearly 15 per cent. of magnesium chloride. There is rock-salt at the south-western extremity of the Dead Sea, and preparations are being made for the exploitation of another series of salt deposits near Haifa.

To the general poverty of Palestine in mineral resources the one possible exception is oil. In the neighbourhood of the Egyptian frontier, south-west of the Dead Sea, and finally on the opposite side of the Jordan Valley, the presence of oil is suspected. At the outbreak of war the Standard Oil Company was about to begin boring to the south of Hebron. These operations had to be suspended during the war. Further researches are now to be undertaken by the Standard Oil Company and other interested parties in various parts of Palestine; and should oil be found in substantial quantities, the economic future of the country will, for better or for worse, be very materially affected.

Whether Palestine has any great industrial future is doubtful. The existing manufactures are, as already seen, few in number and comparatively small in scale. The olive-oil and soap industry might be developed by the introduction of hydraulic presses, and certain agricultural industries might be introduced.

Fruit-preserving and vegetable-canning have already been mentioned. Similarly, the introduction of sugar and tobacco will naturally tend to be followed by the establishment of sugar-refineries and tobacco-factories. So, too, the increase of the cereal production will encourage the development of a milling industry. Palestine is at present in the paradoxical position of exporting Hauran wheat through Haifa and importing flour. A flour-mill on a large scale is already being built by Jewish enterprise at Haifa and is likely to be followed by others.

In the absence of coal, iron, and raw materials of primary importance in general, the development of large-scale industry in Palestine is improbable.

On the other hand, Jewish immigration, bringing with it capital, skilled labour, and a demand for goods and services on the European standard may be expected, in conjunction with the awakening enterprise of the non-Jewish population, to provide the foundation for a number of minor and local industries.

* This article contains the substance of a lecture delivered recently at the London School of Economics with certain modifications.

The developments outlined above are likely, in due course, largely to increase the economic importance of Palestine, not only as producer, but as consumer. Its ultimate demands cannot be foreseen but its requirements in the near future may well make it a market worthy of some attention. In addition to the cotton goods and food-stuffs at present imported, which will continue for some time to be in demand, a number of other commodities are likely to be called for shortly, as the economic development of the country proceeds. These include, in particular building materials, chemical manures, agricultural machinery, window-glass, motor transport, hardware and box-wood for the orange trade.

Two of the most valuable natural endowments of Palestine have designedly been left to the last—its hydro-electric resources and the Port of Haifa.

The economic future of Palestine depends largely on the use that is made of the falls of the Jordan and its tributaries and of the River Yarmuk, which flows into the Jordan from the east, to the south of Lake Tiberias. The rivers of Palestine, if fully utilized, are estimated to be capable of providing it with as much as one million h.p. of regulated energy and with sufficient water for the irrigation of a million and a quarter acres of land.

These are not mere visions. A scheme for the harnessing of these streams has been fully worked out by competent engineers. A concession has been applied for and obtained for the generation of electrical power, for its distribution throughout the country, and for the use of the surplus water for irrigation. The project will be executed by stages; and the first stage is likely to be begun within the course of the next few months.

Its effect on the economic future of Palestine is certain and self-evident. The provision of cheap and abundant electrical power will make possible an industrial development which would be wholly unattainable without it. It will not indeed make Palestine a manufacturing country in the Western sense; but it will vastly facilitate the development of local industries, including those connected with agriculture, and will give Palestine an appreciable advantage over most of its competitors in the Near East. On the other hand, in collecting water now running to waste and making it available for irrigation, it will replace the natural moisture, the loss of which has contributed so largely to the degeneration of Palestine during the past 2,000 years.

The other great natural endowment of Palestine is the Port of Haifa. If the economic future of Palestine is to be appreciated, it must be looked at, not only as a producer, but as an *entrepot* and an intermediary between Europe and Asia. Situated as it is half-way down the coast of the Eastern Mediterranean, on the highroad between Egypt and Syria, and with the vast hinterland of Transjordan and Mesopotamia at its back, Palestine has exceptional facilities for securing access to the expanding markets of the Near and Middle East.

For the trade of those markets the natural gateway is the Port of Haifa. The Bay of Acre, at the southern end of which it lies under the shelter of Carmel, has a shore-length of 13 miles. It is already the terminus of railways converging upon it from the south and east, and connecting it, not only with Egypt, Syria, and Arabia, but also—*via* Damascus and Aleppo—with the Baghdad Line and the vast hinterland it serves. The facilities at present available are rudimentary. The execution of harbour-works was, however, foreshadowed by the High Commissioner in his inaugural speech of July 7, 1920, and is not likely to be indefinitely delayed. Meanwhile, the more fully developed rivals of Haifa to the north are in a position to steal a march upon it; nor, indeed, could it in any event, hope for a monopoly in face of the competition of Beyrout and Tripoli.

Nevertheless, the natural advantages of Haifa are such that, coupled with the settlement of an enterprising and progressive population, they cannot fail in due course to give Palestine a pre-eminent place in the expanding *entrepot* trade of the Eastern markets, and to make it the terminus of the pipe-line which will one day carry westwards the output of the Persian and Mesopotamian oil-fields.

It will be seen from what has been said that while on the one hand Palestine is not without valuable resources of its own, it is, on the other hand, not so richly endowed by nature that it can attain a vigorous economic life of its own momentum. The full development of its potentialities will demand exceptional devotion and energy. There is, fortunately, reason to hope that these will be forthcoming. The presence of a British Administration and the release of Palestine from Turkish misgovernment will in themselves put new heart into its people. To this must be added what is the characteristic feature of the new régime—the concentration upon Palestine of Jewish idealism and enterprise in the conviction that its development is, for the Jews, the translocation of spiritual values into terms of economic reconstruction.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ..	Piastres to £....	97½	97.15-32
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	108.100½
Belgrade ..	Dinars to £	25.22½	307-315
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	1210-1260
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3.11-16-1.3½
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3.11-16-1.3½
Brussels.....	Francs to £	25.22½	52.50-52.70
Bucharest ..	Lei to £	25.22½	640-670
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	670-690
New York....	Dollars to £	4.86 2/3	4.43½-4.44½
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	48.55-48.80
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	228-233
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	84.00-85.00
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	580-610
Teheran	Krans to £	50	51½
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	44.500-48.000
Warsaw	Marks to £	20.43	17.500-18.500

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British Consular Reports.

II. BUNDAR ABBAS.

(Concluded)

IMPROVEMENT IN IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

We give below some further extracts from the report on the trade and commerce of Bundar Abbas for the Persian year ended March 20, 1921, by H.M. Consul at Bundar Abbas, Mr. A. W. Fagan, I.C.S. :—

The main routes to Kerman are three, namely in Sirjan, Baft, and Jiruft. The South Persia Rifles authorities undertook the construction of a motor-road between Bundar Abbas and Kerman by the Sirjan route, but the work was abandoned when nearing completion and the sections of road completed are now fast falling into disrepair. The presence of troops on this road has led merchants to utilize it from considerations of safety, but it is normally the least favoured of the three routes owing to its length, the roughness of the earlier stages and the proximity of the robber tribes of Fars. The Baft route, the shortest and the roughest of the three, has been protected by *tufangchis*, Rifle men paid by the South Persia Rifles, and is the road most generally used by caravans. It is also the post road between Bundar Abbas and Kerman and the post mules do the journey in 10 days on an average. The telegraph line to Kerman follows this route, and telephonic communication is possible departmentally as far as Baft (at a distance of about 180 miles). The Jiruft road is longer, but not quite so steep as the Baft road. It is unguarded, but is farther removed from the haunts of the marauders from South-East Fars.

Trade.

The period of the war was one of unparalleled prosperity for Bundar Abbas. The closing of the Bushire-Shiraz road by the lawless tribes of Tangistan and Fars made Bundar Abbas practically the only gate of South Persia, while the presence of British Indian troops and the formation of the South Persia Rifles served to maintain comparative security on the main routes to the interior, a most necessary condition in the development of local trade. Low rates of foreign exchange prevailed, which benefited the Indian importer enormously, and of which he took the fullest advantage. The telegraph line between Bundar Abbas and Kerman was completed in 1917 and a branch of the Imperial Bank of Persia under a European manager was opened in 1918, and both these factors have materially contributed to the prosperity and development of the trade of Bundar Abbas.

The statistics for the year under review (1920-1921) show the total imports as more than treble those of 1913-1914, and the total exports as more than double the total exports of that year. The total imports for 1920-1921 are less however by about 13 per cent. than those of 1918-1919, and by about 19 per cent. than those of 1919-1920, while the exports show a steady increase every year. The first two quarters of 1920-1921 were very prosperous, but were succeeded by a period of depression which culminated in a financial crisis at the end of 1920. The crisis appears to have been caused partly by the general economic depression all over the world, partly by the rise in the rate of exchange, and partly by the fact that the market had been heavily overstocked.

Imports and Exports.

The following is a brief summary of main articles imported and exported :—

Imports. German beer has been replaced by British and Japanese beer, but the former seems to be more popular. Both are mainly imported from India and the returns of the last three years show an enormous increase on those for 1913-1914. There has been a big increase in brandy, rum, and whisky since 1913-1914, and 1920-1921 shows an advance on the two previous years. Imports are divided between India and the United Kingdom in the ratio of 2 to 1. There is a large increase on the 1913-1914 figures for wheat and flour, but much less was imported in 1920-1921 than in the two preceding years. This is partly due to a good harvest in the country and partly to the control of exports from India, grain being sold for export in Karachi only in limited quantities and only to holders of licences. The local supply is primarily supplemented from the Bushire district. Sugar, both loaf and soft, has been imported in far greater quantities than in 1913-1914, and 1920-1921 shows an advance on 1918-1919 and 1919-1920. The market has now been over-

stocked and the consequent fall in prices has hit the importers very hard. Eighty per cent. of the loaf sugar comes from India 7 per cent. from Belgium, and the remainder from Egypt and the United Kingdom, 95 per cent. of the soft sugar comes from India and 5 per cent. from Java.

Cotton piece-goods form 41 per cent. of the total imports for the year under review. The figures for 1920-1921 show an increase of 300 per cent. on those of 1913-1914, but a decrease of 19 per cent. on 1918-1919 and of 45 per cent. on 1919-1920. Ninety per cent. of the total is shown as coming from India, while the return for the United Kingdom in 1920-1921 is about 1-74 of that for 1913-1914, 1-93 of that for 1918-1919, and $\frac{1}{4}$ of that for 1919-1920. About 2-3 of these goods were probably manufactured in the United Kingdom, but purchased from India, and the remainder are mainly of Indian manufacture with perhaps a very small proportion made in Japan and America.

A very great decrease is shown in the imports of yarn and twist of the past three years as compared with those of 1913-1914, and the reason for this seems to be the slump in the carpet trade during the war, and the consequent accumulation of stocks for export. The importation of silk and silk piece-goods has increased greatly in 1919-1920 and 1920-1921. The increase in the importation of mercery and hardware is due to the assimilation of European tastes and customs among the better classes and the consequent growth of a more modern pattern of shop. There is a great increase in the import of tobacco, both manufactured and unmanufactured, but the returns for the former now exceed those for the latter, which was previously more in demand.

Exports. The only products of the Bundar Abbas district, which are exported, are dates and henna, which come mainly from the Minab district on the eastern borders of the Bundar Abbas area. Statistics show a very great increase in the export of dates, the amount being almost equally divided between Oman and India, and in 1920-1921 represented 10 per cent. of the total exports. Henna (classified under dyes, colours and paints) also shows a very substantial increase, the largest quantity in the last two years being exported to Mesopotamia, with Oman and India ranking second and third respectively. Carpets formed 31 per cent. of the total exports in 1920-1921, and are manufactured almost exclusively in Kerman. Other exports are almonds and pistachios from the Sirjan district, representing 7 per cent. of the total exports in 1920-1921, Assafoetida from Lar 9 per cent., gum Tragacanth from Sirjan and Yezd 5 per cent. and raw cotton from Kerman and Rudbar 3 per cent. All these commodities show a very great increase during the past two years.

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

PORT SAID NOTES.

The Dredger "Ronaldshay."

(From Our Own Correspondent).

Port Said, May 15.

The magnificent liner Empress of Canada passed through the Canal last week on her way to the Far East, and residents in Egypt are only sorry that she will not come through regularly, as it would go some way towards solving the problem of getting home and out again. She is over 22,000 tons gross with a length of 627 feet and a breadth of 78 feet. She is one of the finest looking steamers that has been seen in the port for many a long day, and in spite of her great size she transited the Canal in perfect safety and in something under average time.

A few days ago a floating object came into the harbour which would have made a good subject for a guessing competition. She turned out to be the dredger Ronaldshay, destined for Calcutta for use in extending the canal system of the Gangetic basin. She appears as if three separate hulls were joined together and underneath are six powerful circular cutters which will eat into practically anything, and between each pair of cutters there is a suction pipe, which draws up the loosened debris into a cistern aboard, from where it is discharged over the quarters in two flexible pipes to the shore, so that not only does she eat a channel but throws up banks on each side as she goes along. The contract specification was that she should cut a channel fifty feet wide and ten feet deep and excavate four thousand tons an hour. However, on her trials she did the extraordinary performance of throwing up ten thousand tons per hour, upon which result the designers and builders deserve the highest congratulations. For propulsive purposes she has three propellers, and is also fitted with three rudders working in unison.

Every pioneer ship has a sentimental, if no other, interest, and the advent of the oil-tank Paul Paix last week was an interesting occasion, for she was the first ship to be built on the Isherwood system of construction. At her launch there was much shaking of heads, and much prophesying that she would immediately break her back. However she is still going strong, and the system is now well established in the engineering world. The only thing that can be said against the ships is that they do not stand torpedoing as well as the ships built on the old conventional lines. However, we hope that that contingency will be a negligible one for many years to come.

The only man-o'-war at present in port is H.M.S. Seraph. H.M.S. Caradoc having left for Alexandria, and according to latest reports is not expected to return here.

Yesterday the City of Auckland homeward bound, got ashore in the harbour for several hours owing to the non-functioning of her steering gear. She was however refloated with the aid of the Canal Company's powerful tug Titan. It is not anticipated that there is any serious damage.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

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

Anchor Line.—S.s. Vindelia for Bombay (Liverpool, June 3).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Maidan for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, June 6); s.s. Manipur for Calcutta (Birkenhead, June 10); s.s. Maihar for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, June 20); s.s. Manaar for Calcutta (Birkenhead, June 22); s.s. Malancha for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 1); s.s. Malakuta for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, July 4).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Warwickshire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, June 7); s.s. Arracan for Rangoon (Middlesbrough, June 10); s.s. Leicestershire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, June 21).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Monroe for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (Birkenhead, June 1); s.s. Clan Macmillan for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, June 12).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Brescia for Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Ancona, Venice, Trieste, Fiume and Gravosa (Swansea, June 13).

Ellerman Line.—S.s. Gerano for Gibraltar, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas and Varna (Liverpool, June 16); s.s. Flaminian for Gibraltar, Melilla, Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, June 21); s.s. Andalusian for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Ancona, Venice and Trieste (Liverpool, June 22).

Ellerman's "City" Line.—S.s. City of Cairo for Calcutta (Birkenhead, June 1); s.s. City of York for Calcutta (Birkenhead, June 15); s.s. City of Baroda for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 1).

Ellerman's "Hall" Line.—S.s. City of Karachi for Bombay, Karachi and the Punjab (Liverpool, June 15).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—Steamers sail fortnightly for Malta, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz and Braila.

Glen Line.—S.s. Glenshane for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, June 1); s.s. Pembrokehire for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, June 15); s.s. Glenade for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, June 29).

Harrison Line.—S.s. Huntsman for Calcutta (Liverpool, June 15).

Henderson Line.—S.s. Amarapoor for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, June 14).

Holt Line.—S.s. Jason for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, June 1); s.s. Mentor for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Swansea, June 8); s.s. Titan for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, June 15).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Pomaron, to be renamed Wraymore, for Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza and Sulina (Liverpool, June 3); s.s. Cundall, to be renamed Willowmore, for Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, June 3); s.s. Incemore for Piraeus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, July 5).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. Malatian for Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, June 7).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Mantua for Bombay (London, June 2); s.s. Nyanza for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, June 16); s.s. Kaiser-I-Hind for Bombay (London, June 16); s.s. Novara for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, June 29); s.s. China for Bombay (London, July 14).

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. Mandala for Bombay and Karachi (London, June 2); s.s. Warfield for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, June 10); s.s. Nevasa for Bombay and Karachi (London, June 16); s.s. Morvada for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, June 23); s.s. Mantola for Bombay and Karachi (London, June 30).

Prince Line.—S.s. Black Prince for Tunis, Malta and Alexandria (Manchester, June 3); s.s. Syrian Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Syria and Cyprus (London, June 8); s.s. Sailor Prince for Tunis, Malta and Alexandria (Manchester, June 17); s.s. Tudor Prince for Malta and Alexandria (London, June 28).

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PASSENGER SAILING DATES—

CIRCASSIA, JUNE 23.

OLYMPIA, JULY 18.

CASTALIA, AUG. 9.

SCINDIA, AUG. 22

MASSALIA, SEPT. 8.

ELYSIA, SEPT. 20.

CIRCASSIA, OCT. 20.

OLYMPIA, NOV. 7.

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Engineering Topics.

By Our Engineering Representative.

A Useful Cable Rack.

An accessory which is in considerable demand in all situations where electric power is being used on a large scale, and where it is frequently necessary to change the directions of the cables, as during temporary pumping or mining work, is a cable rack which can be easily fixed in place, quickly fitted with the cable supports, and as quickly dismantled and removed. The usual rough and ready plan is to sling the cables by means of rope or raw hide from any convenient support, but this plan is not to be recommended, and, where the labour is unskilled, it may lead to very serious trouble. A new form of rack has just been placed on the market by a leading British firm of electrical engineers which not only presents many advantages but has the added merit of being comparatively cheap. It consists of a back plate which can be fixed to any stone, brick, or wooden wall or partition, or can be spiked to a rock face. It is fitted with a central groove and a series of indentations, and for use with it a number of stout iron hooks of the removeable type are supplied. These can be dropped into place or taken away without the slightest trouble, and mention may be made of the fact that the racks are made for holding from two to six circuits of cables, ranging in cross-sectional area from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 inches. The arrangement is stout, substantial, and to be thoroughly recommended.

Fuel Alcohol.

Considerably greater attention will have to be paid by British motor car manufacturers, especially those engaged in the production of engines and carburettors, to the need of markets abroad, ranging from those of the Near East to Australia and New Zealand. Information to hand from the United States, Cuba and several parts of Central America goes to show that there is a considerably increased production of power alcohol, coupled with a remarkable reduction in its price, and at the moment it is obtainable in quantities in many districts at a much lower price than petrol. It is startling to note that the United States has already made provision for this development and that motor cars are being sold in many markets with the necessary adjustments made for running on ordinary alcohol. Advertisements are appearing shewing that these American cars will give perfect satisfaction with the new fuel, and there is no doubt that unless our manufacturers follow suit we shall again be left behind in the race for commercial supremacy, whether the venue be the Balkans, or the Argentine. Our makers seem a little disposed to regard power alcohol as very much of a dream as a fuel, but so far from this being the case it may be mentioned that in one comparatively small district alone it is selling at the rate of 600,000 gallons per month for motor car use. Unfortunately in this country there has been a prejudice against its introduction; reports of various committees have declared against it chiefly on the ground that the raw material could be put to some use as food stuffs and as a result we trouble very little about alcohol and its wonderful possibilities.

A New Alcohol Report.

The interim report of the sub-section of the Empire Motor Fuels Committee is interesting although it covers much ground previously traversed. A leading engineering paper says it contains "some highly important information relating to the use of alcohol as a fuel for internal combustion engines." But what important information is still wanted? We know motor cars, motor boats, motor cycles, all internal combustion engines of that type will run perfectly well on alcohol; we may be academically concerned with the question of how it can be used most efficiently, what compression ratio is best, and a host of trivialities like that. But the real thing is that the engines will run on the fuel

and if we waste much more time in talk and reports the American cars will have obtained a firm footing on the market because they are being advertised as "the cars that will run on power alcohol." That's the whole point. Our development of engines, carburettors, fuel practice is as advanced as the American, and yet we make no advantage of it, preferring to waste precious time in waiting for reports which will contain valuable information. The only valuable information we need worry about is that the Americans are exploiting the new fuel and we are not.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

India General Navigation.

The report of the India General Navigation and Railway Company for 1921 states that owing to political unrest in India culminating in the strike which completely disorganised the company's steamer services for six weeks in June and July, and to the general trade depression coupled with the enhanced cost of running the fleet the surplus in India was insufficient to provide the usual depreciation. In view of the large sums placed to reserve in recent years for such emergencies, the directors consider it right to draw upon the reserves to meet the deficiency. Accordingly £50,000 has been transferred from the reserve towards the depreciation for the year, while £10,000 has also been transferred from amounts specially set aside to provide for accumulated repairs to reduce exceptionally heavy charges under this head during the year. After making these adjustments there is the credit balance of £19,446, making with £26,139 brought in £45,584. The directors have transferred to the Debenture sinking fund £3,500, and recommend a dividend on ordinary shares of 4 per cent., carrying forward £10,210. Rupee items in the balance-sheet have been readjusted from 2s. to 1s. 4d. per rupee, the present position of exchange giving no justification for retaining the higher figure. £22,532 2s. 9d. has been transferred from the fleet replacement reserve to write down the unduly heavy cost of recent additions to the fleet, and this reserve will be further drawn upon during the current year to write down other vessels at present under construction.

Oriental Telephone.

The net profit of the Oriental Telephone and Electric Company for 1921 was £49,227, plus £10,492 brought in, making £59,719. The directors recommend a final dividend of 6 per cent., free of tax, on Ordinary shares, making a 10 per cent. bonus of 2 per cent., free of tax on Ordinary shares, transfer to depreciation and general reserve £10,000, to staff pension fund £2,000, carrying forward £9,991. To meet the renewed demand for expenditure on capital account, unavoidably deferred on account of the war, holding of Government securities, which was accumulated to provide for such contingency, has been realised for £136,702, showing a surplus of over £5,000. The Government of India has now decided definitely not to purchase undertakings of the company and its subsidiaries in India in 1923. The Government has now decided to grant a security of tenure to companies until March 1943.

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Stock and Share Markets.

QUIET AND DULL TONE.

Business Restricted.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Tuesday morning.

We have had another quiet week in the markets. The reversion to pre-war conditions has so far had little effect on the volume of business. Many holders, as I have pointed out, do not propose to give carrying over facilities, though very possibly this attitude would undergo modification if and when conditions generally approximate to those before the war. There has been a little business in options, but the rates quoted have been far from attractive, and would have to come down considerably before there is any great tendency to take advantage of them.

Adverse Factors.

Apart from these new facilities there is nothing to induce activity in these days, and it is not surprising in the circumstances that a rather dull tone should be in evidence. One factor that has adversely affected the markets during the week has been the failure to negotiate a settlement of the engineering dispute. The Prime Minister's speech on Genoa was more reassuring as regards the European situation though the position at the best is not one calculated to inspire overwhelming confidence. On the other hand Ireland has again become a very pronounced bear factor in the markets, and the uncertainty with regard to developments there has undoubtedly affected business.

The Prospects.

In prevailing conditions it would be futile to expect any activity in the markets as a whole. Buoyancy there must be here and there, whatever the position, as the result of what may be termed local circumstances, as for instance, at the present time in regard to Home Rails. But for the resumption of the general upward movement we must await an improvement in the situation. With the European position clearer and with a settlement in Ireland (if such a thing be possible) then the markets should go ahead again.

Turning to new issues it is worth noting the Straits Settlements loan, to which I referred last week, has met with almost the same fate as the New South Wales Loan, over 90 per cent. being left with the underwriters. Evidently investors want more than $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for their money, even if the issue is made at 95. It will be interesting to see how far the terms of the next loan that comes along reflects the results attending these two issues. I shall be surprised if rather more favourable terms are not offered.

Gilt-Edged Dull.

Gilt-edged have been affected by the prevailing conditions, and, generally speaking, a rather dull tone has been in evidence. Consols at $57\frac{1}{2}$ are 1-8 lower, the Conversion Loan, exceptionally, is $\frac{1}{4}$ up at $77\frac{1}{4}$, while War Loan Fives are unchanged at 99.11-16. Indian stocks have shown a harder tendency. The Seven per cent. loan has gained $\frac{1}{2}$ at 115 $\frac{1}{4}$, the $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. loan is $\frac{1}{4}$ up at 69 $\frac{1}{4}$, while the 3 per cent. loan is $\frac{3}{4}$ up at 58 $\frac{1}{2}$.

A staidier tendency has obtained in the foreign group, and in many cases price movements have favoured holders. French stocks have improved, with War Loan Fives $\frac{3}{4}$ up at 43 $\frac{1}{2}$. German 3 per cents. have been strong and close at 2.5-8, a rise of 5-8. Italian Rentes are unchanged at 24 $\frac{1}{2}$. Russians have again been a dull spot, the 4 per cents. being 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ down at 7, the $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cents. a point down at 11, while the 5 per cents. are unchanged at 15. Czecho-Slovak 8 per cents. were, exceptionally, rather dull, and are 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ discount. Brazilians have been offered. Peruvian Corporation issues have again been in strong request, the Ordinary going to 4 $\frac{3}{4}$, while the Preference are up to 27. Chinese securities have made a better showing. The 5 per cent. of 1913 are 75 $\frac{1}{2}$, while the 1896 issue stands at 91 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Industrials Inactive.

Once again the Industrial Market has been inclined to stagnancy. Business has been on a very restricted scale, and the tone generally has been unsettled. The uncertainty as to the general course of trade is having an important influence, while the engineering dispute, is, of course, having an effect. If the conditions abroad suggested the imminence of a real revival of trade no one would have any reason to complain of inactive markets.

Textiles have been fairly steady. Coats are 1-32 down at 3.5-32, while Courtaulds are 1s. up at 51s. 3d. Tobaccos have been firm. Bats are unchanged at 79s., while Imperial Tobaccos are 3d. down at 59s. 9d. Dunlops have sharply risen to 9s. 6d. on the news of the appointment of Sir Eric Geddes as a director. Iron and Steel securities have inclined to irregularity. Vickers are unchanged at 11s. 6d., Armstrongs are 6d. down at 16s., while Guest Keens have shed 3d. at 34s. Indian railways have continued to present a firm appearance.

Shipping securities have been fairly steady. P. and O. Deferred are unchanged at 320. Cunards remain at 21s. 6d., while Furness Withys are 3d. down at 29s. 9d.

Oils Quiet.

A rather quiet tone has prevailed in the Oil market. There has been little or no attempt to take advantage of the new regulations. The fact is, I think, that investors are somewhat uncertain as to the course of the market at present, and consequently intend to hold aloof until the position is clearer. Burmahs are 5 $\frac{1}{4}$, a decline of 3-16, while Anglo-Persian Ord are 1-16 down at 4.11-16. Mexican Eagles are 3.13-32, a drop of 5-32. Trinidad issues have been weaker. Apex are 2.1-8, at which they are 3-16 lower. Centrals are also 3-16 down at 2-1-8, while Leaseholds are 1-16 lower at 1.3-16.

Among Egyptians Anglo-Egyptian B. are unchanged at 1.11-16, while Oilfields of Egypt remain at 6s. 6d. In the Roumanian group Phoenix are 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. down at 28s. 3d., Steaua Romanas are 3d. lower at 13s., Roumanian Consolidated are 1s. up at 17s. 6d., while Dacia Romanos are 1.1-8.

ENQUIRY BUREAU.

Merchants, etc., may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau," "The Near East," 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2." It must be understood that "The Near East" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.

116. Import Merchants in Adana, Cilicia, Asia Minor, wish to represent British firms for any kind of British-made goods. Own account and commission basis. Good references provided. Send catalogues and samples with prices and terms.

117. Importer in Roumania, interested in Jute trade, wishes to get in touch with firms dealing in sacks, new and old Dundee, and Calcutta makes.

121. Exporter of Greek Ores in Athens, especially of purest quality Magnesite and Chromite wishes to be connected with interested British Firms.

122. Merchant in Galatz, Roumania, wishes to enter into business relations with British firms willing to ship goods on consignment terms. Guarantees by Leading Banks given. Full details on application. Correspondence in French.

123. Import and Export Merchant in Beyrout (Syria) invites correspondence with British firms. General Merchandise. Will act as agent, commission basis, or own account.

124. Solicitor in Zagreb, Croatia, open to act for British firms requiring legal assistance in Yugoslavia. Correspondence conducted in French, German, Italian and Croatian.

125. A firm of British Merchants and Commission Agents in Liverpool desire to extend their connections in the Near East for General Merchandise.

126. Confectionery. British firm of manufacturers extending their export trade in best quality confectionery suitable for sub-tropical climates will supply details to enquiries from overseas buyers.

127. A Firm exporting all kinds of Metals and other merchandise to Egypt and India would like to get in touch with Importers in the Near East of similar goods.

128. General Commission Agent and Merchant in Cairo, Egypt, open to represent British manufacturers and merchants on commission. Can also export all kinds of Egyptian products.

Cotton & Cotton Goods.

MANCHESTER MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Friday.

Compared with a fortnight ago the market has been distinctly quieter, and, generally speaking, buyers have been in no hurry to commit themselves to any lines of importance. Perhaps, however, it is too much to hope for buying to be maintained on the recent level, and the difficulty which is being experienced in arranging fresh contracts has been partly owing to the firmer prices and as a result of many producers requiring longer delivery terms. Spinners and manufacturers, however, are striving to consolidate their position, and there is no doubt that a stiffer front is being presented to buyers than was the case some eight weeks ago. Reports from the spinning and weaving centres indicate that more machinery is now running, and unemployment naturally has been reduced to a considerable extent. Enterprise to a certain extent is being restricted by the financial stringency which is not yet overcome. In the cloth section some steady buying has been recorded for the outlets of the Near East, but on the whole the turnover has not been large. Recent advices from Egypt, however, have read more cheerfully, and leading shippers are of the opinion that the trade position will gradually improve. Yarns made from Egyptian cotton have been firm in quotation, and a moderate trade has been done chiefly in finer counts. An interesting feature has been the improvement in the amount of inquiry for China, but so far no real buying movement has commenced. Less inquiry has been about for India, and scattered transactions have been arranged in light cloths and shirtings for Madras, Karachi and Bombay. Calcutta has been extremely quiet. Fancies have been in request for the Continent and South America. Home trade goods have moved off better. Trading in American counts has not been important, and prices have been fairly well held. Demand has been met with in export numbers for the Continent.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

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

The past week has not altogether fulfilled the promise displayed by the previous two or three. The enquiry has run on much the same lines as usual, attention being chiefly focussed on the grades Good Fair to Fully Good Fair in Sakellaridis and Uppers, with Sudan cotton not far behind in popularity. The futures markets have displayed rather an uncertain tendency during the week, which has been reflected to a more or less extent on the spot, where a considerable range of prices has been apparent, particularly during the last day or two, when cotton has changed hands freely at anything between a $\frac{1}{4}$ d. and 1d. below the official quotations, the easing off in the enquiry and the less favourable Manchester reports causing certain holders to press their cotton for sale. Nevertheless, the market, on the whole, remains very steady, and whilst there has been no disposition hurriedly to advance prices, there seems no likelihood at the moment of any serious decline. Alexandria is the sensitive spot at the moment, but even if there is a temporary cessation of buying over here, the moral effect of the Government behind the market in Egypt will probably suffice to hold prices there until the trade resumes buying. After all, spinners have been buying fairly well for several weeks now, and it seems a reasonable supposition that a pause should be made to enable buyers and sellers to adjust themselves to the altered conditions. Throughout the trade, the seller is trying to better his position and to obtain a more profitable basis for his sales, and signs are not wanting that he is, to an extent, succeeding. Naturally, after such a long period of stagnation, the buyer is slow to respond, and every advance has to be fought for. Under such conditions, progress cannot be made at a breakneck speed; rather it is a matter for congratulation that a trade recovery of such substantial dimensions has so far been made.

Manchester reports have continued to be optimistic, and all without exception, speak of the firm tone prevalent in trade circles. To-day, however, the markets there are reported to be "less active." As we have endeavoured to explain above, this

is not to be wondered at, and should give no cause for despondency. India is not yet replete with goods, and China has, as yet, hardly begun to buy. Taking a broad view, we look to the immediate future with confidence. A "boom" is not likely—and it is not desired, but barring real crop scares, we look for a succession of steady, busy, markets. C.i.f. business has shown some improvement. Total sales 4,300 (includes 1,550 Sudan). Quotations of F.G.F. and below in all qualities are raised 25 points on the week. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 18.75d.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Commercial Co. of Egypt in their report for the week ended May 12 state :—

The continued firmness of the New York market and the slightly improved demand from spinners have hardly influenced our futures market, which has kept during the whole week at about the same level of prices, with a negligible amount of business passing. The factors which have been keeping our market so dull of late have repeatedly been mentioned in these reports—the actual heavy stocks and the poor prospects of seeing them reduced to any great extent by trade takings before the new crop is available. Of course, with American cotton worth 20 cents and the Egyptian Government ready to buy in case of a break, a much lower level of prices than the one registered at present can hardly be expected, but, on the other hand, higher prices cannot be looked for before a substantial reduction takes place in existing supplies.

Total sales amount this week to about 8,000 bales; of this total we estimate 6,600 bales Sakellaridis, 1,200 bales Uppers, 50 bales White, 100 bales Brown, 50 bales Pilon. The Government has not been in the market this week. Arrivals from the Interior show a considerable decrease owing to the carter's strike.

Reports from the Interior this week indicate favourable climatic conditions, with about normal progress of the crop. The report on the state of the river for April, 1922, has just been issued by the Hydrological Service and mentions that there is no indication at present of any improvement in the water supply; all the gauges show figures not only considerably below the normal for the last 15 years but also for those of 1914, which year is considered as one of the worst on record.

In their report for the week ended May 19 the Commercial Co of Egypt state :—

Since our last report, the market has been fairly active, with a somewhat larger turnover: the tone has been rather firm. The better feeling which has prevailed during the week is due to the large daily spot sales here and in Liverpool which is generally taken as an indication of a revival in the trade in Lancashire. Reports from England do certainly make better reading, and it is to be hoped that the slight improvement in trade is going to be something more than the "spurts" we have from time to time experienced during the last two years. The Government have maintained their decision not to follow the advance; they have not bought a bale during the past week.

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Actual cotton is, in general, well held, and with the knowledge that the Government are ready to step in to prevent a break, holders are not in a hurry to part with their cotton.

Total sales amount this week to about 13,400 bales; of this total we estimate 10,000 bales Sakellaris, 3,000 bales Uppers, 300 bales Brown, 100 bales White. There has been a considerably increased demand during the week and with this and the rise in futures, sellers have become more difficult to deal with, practically all the cotton held being free.

Crop 1922: The plant is progressing normally and few complaints are heard. The night temperatures have been rather lower than desirable, but no damage seems to have resulted.

Water is short, but the shortage at the present time is not a very serious matter. The upper Nile gauges have commenced to show some slight improvement but it is too late to have any effect on the summer supply in the Delta and the prospects of scarcity in July are very real.

MANCHESTER COTTON REVIEW.

The Imperial Ottoman Bank report for the week ended May 27 states:—

An accurate description of the market during the past week would probably be "dull though steady." With a fair volume of business booked during the preceding weeks both spinners and manufacturers have been in a better position to maintain their firm stand against unsatisfactory offers. It now remains to be seen whether this more independent attitude will induce enquirers to increase their bids, and on this point opinion cannot be said to be unanimous.

Yarn.—The yarn market has been much quieter, but the tone remains very firm. Spinners seem in no mind to yield any ground in the matter of prices, and actual business has been to a large extent held up in consequence.

Cloth.—Many merchants assert that India continues to buy quietly in small lots, but it is difficult to hear of any big lines going through. Here, again, producers are trying for better prices, and the tussle between buyers and sellers continues. China is said to be picking up small lots, but there is a feeling that considerably more business is in the background and that slightly lower quotations would result in actual orders. Manufacturers will no doubt maintain their stiff attitude if it is backed up by steadiness, or further improvement, in the raw

material (and consequently in yarns), but it is difficult to see how they could keep up the present semblance of independence if quotations for the raw staple fail to support them. Very little is mentioned of purchases for Egypt, the Levant, South America, and other minor markets.

Raw Cotton.—The market has see-sawed during the last few days, but the week closes with a "bullish" feeling in evidence based on the weather reports from America and their influence on the new crop, backed up by purchases of fairly large quantities, both for immediate and future delivery, of cotton that is going into actual consumption. Closing prices are as follows:—American Fully Middling, 11.84d., Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 18.75d.

OIL NOTES AND NEWS.

Roumania's Lack of Transport Facilities.

Roumania's oil production is the subject of the following comments in the current issue of the monthly circular of the Imperial Ottoman Bank:—

Abundant sources of supply still continue to be tapped, and a new drilling has met with great success, giving about 80 wagons per day continuously. Again the shortage of transport facilities and especially of tank trucks is seriously hindering what should be a splendid element of export. In some cases the new wells have produced quantities of petroleum that cannot be stored, and it has become necessary to erect dykes of earth and sand round the adjacent countryside to prevent the supply from escaping. The petroleum and its residues exported to-day amount approximately to about half the quantity that was exported before the war, but, with improved facilities and adequate supplies of storage tanks, tank trucks, and tank barges, this would quickly be remedied. A move has already been made in this direction, as France and Germany are arranging to supply a number of railway tank trucks.

Oil Concessions in Iraq.

In answer to questions by Lieut.-Commander Kenworthy in the House of Commons on May 23, Mr. Churchill stated that no concessions in respect of oil in Iraq had been granted since the British occupation.

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PAID-UP CAPITAL £9,003,718	RESERV - - - - - 9,003,718

(31st DECEMBER, 1921.)

Current, Deposit and other Accounts - - - - -	£317,655,838
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COMPANY MEETINGS.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

The annual general meeting of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., was held on May 24 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Lieut.-Colonel A. St. John Cooke, D.S.O. (Chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. F. R. Parker) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman, in the course of his speech in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that since they last met in May, 1921, Egypt had passed through another stormy and troubled period, both politically and commercially, but he was thankful to say that this company has successfully weathered the storm, and, notwithstanding all adverse conditions, had not only held its own, but showed results which most advantageously compared with previous years.

As they would have seen by reference to the trading account, the earnings amounted to the record figure of £113,402, the highest previous record being for the year ended December 31, 1920, when they reached £102,314. That improvement was largely due to the increased tariff charges in the cattle markets, which operated during the whole of the year 1921, as against some 7½ months in 1920.

At the last general meeting in May, 1921, they were informed there was no reason to fear that the company's business would be in any way affected by the disturbances which were then occurring in Cairo and Alexandria. This, he was glad to say, proved to be the case, but minor disturbances had since arisen in the districts, and since the close of the company's financial year these culminated in an attempt, organised by political extremists, to boycott British institutions and goods.

As a result of this they had been subjected to a boycott of their markets. In many instances the boycotting was peaceably carried out, but in others it was accompanied by intimidation and violence towards their employees by the turbulent and rougher element, egged on by extremists. At one time as many as 48 of their markets, both cattle and general, were affected for varying periods of time. At the beginning of this month they were informed that all of these, with the exception of six, had resumed business, to the great relief of the bulk of the population and the merchants using their markets. He was glad to say that a telegram has been received that morning, which said: "All markets have now come in excepting Shandawil," so that that was better than they had really anticipated.

He could not speak too highly of the loyalty and courage of the inspectors and sub-inspectors of their markets in some of the disturbed districts, who, notwithstanding that their lives were in very considerable danger from antagonistic mobs, carried out their duties to the company in a most praiseworthy manner. The effect of the boycott was shown in the diminution in receipts as compared with the previous year. From January 1 to May 13, 1922, this had aggregated £8,175, but they hoped that before the close of the current year this deficit would be reduced.

The general consensus of opinion was that normal conditions of trade were slowly reappearing, but this had not yet, so far as they were concerned, evidenced itself to any noticeable extent.

He would like to say a few words regarding Major W. I. le Breton. He joined the Board in 1904, nearly 18 years ago, and for more than nine years of that time he had served as their Chairman. During the whole of the period of his connection with the company he had given, without stint, of his best. Many and serious difficulties had arisen which he had successfully grappled with and overcome.

Years ago he expressed his desire to take the step which had now through ill-health been forced upon him, and they, his co-directors, urged him—some of them making it a personal matter—to continue at least until the termination of the war. This he reluctantly did and had at great sacrifice of health and with unremitting care and attention more than carried out his agreement. He had been daily at the company's offices, and no expenditure of time nor sacrifice of personal convenience was too great if there was work to be done in their interests. The strain and anxiety of the war period it was needless for him to dwell upon, but results spoke louder than words, and he would remind them that during the whole of that terrible period the revenues of the company were so well maintained as to enable the regular payment of 10 per cent. per annum on the Ordinary shares, which under all the circumstances was an accomplishment to be proud of. In the last ten years they had been repaid in dividends more than the whole of their capital.

Substantial shareholders had, he was glad to say, recognised their indebtedness to Major W. I. le Breton, and were proposing to submit for their sanction a resolution authorising that as a small recognition of his services a sum of money be voted to him.

The report and accounts were carried unanimously, the proposed dividends were agreed to, and the retiring directors were re-elected.

Mr. M. L. Evans then moved a resolution in connection with Major le Breton's services to the company, proposing that the sum of £1,000 free of income tax should be voted to him. Mr. H. M. Holman seconded the resolution which was carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks to the chairman and directors and the staff, proposed by Colonel Westropp and seconded by Mr. Holman, was unanimously accorded, and after a brief acknowledgment by the Chairman, the meeting terminated.

SUN INSURANCE OFFICE.

Fair Profits in Spite of Trade Depression.

The annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Sun Insurance Office was held on May 30 at 63, Threadneedle Street, the chairman, the Hon. Sir William H. Goschen, K.B.E., presiding.

The chairman stated that, as had been anticipated at the last annual meeting, the results for 1921 were adversely affected by the general trade depression throughout the world and were less favourable than those of 1920.

If their operations in 1921 did not reach the high standard of 1920 he hoped that they would nevertheless look upon the report and the accounts which were being submitted to them as satisfactory under the circumstances. If he applied another and perhaps sounder criterion to the work of the year and compared their record with that of other British companies, he could fairly say that that record was a favourable one.

If the shareholders cared to extract the figures from the accounts before them they would find that, exclusive of the marine section, the underwriting balance of which was being retained entirely in the marine account, the two remaining categories, the fire section and the accident group, had produced credit balances on the underwriting, i.e., leaving out the interest earnings—of £187,256. As this worked out at rather over 7 per cent. on the premiums of the year he ventured to think that it was a satisfactory percentage for a period which in general had given but a poor harvest of profit to insurance companies.

The fire premiums were £2,199,041, a reduction of £171,948 as compared with 1920. The decrease was entirely in consequence of reduced stocks, reduced values and reduced foreign exchange. The loss ratio was 52.3 per cent. and an amount was carried forward to profit and loss account of £225,059.

He thought they had probably realized, in the course of their study of insurance accounts, that a reduction in premium income in any particular year in itself usually implied a rise in loss ratio, for the year had to bear claims that followed naturally in larger measure the larger business of the immediately preceding year. A loss ratio of 52.3 per cent. for 1921 under such circumstances was perhaps lower than they might have expected. The expenses were high, and this was in part because of the reduced premium revenue. The taxes they had had to meet on the business in various countries had been higher in 1921 than they were in 1920, the premiums of which were better able to bear them. He reminded them that it was not merely in this country that the heavy incidence of taxation resulting from the war continued to be a heavy burden on their industry.

If the three sections of accident business were grouped together it would be observed that there was a fair increase in premiums over those of 1920. The office continued to open out new areas for the cultivation of accident business, and new classes. The loss ratio of 39.5 per cent. compared with 37.4 per cent. in 1920. The underwriting credit balance of the accident department although not quite so good as 1920, was very satisfactory, as would be seen from the fact that a total amount of £55,135 was carried into profit and loss account.

The premiums of the first full year of the marine department were £103,625, an amount which might have been much larger but it had been preferred to build on solid foundations in the hope and expectation that the marine business would in due time make a substantial contribution to the profits of the office. The entire trading balance of the marine operations was carried forward, the interest receipts alone being passed to profit and loss.

Allocations amounting in all to £75,000 had been made from profit and loss respectively to the marine fund, contingency reserve, and pension fund.

He had not been able to speak to them of the past year's trading with unalloyed gratification, although he had wished to convey to them that he thought they had reason to be not dissatisfied with the year's. In many past years their justifiable pleasure in more imposing profits than those of the account now before them had been tempered by the fact that they had to write down more or less substantial sums for depreciation of their investments.

The shareholders no doubt would have been pleased to see that there had been no necessity on this occasion to write down the value of the securities. As a matter of fact the value of the Stock Exchange securities was at December 31 considerably higher than the book value as revealed in the balance sheet, and since the closing of the accounts there had been a further substantial appreciation.

Before he concluded, he would like, on behalf of the board, to pay his tribute to the excellence of the work that had been done by the management and the staff.

He would have them realize that the work of a great insurance office tended to become more and more complex, and required closer and closer study on the part of all connected with it, but he was happy to say that they continued to find the right men to fill the important positions.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

The following extracts are taken from a recent report of the Imperial Ottoman Bank:—

Constantinople, May 20.

The situation here has not improved despite the approach of the Bairam holidays which each year impart a certain liveliness to business.

Manufactures.—Some sales of cabots for the Black Sea have taken place and also of some seasonable articles for local consumption. Prices remain unchanged.

Sugar.—There has been no change in the market. Java has commenced to offer the new crop, for June,--July shipment at £19½ per ton. In view of the abundance of the crop it is believed that the prices will fall lower. Prices quoted here are below those of centres of origin because of the lack of outlets. Quotations:—American, £20½ per ton, in transit; Dutch £22 per ton; in Customs £25-26 per 100 kilos.

Coffee.—A marked setback which has taken place at Rio has influenced prices in this market where they are now 3s. below those in centres of origin.

Rice.—There is a certain amount of demand, and prices in consequence are higher by Ps. 1 per oke.

ROUMANIAN CONSOLIDATED OILFIELDS, LIMITED.

The following telegram has been received from Ploesti:—"Well No. 104 Stavropo-leos-Moreni struck oil at 898 metres. Made powerful flow of sand and oil. Now shut in. Making additional preparations for handling oil." This well is in close proximity to Phoenix No. 5 and in the same fountain-source.

Production (April 30 to May 13) 1,122 tons. Metres drilled 203 (665 ft.). Development work:—Moreni Well No. 44: drilled 5 metres to 841 metres. Well No. 51: erecting derrick. Well No. 61: drilled 46 metres to 680 metres; preparing to insert 12½ inch collared pipe. Well No. 83: depth 738 metres; pulling 12½ inch casing with hydraulic jacks. Well No. 101: rigging up. Well No. 102: drilled 52 metres to 377 metres; reaming before insertion of 14 inch casing. Well No. 104: drilled 18 metres to 885 metres (as reported by cable, this well struck the fountain-source at 898 metres on May 24 with 8 inch casing, and is now clean after a powerful first flow of sand and oil). Well No. 106: drilled 74 metres to 140 metres. Gura Ocnitei Well No. 4: depth 706 metres. Fishing for bit. Chiciura Well No. 10: depth 620 metres; several more pieces of iron have been extracted and well is now believed to be clear; starting to drill into oil. Aricesi Well No. 5: depth 119 metres; 18 inch casing extracted. Well No. 6: drilled 8 metres to 31 metres.

Following the introduction of modern methods salt production in Greece rose to 7,000 tons last year, as compared with 58,000 tons in 1920. The country is now independent of salt imports and hopes to produce 80,000 tons this year.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

FOUNDED 1863.

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

CONSTANTINOPLE.

L. STEEG, Director-General.

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

Messrs. P. REDON, Director
B. KERESTEDJIAN } Sub-Directors.
J. UNGAR }

DJEVIAD BEY.
HAMID BEY.
NOURY BEY.

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

LONDON.

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E. W. H. BARRY.
THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH,
C.M.G.
THE EARL OF CHICHESTER, O.B.E.
SIR W. GUY GRANET.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I.,
K.B.E., C.I.E.
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LAWRENCE, K.C.B.
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE
K.P., P.C.
Lieut.-Col. SIR ALBERT STERN,
K.B.E., C.M.G.

PARIS.

LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE, C.V.O
JEAN BOISSONNAS.
CHARLES DE CERJAT.
HORACE FINALY.
GEORGES HEINE.
ARSENE HENRY, G.C.V.O.
BARON HENRI HOTTINGUER
RAOUL MALLET.
LE COMTE FREDERIC
PILLET-WILL
FELIX VERNES.

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

Manager: E. W. H. BARRY.

Assistant Manager and Secretary: C. E. L. CORTHORN.

Assistant Manager and Deputy Secretary: R. S. C. PEARCE.

Assistant Manager: W. P. SHEPPARD.

MANCHESTER:
56-60, Cross Street.

PARIS:
7, Rue Meyerbeer.

MARSEILLES:
41-43, Rue Grignan

CONSTANTINOPLE.

(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

EGYPT.
Alexandria.
Cairo,
Mansourah,
Minieh.
Port Said.

PALESTINE.
Jerusalem.
Jaffa.
Caiffa.
Ramallah.
Bethlehem.

CYPRUS.
Famagusta.
Larnaca.
Limassol.
Nicosia.
Paphos.

PERSIA:
Hamadan.
Kermanshah.

MESOPOTAMIA
Ashar.
Baghdad:
Bassorah.
Mossoul.

SALONICA. SMYRNA. TUNIS.

SYRIA.

(Banque de Syrie—Affiliated Bank).

Aleppo.
Alexandretta.
Beyrout.

Damascus.
Hamah.
Homs.

Saida.
Tripoli.
Zahle.

The Bank has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

Dra'ts and telegraphic transfers issued. Letters of Credit granted.

Exchange and Merchandise operations effected.

Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Phenomenal demand for Lemons.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Monday Evening.

Sugar.—Home refined has been in good demand at the usual rates. Tate's cubes and mineral water sugar have gone back to their recent prices at 53s. 6d. and 48s. 9d. respectively. London granulated has gained 3d. at 48s. 3d. as also Lyle's granulated at 48s. 6d. Export descriptions have been steady. West Indian crystallized has been firm at 42s. 6d., while White Mauritius has shed 3d. at 44s. 3d. Cane sugar quotations are:—May, 15s. 6d.; June, 15s. 6d.; August, 15s. 3d.; and September, 15s. 0d., White sugar quotations are:—May, 21s.; June, 21s.; August, 20s. 10½; September, 20s. 10½d.; and October-December, 20s. 3d.

Coffee.—A steady tone has prevailed. East Indian is unchanged at 120s., Costa Rica is firm at 118s., and Nairobi is steady at 108s. The futures market has been firm. Quotations are:—May, 65s.; July, 63s.; September, 62s. 6d.; and December, 60s.

Dessicated Coconut.—There is still a large falling off in business and quotations for shipment have shown a slight decline.

Rice.—The demand has not been so great as last week's, but the market has been firm, and a slight advance in prices is to be noted.

Green Fruit.—The orange market is still retaining its strength, and the demand has been exceptional for the time of the year. Many shipments are now afloat, the condition of which is said to be good. The present heat wave has caused a phenomenal demand for lemons. Merchants are paying very high prices to obtain this fruit, and the outlook is far from satisfactory, a further increase in prices being anticipated with future arrivals. More confidence is now being felt with regard to apples. The condition has shown signs of further improvement on last week's arrivals. Egyptian onions are going entirely out of favour and the market is light.

Oilseeds.—Prices have declined. Indian linseed has shed 6d. at 21s. 3d., while La Plata is steady at 19s. 9d. Rapeseed is lower with Toria 3d. down at 19s. Cottonseed has declined with Indian 3d. down at 9s., while Egyptian black is firm at 12s. 7½d. Sakellarides has shed 9d. at 11s. 10½d.

Oils.—There has been a steady tendency all round. Linseed oil has shed eighteenpence at 44s. Rape oil has been a steady feature with crude at 45s., and refined at 48s. Cotton oil shows no change. Egyptian crude is unaltered at 43s., refined, 49s., deodorized, 54s., and technical, 44s.

Oilcakes.—There has been a decline of 10s. in all cases. Linseed cake is now 290s. ton. Cottonmeal cake is quoted at 270s. ton; cottonseed cake at 170s. ton, and coconut cake at 150s. ton.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated May 22:—

Condition of crops.—May 18—In Punjab, conditions are favourable for sowings of irrigated cotton. Bombay, May 19—New crops in Karnatak decidedly improved by good rain. Bihar and Orissa, May 20—Rain last week greatly improved jute prospects in Purnea. Assam, May 22—Prospects of tea, autumn rice and outturn of spring rice fair. Markets.—May 18—Bombay cotton market steady. Fine M.G. Oomras Rs. 4.25 May, Rs. 4.42 July. Bombay cotton arrivals from September 1 to May 13, were 2,755,000 bales as compared with 2,052,000 bales during the same period of the last year. May 19—Calcutta jute market firm with sellers very steady. Firsts Rs. 75, Lightnings Rs. 66. May 20—Hessians fully steady and rates calm, though advanced jerkily during the week. Heavies fully steady. Calcutta, May 19—T.N. Rs. 180. Demands weak, and prices tend to fall. Rangoon, May 19—Big mills special Straits quality rice, Rs. 520.

No change in bank rates.

ASIA MINOR FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended May 13:—

The total estimated arrivals of sultanias to date amount to 172,490 bags, the sales are 169,490 bags, and the estimated stocks unsold amount to 3,000 bags.

Markets.—Sultanias—The market remains strong. Prices in local currency are unchanged, but sterling equivalents are 2s. or 3s. down on last week's level owing to improved exchange rates. Stocks are gradually narrowing down, and the end of the season is approaching owing to the exhaustion of supplies. The new crop is favourably reported on. The vines are carrying more fruit than last year, and on present prospects a larger yield may be realised.

Figs.—Reports on the condition of the trees are contradictory. Some concern appears to be entertained owing to the male trees shedding their fruit which affects the fructification of the female trees.

CURRENT PRICES.

General Produce.—Bacon: (Continental), 140s. cwt.; (Canadian), 135s. cwt.; (American), 99s. cwt.; butter (Danish), 128s. cwt.; (Australian), 159s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 173s. cwt.; cheese (Canadian) 84s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 173s. cwt.; lard 73s. cwt.; eggs (Danish), 14s. 10½d per 120; (Styrian), 10s. 9d. per 120; chillies, 162s. 6d. cwt.; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 2½d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon good to fine), 87s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 125s. cwt.; (East Indian), 125s. cwt.; (Central American), 104s. cwt.; (Jamaica), 69s. 9d. cwt.; (Mocha Longberry), 105s. cwt.; (Santos superior), 69s. 6d. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochint), 50s. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 11½d. lb.; pepper (Singapore black), 4d. lb.; (Muntok white), 7½d. lb.; pimento, 2 1-8d. lb.; raisins (Valencia), 55s. cwt.; sultanias (Smyrna), 119s. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 71s. 6d. cwt.; (Amalias), 59s. cwt.; sugar (Tates cubes), 52s. 9d. cwt.; (Lyle's granulated), 48s. 1½d. cwt.; (Mauritius crystals), 44s. 3d. cwt.; (West Indian crystallised), 42s. 1½d. cwt.; (centrifugal), 14s. 9d. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 2d. lb.; rice (Rangoon No. 2), 14s. 3d. cwt.; (bran Rangoon), £6 8s. 9d. ton; cinnamon (firsts), 11½d. lb.; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 6½d. lb.; tea (Indian, common to good common), 1s. 1½d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 6d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 7½d. lb.; Ceylon (common to good common), 1s. 2d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 6d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 7½d. lb.; Java (common to good common), 10½d. lb.; wheat (English white), 58s. 6d. qr.; wheat (Australian), 61s. 3d. qr.; oats (English), 36s. qr.; oats (La Plata, ex-ship), 26s. 3d. qr.; maize (La Plata), 39s. 1½d. qr.; flour 47s. sack.

Chemicals.—Acids: Boric 61s. cwt.; oxalic, 8½d. lb.; citric, 2s. 3d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 3½d. lb.; ammonia (sulphate) £16 11s. 6d. ton; arsenic, (white powdered), £35 5s. ton; benzole (standard), 2s. 5½d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £13 15s. ton; borax crystals, 29s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 118s. 9d. cwt.; Potassium: Bichromate, 6½d. lb.; chlorate, 4½d. lb.; caustic, £33 10s. ton; nitrate, £37 10s. ton; permanganate, 9½d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 1½d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £15 5s. ton; Sodium: Crystals, 130s. ton; bi-carbonate, £11 5s. ton; bi-chromate, 3d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £9 1s. 3d. ton; chlorate, 3½d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £23 ton; hyposulphite, £16 ton; prussiate, 9½d. lb.; nitrate, £15 1s. 3d. ton; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £60 ton; glycerine (industrial 1260 per cent.), £87 10s. ton; lemon oil, 3s. 6½d. lb.; quinine, 2s. 10½d. oz.; red

"QUALITY AND FLAVOUR"

**BOURNVILLE
COCOA**

MADE UNDER IDEAL CONDITIONS.

SEE THE "Cadbury" ON EVERY PIECE
NAME OF CHOCOLATE.

Specially packed for Export.

Cadbury Bournville, Eng

lead, £36 ton; white lead, £39 10s. ton; white ground lead, £49 15s. ton; sulphate of copper, £27 5s. ton; sulphate of iron, 60s. ton.

Metals.—Aluminium, £122 10s. ton; antimony (English Regulus), £28 ton; bismuth, 9s. lb.; copper (standard) £62 3s. 3d. ton; copper (electro), £68 10s. ton; gold bars, 92s. 11d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 90s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 97s. 6d. ton; galvanized sheets (25 G), £16 ton; lead (soft foreign), £23 11s. 3d. ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 1½d. unit; molybdenite, 130s. unit; nickel, £162 10s. ton; platinum, 360s. oz.; plumbago, £16 ton; quicksilver, £10 17s. 6d. bottle; spelter (G.O.B.), £27 2s. 6d. ton; tin (standard), £152 11s. 3d. ton; wolfram, 10s. 9d. unit; zinc sheets, £35 5s. ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 19s. 1½d. box; silver bars, 36d. oz.

Hides and Skins.—Ox and Heifer (first), 90 lbs. and up, 8½d. lb.; 59 lbs and under, 6½d. lb.; (second), 90 lbs. and up 7d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 6 1-8d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 6½d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 6 1-8d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 5 1-8d. lb.; Cows (first) 60 lbs. and up, 6 7-8d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 5d. lb.; (second), 60 lbs. and up, 5d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 5d. lb.; Bulls (first), 4½d. lb.; (second), 3d. lb.; Kips (first), 4½d. lb.; (second), 3 5-8d. lb.; (third), 3 1-8d. lb.; Calcutta Market. Prices in rupees per 20 lb.—Arsenic hides (cows): Agras, 7 to 12.8; Durbhangas, 6 to 7.8; Patnas, 5 to 6.8. Salted cows: 4 to 7.8. Arsenic hides (buffalo): 4 to 7.8. Skins: Calf, 8 to 10 per 20 lb.; goat, 180 to 220 per 100 pieces.

Miscellaneous.—Cotton (American), 12.11d. lb.; Egyptian (Sakel), 17.75d. lb.; jut. (first grade c.i.f.), £31 ton; jute (lightnings), £28 15s. ton; Oilseeds: Linseed (La Plata), £20 13s. 9d. ton; palm kernals, £17 7s. 6d. ton; castor seed (Bombay), £18 2s. 6d. ton; sesame seed (China), £24 12s. 6d. ton; soya beans, £12 2s. 6d. ton; Oils: Linseed £45 5s. ton; olive (Spanish), £70 ton; rape (crude), £44 10s. ton; soya £40 7s. 6d. ton; petroleum, 1s. 4½d. gallon; petrol, 2s. 1d. gallon; fuel oil (ext-tank), 70s. ton; coconut (Ceylon), £39 12s. 6d. ton; cotton (crude), £42 5s. ton; ground nut £44 15s. ton; Rubber: Plantation (No. 1 Crepe), 7½d. lb.; smoked sheet, 7½d. lb.; fine hard Para, 10½d. lb.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at the 31st March, 1922, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes.

Banking Department.

	L.E.
Share Capital	2,925,000
(300,000 fully paid Shares of £10 each.)	
Reserve Fund:	
Statutory Reserve	1,402,500
Special Reserve	682,500
Current, Deposit and other Accounts	10,904,172
Mixed Tribunals	1,624,798
Egyptian Government	1,973,051
Bankers Accounts	533,845
Cheques and Bills payable	227,038
Sundry other Accounts	526,849

L.E. 20,859,753

Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government	9,374,052
Sundry Securities	253,273
Advances on Merchandise	1,705,795
Advances on Securities	2,158,634
Advances otherwise Secured	353,341
Sundry other Advances	519,727
Bills of Exchange	2,218,411
Local Bills Discounted	219,577
Buildings and Furniture	276,460
Money at call and at short notice	921,375
Bankers Accounts	853,257
Sudan Government	279,154
Sundry other Accounts	129,239
Cash	
Notes	1,288,036
Gold	17,513
Silver, Nickel, etc.	231,909

L.E. 20,859,753

Issue Department.

Notes Issued	33,400,000
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L.E. 33,400,000

Gold	3,339,573
*British Treasury Bills	13,360,427

L.E. 16,700,000

Securities:

Egyptian Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government	426,057
British Treasury Bills and National War Bonds	16,273,343

L.E. 33,400,000

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

TENDERS INVITED.

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

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

Egypt.

Drugs, etc.—The Department of Public Health invite tenders for the supply of drugs required for the period of six months from October 1 next. The tenderer must be a person residing in Egypt or must have a representative in Egypt. June 15, (D.O.T.)

Carbide of Calcium.—Tenders are invited by the Postmaster-General, G.P.O., Alexandria, for the supply of 12½ tons of carbide of calcium. Delivery October 2, 1922. June 15.

Cement.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo Station, invites tenders for the supply of 800 metric tons cement. Copy of the conditions (price 200 millièmes) may be obtained at the Office of the Administration's Inspecting Engineer in London. July 25.

Travelers' blankets.—The Egyptian War Department invite tenders for the supply of travellers' blankets. Particulars can be obtained from the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1. June 2.

Bedford cord.—The Egyptian War Department invite tenders for the supply of Bedford cord. Further particulars can be obtained from the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1. June 5.

Paper, Bristol Board, Mill-board, etc.—The Superintendent of the Government Press, Boulak, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of writing paper for certificates; strong writing paper for certificates; strong writing paper for registers and books; strong writing paper for registers and books coloured; bristol boards coloured; bristol boards coloured for covers; paper for file covers; cream wove paper for forms; coloured paper for forms; mill-board; gummed paper, required for the year 1922-3. Representation by a local resident agent is essential. (D.O.T.) June 20.

Dubbin.—The Egyptian War Department invite tenders for the supply of dubbin. Further particulars can be obtained from the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1. June 10.

Malta.

Stationery.—Tenders are invited for the supply of stationery for the Government of Malta. Sealed tenders (in duplicate) will be received by the Director of Contracts, Malta, up to 10.30 a.m., on June 8. Printed forms of tender may be obtained and samples may be seen at the offices of the Crown Agents or the Colonies (Pattern Room), 4, Millbank, S.W.1.

Bulgaria.

Telephone Accessories.—The Bulgarian Post and Telegraph Authorities invite tenders for the supply of:—1 amp. fuses; cartridge fuses for protection from lightning; 3 amp. fuses; line annunciators; carbon lightning arresters. Tenders must be accompanied by a deposit of 5 per cent. of the total amount and may be submitted for each or all of the items. This call for tenders is identical with the one which was notified on January 18 last, and may, therefore, be a fresh call for tenders in connection with the former contract. June 15. (D.O.T.)

India.

Copper wire, carsake elements, tubs, electric cable and web equipment.—The High Commissioner for India invites tenders, for the supply of:—Wire, copper, for telegraphic purposes, 205 tons; Carsake elements, No. 1, for Leclanche cells, No. 32,000; Tubs, ablation, galvanised iron, No. 8,750; Cable electric, V.I.R. insulated tropical class, single braided, single and twin lead sheathed and twin flex, 200,000 yds.; Web equipment (carriers, cartridge, haversacks, etc.). Further particulars may be obtained from the office of the Director-General, India Store, Department Belvedere Road, Lambeth, S.E. June 9.

EAST INDIAN TEA.

The report of the East India Tea and Produce Company for 1921 states that the tea crop was 2,178,750 lbs. against 2,327,970 lbs. F.o.b. cost 7.66d. per pound, compared with 7.79d. per pound; average net price realised 10.43d. per pound, against 7.12d. per pound. The estimate for 1922 was 2,582,000 lbs., but owing to drought it is doubtful if this estimate will be realised. The profit for the year was £25,581, less Debenture and other interest and Debenture trustees' fees £24,931, leaving a net profit of £650. After adding surplus on taxation the reserve was £4,029, making a total of £4,679, reducing debit balance brought in to £79,439 carried forward.

'BALKAN' NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

FOUNDED 1895

Capital paid up	5,000,000
Total reserves as per December 31st, 1920	53,200,000
Premium Income during 1920	28,300,000
Amounts insured of Life branch exceed	150,000,000
Branches maintained: Fire, Life, Marine, Casualty and Re-insurance of all branches.	

HEAD OFFICE: SOFIA, BULGARIA.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 578—Vol XXI.

THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 1922.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

"The Near East" and the Honours' List.

It is with particular satisfaction, which is not affected by the curious mistake in the biographical details supplied by the Government Department issuing the List, that we find among those upon whom the honour of knighthood has been conferred on the occasion of the King's Birthday the name of one of the proprietors of THE NEAR EAST. Sir Robert Gardiner is not, as stated in the Honours' List, Editor of the paper. We cannot cavil at the further statement that THE NEAR EAST is "a publication much valued in Egypt, Palestine and the East," but, as its *raison d'être* is the promotion of British interests in the Near and Middle East, we shall not be far wrong in seeing behind the recognition accorded to the Chief Proprietor—although well merited on other and personal grounds—an appreciation in Great Britain as well of the value of THE NEAR EAST.

The Asia Minor Inquiry.

Now that the United States has notified its acceptance of the British invitation to be represented on the Commission which is to investigate the treatment of minorities in Asia Minor, it should be possible for the matter to pass from the discussion stage to that of action. As we have already indicated, we see little practical value in the Commission. There is no reason for disbelieving the testimony either of those members of the American Relief Mission who have already given their evidence of Turkish excesses, or of those other members of the same Mission who have brought similar reports of murder, rape and pillage committed by the Greek army in its retreat from Anatolia. These things unfortunately happen in the East and everybody knows that they are inevitable, whenever a war takes place. If the Western Powers wish to stop them, they will not do it by Commissions of Inquiry, but only by calling off the war. They themselves deliberately set the Greeks against the Turks in Asia Minor, and they might just as well say that they did not realize that the combatants would use artillery as complain of the excesses on either side. Of course, the Turks are worse than the Greeks; it would be a monstrous thing if they were not. But why go through the farce of establishing the fact by means of a Commission? While the Allied Governments are discussing the matter, further excesses are taking place. If, on the other hand, they stop the war which they began by means of the Greeks, and have since found themselves unable to continue profitably with Greek

agency or in any other way, there is some ground for supposing that the excesses in Asia Minor will come to an end.

Roumania's Improving Outlook.

The Roumanian Minister of Finance, M. V. Bratiano, has been spending a few days in London on a special mission, and to Pressmen who have interviewed him he has expressed himself in the most optimistic way concerning his country's future. Possibly the optimism may not be entirely unconnected with the reasons for his visit; but in point of fact the outlook for Roumania is distinctly promising. She was hard hit by the War; and though she has added greatly to her territory as a result of the War, the additions have necessarily meant the facing of some fresh problems. But, as M. Bratiano informed one of his interviewers, Roumania is rapidly accomplishing the work of consolidation; her railways, which suffered terribly in the bad times, now suffice for the needs of the national business; and her financial position is better than it was a little while ago. The Budget, which in 1919-1920 showed a deficit of 3,200 million lei, shows this year a deficit of 200 to 300 million lei, and by 1923 revenue will balance expenditure. There is still lost ground to be made up in Roumania as elsewhere, but the improvement is marked, and M. Bratiano's optimism appears to be justified.

The Palestine Power Concession.

In any discussion in the House of Commons on the contract given to Mr. Rutenberg for the development of water-power and the supply of electricity in Palestine it is to be hoped that members will not spoil their case by failure to understand the actual facts. We have seen it argued that "assuming that power supply in Palestine should be dealt with as one undertaking, a concession of this kind ought to have been put out to public tender." But neither the British Government nor the Palestine Government had any views on the subject of power supply in Palestine until this Mr. Rutenberg, who had spent two years in the country investigating the subject under, we believe, the auspices, or with the knowledge of, Sir Alfred Mond and Lord Rothschild, produced an elaborate report and applied for the concession. It was presumably open to anyone else to have studied the matter on the spot; but it would have been difficult for the authorities to have taken Mr. Rutenberg's report and to have said: "We will put up to auction the concession based on your personal investigations and technical experience." At least they must have paid very handsomely for this making use of the report, and

we imagine that neither the Palestine Government nor the British Government was anxious to do this. The mistake that has been made is to have observed reticence on the subject all this time, and then to have allowed Mr. Rutenberg to appear as the exploiter-to-be of Palestine under a British Mandate, when in reality the actual concessionaires will be "official Jewry," to all intents and purposes.

The Murders in Egypt.

A protest made formally by the British Government to the Egyptian Government regarding the murder of Bimbashi Cave met last week with a somewhat mixed reception in Egypt. The Note drew attention to the frequent murders of foreigners and to the inefficiency of the protection afforded them by the Police; and it made it clear that the Egyptian Government will be held responsible for payment of adequate compensation for every foreigner wounded or killed. The Egyptian Government's reply was not entirely satisfactory; for it referred to the crimes as the work of "a handful of criminals," and offered no satisfactory explanation of the increasing daring shown by the murderers, or of the fact that they always escape while other criminals hardly ever do so. The Egyptian Press also showed an inclination to make light of the crimes and to deprecate the payment of fair compensation to the families of the victims. Fortunately, the Egyptian Cabinet appears to have woken to the fact that the matter was not to be airily dismissed. It has agreed to pay fair compensation to the widow of Mr. Aldred Brown (murdered in mid-February); while the Police have been given wider powers, and the inquiry into the murder of Bimbashi Cave is being conducted with more energy. As a result—hardly satisfactory—it has been discovered already that the murder was witnessed by half-a-dozen Egyptians, who kept silence on the subject!

The Troubles of Persia.

The Persian Cabinet crisis to which we alluded a fortnight ago, is still—at the time of writing—in existence. The Mushir ed-Dowleh is reported to have informed his Imperial master that he found it impossible to keep any Cabinet together so long as the Sardar Sipah continued to enact the part of Dictator; and a day or two later he followed this announcement up by tendering his resignation once more. The situation is certainly an uncomfortable one, not to say an undignified one, for any self-respecting Prime Minister, but, without further data to go upon, we do not feel quite certain that Riza Khan's insistence upon keeping his hand on the helm is an entirely bad thing for Persia. The Persians themselves seem unable, even at this serious juncture, to make up their minds what they do want—except entire "freedom" from "interference" by any foreign Power. One Teheran journal remarked lately that there was no difference between aggressive Britain and encroaching Russia; and endeavoured to make its readers' flesh creep by assuring them that any understanding between Mr. Lloyd George and M. Chicherin would spell the doom of Persia! That being so, the journalist who wrote the article must have rejoiced at the ending of the Genoa Conference. And meanwhile Simko, the Kurdish outlaw, amuses himself by harrying the Shah's troops.

Palestine Exploration.

For excellent reasons, archaeological work in Palestine makes a wider and possibly more forceful appeal to the public than similar work in any other country can be expected to do. Presiding at the annual general meeting

of the Palestine Exploration Fund last week, Sir Herbert Samuel paid tribute to the excavations at Askalon, which are now claiming the attention and energies of the society, and expressed a hope that the work would not be hampered by lack of funds. We have expressed a similar hope on more than one occasion, but we make no apology for referring to the subject again; for since Great Britain has made herself responsible for the administration of the Holy Land, there has been what may be conveniently described as a boom in excavations there, and it behoves us to see that the "P.E.F." work is able to hold its own with that now being carried on or shortly to be carried on, by American and French universities and societies. As Mr. Ronald Storrs, Governor of Jerusalem, pointed out on the same occasion, the sites of Palestine are unique in their character; and, as his Chief said, archaeologists have already thrown light on many of the problems of the religions which centre in Palestine. If the nature of the work were more widely known, and its claims more generously recognized, the result would quite certainly be the shedding of more light on the past.

"Talking of Axes."

No exception can justly be taken to the terms of Lord Reading's reply to the economy deputation of the Indian Chambers of Commerce, but his language can scarcely be said to encourage hopes of spectacular results from the work of Lord Inchcape and his colleagues when at last they shall get to business. It is noteworthy that Lord Reading laid stress on the surgical analogy, and his reference "to operation, to cautery, to the letting of blood," recalls the opinion we expressed some months ago that in India the Retrenchment Committee will require a scalpel rather than an axe. There is no doubt that, somehow or other, the next budget must be balanced, and to secure that end all luxuries must be dispensed with, but as a matter of fact the Central Government in India spends very little on luxuries, and some of the most useful departments are actually on the verge of starvation. "Chop off his head" may have attractions as a formula for administrative developments such as Labour Exchanges, but when we examine the Indian budget item by item, we find very little scope for its application, and it is quite possible that so skilful a surgeon as Lord Inchcape may decide that in some cases a more generous diet is the proper treatment.

A Sick Industry.

The position in regard to cotton-growing will illustrate our meaning. The true reason for budget-deficits is the poverty of India. An improvement in the quality of Indian cotton would give an enormous and immediate increase in the national income. Its possibility has been amply demonstrated. Much money has already been spent, and if the return is not yet wholly satisfactory, the reason is that one link in the chain remains to be forged. The Central Cotton Committee is prepared to forge that link at a cost of about £50,000 annually for a term of years, a sum too minute to be noticed in an ordinary budget; but it would not come on the budget at all, because the representatives of the trade are ready to provide it by a cess of fourpence a bale on the cotton handled commercially. One would suppose that in these circumstances the offer would be jumped at by a needy Government. All that has to be done is to provide legal machinery for collecting the cess; but apparently the Bill for this purpose is hung up some-

where, and so bad cotton will continue to be grown instead of good, the national income will not be increased, and the tax-collector will go hungry away.

Its Treatment.

In this case the skilful surgeon has to choose between two courses. He can operate on the budget by cutting off the meagre expenditure now devoted to improvement, or he can prescribe a more generous diet for the patient, it being understood that the patient is ready and willing to pay the cost. If the former course be adopted, the great Indian cotton industry will be maimed, and will continue for an indefinite period to stump the country on its wooden leg, and beg for alms in the form of a protective tariff: the alternative treatment will give India a useful citizen instead of a cripple, and one who will, as time goes on, contribute more and more to the necessities of the country. We have little doubt that so skilful a practitioner as Lord Inchcape would choose the latter alternative, but we trust the Government will not think it necessary to await his opinion on the case: what is wanted now is to pass the Cotton Cess Bill at the summer session of the Indian Legislature, and thus enable the essential work to go forward without further delay.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Monday Evening.

The Whitsun Holiday.

There is no doubt that Whitsun at its best, as it promises to be this year, is the ideal holiday. The lilac and laburnum make the country a pageant of colour, the green is still fresh, and the first roses are peeping shyly through the buds; the days are warm, but there's still a wind on the heath, and the salmon is in the mayonnaise. For the next few days, therefore, we forget the depreciated exchanges, the balance of trade, the rot in the theatre, and even the reparations problem; in the spring the young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of motor-bikes, with love riding pillion behind, and the City is deserted except for the cats and the charwomen.

Foreign Policy.

Mr. Lloyd George announced the Government attitude on German reparations before the House rose for the few days' vacation. It was an excellent speech, clear in matter and restrained in form; but it was noticed that the Prime Minister looked tired and anxious, and the next morning he left for Criccieth. He needs a longer rest than he is likely to get, for the remainder of the session promises to be full of incident. There is no present likelihood, however, that he will have to go abroad again this summer—the Hague Conference is to be confined to business experts—but his attention will be fully taken up with home affairs.

The Irish Situation.

Mr. Winston Churchill made, as was expected, a long and considered summary of the present Irish position; the speech was by common consent the greatest of his career and it definitely stamps him as the most considerable figure in coming politics next to the Prime Minister. He did not attempt to conceal his disappointment at the course of events since the Treaty; his frankness, indeed may not be altogether welcome in some quarters. But his contention was undeniable. He pointed out that the very day after Mr. Griffiths had accused the Republicans of representing a mere two per cent. minority of Irish opinion the Griffiths-Collins Provisional Government concluded a pact with the Republican leaders giving them practical equality in the Parliament and the Government.

Moreover, the Provisional Government have admitted that they are impotent to repress disorder, and on this matter Mr. Churchill's measured words will long be

remembered. "When we are told," he said, "that twenty determined pistoleers can prevent the citizens of a whole county from exercising their constitutional rights, one sees quite clearly to what a low level at the present moment the civic courage and manhood in Ireland must have fallen. However, that is the first reason which is given that a free expression of the public will could not in any circumstances have been obtained at the present time. If the democracy of Britain, of France, of the United States had been of so weak and poor a spirit in regard to the management of their own affairs, the liberties of those nations would never have been attained, or having been attained, would never have been preserved." That utterance will become one of the classics of oratory.

The general position is that disorder has not noticeably decreased in the South in consequence of the pact and in and on the borders of Ulster it has sharply increased. Raids and frontier fighting there in fact show all the indications of the opening of civil war—religious civil war—for it is not altogether a matter of Republicans and Loyalists, but of Catholics and Protestants. British troops are in Ulster at the request of the Northern Government, so that the Republican project of terrorising and destroying the North appears to be hopeless at the outset. It may be added that British opinion is emphatically behind Ulster, and that it is disposed to be distrustful of Mr. Collins, who has proved a weaker man than Mr. de Valera.

English Opinion.

It is necessary to add that these events in Ireland are having a hardening effect on British public opinion which is very disquieting to the Opposition and to Liberal Coalitionists. Anarchy in Ireland has killed Liberalism for a generation, in the opinion of some genuine Liberals; the remedy they advocated has been tried, and has proved worse than the disease.

The follies and weakness of the Irish régime will react on the amount of sympathy for small States in all parts of the world for the time being; it will not, of course, permanently affect public opinion in the case of those States which are proving their stability on the Continent, for opinion here is never fanatical or consciously unfair; but it will tend a little to reduce the flood of enthusiasm for the small State as the small State which has for some time been in evidence. The Irish gunmen are destroying more than they know; they are not only pulling down life and property in their own island, but they are contributing to the ruin of a great political faith.

A Sporting Week.

The warm settled weather seems to have attracted everybody to Epsom except members of the Government, and the House of Commons was very sparsely represented.

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KHARTOUM.

A third favourite won the Derby in Captain Cuttle, and the prophets were all wrong about the second favourite, Pondoland. The going was hard, and the threatened thunderstorm did not materialise. The police arrangements for going down by road were excellent, but the aeroplane that circled over the course advertising a newspaper by emitting smoke clouds was rather a nuisance. If the very heavens are to be used for advertisement, no place will be safe.

The Bottomley Case.

Horatio Bottomley, who was sentenced to seven years penal servitude at the Old Bailey for the conversion of trust funds, was a man whose name is likely to live long even in the annals of roguery. Everybody in the City and West End knew of him, and everybody in politics and journalism suspected his professions of patriotism and religion as cant. The astonishing thing was that the plebs believed in him.

The man had personality and ability; had he been straight he would have made a fortune at the Bar or in business, but there was some moral kink in his nature which seems to have made him love the crooked. He was lucky to have had a long run, for he has been under suspicion many a time this last twenty years; but the spell by which he imposed himself upon the mob is broken.

Capital Punishment.

The poisoner, Armstrong, whose case excited such general interest some weeks ago, was hanged on Wednesday, protesting his innocence to the last. Some laborious statistician has discovered that he was the first lawyer to be hanged in England. It appears that of the various professions, doctors head the list of persons hanged; a parson (the celebrated Dr. Dodd) was executed for forgery a century and a half ago. No journalist has ever been hanged, although many of us murder the King's English every day of our lives.

There has been some discussion again of the old question of capital punishment. Nobody, of course, could say anything in favour of Armstrong, who was a brutal and callous poisoner of a devoted wife, whom he put out of the way in order to get her money and marry again; but some foolish people wrote to the papers deploring that the stigma of having their father hanged should be fixed for life on the man's unhappy children. One may indeed commiserate these poor innocents, who are hardly yet out of the nursery; but the real stigma, of course, resides not in the man being hanged but in his being convicted of the crime. It is curious that the sentimentalist should not see this flaw in his logic.

Two other men awaiting execution have also provided material for this discussion. One, an ex-officer named True who strangled his paramour—apparently a sadist crime—was mentally unbalanced, and his case has again provoked the difficult question of the distinction between medical and legal insanity; in the third case a boy of seventeen is to be hanged. Here the youth of the victim naturally evokes pity, but the circumstances of the case hardly justify pity on any other ground. The boy murdered an old lady in her bed in an hotel; he intended to steal her jewellery in the middle of the night, and

provided himself with a hammer to strike her in case she woke while he was doing so—as in fact she did, when he shattered her head mercilessly. The plea of insanity was not entered in this case; if it had been, and been pleaded successfully, it could have been pleaded in every case of murder.

On the whole I doubt whether the existing law is likely to be changed. Many people are sentenced to death on whom the full penalty is not carried out—juries recommending criminals to mercy when the circumstances justify it, in which case, and occasionally in others, the Home Secretary never refuses to commute the sentence. It is to be noted that the Court of Criminal Appeal, to which every murderer appeals against this sentence, hardly ever interferes. Speaking from memory. I cannot recall a single case in which it has done so.

Another Legal Reform.

A very different kind of legal reform is being carried out in the present session of Parliament; nothing less than a unification of the law of land, which is in a chaotic state, owing to the haphazard way in which successive Parliaments have legislated, repealing part and re-enacting another part of the work of their predecessors. The Bill to deal with the reform is a substantial printed volume, and the debates are so highly technical that hardly anybody except a conveyancing solicitor could make head or tail of them. Out of the fog of words generated by these discussions I gather, or at least I think I gather, that copyhold is to disappear, and other picturesque anachronisms are likewise to go.

I wish they would also make it compulsory for mortgages to be drawn up in simple language, instead of being designedly as obscure as a palimpsest; but probably the whole of the legal profession would reject my proposal as revolutionary, and Lincoln's Inn Fields and county town solicitors, who do business in these deep waters, would condemn me as an utter Bolshevik for so much as hinting at it.

Some Recent Books.

"The Witch-Cult in Western Europe" (Oxford University Press) by M. A. Murray, is an important work. Miss Murray has studied the original records of the witches' confessions at their trials, on the assumption that the witches told the simple truth. This hypothesis yields interesting results. She suggests that witchcraft was in reality a survival of old paganism, and that the witches performed the old heathen rites which Christianity has never been able to suppress. The records of animal sacrifice appear to support her point of view, and I think she makes out her case. The book is likely to become a standard work.

Meredith is not quite everybody's novelist, but a new edition of the collected works which Constable are issuing should bring him within reach of many who have hitherto thought him rather too high-brow for human nature's daily food. As it is thirteen years since he died, the publication of a new popular edition shows that he now takes rank as one of the permanent classics. Personally I am not an ardent Meredithian, but the print, paper, and binding of the new volumes are so attractive that I am rather tempted to buy them. I only wish that somebody would do the same for Conrad.

I suppose that almost as many books have been written about the mystery of the Dauphin who disappeared in French revolutionary days as about the Man in the Iron Mask and Edwin Drood. Each of these books has as a rule some little scrap of evidence but still remains inconclusive, and it was inevitable that sooner or later M. Georges Lenotre, the historian of the Revolution, should turn his attention to the subject. "The Dauphin (Louis XVII); The Mystery of the Temple" (Heinemann) is the result. It is a careful study of all the evidence, and is of absorbing interest.

A very curious and interesting book is "Greek Medicine in Rome" (Macmillan) by Sir T. Clifford Allbutt. The title hardly indicates the full scope of the work, which is an original contribution to histories that will hardly be superseded.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

From Our Own Correspondents.

EGYPT.

Cairo, May 26.

The Constitution Commission.

The work of the Sub-Committee of the Constitution Commission has come to an end, and it handed its report to the Plenary Body before the departure to Europe of the President, His Excellency Sir Hussein Rushdi Pasha. The plenary Commission will review the report during the next couple of months, and it is hoped that the elections will take place in October. The general opinion, however, is that it will not be possible to have everything in readiness before the end of the year.

The most prominent question is the representation of minorities. In the Legislative Assembly a minimum number of seats was guaranteed to them, principally to the Copts, and the principle of safeguarding the interests of the religious minorities has always been recognised by the reservation of one seat for an Egyptian Christian in every Cabinet. The proposal to provide a similar guarantee in the new Chamber of Deputies for the Copts and the other minorities, which have come into existence in Egypt as a result of the War, has been strongly resisted by the Moslem majority. Their contention has been that the nation has been united in its fight for independence and that any such provision in the Constitution would at once imply that it was no longer united. A further argument has been that as Great Britain in her declaration of February 28 reserved to herself the protection of minorities the fact that the elements hitherto recognised as minorities did not now require the constitutional guarantees enjoyed by them in the past would mean that those minorities no longer existed as such, and one further excuse for Great Britain to intervene in the affairs of Egypt would thereby be removed.

A keen controversy is now going on in the vernacular press on the subject, in which quite a number of Copts have intervened on the side of non-representation of minorities. The chief champion of the minorities is Tewfik Bey Doss, a Coptic lawyer, and one of the ablest members of the Egyptian Bar, who has been carrying on a courageous struggle both within and without the Commission. That so many Copts, should stand for non-representation may cause some surprise, but the real reason is that the old intimidatory tactics, which have been so successful in silencing the more rationally-minded Nationalists during the past three years, have once again been adopted, and the Copts in question have been compelled to side with the non-representation majority; although they know full well that whatever success they may achieve at the forthcoming elections, the probability of their having any representation in future Parliaments will be very remote unless there is some specific guarantee in the new Constitution. As a matter of fact those who oppose non-representation of minorities on the plea that Great Britain will thereby have no excuse for intervening in Egyptian affairs are entirely mistaken; for the very fact that no such provision is made in the new Constitution will strengthen any appeal which individual members of the minorities may make to the British Government, and will render it impossible for the Egyptian Government to oppose the latter's intervention.

The Mixed Tribunals.

I understand that there is every probability that a temporary settlement will be reached on the claims for higher grades of pay made by the Mixed Courts. The Cabinet has pointed out that the finances of the Government do not at the present moment permit of its granting the general raising of grades for which the Courts have asked, and it has offered to raise the minimum salaries from L.E. 1,200 to L.E. 1,500 and to grant all the other Judges and Counsellors an immediate increase in pay

of L.E. 200 per annum. I have reason to believe that the Mixed Courts are prepared to accept this offer, but only as a temporary measure pending an improvement in the financial position of the Government. A good deal depends on the action which the Egyptian Government may take in the near future with regard to the Native Courts. If it makes any change in the matter of appointment of the members of those Courts then this will materially increase the importance of the Mixed Courts, and the latter will be fully justified in insisting on an even higher grading than is at present being asked for.

A Remarkable Flying Escape.

With reference to the details given in the London press in connection with the recent aeroplane accident at Heliopolis in which Air Vice-Commodore Drew had such a miraculous escape, it is incorrect to say that he crashed. The facts are that his machine caught fire in mid-air, but he managed to make a most wonderful landing, which, to quote a pilot of experience, was due at least seventy per cent. to Commodore Drew's cool-headedness and skill.

Another Englishman Brutally Shot.

The Anglo-Egyptian community received a terrible shock on Wednesday when it learnt of the murder of Bimbashi Cave, one of the Assistant Commandants of the Cairo City Police. Bimbashi Cave was cycling home from his office at about 1.30 p.m. when he was fired at from behind. No less than six bullet wounds were found in his body, and death took place within half-an-hour. An English lady cyclist, who was passing at the time, most courageously followed the assassin, but he managed to evade her. Bimbashi Cave, who had had long service under the Egyptian Government, was one of the most efficient and popular members of the Police Force, and he will be a serious loss to the Public Security Department. The Anglo-Egyptian community is getting decidedly restive at these repeated murders of its members without any of the assassins being brought to justice; and it is hoped that for the honour of Egypt the Egyptians now in charge of the Public Security Department will succeed in putting a stop to these cowardly and senseless attacks on men who are merely doing their duty.

It is interesting to note that, when it comes to crimes in which Egyptians are the victims, and particularly where the motive is not political, the Public Security authorities rarely fail in the end to lay their hands on the culprits. During the past year there have been several important crimes in Egypt in some of which it looked at the outset hopeless to expect to trace the murderers. In each instance the Police succeeded in bringing the men and women to book. It is perhaps not an unfair deduction to make that, in crimes where the motive is political, and particularly where Englishmen are the victims, there is a bond of sympathy between the assassins and the general public which renders the usual channels of information and detection utterly useless. It is to be feared that in these circumstances until some radical reorganisation in the Public Security administration is introduced, and different methods are adopted, no greater success will meet the efforts to detect the authors of these political crimes. Further, unless whenever an offence is brought home to any man drastic punishment is inflicted on him, all the efforts to put an end to these cowardly attacks will prove unavailable. In this latter connection I have

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heard on every side the view that owing to the mistaken leniency with which they have handled recent cases the military authorities bear a grave responsibility in regard to the shootings which have latterly taken place.

SUDAN.

Khartoum, May 20.

The Political Situation.

The Egyptian Press has latterly given a very considerable amount of attention to the Sudan and has published various astounding statements as regards the wish of the inhabitants of this country to become subject to Egyptian domination and to have representatives in the legislative council. It is unfortunate that Ramadan should have been chosen in which to give vent to this hysterical outburst, as it is a period during which the great religious chiefs and influential notables of the country have to observe a strict retreat, as behoves good Moslems and also as an example of piety to their following. The 27th of this month, however, will see the end of Ramadan, when some interesting statements will be made by those members of the Sudan Delegation who were alleged to have been forcibly conducted to England in July 1919 and coerced into false expressions of loyalty to the British Empire. That a certain very small community are in favour of Egyptian suzerainty is beyond doubt, and it is worthy of note that this clique is composed for the most part of members of clubs frequented by ex-schoolboys and students of the Gordon College who have imbibed the doctrines of their Egyptian teachers. There is also a certain amount of disloyalty among the very junior commissioned Black officers who have been posted to units with a majority of Egyptian officers. The numbers of these would-be patriots are very small, and a firm attitude on the part of the Government to all seditionmongers would materially reduce their ranks.

What is not recognized by the Egyptian propagandist is that the great nomad tribes of the Northern or Mohammedan Sudan are violently anti-Egyptian, and far from being coerced into expression of loyalty to the British Empire and distaste for Egyptian domination, it is a matter of extreme difficulty to get them to moderate their language when given an opportunity of making known their ideas, as at the Garden Party given by the Acting Governor-General on the return of the High Commissioner from his trip to the South. On this occasion some thirty odd Sheikhs and Nazirs of the more important tribes of the Northern Sudan were presented to his Excellency, and were unanimous in their request that an assurance be given that they would never be placed under Egyptian rule. In some cases the Sheikhs went so far as to demand the removal of Egyptians from all administrative appointments, and accused them of various sins, from bribery to open sedition. The Nazirs of the Hadendoa and Beni Amer spoke perhaps more forcibly to the point than any others, as for various reasons the Egyptian is intensely disliked in the Red Sea Province.

The situation in general is becoming more poignant, and any occurrence that would force the hands of the Imperial Government into taking over the Sudan from Egypt would be welcomed by all who are interested in the country and genuinely concerned as to its future welfare.

The Beit el-Amana.

An interesting land-mark in the annals of the Sudan has been lost through the destruction by fire of the Beit el-Amana, resulting in the loss of many thousand pounds worth of Government stores. This is the old Beit el-Mal of the Khalifa, and has been used for many years as the central Government store for equipment, stationery, leather, etc. Fortunately for the Government a very considerable number of issues had been made before the fire took place, and the loss was not so heavy as it might have been. The incident, however, should have considerable moral effect as evidencing the false economy

of refraining from expending money on fire-fighting appliances. There appears to be no system of fire-hydrants in Omdurman, or, if they do exist, their utility is negated by the fact that the pumping plant on the river bank only works during the day, or when the gentleman in charge of the pump is not too overcome by fatigue to see that the plant is functioning. In any case it appears that water is not available in sufficient quantity to be of any use, and the various units of the Egyptian Army stationed in Omdurman were turned out to do their best with picks and shovels. Insurance companies covering risks in Omdurman will be fully justified in doubling their rates in view of the utter lack of any practical system of fire-prevention.

As a result of the destruction of the depot it is possible that the Government will see fit to build a new store centre in Khartoum, which would result in a very considerable economy in administration of the Department concerned. Until the old Beit el-Amana was destroyed, stores were received in Khartoum, transported thence to Omdurman, and deposited there. On issue, the same stores were brought all the way back from Omdurman by boat, and despatched to their several destinations, thus necessitating four extra and unnecessary handlings. Whilst sympathising with the Government in their trouble, we would respectfully suggest that they adopt for their motto "All things work together for good."

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, May 24.

Roumania's National Anniversary.

May 10 (Old Style), Roumania's National Fete in commemoration of the anniversary of her independence (1877), her elevation to the rank of Kingdom (1881), and the union of all Roumanians (1859 and 1918)—was again celebrated with traditional pomp and ceremony amid the enthusiasm of the population. The capital presented a very festive aspect, and the national colours were displayed all over the town. Special attention was given to the decoration of the route leading from the Royal Palace to the Cathedral, along which the Royal family drove in state to attend the *Te Deum*; while on the Boulevard Academie, in front of the statue of Michael the Brave, two pavilions were erected, one for the Royal family and the Diplomatic Corps, and another for high officials of State.

At dawn the customary twenty-one guns announced the solemnity of the day, and very soon after the route of the procession began to be thronged by dense crowds eager to see the Royal family and the military parade. In the absence of the King and Queen, who are still detained in Athens by the illness of their daughter, the Duchess of Sparta, it fell for the first time to the Crown Prince to perform the royal duties at the military parade on this auspicious occasion. This circumstance did not fail to have an additional point of attraction for the public. During the parade Prince Carol and Prince Nicolas by his side were on horseback, while Princesses Helen, Marie and Ileana of Roumania and Princess Irene of Greece were seated in the Royal Pavilion. Prince Paul, cousin of the King of Yugoslavia, being on an *incognito* visit, could not participate at the ceremony in an official manner, but witnessed the parade from the balcony of the University just opposite the pavilions. Needless to say both the Royal family and the parading troops were enthusiastically cheered by the people. The rest of the day was devoted to other popular festivities organised by scholastic authorities.

Princess Elisabeth's Illness.

A few days ago the news from Athens about the condition of Princess Elisabeth was again very disquieting. A fresh seat of infection was discovered, necessitating an immediate operation, whereby 300 grammes of water were extracted from the lung. Since the operation, however, the patient's condition has improved considerably, and according to the latest

bulletins from Athens her state of health continues to improve, so that her parents are expected to leave Athens for Bucharest on Thursday, May 25.

Postponement of Royal Wedding.

It is officially announced that, owing to the illness of Princess Elisabeth, the wedding of King Alexander and Princess Marie has been postponed to June 8.

General News.

Prince Nicholas of Roumania returned from London on Saturday, May 18, in order to attend his sister's wedding.

Prince Paul of Karageorgevitch, the cousin of King Alexander of Yugoslavia, arrived in Bucharest from Belgrade on Sunday, May 19, on a private visit to the Roumanian Royal family, in connection with the wedding arrangements.

There are again reports from the Dobruja that *Komitajis* are attacking the villages on the Roumanian side of the Dobruja frontier. Several inhabitants are said to have been killed and wounded, besides many robberies having taken place.

It is announced from Paris that M. Poincaré, at a dinner given in honour of M. Jon I. C. Bratianu, presented the Roumanian Prime Minister with the Grand Cross of the Legion d'Honneur.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, May 22.

Wrangel's Army.

Attention is still very much centred on Wrangel's Army. The Inter-Allied Military Organ of Liquidation have been ordered by Paris to disarm the Wrangelists, whilst the Bulgarian Government are insisting that they must evacuate the barracks they are now occupying.

General Wrangel has addressed Notes and telegrams from Belgrade to the Government, the contents of which are barely worth recording. They hint at vengeance and remind Bulgaria of the great debt she owes to Russia. If the truth be told, Bulgarians are getting heartily sick of being told what they owe to Russia, and are asking why the Russians choose to come to Bulgaria if they have such a poor opinion of the country.

Numerous arrests and deportations of Wrangelist officers have taken place, but at the time of writing the excitement seems to be somewhat calming down. It is, however, necessary to state that the ridiculous rumour afloat to the effect that an English officer has been the indirect cause of the arrest of Colonel Samohvaloff and the subsequent scandal, is absolutely false. The arrest of Colonel Samohvaloff was carried out by the Bulgarian police without any outside hint or assistance.

Agrarians and Communists.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of the Wrangel affair is the attitude of the Bulgarian Government towards the Soviet at Genoa. It is reported that M. Stambolisky has been in close touch with M. Rakovsky, and it is believed that the two statesmen have come to an unofficial agreement regarding the policy Bulgaria intends to pursue towards Moscow. The Agrarians and the local Communists have certainly been more friendly of late, although this is hardly to be wondered at considering that the Bourgeois Parties are now more or less united in a solid *bloc*.

It has often been said that the Agrarian Government will gradually turn Communist, and whilst this possibility is remote, and in the opinion of the writer unlikely, it is a contingency which must always be borne in mind.

The Bulgarian peasant, who constitutes the backbone of the Agrarian Party, is opposed to Communism; but there are certain groups which lack the sagacity of the peasants and which have distinct leadings towards Communism. Up to the present the pro-Communists are in a minority, and they can only become dangerous if the Party leaders come round to the same view. The Congress of the Agrarian Party next week should prove a good criterion in this respect.

A Street Murder.

Last night, while on his way to dinner at the Union Club, M. Alexandre Grecoff was fired at three times by an unknown assailant. Death was instantaneous, and nothing more has been heard of the assassin. M. Grecoff was formerly Chargé d'Affaires at Berne and was at the time of his death Editor-in-Chief of the new Opposition newspaper *Slovo*. His death has caused a great sensation both in Diplomatic and in Bulgarian circles, where he was very widely known and respected.

The King's Position.

Persons who are in close touch with King Boris are of opinion that the three-and-a-half years which have elapsed since his succession to the throne have told very heavily on the young Sovereign.

He has become pensive and is inclined to worry over the affairs of his realm. This is not surprising, as his position is not an enviable one. He has not left Bulgaria since becoming King, and has led a very solitary existence, with practically no friends and advisers. Lately he has had his sisters with him, but as regards male companionship has had to rely on his Aide-de-Camp and Secretaries.

M. Stambolisky visits him frequently, and relations between the King and Prime Minister are understood to be good. The King's attitude towards the present Government is unknown, but it is felt that he desires to dissociate himself entirely from the unconstitutional methods of his father. He aims at ruling, not governing. M. Stambolisky has several times referred to this trait in the young King's character, implying that Boris was as great an asset as Ferdinand was a drawback.

In these circumstances, all thinking people wish King Boris to retain his throne, with the prospect of his obtaining greater influence in times to come. It is, however, said that he is wearying of his solitude and his helpless position, and that the thought of abdication has entered his mind. No confirmation of the rumour is forthcoming, and there is no doubt that such an act would be a national misfortune. King Boris stands for all that is best in the Bulgarian people, and it may well be that a day will come when he will see the reward of his quiet labours.

TURKEY.

Constantinople, May 25.

The Angora Government's Defence.

The official and semi-official statements issued by the Angora Government in reply to the reports communicated for publication by Major Yowell and his colleagues from Kharput, make interesting reading. The first rejoinder made by the Angora Government consisted of a denial that any massacres of Armenians had been commenced in the Kharput area. Since the American statement contained no such accusation, the rejoinder was feeble, and the "Commissariat of the Interior" therefore caused the Anatolian Agency to publish, on May 22, a more detailed reply, in which Major Yowell, Doctor Ward, and other Americans are accused of having gone to Anatolia for the express purpose of creating discord,—for which reason they were invited to leave the country. These gentlemen, therefore, according to the Commissariat of the Interior, formulated "spiteful and unjust accusations, of which *The Times* correspondent in Constantinople, in his turn, made himself the interpreter," and in reply to these "calumnies" it was considered "suitable" to make the following declarations:—

1. By measures taken at the time, and laws elaborated for the purpose, the government of the Great National Assembly has made allotment (*adjugé la location*) of the landed property abandoned by Armenians, by following in this operation the same procedure as that in force concerning State property. Sums derived from this allotment are paid into a deposit account opened in the name of the proprietors of the above-mentioned properties. Hitherto no requisition concerning these

goods has been carried out by the Angora Government.

2. The legal rights of Armenians are safeguarded by the Courts.
 3. The rights of inheritance of Christian elements are not subject to any restriction. Christians benefit to the same extent as Moslems from the law of inheritance. Reference to the files of the Courts within the limits of Nationalist territory will be sufficient to prove this truth.
 4. Male Christians are never imprisoned unless legal necessity requires such a measure. The registers of places of detention contain the substance for the refutation of such an accusation.
 5. No Christian woman is employed against her will in Moslem families. Information of this nature is nothing else but the application of a harmful plan intended to discredit Turks in the eyes of the world.
 6. No example can be cited of any Turkish official who has made a fortune by pillaging Christians. Turkish officials are suffering privations every day for the realisation of our national aspirations, and would not soil their conscience and their honour by pillage.
 7. With regard to the Greeks, at a moment when the National Government, animated by a sacred ideal of national liberty and independence, although deprived of every means, was making unexampled efforts to ensure the defence of the country, it is difficult to conceive any law which would prevent it from using its right to defence against those who have committed the cowardice of striking its armies in the back. Certain suspected individuals who have been conducted to the Interior suffered no (ill) treatment in the course of their removal, and were left at liberty in their new dwelling place. The sick and the poor coming under this category are protected by the local authorities, and enjoy the liberty of corresponding with their relations. A certain number of them have even succeeded in making fortunes. The records of the agricultural banks clearly prove that funds are despatched by Greeks to their families.
- Before such a truth, to pretend that the Nationalist Government is pursuing towards this element a policy of extermination can only be the expression of pure calumny.
8. As for the accusation that the Government has delivered Christian women and young girls to Turkish passions, this is likewise devoid of all foundation, and is part of a plan which our enemies are trying to carry out to arouse the public opinion of the world against us.

The announcement terminates with an appeal to Americans to defend the truth by publishing what they have seen.

Those who have had any experience of Young Turk administration will realise that item 1 is a plain avowal of the continuation of the policy inaugurated by the Unionists regarding Armenian property, "abandoned"—as the Unionists euphemistically termed it—for the simple reason that the owners had been either exiled or slaughtered. The repeated mention of the "Courts" is decidedly interesting in view of the operations of the notorious "Revolutionary Tribunals" (*Istiklal Mahakemesi*) which are the Anatolian equivalent of the Bolshevik "Tché-ka." Item 7, is worth more than a cursory glance, for it might have been composed by the late lamented Talaat to justify his policy towards the Armenians. It would also be interesting to know whether one of the lucky Greeks who have made fortunes happens to be the reverend Papa Eftim, the priest who claims that the Orthodox Christians of Anatolia are *converted Turks*, and who is described as the "General Commissioner and Representative of the Orthodox Church of Anatolia." This good gentleman is presiding at Kaisarieh over a congress for the organisation of the Orthodox Church of Anatolia, and on May 23, the

Anatolian Agency published in his name a refutation^{ot} of the American allegations in right good Kemalist style. After this, what can the Americans do but hide their heads in shame?

The occasion has also been seized for the intensification of the anti-British campaign in the Anatolian press, which is surpassing even itself in scurrility. Amongst other amusing suggestions made by the Anatolian Agency as a rejoinder to the proposal to send an international commission to Anatolia, the Angora Government calls upon itself to send a commission to investigate British atrocities in India! Incidentally, no British commission will be permitted to go to Anatolia.

Russo-Turkish Relations.

Recent reports from Anatolia indicate that at one moment, a certain coolness arose between the Angora Government and the Bolshevists owing to the reports of secret negotiations between Mr. Lloyd George and M. Chicherin, but any misunderstanding that may have existed was quickly dispersed by the arrival of a considerable quantity of Russian gold. The financial situation of the Angora Government has been desperate, but all arrears of pay have now been made good, and the situation is once again stabilised. In return, to judge from appearances, the Bolshevists have been permitted to develop an extensive propaganda campaign in Anatolia. In addition to a Communist weekly review entitled *Yeni Hayat* ("The New Life"), a new daily has been authorised publication by the Angora press bureau, which is under the direction of the notorious Young Turk propagandist, Ahmed Aghaieff. It is also reported that when Ramadan is over, negotiations will be commenced between Mustapha Kemal and Araloff for the conclusion of a new treaty between Anatolia and the Soviet Government, which will be of much greater importance than the existing "Treaty of Friendship." There is, in fact, every indication that the Kemalists are more than ever under the influence of the Russians, and that French efforts to win them away from the Russians are doomed to complete failure.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, (undated.)

The Government and the National Council.

The so-called "National Council," having submitted a memorial, asking for union with Greece, the Greek Archbishop has received, through the Chief Secretary, a reply stating that the memorial of the "self-styled National Council" has been submitted to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The Minister has nothing to add to the letter communicated on June 1, 1921, stating that the Government of His Majesty can hold out no hope that it will agree to the union of the island with Greece; and that the proposal that a plebiscite should be taken cannot be entertained. Needless to say, comments on the reply are similar to those made on many previous occasions, the allusion to the "National Council" as self-styled being specially resented. The agitators have the presumption to call it "the only genuinely representative body in the island." The comic paper *Peirasmos* continues to make fun of the situation, which certainly has its ludicrous aspect. It does not spare its compatriots. Referring *e.g.*, to the foolish resolution of the "National Council" which directed Greek Cypriots not to take part in the Races, if gives other "Draconic resolutions" to the effect that Cypriots are prohibited from indulging in any kind of sport, hockey, lawn tennis, football and riding, from drinking tea or whisky, smoking pipes, wearing helmets from loving any animals or treating them well, from being punctual or clean, or reading during meals."

Russian Refugees for Bulgaria.

The Russian refugees, numbering about 500, have been notified that they will have to leave Cyprus on May 16, by steamship from Egypt, which will bring their compatriots now in that country. The refugees are much distressed by this decision, especially by the order that they are to be settled in Bulgaria, as they had been previously given to understand that they would be sent

to Serbia. Those at Nicosia have begged that they may be allowed to remain there, as they have all found employment which renders them quite independent of help. Several of them are professors who have been teaching at the Greek Gymnasium and the High School for Girls. Permission has been given to a few only to remain, including Dr. Schmitt, a distinguished surgeon, two other doctors, and two officials of the Imperial Ottoman Bank. Permission has been refused to all others. They are being sent to the Refugee Camp at Limassol, at which port they will embark. The Greek community are expressing their gratitude for the various services rendered by Russians, by gifts of money and in other ways.

General News.

The High Commissioner, Mr. M. Stevenson, has been confined to his room by slight indisposition. As soon as possible after recovery, he will proceed to England, with his family, on leave.

An order in Council prohibits recruiting for the military or naval service of any State.

An order of the High Commissioner prohibits all exportation of cows, heifers, mares and foals.

The appointment of Major Flinn, O.B.E., as Assistant Secretary to the Government is confirmed.

PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

The Fifty-sixth Annual General Meeting of the Palestine Exploration Fund was held in the rooms of the Royal Society, Burlington House, at 4 p.m., on May 30, the Right Hon. Sir Herbert Samuel, P.C., G.B.E., High Commissioner for Palestine, in the chair.

After the Hon. Secretary, Dr. E. W. G. Masterman had read the Minutes of the last general meeting and the apologies for absence, the chairman moved the first resolution: "That the Report and Accounts for the year 1921, already printed and in the hands of the subscribers, be received and adopted." In the course of his speech the chairman said: "The new administration of Palestine, established after the happy disappearance of the Turk is, of course, sympathetic to the work of archaeological research. I trust that under that Administration the work of this Fund and of other bodies that are labouring in the same field, may be pursued with even greater success than prevailed in earlier days. The Administration of Palestine has established a Government Museum in which the fruits of research can be exhibited and it already reflects a considerable amount of credit on the Archaeological Department and on the Keeper of the Museum, Mr. Phythian Adams, who is working under the direction of Professor Garstang." After describing the Archaeological work of the American Universities and of the Jewish Archaeological Society, he proceeded—"I twice had the advantage of visiting the works of the Palestine Exploration Fund at Askalon . . . I was greatly impressed by the magnitude of the task which Professor Garstang had undertaken, and impressed also, as everyone must be, by the deep interest of some of the discoveries which he has made. Perhaps the most interesting, though by no means the most picturesque, was a cutting which has been made in a scrap at the edge of a hill going down about 30 feet which showed in various strata the remains of all the different civilisations that have occupied the spot . . . summarizing the history of about thirty centuries. In fact a gauge of history, one might say; a section through time." Re-

ferring to the balance sheet he added: "I was sad to see, on looking through the balance sheet, that during the last year not only was it necessary to sell out some investments to the extent of £500, but also it was necessary to reduce the balance with which you began this year by an equal sum. That is by no means a satisfactory state of things and I earnestly trust that the friends of the Fund will come forward and place at its disposal the resources which are needed if it is to fulfil its task of unearthing the treasures of history which the soil of Palestine still holds concealed."

Mr. Ronald Storrs, C.M.G., Governor of Jerusalem, in seconding the resolution, referred to the untold archaeological treasures which still remain buried in the neighbourhood of the Holy City and described the valuable and unique work of the 'pro-Jerusalem Society' which is endeavouring to preserve all the buildings of interest there and to preserve the city from disfigurements due to modern unsightly erections.

The Chairman of the Committee, Dr. D. Hogarth, D.Litt., C.M.G., referred to the serious loss the Society had had during the past year very especially in the death of Mr. Walter Morrison and Viscount Bryce, O.M., and proceeded to describe briefly the results of the excavations at Askalon and the plans for this season's excavations. In conclusion he announced that he was regretfully obliged, on account of increasing responsibilities at Oxford, to resign the position of Chairman of Committee, but was glad to say that Dr. Hall of the British Museum had been elected in his place. As Dr. Hall was unable to be present, some remarks by him on the prospects of Archaeological research in Palestine were read by Dr. Hogarth.

During the proceedings a resolution was submitted to the meeting by the Hon. Secretary, seconded by the Hon. Treasurer, Colonel Sir Charles Close, whereby some 500 of the regular subscribers to the Fund were put on to the 'General Committee' becoming thereby "Members of the Palestine Exploration Fund." This was carried unanimously. The executive committee and honorary officers were re-elected and after a hearty vote of thanks to Sir Herbert Samuel for presiding and the Council of the Royal Society for the loan of their Rooms the proceedings concluded.

The meeting was a very successful one and better attended than any annual meeting for several years.

TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

The subject headings are those given in the Official Report.

Government of the Sudan Loan (Amendment) Bill.—(Wednesday, 24th of May, published in O.R. No. 169, Thursday, 25th May.)

Greece and Turkey.—Egypt: Martial Law; Zaghloul Pasha.—(Thursday, 25th May.)

Egypt (Murder of British Subjects).—Palestine (Mandate).—Asia Minor (Atrocities).—Czecho-Slovakia (Commercial Treaty).—Bulgarian Prisoners.—Indian Affairs.—(Monday, 29th May.)

India: Civil Service (Appointments); Prisoners (Treatment).—Iraq (Budget).—Concessions, Palestine (Mr. Rutenberg).—Near East.—(Tuesday, 30th May.)

Egypt (Mr. Keown Boyd).—Iraq.—Near East (Atrocities).—India: Loans; Civil Servants (Annuity).—Concessions. Palestine (Mr. Rutenberg).—(Wednesday, 31st May.)

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

THE MANDATE FOR IRAQ.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—You very rightly concluded your leading article in your issue of May 11 with these words: "First of all its political status must be settled on satisfactory lines, and at the same time, Great Britain, having identified itself with the existing regime, must take without delay the few steps required to make that régime a success." I very much regret that your Correspondent in Baghdad does not see with your eyes. In relating certain happenings there he puts an unfriendly interpretation on the King's action. He talks too of "effendis" in a way that one on the spot should know was misleading. There is no extremist party of Effendis, nor is a hard and fast line to be drawn between effendis and tribesmen. What happened at Kerbella, which was more tribal than anything else and the largest political gathering ever known in Iraq, was in no way organised by extremists to "obtain an opinion unfavourable to the Mandate from the tribal leaders," and the resolution was passed unopposed.

This did two things. First, it asserted the determination to defend the country against the Wahabites—surely a most reasonable resolve—and secondly, it expressed the loyalty and confidence of those present in the King's ability to pursue a policy favourable to the interests of the country—in which again there is surely nothing unreasonable. On the contrary it coincides with the statesmanlike views expressed in your article I have already referred to. The handful of tribal sheikhs on the other hand who went to Baghdad were actuated by tribal motives; for they advocated a settlement which would have made them to all intents and purposes independent of the Central Government, and would have sounded the death-knell of the economic development of the country, now in its first small beginnings. The fact that the King was able to persuade them not to press their proposal shows his influence even over these few sheikhs who form an almost infinitesimal proportion of the people at large. This explanation of mine leaves a very different impression from your Correspondent's letter, which leads any reader to suppose that King

Faisal and the great mass of the inhabitants are against the English, a supposition that is entirely erroneous.

Your Correspondent too, in referring to the Moham-merah Conference, gives no credit to the King for his statesmanlike attitude which, as you state in your leading article, brought it to a successful conclusion. There can be no doubt that the firmness shown at the Kerbella Congress helped the agreement through.

If I may say so, your Correspondent, in the remarks he makes about the matters I have mentioned above, as in the question of Suleimaniya and the Kurds, shows the same spirit as inspired the policy followed in Mesopotamia before the arrival of Sir Percy Cox. In my opinion such views are calculated to harm both British and Arabs. They remind us of the reports which used to be submitted by certain British officials in Egypt before the troubles of 1919, when they were misled by sycophants and timeservers into thinking that the people, whose complaints never reached them, were perfectly satisfied with the actual régime. There is not the slightest doubt that from the Nakib of Baghdad, the Prime Minister and the great friend of the British, downwards through every class there is a confirmed antagonism to the Mandatory form. Arabs and Kurds will all join and support the Arab Government if they find that their Moslem King is not a man of straw, but one who is able to lead them to the realisation of their aspirations. As you have wisely said in your leading article, which I quote once again: "A Treaty must commend itself to the sense of the people as a whole, or it may share the fate of the Anglo-Persian Agreement."

I enclose my card, and remain,

PRO-ARAB.

THE JEWISH TITLE TO PALESTINE.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—I shall be greatly obliged if you will allow me to comment on the extract from the article in the *Army Quarterly* quoted in your issue of to-day, although I am fully aware that the inclusion of this quotation in your journal does not necessarily imply that you are in agreement with the views expressed therein.

The writer of the article, in saying that "the Jews never held sovereignty over Palestine for more than 250 years," is guilty of the same perversion of history as that committed by Colonel Vivian Gabriel in his article in last January's *Edinburgh Review*, with which the *Army Quarterly* article has many striking affinities of argument and expression. The fact is, of course, that Palestine was under the sway of the Jewish people from the conquest by Joshua to the destruction of Jerusalem by Titus, a period of 1,500 years, which is even longer than the period of British control over the British Isles. The allegation that "on the same line of argument, the Moors have a better claim to Spain, the Italians to England," is a transparent piece of sophistry which should not deceive the most elementary student of history. The national home of the Moors or Arabs was Arabia and that of the ancient Italians or Romans was Italy, and the conquests they made were mere episodes in their national history. Neither nation owed to the country in which only a mere part of it lived for a time any fundamental or vital feature of its national life and development. But to Palestine the Jews owed everything: it was their national home, as Arabia is the national home of the Arabs; it was the land in which the Jews developed their national culture, language, polity, religion, customs, traditions. And to the Jews Palestine owed everything, for had it not been for their existence, development, and activity therein as a nation, had it not been for their religious genius and intellectual fertility, Palestine would never have become the Holy Land.

I am, etc.,

Zionist Organisation,

ISRAEL COHEN,

Central Office,

77, Gt. Russell Street, W.C.

May 25.

Cunard Line

MEDITERRANEAN & NEAR EAST

REGULAR FREIGHT SAILINGS FROM
LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER GLASGOW
AND SOUTH WALES PORTS TO
GIBRALTAR ALGIERS MALTA PATRAS
PIRAEUS SYRA VOLO SALONICA
:-: SMYRNA CONSTANTINOPLE :-:
ROUMANIAN PORTS ALSO FROM—
LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER AND
SOUTH WALES PORTS TO GIBRALTAR
GENOA LEGHORN NAPLES PALERMO
MESSINA CATANIA BRINDISI BARI
ANCONA VENICE TRIESTE AND FIUME

FREIGHT SAILINGS FROM
LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER LONDON SWANSEA
ANTWERP AND ROTTERDAM TO GREEK LEVANT
AND BLACK SEA PORTS

ALSO FREIGHT SAILINGS FROM
LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER 1-1
GLASGOW AND SOUTH WALES
PORTS TO, HAVRE ST MALO AND
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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE ABBASID CALIPHATE.

"THE ECLIPSE OF THE 'ABBASID CALIPHATE.'" Edited, Translated, and Elucidated by H. F. Amedroz, and D. S. Margoliouth, D.Litt., F.B.A. (Oxford: Basil Blackwell. 7 guineas.)

The seven volumes of Arabic and English, beautifully printed, and bound in attractive simplicity, bearing the above title, represent the labour of two well-known Arabic scholars, and constitute a very important addition to the list of first class works on Islamic history.

Volumes I-III contain original texts in Arabic; Volumes IV-VI an English translation; and Volume VII a short Preface and an admirable index by Professor Margoliouth.

The main topics of these volumes are the happenings in and around the Court of the Caliphs of Baghdad during the tenth century of our era, that is, from the Caliphate of Al Muqtadir to that of Al Qadir. The period is one of very great interest, and the three writers from whose works the Arabic texts are taken are the principal sources which have come down to us for the history of that period. As the general title given to these volumes implies, the period is one during which the power and authority of the Caliphs showed a gradual decline from which they but partially recovered, only to be totally extinguished by the Moghuls in the thirteenth century. Already in the ninth century the Abbasid Caliphs had not only lost many of their richest possessions in the East and West but at headquarters they were reduced to the position of mere figureheads within the Palace controlled and dominated by Turkish upstarts; and the tenth century witnessed the absorption of their remaining territory by the Buwaihids who, in A.D. 945 actually occupied Baghdad itself. The period is therefore one of great importance in the history of the Middle East, and especially for students of Persian history, in that it saw the partial resuscitation of indigenous rule in Persia. Space will not permit us to enter into any detail regarding the main narrative, which is now made accessible to English readers from first hand sources. As examples, however, of specially interesting features, reference may be made to a very full account of the scourging to death of Hallaj, the famous Sufi, which is most vividly narrated; and the quotation at length of a letter addressed by the famous Mahmud Sabuktigin to the Caliph of Baghdad on the occasion of his triumphant entry into Merv.

The Arabic text is taken—as we have said—from the chronicles of three different historians. Volumes I. and II. contain an edition of Books V. and VI. of the Universal History of Miskawaihi, whose narrative extends from A.H. 295-374 (A.D. 908-984). Tabari's famous chronicle goes down to A.H. 302 (A.D. 914), and was continued by Thabit ibn Sanan who goes down to 363 (973). Miskawaihi is therefore a continuation of this last rather than of Tabari, but from about 340 (951) onwards he is himself a first-hand authority. Volume III. contains the narrative from A.H. 370-389 (A.D. 980-998) as compiled by the Vezir Abu Shuja, and all that has come down to us of Hilal as Sabi's history, extending from A.H. 389-393 (A.D. 998-1002). The extract from Abu Shuja is actually an abridgement of the previous portion of Hilal as-Sabi which has been lost. It will hence be seen that from A.H. 295-393 (A.D. 908-1002) we have in these volumes an Arabic text and an English translation of the best authorities which have come down to us for this period of 100 years—corresponding to the tenth century of our era. Miskawaihi's chief aim was to write his history on what we should call "modern lines," that is to say, instead of producing a chronicle of facts arranged in due order as had been done by his great predecessor Tabari, he wished to present a series of events in such a manner as to form a connected narrative held together by an association of ideas and an underlying unity. His work shows a great advance on what had hitherto been achieved by Islamic historians, who, for the most part were apt to treat events on the lines of "Tradition" and be more occupied with adducing a list of successive

authorities for a statement, than with presenting the reader with a connected narrative, but even as it stands now in an admirable English translation it is for the student unacquainted with Arabic not always easy to follow. Our great regret is that owing to the enormous rise in the cost of printing, Professor Margoliouth's intention to add an introductory volume had to be abandoned. It is only to be hoped that he will see his way to supply an introduction in the near future, for we should then have a really serviceable and illuminating narrative of this interesting period.

The method of transcription adopted is not wholly satisfying, for while a distinction is made between the Arabic consonants, for reasons of economy long vowels are not indicated: it is true that these have been supplied in the index, but it is a pity that in certain cases such as the name Hamid where doubt might arise, the long vowel should not have been marked in the text.

The story of the publication of Miskawaihi's chronicle offers a romance in itself, for this important work having remained hidden in rare manuscript copies down to the beginning of the twentieth century suddenly became the centre of attraction to a number of persons interested in early Moslem history. A complete manuscript in six volumes was known to exist in Constantinople, and Prince Teano, a well known Italian patron and scholar, having procured a set of photographs of these Manuscripts invited the Trustees of the Gibb Memorial Fund to include a facsimile reproduction of the whole among their publications. In 1909 Volume I. duly appeared and in 1913 Volume V, as it had been decided to defer the publication of Volumes II. III and IV and to proceed at once with Volumes V and VI as being historically more important. The original Manuscript was not a very easy one to read and the facsimile even less so; Mr. Amedroz, one of the Gibb Trustees, who had devoted much time to the study of the period dealt with in Volumes V and VI—namely the tenth century—set about to transcribe and edit for the press these two Volumes so that before the facsimile of Volume VI had appeared, a printed text had been made ready for publication which rendered totally unnecessary the facsimile of these volumes. Such incidents as these are not unknown in the annals of Oriental research, but with so few workers all told in the field of such limited funds available for publication, their occurrence is much to be regretted.

Owing to the untimely death in 1917 of Mr. Amedroz, it fell to Professor Margoliouth to complete the scheme of texts and translations we now have before us, and for the purpose Mr. Amedroz bequeathed a certain sum of money. Professor Margoliouth is to be heartily congratulated on the admirable way in which he has completed the work left unfinished by his colleague; and the seven volumes under review must inevitably find a place in all Libraries which include Moslem history in their catalogue.

E. DENISON ROSS.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- "Silver Cross." By Mary Johnston. (London: Thornton Butterworth, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)
- "Spinster of this Parish." By W. B. Maxwell. (London: Thornton Butterworth, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)
- "The Light of Asia." Adapted from Sir Edwin Arnold's Poem by Francois de Breteuil. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner & Co., Ltd. 2s. 6d. net.)
- "Fir-Flower Tablets." Poems translated from the Chinese by Florence Ayscough and Amy Lowell. (London: Constable & Co. 14s. net.)
- "On Secret Patrol in High Asia." By Captain L. V. S. Blacker. (London: John Murray. 18s. net.)
- "Japanese-American Relations." By the Hon. Jichiro Jokutomi. Translated by Sukesige Yanagiwara, B.S., M.A. (London and New York: Macmillan & Co. 1.50 net.)
- "Umar Khayyam." By Masud Ali Varesi, M.R.A.S. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench Trubner & Co. 10s. 6d. net.)
- "Early Yugoslav Literature." By Milivoj S. Stanoyevich, Ph.D. (New York City: Columbia University. 1.75 dollars net.)

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.**To-Day.**

June 8 (New Style).

May 26 (Old Style).

Shawal 12, 1340 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.

Sivan 12, 5682 of the Jewish Calendar.

M. Venizelos left London last week for Paris.

The Indian Police Dinner Club have arranged their annual reunion for June 8 (to-night) at the Hotel Metropole.

Viscount and Viscountess Erleigh are proceeding to India in July on a visit to the Viceroy and the Countess of Reading.

Sir Charles Bayley is to be in the chair at the annual Indian Civil Service Dinner at the Hotel Cecil to-night (Thursday).

Princess Antoine Bibesco has left London for her Paris house, 45, Quai de Bourbon, where she will be for the rest of the summer.

A Te Deum was sung at the Greek Church, Moscow Road, Bayswater, on Sunday, in celebration of the name-day of the King of the Hellenes.

The marriage arranged between Captain W. D. G. Batten, 3rd Q.A.O. Gurkha Rifles, and Miss Willson, took place at Twickenham on June 3.

Mr. Hamilton Fish Armstrong, of the Editorial Staff of the *New York Evening Post*, has completed a trip of investigation through the Balkans and Central Europe, and sailed for New York on the 'Homeric' on May 31.

M. Vintila Bratiano, Roumanian Minister of Finance and brother of the Prime Minister, was recently in London on a special mission to discuss an economic and financial *rapprochement* between Great Britain and Roumania.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place immediately between Captain C. F. Gardner, late 35th Sikhs, and Gladys, widow of Brevet Colonel H. Street, C.M.G., R.F.A., and daughter of the late J. Fenwick Harrison, of King's Walden Bury, Hitchin.

The engagement is announced of Lieutenant A. J. L. Phillips, Royal Navy, H.M.S. Malcolm, only son of Colonel A. Lucian Phillips, Indian Army (retired), and of Mrs. Lucian Phillips, and Lettice, youngest daughter of the late Captain E.K.E. Spence, Bengal Staff Corps.

Monsignor R. Barry-Doyle, who has arrived in London from Constantinople, brought a cheque for the value of £1,402 to St. Dunstan's Hostel for Blinded Soldiers. He raised this sum with the assistance of the sergeants of the British Corps of Occupation at Constantinople.

The engagement is announced and the marriage will shortly take place, of Philip Sidney Woolf, Lahore, Punjab, youngest son of the late Sidney Woolf, Q.C., and Mrs. Sidney Woolf, and Margery Susan, younger daughter of Dr. and Mrs. James R. Lownds, Hillands, Bedham, Essex.

THE PERSIA SOCIETY.

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The engagement is announced of Ernest George Jolliffe, son of the late Mr. Ernest David Meade Jolliffe, of Sea View, Isle of Wight, and Margaret Lydia Annandale Scott, eldest daughter of Mr. Alexander Scott, Darjeeling, India, and niece of Mrs. Burgoyne-Johnson, 3, Hans Crescent S.W.1.

The marriage will take place in July between Major L. B. L. Seckham, M.C., the Lancashire Fusiliers, only son of Colonel Bassett T. Seckham, D.S.O., Whittington Old Hall, Lichfield Staffs, and Nora, daughter of the late Surgeon-General Sir Gerald Bomford, K.C.I.E., I.M.S., and of Lady Bomford, Dover.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place this summer in England, between Cecil Pownall Browne, Sudan Political Service, son of the late E. W. Browne and Mrs. Browne of 7, Foulis Terrace, Onslow Square, S.W., and Margaret Laing, of Wycombe, Kingswood, Surrey, elder daughter of the late Alexander Laing.

Sir Herbert Samuel, High Commissioner for Palestine, attended on June 1 a meeting of the Executive of the Zionist Organisation at the Central Office of the Organisation in Great Russell Street. Dr. Weizmann, President of the Zionist Organisation, presided. A number of important questions were discussed, particularly the question of immigration into Palestine.

FOREIGN DECORATIONS.

The King has been pleased to grant permission to wear the undermentioned decorations, which have been conferred in recognition of valuable services rendered during the war:

Order of the Crown of Roumania.

Grand Cross.—Sir Albert K. Rollit, Consul-General of Roumania in London.

Cross of Commander.—Mr. W. H. Crawford Price, Editor of the *Balkan Review*.

Cross of Officer.—Mr. W. T. Parker, of the *Morning Post*.

Order of Saint Sava (Serbia).

Class V.—Miss M. B. Baker, of Bushey, Herts; Miss J. E. Lewis, of Oxford. (For services in connection with the Serbian Relief Fund.)

Order of El Nahda (Hejaz).

Fourth Class.—Sub-Inspector Hakim Said Hasan, Police Officer, attached to the British Agency at Jeddah.

Order of the Nile (Egypt).

Fourth Class.—Capt. H. Gardner, M.C., R.A.; Capt. H. D. Wise, M.C., 18th Hussars; Capt. D. H. Ferguson, M.C., I.A.R. of O.; and Capt. P. S. Brindley, M.C., 3rd (Militia) Bn., R. Warwick. R. (for services connected with the operations against the Garjak Nuers in the Upper Nile and Pibor District, 1919-1920).

OBITUARY.

We regret to announce the accidental death of Sir John Rees, Member of Parliament for East Nottingham. Sir John was for many years connected with the Indian Civil service, being formerly Under-Secretary to the Madras Government, and civil and sessions judge. He took great interest in Eastern and particularly Indian affairs, and in Parliament lost no opportunity of insisting that in disputes between Christians and Moslems it was not necessarily the latter who were wrong and the former right.

BAGHDAD AIR MAIL.

The Postmaster-General states that the air mail for Baghdad, which was dispatched from London, on May 18, reached Baghdad on May 26. This is a particularly notable achievement, as the normal time occupied in transmission by the combined ordinary and air route is between eleven and eighteen days, and by ordinary route all the way it is about twenty-nine days.

The next air mail to Baghdad will be dispatched from London on Thursday, June 15.

BIRTHDAY HONOURS.

The Honours List issued on Saturday, the fifty-seventh birthday of the King, includes five new peers, fifteen baronets, and forty-two knights bachelor, besides appointments to various orders of knighthood.

Particular interest is, naturally, felt by, and genuine pleasure is afforded to, all those associated in any way with *THE NEAR EAST*, in the honour conferred upon Mr. Robert Septimus Gardiner, one of the proprietors of this journal. Among the other honours announced which have a special interest for our readers in the Near and Middle East are the following:—

BARONETS.

Black, Robert James.

Chairman, Mercantile Bank of India since 1906. Director of Shell Transport Company and of the London Bank of Australia. Identified with many charitable undertakings. Has been an important factor in stabilizing and carrying on Anglo-Indian finance.

Moynihan, Sir Berkeley George Andrew, K.C.M.G., C.B., M.B., F.R.C.S.

Army Medical Advisory Board. Professor of Clinical Surgery, University of Leeds. Hon. Surgeon, Leeds General Infirmary. Member of Council of Royal College of Surgeons of England.

Norton-Griffiths, Lieut.-Col. Sir John, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.P.

M.P. for Wednesbury from 1910 to 1918 and for Wandsworth Central since 1918. Late Lieut.-Col. 2nd King Edward's Horse. Rendered valuable war services.

KNIGHTS.

Crowe, Edward Thomas Frederick, C.M.G.

Commercial Counsellor at H.M. Embassy at Tokyo. A senior Member of the Commercial Diplomatic Service.

Gardiner, Robert Septimus.

Principal proprietor of *THE NEAR EAST*, a publication much valued in Egypt, Palestine and the East. Manager of important collieries and shipping undertakings in the North of England.

[Mr. Gardiner, who was formerly Chairman of the British Gas Light Company, is the founder and Managing Director of the Pelton Steamship Company; founder and Chairman of the Rodney Steamship Company; joint Managing Director of John Bowes & Partners Ltd., and General Manager of the Marley Hill Chemical Company and Stella Gill Coke and Bye-Products Company. Mr. Gardiner is a Knight of Grace of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem and an Officer of the Legion of Honour].

McCracken, Robert.

Chairman of the firm of Steel Brothers and Company, Fenchurch Street. Represented Burma in London Chamber of Commerce for many years. Generous contributor to London charities.

(India).

Sharp, Henry Esq., C.S.I., C.I.E.

Secretary to the Government of India, Education Department.

Giles, Robert Sydney, Esq.,

Vice-Chancellor, University of Rangoon, Burma.

Clarke, Reginald, Esq., C.I.E.

Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, Bengal.

de la Fosse, Claude Fraser, Esq., C.I.E.,

Director of Public Instruction (now on special duty), United Provinces.

Beachcroft, Charles Porten, Esq.,

Indian Civil Service (retired), late Puisne Judge, Calcutta High Court, Bengal.

ORDER OF THE BATH.

C.B. (Civil Division).

Lindsay, The Hon. Ronald Charles, C.V.O.

Minister Plenipotentiary in the Diplomatic Service, Assistant Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs since January, 1921.

ORDER OF ST. MICHAEL AND ST. GEORGE. C.M.G.

Garbett, Colin Campbell, Esq., C.I.E.

Lately Political Secretary to the High Commissioner and Commander-in-Chief for Iraq.

ROYAL VICTORIAN ORDER.

G.C.V.O.

Reading, the Rt. Hon. Rufus Daniel, Earl of, G.C.B., G.M.S.I., G.M.I.E., K.C.V.O.

ORDER OF THE BATH.

K.C.B. (Military Division).

Delamain, Lieutenant-General Sir Walter Sinclair, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O.

(Colonel, 117th Mahrattas), Indian Army, Adjutant-General Headquarters, India.

Wallace, Major-General Alexander, C.B.

Retired pay, late Indian Army.

C.B. (Military Division).

Frith, Colonel (temporary Colonel on the Staff) Gilbert Robertson, C.M.G., D.S.O.

Colonel on the Staff in charge of Administration, Iraq.

Dent, Colonel (temporary Colonel Commandant) Bertie Coore, C.M.G., D.S.O.

Commander, Baghdad District, Iraq.

Parr, Major-General Harington Owen, C.M.G.

Indian Army, Deputy Adjutant-General, Headquarters, India.

Continued on Page 774.

Where to stay in the East.**CAIRO.**

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THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 1922.

THE BALKAN ROYAL WEDDING.

The marriage this week of King Alexander of Yugoslavia and Princess Marie of Roumania is an event of particular importance to the Balkans. Already the Royal Houses of Roumania and Greece are linked together by a double alliance, and Europe may now look forward to the day when the ruling sovereigns of Roumania, Yugoslavia and Greece will be closely connected by personal relationships. For the moment we may pause to congratulate the families and countries chiefly concerned. King Alexander has won for himself as a man of sterling qualities and as a hardworking conscientious monarch the golden opinion of all those with whom he has come in contact abroad, as well as of his own subjects. His marriage has been eagerly awaited by the whole country, which will have good reason to approve his choice of a bride. The Queen Consort is a great-granddaughter of Queen Victoria (and the presence at the wedding of the Duke of York as " Sponsor " will remind both peoples of the fact), but she will be even more welcome in Yugoslavia as a daughter of the King of Roumania. In spite of all the conflicts that have made the Balkans the cockpit of Europe, Roumania and Serbia have never been at war with one another. For two campaigns they have been Allies, and it is fitting that the ordeal which they shared together in the last war should turn out to their common advantage by engendering a lively sense of community of interest. On this the alliance between the two Royal Houses sets a special seal of its own. The Yugoslavs have reason to rejoice that their monarch has chosen as his Queen one who will not only grace her position, but may also be relied upon to perpetuate the traditions of a homely nation, which require that the Queen should be the Mother of her people as well as the first Lady in the land. Queen Marie of Yugoslavia is eminently fitted for her responsible position by instinct and upbringing. If she owes her physical energy to her English descent, she may thank her Latin environment for her vivacity and ready wit, and her Queen Mother for the care with which she has been trained in the domestic arts ; without these she could hope to fill but a part of the role that she is undertaking in a Balkan country.

Apart from the immediate advantages that the Royal wedding will bring to Yugoslavia, we like to think that its ultimate influence will be much more widespread. The hope of the Balkan Peninsula as a whole, to which the destinies of Roumania are inevitably bound, although she lies wholly north of the Danube, as of the individual countries composing it, lies in their eventual co-operation. The form or degree of cohesion matters little : time or the conditions of the day will determine that. What is essential is that the several States should conscientiously keep before them as a goal to be striven for some kind of federation, which will always interpose a centripetal force to the tendency of each State to play for its own hand. Politically the advantages of federation are too obvious to call for comment. The largest of the four countries has only seventeen million inhabitants. Separately they count for little in the councils of Europe ; but as a single unit with a combined population of forty-five millions, they might speak on an equality with any Great Power. In the economic sphere a working federation of the Balkan States must prove still more valuable. Up to the present they have barely reached the threshold of development. Amply endowed with mineral resources, a productive soil and water-power, they form a self-contained unit capable, under scientific exploitation, of reaching a high standard of prosperity. What is chiefly needed is that efforts to this end should be correlated. A tentative move in the right direction at first will suffice, for any attempt to force the pace will defeat the object in view. National prejudices die hard in the Balkans, and it may not help the cause of federation that the first overtures should have been tinged with a communist colouring. Both Governments and peoples, however, have yet to recognize that the world will not stand still for the benefit of nations that act as though the only way to substantiate claims for present favours is by appeals to a mediaeval past. The time has come when the scales can be weighted only by what the people to-day are doing, not by the deeds of their great national heroes. For this reason the happy union of two or more of the ruling Houses is of the best possible augury, for it may turn the thoughts of the peoples to other forms of alliance for peaceful ends. Roumania and Yugoslavia are already members of the Little Entente ; but that body, though intended as a bulwark of peace, is based on military considerations. There is no reason why the Little Entente should not stand, if it can adapt itself to changing conditions ; but it cannot fill the place of a purely Balkan federation, consisting of Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, and Bulgaria (with or without Albania), which would rest on the sound basis of a single geographical unit. With the union, then, of the Yugoslav and Roumanian Royal Families, we may hope that a practical step has been taken towards the bringing into harmony of the policies and activities of the two nations, and that cooperation between them will prove a nucleus round which a federation of all the Balkan States can be established.

Alexander,
King of the
Serbs, Croats
and
Slovenes.



Princess Marie
of
Roumania.

(Central News Photo.)

(By courtesy of "The Graphic.")

THE BALKAN ROYAL WEDDING.

THE R.A.F. IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

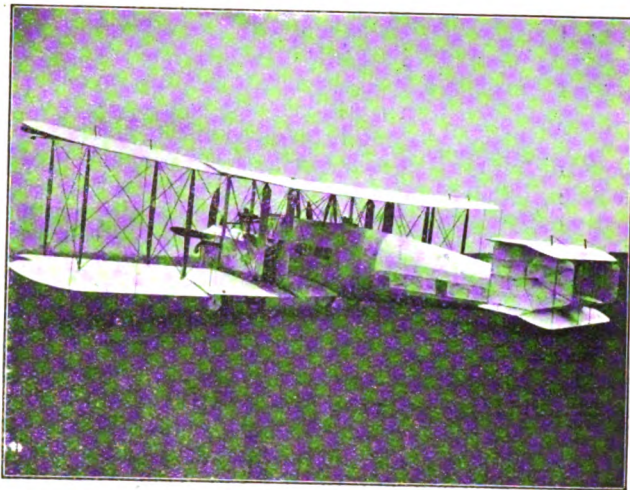
By H. T. MONTAGUE BELL.

The Royal Air Force is shortly to be made responsible for the defence of, and the maintenance of order in, Iraq. A senior officer of the Air Service will be Commander-in-Chief, and will have under him, in addition to his Air Squadrons, a military force of all arms. In Palestine a General Officer of the Army will be in supreme command, but a considerable portion of his strength will be in the air, with detachments of armoured cars now included in the equipment of the Royal Air Force. The experiment is viewed with misgivings in some military circles; coinciding, as it does, with a drastic reduction of the strength of the Army, it is regarded as the thin end of the wedge for the supersession of land forces in favour of the junior Service. The value of air strength is not challenged; but it is held in these same circles that the right policy is to make aircraft supplementary to the Army and the Navy, not to raise it to the status of an independent Service.

Whatever views may be held on this point, there cannot be the least doubt that in the Middle East a good case can be made out for giving the Royal Air Force the widest possible scope, if only in order that the experience gained under conditions obtaining nowhere else may be available in the development of the new Service. The problems which the Force has to deal with in Iraq may not be on all fours with the question of the defence of the British Isles or with the conditions of continental warfare; but it is so essentially in its element there, that it would be hard to point to a better training ground for developing the qualities on which success in the air depends. As far as the three Services are concerned different conditions and environment breed the qualifications suited to each arm, and it would be strange indeed if flying did not engender rapidity of thought and action, resourcefulness and self-reliance, without which no airman can be a master of his science. It may be expected too that from the wider horizon that is his in the physical world the airman will derive the habit of a broader mental outlook. If, then, these are the special qualities associated with the Air Service, they are more likely to develop in their own atmosphere than if they are confined within an artificial one; in other words, the nation stands a better chance of attaining the standard of air defence and offence which it requires, if the Royal Air Force is "on its own" than if it is subordinated to the Army and the Navy.

It is an axiom that Great Britain can only exercise control in Iraq with a very light hand. There can be no question of large bodies of troops or of any wide distribution of smaller bodies. On the other hand there must be an adequate force, which has to be British for the time being, to ensure the safety of the country from without and to deter any disruptive tendencies within. Roughly speaking Iraq is in the form of a blunted isosceles triangle, with sides six hundred miles long on a three-hundred-mile base. Rail communication is represented by a single trunk line from Basra to Sharqat, with virtually only one branch line from Baghdad to Khanikin. Danger from without may threaten from any point along the two sides and the base, and will take the form of swift raids in comparatively small numbers rather than any serious hostile concentration, if we except the possibility of a declaration of war on the part of Turkey. Unless strong posts could be established along all the frontiers, a purely military force would be wholly at a disadvantage in

dealing with such raids, and if once it were recognized that Iraq could be attacked with more or less impunity, the country would not long enjoy peace on its borders. The temptation that would otherwise be always present to its neighbours to indulge in raids can only be removed by the knowledge that swift and effective punishment is likely to follow. No purely military force can hope to inspire this dread throughout the length and breadth of Iraq. True, the rebellion of 1920 was effectively suppressed by the Army of Occupation, but this was then of a strength that has not been maintained since and the enemy, being within the country, could be dealt with in the Army's own time. That the Air Force can act swiftly there can be no doubt. From one or other of the three centres, Mosul, Baghdad and Basra, there is no point on the frontier that cannot be reached by aeroplane within three hours of the receipt of any warning. Whether a punitive expedition is effective from the air must be judged from the point of view of the potential raiders rather than by European experience, and on this matter there is a strong consensus of opinion that the Royal Air Force is equal to the task. Certain it is that the people of Iraq and their neighbours have a wholesome respect for aeroplanes and are under no illusion as to their capacity for succour and for punishment. It is not contended that the Air Force can round



A Vickers-Vernon Troop-carrying Aeroplane. This machine carries 12 persons in addition to two pilots.

off its work in the complete way that a military force might be expected to do it. In this connexion, however, it may be mentioned that the introduction into Iraq of troop-carrying aeroplanes will considerably enhance the punitive capacity of the Air Service. The machines of this type already in the country are those known as the Vickers-Vernon, capable of carrying twelve men in addition to two pilots. A few squadrons of these could furnish invaluable military support to an air expedition when the objective has been reached.

The measure of success achieved by aeroplanes against raiding parties is apt to vary inversely with the delay in coming into action. If time is given to the raiders to get away with their booty and to scatter, the amount of execution that can be done by bomb and machine gun is limited. For this reason the usefulness of the Air Force is necessarily curtailed when responsibility is divided, and reference, as on a recent occasion, has to be made to the British Government before hostile movements on the Iraq frontiers can be dealt with on the spot. Under the new order which is to come into operation in October, it will be in the interest both of



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BY APPOINTMENT

Iraq and of the Air Force if the latter is relieved of as many restrictions as possible upon its freedom of action. Intrinsically it is not a cheap arm, and economy in use is only compatible with maximum efficiency. If then the R.A.F. is charged with the defence of Iraq, the consideration that the Government of the country is Arab and the Air Force is British must be laid on one side. Responsibility for action should rest with the Officer commanding the Air Force in consultation with the Arab Government. The knowledge that any hostile gathering on the frontier or within it will bring down upon raiders or rebels within a few hours the dreaded peril from the air offers the surest means of maintaining peace for the country, and will enable the air strength employed to be kept at a minimum and will make for the highest efficiency of the Service.

I am aware that on this point I am preaching heresy, because it is an axiom of the British Constitution that ultimate authority rests with the civil authorities. In Iraq, however, we are dealing with an entirely novel set of conditions; precedent does not apply, and there is no reason why tradition should not be scrapped when it clashes with efficiency and success. For a period at least Great Britain has to assume responsibility for the security of Iraq; on grounds of economy she has decided to employ the Royal Air Force in the place of the Army, but unless the work is effectively done, there will be no saving of expense in the long run. If, then, it can be shown—as is undoubtedly the case—that real efficiency is impossible with divided responsibility, let the Air Force be free to act on its own initiative in co-operation only with the Arab Government. The British Empire will not be seriously involved, if a mistake should be made, and it is as easy to change an Air Force Commander-in-Chief as it is his military counterpart.

No one who has been brought in close touch with the Royal Air Force in the Middle East will question its capacity to handle a complicated problem with the same measure of success as would be expected from its sister services. Indeed the novelty of the position in Iraq may make its safeguarding a more congenial task to the youngest service than to the others. In saying this, however, one must not overlook the excellent work done by the late Commander-in-Chief, Major-General Sir Aylmer Haldane, who showed that he could not only suppress rebellion effectually, but could also win the respect and retain the goodwill of those who were at one time in arms against him. General Haldane appreciated the value in the East of the personal factor. The British will never maintain successful relations with the Arabs from a pedestal. Realizing this, General Haldane, undeterred by his inability to speak Arabic, went about the country, seeing as many of the Arabs as he could, and convincing them that the British Army was as useful a friend as it could be formidable as an enemy. In this way he set an example to the civil authorities, who, hard pressed by the amount of routine work that has to be done in Baghdad, are inclined to leave the rest of the country too much alone. It is more than likely that the High Commissioner's first visit of state by aeroplane to a distant Sheikh last March was prompted by the good work done in this respect by

General Haldane. Many a difficulty was smoothed over, and trouble probably averted by the General's cheery remarks or a happily-turned phrase. Air Vice-Marshal Sir John Salmond cannot do better than follow the former Commander-in-Chief's example in this respect. In the Air Force hitherto under the command of Group Captain A. E. Borton, whose brilliant record marks him out as among the most capable of R.A.F. officers, he will have an arm that leaves nothing to be desired in the keenness and efficiency of the personnel. (Whether the material is all that the Force could wish for is another matter, and it would not do to draw hasty conclusions from forced landings or the sultriness of the atmosphere when Rolls-Royce engines refuse to start.) The R.A.F. is not trammelled by red tape and tradition. Discipline in all the essentials is maintained as strictly as in the Army or Navy; but senior officers have been or still are (if need be, or the mood takes them) pilots themselves, and know that the man in the air must be left to his own judgment.

One result of the readiness to take responsibility, it may be noted in passing, is that the R.A.F. can do its work with a smaller personnel. For a long time to come the problems with which the Defence Force in Iraq will be confronted will call for quickness of decision, combined, it may be, with a sympathetic temperament and a ready wit. These are qualities essentially fostered by the atmosphere of the R.A.F., and the British taxpayer need have no anxiety that, if he gives it a free hand in Iraq, he will be let in for wars or other inconvenient commitments. The standard of success by which the R.A.F. will wish to be judged will be its capacity to prevent disturbances of the peace, not to punish them.

The Royal Air Force in the Middle East, however, can do other work than merely policing or defending Iraq. It has shown what can be done in overcoming the physical difficulties imposed upon British Imperial communications by the Arabian Desert. By blazing the trail from Cairo to Baghdad and by maintaining a regular postal service over the route for nearly a year, it has prepared the ground for commercial enterprise, which could never have been expected to take up the work without this preliminary help. The time is approaching when the Royal Air Force should be able to hand over the Cairo-Baghdad Service to a commercial undertaking. But Iraq was never meant to be a terminus in any international scheme of things, and from Cairo to Baghdad is only a single link in a chain that should connect Great Britain and India. Freed from having to maintain the Cairo-Baghdad Service, the R.A.F. in the Middle East can open and operate the route from Baghdad to India, until it is ready in turn to hand over this second section as well to private enterprise. With India as the terminus of the air route, there can be little question of its operation being commercially successful. From the passenger point of view the experience of to-day offers little, if any, criterion. The journey is being done under active service conditions; passengers are not encouraged, although right hospitably looked after when fortunate enough to be able to make the trip; the aeroplanes employed are war machines. When

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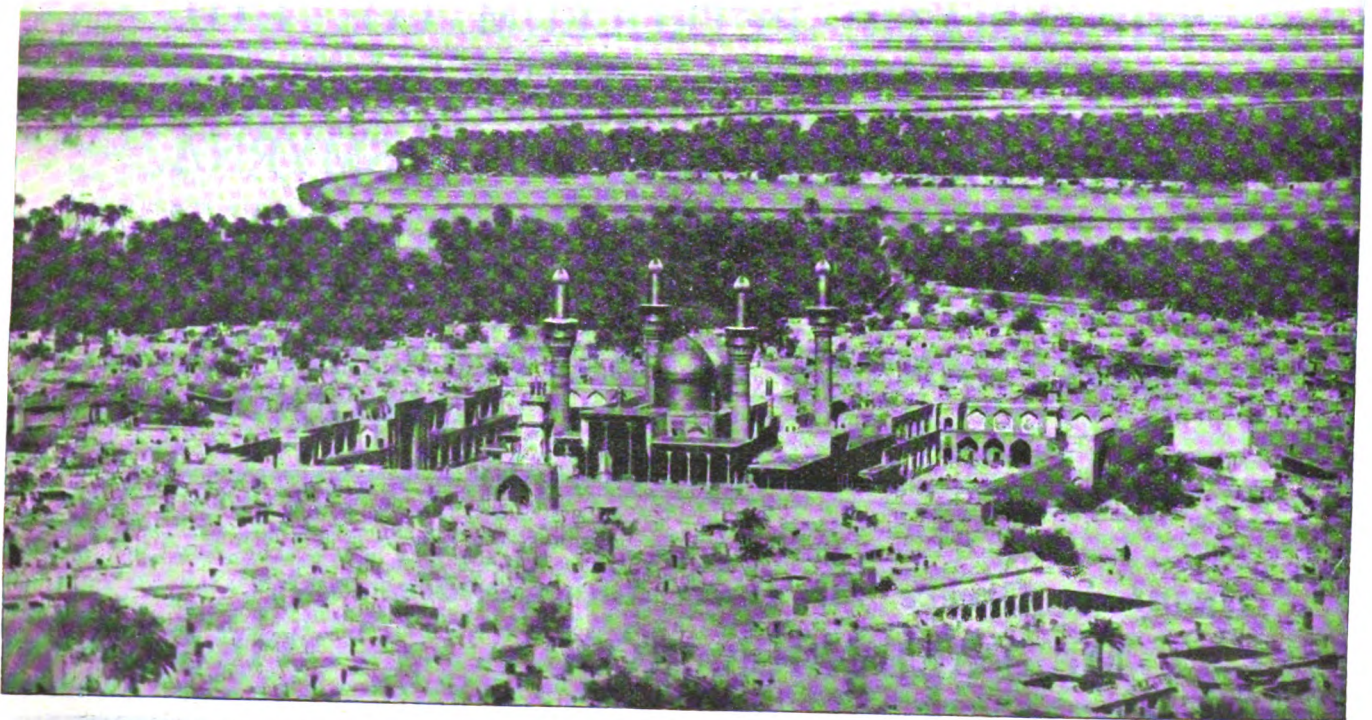
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it is desired to attract passengers, the conditions under which the journey is made will undergo material modification, for a different type of machine can be installed. It may be necessary, too, to change the route. A direct service between England and India could hardly ignore the claims of Constantinople as a stopping station. The stage from there to Baghdad would be preferable in many ways to the desert route between Egypt and Iraq. The former country would have its branch service, but would not be on the main route. These, however, are details which only the experts can decide. The chief thing for the British public or for those who aim at influencing public opinion in Air matters is to think Imperially, and to realize that in the Middle East, and particularly in Iraq, Great Britain has a training ground for her Air Force which cannot be duplicated elsewhere.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

In consequence of inquiries, the Editor thinks it advisable to state that the quotation from any article does not necessarily imply that the views expressed are shared by "The Near East." On the contrary, an attempt is made to include as far as is possible in the available space all sides of the various questions discussed.

The Rutenberg Contract.

The Times of May 29 begins an article on "The Rutenberg Monopoly" thus:—

The idea that Palestine must be modernized is, we suppose, to be regarded as an inevitable result of the acceptance of a mandate over the country by a great European Power. Palestine has been drawn into the current of modern history, and it will gradually adopt the ways and forms of the hurrying West. It is a little startling for those in whose minds Palestine still remains a quiet resting-place for sacred memories to hear of plans for drawing from the waters of the Jordan electric power for a network of factories and railways. That is the way events are moving, and if Palestine is to support a larger population than at present, obviously the resources of the land must be developed.

It then details the contract by which M. Rutenberg has secured a monopoly for the purveying of electric energy in Palestine, and says that although this engineer "disclaims any interest in politics," and in fact, "promises complete impartiality towards Jews and Arabs"—

The fact remains that in its present form the monopoly is distinctively Jewish. The political privileges possessed by the Zionist organization in Palestine have already been a source of friction and of considerable difficulty to the mandatory Power. If these privileges were to be reinforced by a concession that would give the Zionists, directly or indirectly, the economic control of the country, all the difficulties with which the British Administration is now faced would be very seriously intensified. According to Mr. Rutenberg's statement, the Palestine Government has reserved to itself the ultimate control over the scheme and also a share in the profits. Under what conditions? What are the findings of the legal and technical experts of the Colonial Office? Are essentially British interests and especially the interests of sound and impartial administration, completely secured? Who, again, is Mr. Rutenberg? Is the Colonial Office justified in giving him such a large share in the control of the immediate future of Palestine? It is high time that these questions were clearly answered, and we trust that the Colonial Office will make known without delay the character of the negotiations conducted with Mr. Rutenberg and the actual terms of this very important concession.

The Morning Post of May 31 takes up an even more distinctively national attitude, for it says:—

It is not merely that a concession involving control of the waters of the Jordan has been granted to a Russian Jew, but that the declared policy of the Palestine Administration was changed just so far as to permit the granting of that concession but not far enough to permit the granting of other concessions to British applicants, whose prior claim to consideration had been admitted. A British applicant, of unquestionable standing, who had a scheme for the reclamation of a large tract of land was refused a concession on the grounds that the Treaty of Peace with Turkey had not been ratified, and that the mandate of the League of Nations had not been promulgated. Another wholly British application—again on behalf of the most responsible people—was made nearly three years ago. It was for a concession to work the potash deposits of the Dead Sea, to utilise the waters of the Jordan in connection with the erection of the power-station necessary to the enterprise, and to build certain railways. The High Commissioner, to whom the matter was referred by the officials in this country, promised consideration of the project, but postponed definite action until the Turkish Peace Treaty and the Mandate of the League of Nations had been settled. That was in the spring of 1921. A year later the Rutenberg contract was revealed to the world, and, in response to the natural demand for explanations which followed, it was announced that the policy of the Palestine Administration had been changed in certain respects. The Administration had come to the conclusion—the Turkish Peace Treaty and the League of Nations Mandate notwithstanding—that it might consider the granting of certain concessions for enterprises of public utility, and such "certain concessions," oddly enough, included that for which Mr. Rutenberg bid, but excluded those for which application had been made by British subjects. It was discovered, for example, that the scheme for developing the Dead Sea potash fields—which three years before had been regarded so favourably—was barred, not only by respect for Peace Treaty and Mandate, but by the absence of appropriate mining legislation. How curious that when British schemes should be confronted with these clenched antagonisms, the way should be made so straight for that of Mr. Rutenberg, the Russian Jew. The old question recurs—what advantage then hath the Jew over the Gentile? Here is a matter into which the House of Commons might profitably press its investigations. Every circumstance in this transaction cries aloud for explanation, and the reluctance of the Government to provide the explanation strengthens suspicion.

Articles to Note.

"The Sacrifice of Greece," by Harold Spender; and "Indian Principalities and other Problems," by Coles Pasha, C.M.G., in the *Contemporary Review* (June 2).

"Letters from Egypt," in the *Round Table* (June).

"Marshal Lyautey: the Man and his Work," by John Bell; and "The Adriatic and its Problem," by Marchese Donghi, in the *Fortnightly Review* (June).

UNITED SYNAGOGUE AND PALESTINE.

At the Council of the United Synagogue recently, Sir Robert Waley Cohen in the Chair, Mr. Newman's motion to the effect that provision should be made to collect "contributions, voluntary or compulsory, from members of the constituent synagogues for the purpose of the advancement of economic and social conditions in Palestine," was last by a large majority. The mover had accepted amendments to omit the words "compulsory or," and to insert the words "religious" before "economic and social"; but these concessions did not affect the general sense of the meeting, which was adverse to the proposal under the present conditions of political Zionism.

A French clerk, who had absconded from Paris with twelve thousand pounds, has been arrested in Athens, where his wife was giving a fancy-dress ball. He gave up two thousand pounds in cash and a new motor-car, explaining that four thousand had been given away, and that £2,500 would be found hidden in a cellar near Paris.

BIRTHDAY HONOURS.*(Continued from page 767).*

- Skeen**, Major-General Sir Andrew, K.C.I.E., C.M.G.
Indian Army, General Officer Commanding, Kohat District, Northern Command, India.
- Tarver**, Colonel (temporary Colonel Commandant) Alexander Leigh, C.I.E., D.S.O., A.D.C.
Indian Army, Brigade Commander, 14th Indian Infantry Brigade.

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Indian Civil Service, Magistrate and Collector, Bareilly, United Provinces.
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Tea Planter and Commandant of the Surma Valley Light Horse, Assam.

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Ferrar, Lieutenant-Colonel Michael Lloyd O.B.E.

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"THE HOUSE OF THE POISONER."

In Omdurman there is a ruin not far from the hospitals of the Church Missionary Society, known to the townsfolk as "the house of the poisoner." So little did the Sudanese understand or appreciate the self-sacrificing lives of the missionaries who worked for them over twenty years ago, that this was the name they gave to the first mission house. To-day large numbers of the Sudanese gladly take advantage of the hospital, and some are being trained as hospital assistants.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

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A Loan for Roumania ?

It is essential for Roumania to obtain a substantial loan abroad if the country's reconstruction is to be carried on smoothly, but this has not proved an easy matter to arrange any more than it has for other Balkan countries. Progress in Roumania since the Armistice has not been sufficiently rapid to inspire confidence, which explains why Czecho-Slovakia, whose material resources are far less important than Roumania's, has been able to obtain financial assistance here without difficulty while Roumania has not. Negotiations have recently been entered into, however, in Paris and London as a result of which it is possible that the obstacle to granting a loan will be removed. Should an understanding be reached, it is far from improbable that a loan will be made jointly by France and Britain.

Roumania's Position.

The Paris negotiations have also covered the question of Roumania's indebtedness abroad. A satisfactory arrangement on this point, and the conclusion of a loan which would provide much-needed funds for the purchase of essential materials for reconstruction would mean much for Roumania, and given a fair harvest this year and the continuance of present satisfactory developments in the oilfields would bring within sight the time when the exchange will be nearer parity. Both as regards the harvest and the oilfields the outlook is more than promising. All the reports of Roumania's crops that we have so far received have been exceptionally favourable, while the periodical reports of the various oil undertakings speak volumes as to the development of Roumania's vital industry. Unfortunately until reconstruction is further advanced the oilfields cannot be the asset to the country that they should be.

Palestine's Resources.

If there has been a tendency somewhat to over-estimate the potentialities of Palestine the informative series of articles on the country's economic resources by Mr. Leonard Stein which have been appearing in these columns should serve as a valuable corrective. He has given a careful, measured view of the position as it is and the prospects as he sees them, and the verdict is briefly that a modified measure of development may be anticipated and in certain circumstances even very considerable progress. Agriculture must remain the country's mainstay, of course, and here the scope for advance under favourable conditions is undoubted. It is going too far at present to look upon it as a large granary. There will be time for such eulogies when the work of development has reached a further stage and it is possible to judge more certainly of the outlook. And it must be emphasized that the first essential of any sustained progress must be co-operation on the part of all concerned.

The Prospect.

Outside the realm of agriculture the prospects, Mr. Stein points out, are severely limited. There are a number of small industries in existence, and others are being started, and no doubt as time goes on a consider-

able field for employment will be found in this way, but for very obvious reasons there can be no question of industrial development on a considerable scale any more than there can be in Egypt or Mesopotamia or any other agricultural country. None of the necessary minerals are to be found in Palestine, and the only mineral of importance that the country seems likely to possess is oil. Of its resources of this mineral nothing certain is known so far, but obviously if it exists in paying quantities it will, as Mr. Stein says, materially affect the economic future of the country.

Oriental Telephone and Electric.

A very favourable review of the position of the Oriental Telephone and Electric Company was given at the general meeting last week by the chairman, Sir H. Babington Smith. He pointed out that at the company's own branches the business continued to expand and that there had been an increase of ten per cent. in the number of exchange lines during the year. The net proceeds were affected by the exchange, but the chairman stated that the prospects of further expansion were good. Dealing with the settlement of the question of the Indian licences, which will enable the companies to pursue their operations unhampered by uncertainty as to the future, the chairman said that the conditions accepted by the Government of India would, they believed, "enable the companies to provide a thoroughly efficient service on fairly remunerative terms, and will consequently make it possible further to raise the capital required for the normal growth and improvement of the systems."

The Empire Exhibition.

From many quarters very satisfactory evidence has been forthcoming of the interest that the prospect of an Empire Exhibition at Wembley Park in 1924 has aroused throughout the Empire. On another page will be found a letter from our Khartoum Correspondent discussing the Sudan's part in the Exhibition. The potentialities of the Sudan, as our Correspondent suggests, are too little known, and it is to be hoped that the fullest use will be made of the opportunity that the Exhibition will afford to demonstrate what the country can produce.

Commentator.

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Commerce and Industry.

REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, May 24.

Roumano-German Reparations Conference.

The meeting of a Roumano-German Reparations Commission, which should have taken place on May 20, has been postponed by request of the German Government to a later date.

The settlement of the following questions will form the programme of this Commission: (1) Restitution of the Roumanian National Bank's deposit in Berlin before the war; (2) Settlement of the expenses incurred for the maintenance of the hostages; (3) Restitution of the sums paid by Roumania in partial fulfilment of the Bucharest Peace Treaty of 1918; (4) All reparations due to Roumania by Germany in accordance with the Versailles Treaty; (5) The Banca Generala banknotes issued during the German occupation; (6) The question of German property in Roumania under sequestration.

Roumania's Financial Arrangements Abroad.

The Roumanian Government has received very encouraging news about the progress of negotiations abroad regarding the various financial questions, and particularly with regard to the consolidation and conversion of the Treasury Bonds in private hands. The total value of these Treasury Bonds is estimated at about 1,400 million French francs. In this connection, M. Vintila Bratianu, the Minister of Finance, has been called to Paris by his brother, the Prime Minister, for the purpose of bringing to a close the advanced negotiations. M. Vintila Bratianu left for Paris on Tuesday night accompanied by his financial experts. This fact is very favourably commented on in competent circles here, for it is generally felt that the thorny question of consolidating Roumania's floating debt abroad is at last to be solved, and that it will bring in its wake a general improvement of this country's finances as well as of its rate of exchange.

Local papers report that the Consortium, which is to take over this financial operation, consists mainly of English Bankers, and that the conversion of these Treasury Bonds will be effected for a period of 30 years at an initial interest of 4 per cent., which will gradually rise to 5 per cent. The Governmental press emphasizes the fact that this financial arrangement will be accomplished without Roumania having to pledge any portion of her wealth or having to grant any kind of concession whatsoever.

It is further rumoured that M. Bratianu is also negotiating for a big loan, most likely in America.

Merchants' Debts in Foreign Currencies.

I mentioned in one of my previous letters that the Government is determined to come to the assistance of the merchants who have payments to make abroad in inflated foreign currencies. Negotiations between the Minister of Finance and the Banca Nationala and other big local banks are still in progress, and so far the following principle has been arrived at: A consortium of Roumanian Bankers headed by the Banca Nationala will guarantee to a corresponding group of foreign bankers of each respective country the Roumanian merchants' debts in foreign inflated currencies. On the other hand, the foreign creditors will be asked to extend payment over several years at a reasonable interest. The Roumanian merchants will guarantee the local bankers with adequate securities. This is more or less the underlying spirit of the scheme, as far as the Government and the local bankers are concerned, for the merchants are still pressing for a fixed rate of exchange as a basis, in order that they should know beforehand what their losses would amount to. As the question is still under discussion modifications are still possible.

The Government has now approved the contract concluded between the Ministry of Industry and Commerce and the Millers' Association, by which a quantity of 3,000 waggons (of ten tons) of first quality wheat flour is to be purchased at the price of 5.68 lei per kilogramme.

THE SUDAN.

Khartoum, May 20.

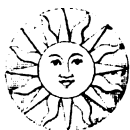
The Coming Empire Exhibition.

It is a source of gratification to all the commercial community that the Government have made known their intention of taking part in the Empire Exhibition to be held at Wembley Park early in 1924. The Sudan through force of circumstances is a parochial kind of country, and the outside world knows very little of its geography or trade potentialities. The Sudan official is a shy bird, and is noticeable for his disinclination to mix with people from other parts of the world when going on or coming from leave, and as he invariably travels in company with others of his ilk a very small amount of information about the country is disseminated by him to outsiders in the course of his travels. The commercial man is naturally much more garrulous, but there are so few of them in the country that they really do not count. Anything in the nature of publicity is, therefore, to be welcomed, and it is to be hoped that full advantage will be taken of this opportunity of showing what the Sudan can produce. A very interesting exhibit of coach building and wagon work could be put up by the railway authorities provided they are not stinted for funds, and an excellent display of leather-work, such as foot-gear and police equipment can be shown by the Prisons Department.

Owing to the lack of confidence in the status of the country, there are practically no important amounts invested in local industries with the exception of the very efficient ginning factories of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate at Wad Medani and Zeidab and a similar institution owned by Mr. Debbas at Suakin. A button factory exists at Atbara, which promises well, and a cement factory was put up at Makwar by the Sudan Construction Company, but this has since passed into the hands of the Government; and the onus of showing what can be done in the way of manufactured articles must therefore rest with the powers-that-be. It is rumoured that the Sudan Chamber of Commerce propose to make up a representative exhibit of the various raw products exported from the country, and it is to be hoped that their effort will be crowned with the success it deserves.

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THE ESSENCE OF INSURANCE IS SECURITY

SOME IMPRESSIONS OF SERBIA.

Life in Nish.

(From a Correspondent.)

Nish, next to Belgrade, is the most important town in old Serbia. It was founded by the Romans, and was named by them Najsas. Frederick Barlarossa stayed in Najsas on his way to join the Crusade in the Holy Land.

In the modern part of the town the streets are fairly well laid out with some degree of regularity, but in other parts they can only be described as straggling. No doubt the Turkish occupation has much to do with this as there are many old Turkish houses with very low doors, low ceilings, and curiously shaped windows, placed indiscriminately. The most conspicuous buildings in the town are the Prefecture, a huge square block without any architectural beauty, the gymnasium, and the cathedral. During the building of the cathedral the Turks would not allow the cupolas to be of a certain height so that they should not be higher than the minarets of the mosques, hence the height of the cathedral is out of proportion to the size of the building.

The population is estimated at 30,000, and is composed of the polyglot races of the Balkans and the Orient. Life in Nish is monotonous. In the character of the people there is a strong tinge of Orientalism, but they are remarkably keen financiers; the accumulation of the *pare* is to them the Alpha and Omega of all things. In the evenings the *cafanas* are filled with men who drink bad wine and *rakuja*, play dominos and cards, the monotony being enlivened by the uncanny strains of the Serbian native bagpipes. In the best *cafanas* there is an orchestra composed of *Zigans* (gypsies) who play weird and unmelodious music. There is no theatre in Nish.

There is no canalization, the roads and pavements are execrable, and in rainy weather they become a quagmire. In the North-East part of the town across the river is an old Roman fort that the Turks used as a citadel. About four kilometres to the East of the town is Tchelicula, the place of skulls, so called because of a hill named Chigar at which place Steva Sendgelovitch, a Serbian chief fought a severe battle with the Turks. In order to prevent the Turks from capturing a large number of his troops he allowed them to approach near, and then exploded barrels of gunpowder by which means many Turks also the Serbians and their chief were killed. The Turks cut off the heads of the Serbs and made a pyramid of the skulls. There is now a military hospital there and the place of the mound of skulls is commemorated by two skulls. At Tchelikula is the cemetery, and in a reserved part are the graves of the British soldiers killed in the Great War, in Serbia and Bulgaria. Three British Sisters, who gave their lives in the service of humanity, lie there also.

In the North-East part of the town is the little village Zagoolino Mala. Near to the village, about two years ago a peasant was ploughing when the plough came in contact with a hard substance. On examination it was found to be a building of some kind. A commission was sent, excavations were made, and a sarcophagus and a small house were discovered of Roman construction. Probably it is the site of the old Roman town.

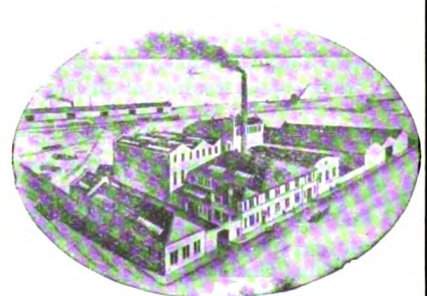
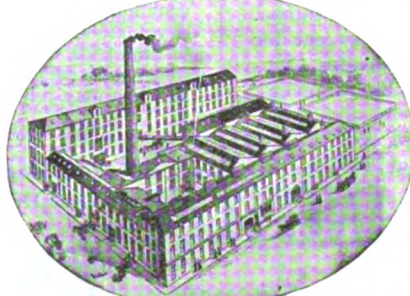
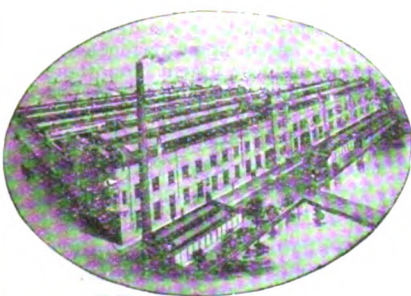
Nish is a very important railway junction between the Orient and the West. In the State railway workshops 1,200 men are employed. The tobacco factory is a state monopoly. This factory produces an enormous number of cigarettes daily. There is a leather factory in which considerable tanning operations are carried on, and an important linen factory, also a factory for enamel ware; in addition a lime kiln and brick kiln have recently been started near Nish but owing to insufficient capital and the adverse economic situation existing, they do not promise well.

Leskovatz, to the South of Nish, is called the Manchester of Serbia. There are factories there in which the manufacture of cloth, cotton goods, rope, porcelain, leather and copper are carried on, and there are also dyeing works.

What Serbia needs is extended railway communications and capital is required to develop the rich resources of the country. No doubt if the prohibitive duties now existing were reduced Serbia would rapidly develop with the aid of foreign capital and skill. Fruits of all kinds are grown, and with capital and skilled direction there is no limit to the export of these products especially plums prepared as prunes. Dairy produce of all sorts could be raised without limit. The breeding of pigs is at present a very large industry, and if factories were established for the curing of bacon an extensive export trade could be carried on. It must not be forgotten, however, that locally there would be no demand for these products. In Macedonia the climate and the abundance of mulberry trees render the cultivation of the silk worm a very sure and prosperous business. Before the war this branch of industry was carried on on a small scale, the cocoons all being bought by a London firm.

South Serbia and Macedonia are in the volcanic zone, as proved by the hot mineral springs found in so many places, for instance, Nishka Bania, Vranska Bania, Vraniahka Bania. Over these places steam hangs like a dense mist. There is no doubt that minerals of various kinds are to be found, but, at present, only copper, coal, lead and sulphur are worked.

In Serbia there are five millions of inhabitants, 85 per cent. are engaged in agriculture. Each peasant owns a plot of land, and he is protected by the laws which prevent anyone from taking his land, his oxen or anything necessary for him to gain his livelihood for debt. The methods of agriculture are very primitive, agricultural machinery has not yet been taken up. Vast areas are covered with forest, and timber of the most valuable sorts is to be found.

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INDIAN FINANCES.

Government Plans for Economy.

The urgent need for drastic retrenchment in the Government of India's expenditure was emphasized by a deputation to the Viceroy on May 30 representing the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India and Ceylon. In the course of his reply the Viceroy said :—

In the first place, let me assure you that I and my Government are fully alive to our serious financial situation, and to the importance of establishing equilibrium between actual current expenditure and a reasonable estimate of revenue. We realise the effect of continued deficits and borrowing operations upon trade interests. We clearly recognise that one of the five avenues to be explored, and thoroughly explored, is the question of our expenditure. As regards the latter, we are prepared to place it in the crucible, and put it fully to the test with reference to each Department, and each of its several activities in detail. We intend to prove it by the reaction test of whether the Department as a whole, and each of its activities severally, are absolutely necessary and indispensable, and if the answer to that test is in the affirmative, we propose to employ further searching processes to ascertain whether its activities permit of reduction in expenditure or not; and even if the latter be the answer we will not be content to rest there, but will examine whether as efficient results could not be attained by a complete change of method of treatment. If that points the way to saving, I hope you will be convinced by what I have said that we intend no half measures. We protect nothing, we conceal nothing, we reserve nothing, we do not apply any temporizing measures to our bodily disease, we desire to lay our ailments and the history and facts of our constitution frankly and without reserve before the physician, and we are prepared, as far as it is compatible with efficient government and the primary necessities of safety and good administration, to submit to operation, to cautery, to the letting of blood, or to rigorous diet.

As regards the committee which is to report to the Government of India, we have secured as Chairman, Lord Inchcape. I cannot too highly praise the high sense of public duty which has actuated one of the busiest of men, after his recent arduous labours, to undertake this work; I know that I express the opinion of those before me when I say that we could hardly have secured one more fitted in every way to direct these investigations in India; his knowledge of India where he first made his reputation in business, and his unique experience of problems similar to ours, gained during his membership of the Geddes Committee, single him out as one who is peculiarly gifted for the task in which he has consented to help us. As regards the members of this Committee, I hope and believe that when this, its full constitution is announced, as it will be very shortly, it will command the confidence of all who are interested in the financial condition of India, and will satisfy them of our earnestness of purpose. We are attempting to secure advisers whose qualifications are beyond dispute, who will examine our problems from a wholly novel and unbiassed angle of view, but with the lens of acumen and experience. The Secretary is to be Mr. Howard, Lord Inchcape's own selection. Mr. Howard was at one time associated with our finances in India; he is personally known, I think, to some of your deputation, and I believe the Committee will be able to rely implicitly on his experience of the financial aspects of all questions connected with the Government of India. Liaison officers will be attached to the Committee, to place all our archives at their disposal, and to explain the precise function or alleged function of the various wheels in our complex administrative machinery.

The field of the labours of the Committee is the whole of the administrative machine of the Central Government, and the processes which it controls or drives. This includes military expenditure under the terms of reference already made public. You will have perceived that they are identical, except for minor verbal modifications, with those of the Geddes Committee; they enjoin scrutiny of all Departments and branches,

and of every class of expenditure; but of course, just as with the Geddes Committee, the final determination upon matters of policy will rest with the Government. It should be a waste of time and money to burden those who are to do the expert assay with the labours of the crushing, or with the collection of the spoil for examination. Much of the spade work will be accomplished before the Committee assemble. The preparatory work has already been entrusted to an experienced officer of the Finance Department who is on special duty, and is even now engaged in searching enquiries in each Department. Some of this preliminary work has indeed already been completed. A Committee, which I recently appointed under the Presidency of Mr. Innes, and of which General Hudson and Mr. Sim were members, has finished an investigation into the question of the staffs employed at Army Headquarters. I cannot commend too highly the thoroughness with which this examination was pursued, and the expedition with which their report was submitted. Adequate steps have been taken to ensure that the Committee, when it assembles, will be supplied with full information on every point which it may desire to investigate. As regards expedition, Lord Inchcape's engagements prevent him from reaching India before October, but we hope before then to make a substantial advance into the field of examination in which they have to labour. We have taken every precaution to ensure that the investigation starts under the best possible auspices, and is in a position to dispose of its work with expedition. One result, which we hope for from this preliminary work, is that we may find ourselves able as a result of the Departments' scrutiny of their own expenditure, and of the critical examination carried out by our special officer, to prune off and lop redundant and unnecessary branches in advance of the sittings of the Committee. Instructions to this effect have already been issued to all Departments, and it will be one of the chief tasks of the officer on special duty to watch the progress of this kind of retrenchment, and to direct the enquiries of the Departments into profitable channels; he has also been instructed to devote special attention to cases where the activities of a Department deal with provincial subjects.

I note your observations regarding New Delhi. I can assure you that my Government are fully cognisant of the criticism and discussion in the press and otherwise, relating to this monumental work, and the subject is engaging our most careful attention, with a view, if possible, of restricting the expenditure. I hope that what I have told you will give you confidence in the earnestness of purpose of my Government in spite of what is at times said to the contrary. I have every reason to believe from the reports that come to me from all parts of India that the Government, which is representative of India in a greater degree than previous Central Governments, is inspiring trust and confidence. Whilst desiring to join with you to-day in avoiding controversial issues, I must remind you that my Government have been faced with difficulties of an exceptional nature:—The aftermath of war, trade depression, reduced exchange, high prices, economic distress, troubles in Malabar, and on the frontier, and political agitation, combined to create a most complex situation. In addition, the great changes and problems connected with the working of the reformed constitution had to be compassed in the midst of considerable political unrest. In our judgment, this situation, in its various stages of progression, required careful and patient handling. May I remind you that patience is a political virtue, which often demands greater courage than more picturesque forms of action, but it should never be practised indefinitely. It may surpass the limit of a virtue and become a fault; and we have not hesitated to take resolute action when we thought conditions required it. I hope I may now claim that the policy of my Government has been justified by events; and that India will enjoy a period of greater peace and tranquillity for a time, at any rate; and I trust for a long time. We have comparative peace, we have an atmosphere in which our political life and economic progress can grow and develop on right lines; in this development I am in full accord with you, that the restoration of financial equilibrium in India, based upon retrenchment, where possible, of expenditure, is of most urgent importance, and you may rely upon my utmost efforts to secure this result.

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Engineering Topics.

By Our Engineering Representative.

The Spa Clutch.

Some little time ago I was able to test exhaustively the new Spa car and gained a very high opinion of the production. I was particularly impressed with the sweetness of the clutch, which is of the fabric to metal type, and has seven steel and six Ferodo-faced plates, driver and driven respectively. It is, of course, a "dry" clutch, has a wonderfully sweet action, engages without the slightest harshness, and disengages just as smoothly. The clutch pedal shaft, which carries the disengaging fork and the clutch pedal, is mounted solely on the casing which forms the housing of the flywheel and connecting the engine crankcase to the gear box. From an engineering point of view this arrangement is admirable, as it obviates any cross or twisting strains being brought to bear on the clutch withdrawal mechanism. A further point about this clutch is that it can be removed for re-lining or inspection without it being necessary to dismantle the gear box or interfere with the engine or its controls.

Storing Coal.

The new method of storing coal which is not of the best quality is to keep it under water, by which means it is protected from the influence of the air which tends to break it up into dust and to destroy some of its heating properties.

In one of the largest industrial establishments using coal fuel, in which some hundreds of tons are burned under the boilers each week, a vast reserve stock of coal is kept so as to render the firm independent of price fluctuations, labour troubles, or other possible shortages of supply. These reserves are stored in concrete structures which are somewhat similar in design to the ordinary concrete water reservoir. A smaller and similar concrete bin is used for holding some hundreds of tons of coal screenings and dust which is washed out of the larger reservoir and used for banking up, and for keeping fires going during slack periods. The main pit is kept filled with water and as this is kept in constant circulation, the stream flowing from the large to the small reservoir and back again, all coal dust is washed into the smaller reservoir and collects there until it is wanted for use. In this way many hundreds of tons of fine coal that otherwise would be wasted are collected each year.

The pit used for storage is 250 feet long by 150 feet wide by 12 feet deep, and two-thirds of the structure is below the ground level. The capacity of the tank is 7,000 tons, and to stand the weight, together with the weight of the water, the sides are 12 inches thick. Two feet below surface level they join a floor 6 inches thick with an upward slope of $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 to a depth of 6 feet where the sloping portion joins the main part of the floor.

Coal is delivered into this bin direct from the railway wagons by means of a tipping arrangement and the capacity of the structure is not limited to the 12 feet depth mentioned as coal can be piled as high as is pleased on top of that actually in the bin. The submerged coal is lifted by mechanical means, and as the water drains away the finer particles of coal are washed out and carried to the dust storage bin. As the screened coal passes into the furnaces it is brought over revolving chain grates, and any small coal that falls through is again washed by water power into the tanks. It is said that the saving by this method of working has been enormous, and has already paid for the erection of the bins and the operating plant.

A New Feeder Box.

Some interesting departures have been made in the design and construction of feeder and network boxes, for electric light and power mains, by a leading British electrical engineering firm. Of the many improvements embodied in the new type, which is known as the C.W.S. type, the following are perhaps the most worthy of

mention:—The fittings are mounted on metallic frames, thus ensuring considerable strength and durability, the spring contacts are adjustable and, further, are renewable. An improved form of grip fuse or link extractor is also provided.

The frame is formed by means of steel rods with rigid end-pieces provided with feet. The insulators are moulded with grooves which fit over the rods, and by means of these it is a simple matter to move the insulator over to any required position. It is claimed—a claim which appears to be fully justified—that this form of construction gives a commendable rigidity and strength, and in addition provides a clear space on the underside of the grid for cables to be spliced or jointed in the box. In addition it permits of ready assembling and jointing, and also enables the interior gear to be packed separately for transit, a feature which will appeal to all overseas buyers, as it tends to reduce breakages to a minimum. The gear is so arranged that the compound level is above the sweated joints. It is stated by the makers that practical work has shewn that in the majority of cases the type of spring clip usually supplied with network boxes is open more or less to criticism, and in quite a number of types the spring clip has been found to be either too flimsy, resulting in excessive heating, or else so constructed that renewal is difficult and expensive. In the spring clip in question not only have these difficulties been dealt with and removed, but the frequent cleaning of the surfaces can, if necessary, be carried out without any trouble. The chief advantages of the new contact are given as being as follows: Easily removable springs; adjustable pressure on contact surfaces; the spring when removed leaves a wide space between the contact jaws, thus facilitating cleaning; the spring itself is not relied upon to carry any current; the spring is always in compression, a form which relieves any fatigue in material; and the design is such that it is practically impossible for the contacts to overheat. These spring clips form part of a loose contact head which is connected to the cable or busbar connections by a grip contact which introduces little or no appreciable electrical resistance. It appears that for bonding work the boxes can be fitted with an attachment consisting of shallow iron pockets split on the centre line and embracing the lead sheath and armour of the cable. These pockets, when bonding is being done, are filled with molten lead, which effectively bonds the lead sheath and armour of the cable to a copper bonding strand attached to the box by a clamp.

Universal Commerce Corporation.

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11th April, 1922.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

We take keen pleasure in announcing the fact that ALEX. P. BORG, Esq., of Alexandria, has been appointed our sole agent and representative in Egypt, Sudan, Palestine and the Near East.

It is our sincere hope and expectation that he will do much toward establishing pleasant business relations and we earnestly solicit your inquiries through him, with the assurance that everything humanly possible will be done by him and by us in catering to your needs and rendering you a genuine service.

Respectfully,

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By JOHN W. LIND (President).

Mr. Alex. P. Borg's offices are situated at the ex-Metropole Hotel, Rue Averoff, Alexandria. Telephone 606. P.O.B. 141. Telegrams ABAGTHA. Alexandria.

IRRIGATION IN ISPAHAN.

The following is an extract from a letter lately received in London from Ispahan :—

It is usually the case that the East moves slowly and takes not too kindly to changes and innovations of any kind, but in regard to one thing at least Orientals are always ready to consider the possibility of improvement, and that is in regard to irrigation. Talk to a Persian or an Arab about plans for giving his land a larger or more regular supply of water, and you will interest him at once. He does not as a rule love modern machinery, but once he has seen how much more efficient is an oil engine or a pulsometer pump than the old-style *shadoof* or *naoura* and he will scrape and save to buy one for himself, if he has land to irrigate.

At the present time two schemes of interest are under consideration which, if they ever come to fruition should prove remunerative to those who carry them out. One is concerned with a project for joining the river Karun and the Zenda Rud in their upper reaches, and it is reported that preliminary surveys in connection with the scheme are to be undertaken at once. It is estimated that the work would cost some 300,000 tomans, and it is suggested that the money should be advanced (to the Government) by the people of Ispahan, and should be repaid in from twelve to twenty years, out of taxes due from the city.

The second proposal is not so ambitious, involving an estimated outlay of from fifty to sixty thousand tomans ; and a syndicate, headed by the Sardar Azam, and supported by local notables has been formed to carry out the work. The idea is to utilize the waters of a small stream which now runs to waste, at a point south of Ispahan. This will be done by constructing a dam in the neighbourhood of Kumesheh, where there is a natural basin which will facilitate storage, which the dam will, of course, raise as water for irrigation purposes.

BRITISH CONSULAR REPORTS.

III. LINGAH.

We give the following extracts from the report of H.M. Consul at Bundar Abbas, Mr. A. W. Fagan, I.C.S. :—

The period of the war did not affect the trade of Lingah to the same extent as it affected that of Bundar Abbas. Lar, the main centre in the interior dependent on Lingah, is not a place of great commercial importance, and the insecurity of the road between Lar and Shiraz and the scarcity of water on that route during the summer months prevented that route from competing successfully against the Bundar Abbas route to Shiraz. Moreover Lingah does not enjoy the same shipping facilities as Bundar Abbas.

The trade of Lingah is largely transit trade imported goods being re-exported to Oman, e.g., cotton piece-goods, wheat, barley and dates. Total imports for 1920-1921 amounted to £352,166 as compared with £180,120 for 1913-1914, £410,064 for 1918-1919 and £390,238 for 1919-1920. Soft sugar formed 24 per cent. cotton piece-goods 22 per cent., and rice 15 per cent. of the total imports. Soft sugar shows an increase of 200 per cent., cotton piece-goods and rice nearly 100 per cent. on 1913-1914 figures, while sugar and rice show an increase on 1919-1920 but a decrease on 1918-1919, and cotton piece-goods an increase on 1918-1919 but a decrease on 1919-1920.

India supplies 60 per cent. of the total imports, Holland 20 per cent. (sugar and tea), Oman nearly 4 per cent. (tobacco, pearls and specie) and the United Kingdom 3 per cent. (cotton piece-goods and specie). Imports of Kerosine show a steady decrease as Anglo-Persian Oil Company's oil is brought in large quantities from Abadan. £829 worth were imported from the United

Kingdom and £270 from India in 1920-1921. As in the case of Bundar Abbas, India is probably wrongly shown as the place of origin of many of the goods, being merely the place of shipment.

The total exports in 1920-1921 were valued at £174,783 as against £126,381 in 1913-1914, and £80,987 and £72,140 in 1918-1919 and 1919-1920 respectively. Specie was exported in larger quantities than in any of these years, but owing to the state of the market no pearls were exported ; the general export trade of the year therefore may be said to compare favourably with those of previous years.

Carpets, mainly Qashqai and other tribal carpets forwarded from Lar, from 26 per cent. of the total exports, cotton piece-goods re-exported to Oman, 6 per cent. wheat and barley (re-exported as the harvest of the district is insufficient for local needs) to Oman 4 per cent., gum tragacanth from Lar 2 per cent. dates (re-exported from Busreh), drugs and medicines, boats and accessories, and manufactured tobacco (re-exported) each 1 per cent. Specie represents 4 per cent. of the total.

The statistics furnished have been taken from Customs returns and may be accepted as fairly accurate except perhaps in the classification of countries of origin and destination. The values given in the returns have been converted at the rate of 27 krans to £1 for 1918-1919, 26 krans to £1 for 1919-1920, and 27 krans to £1 for 1920-1921.

There are small pearl banks near Lingah, but the pearl trade of Lingah has been largely appropriated by Bahrain and the Oman Coast mainly owing to the more favourable Customs conditions prevailing there. The year under review has been an exceptionally bad one for the pearl trade, however, and nowhere have big profits been made.

Copper and iron work, boat building, and the manufacture of cotton sail cloth are staple local industries, but with the possible exception of the last named are not undertaken on a large scale enough to be important for commercial purposes.

Carpets (mainly Qashqai and other tribal carpets), gum tragacanth, almonds, pistachios and rosebuds are brought into Lingah from Lar, and assafoetida from Bastak.

In spite of the vigilance of the Customs Department tea, sugar and coffee are smuggled into Lingah in considerable quantity from Oman, and there is little doubt also that a fair trade is done in arms and ammunition.

Apart from the arms traffic the smuggling of other commodities is partly to be attributed to the severity of the Customs dues and regulations, which are slowly strangling the trade of Lingah. Steamers have of recent years been visiting Dubai on the Oman Coast, where no regular Customs Department exists, and the result of this is that Dubai has acquired much of the trade formerly belonging to Lingah, and many Lingah merchants have opened agencies in Dubai.

According to a report issued by the Metal Industries Association the production of steel in Czecho-Slovakia for the year 1921 amounted to 917,662 tons.

ENQUIRY BUREAU.

Merchants, etc., may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau," "The Near East," 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2." It must be understood that "The Near East" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.

121. Exporter of Greek Ores in Athens, especially of purest quality Magnesite and Chromite wishes to be connected with interested British Firms.

122. Merchant in Galatz, Roumania, wishes to enter into business relations with British firms willing to ship goods on consignment terms. Guarantees by Leading Banks given. Full details on application. Correspondence in French.

123. Import and Export Merchant in Beyrout (Syria) invites correspondence with British firms. General Merchandise. Will act as agent, commission basis, or own account.

124. Solicitor in Zagreb, Croatia, open to act for British firms requiring legal assistance in Yugoslavia. Correspondence conducted in French, German, Italian and Croatian.

125. A firm of British Merchants and Commission Agents in Liverpool desire to extend their connections in the Near East for General Merchandise.

126. Confectionery. British firm of manufacturers extending their export trade in best quality confectionery suitable for sub-tropical climates will supply details to enquiries from oversea buyers.

127. A Firm exporting all kinds of Metals and other merchandise to Egypt and India would like to get in touch with Importers in the Near East of similar goods.

128. General Commission Agent and Merchant in Cairo, Egypt, open to represent British manufacturers and merchants on commission. Can also export all kinds of Egyptian products.

'BALKAN' NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

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Capital paid up	5,000,000
Total reserves as per December 31st, 1920	53,200,000
Premium Income during 1920	28,300,000
Amounts insured of Life branch exceed	150,000,000
Branches maintained: Fire, Life, Marine, Casualty and Re-insurance of all branches.	

HEAD OFFICE: SOFIA, BULGARIA.

Stock and Share Markets

MARKETS GENERALLY ACTIVE.

Prices Inclined to Ease.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Tuesday morning.

To look for activity in the markets in Derby week is to ask for disappointment. Epsom has too magnetic an influence to leave much time for attention to more mundane affairs. It has certainly been so this week to a greater extent than usual, and the enormous increase in the subscriptions to the Calcutta sweep suggests the explanation that the average investor felt that that speculation was enough for one week.

Conditions generally continue to be unfavourable for the markets. It is true that following Genoa there is a tendency to more settled conditions abroad, but what we have gained in that direction we seem to be losing at home. Ireland is again well to the foreground as a centre of trouble. Few seem to expect that the worst will happen in that unhappy island, but the possibility of untoward events is quite enough to have an adverse effect when markets are so sensitive as they are at present. Happily the engineering trouble seems to have blown over so if a settlement is reached with regard to Ireland the way should be clear for the markets generally to go ahead again.

New Issues—Past and Future.

Following the New South Wales and Straits Settlements loans, which, as my readers are aware, met with an unfavourable reception at the hands of the investor, came a British Guiana issue. In this case the terms were much more attractive, a return of $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. being offered, and, as might have been expected the loan was a conspicuous success. It simply illustrates, as I suggested last week, that the yield for investments had gone below the economic level. As the British Guiana issue shows there is plenty of money available if only the return is adequate. Besides the question of yield investors are keenly alert in these times to other considerations such as security, as is shown by the fate attending recent French issues in this country. Two railway issues guaranteed by the Government were over-subscribed, and went to a premium, but the two recent shipping issues, which carried no such guarantee, met with little support, and in both cases substantial amounts were left with the underwriters.

Gilt-edged Dull.

Holiday influences and the Irish situation have combined to produce a certain amount of dullness in the gilt-edged group. Consols are $\frac{3}{4}$ down at $56\frac{3}{4}$, the Conversion Loan is 1.1-16 down at 77.3-16, while War Loan Fives have shed 1-8 at 99.9-16. Indian stocks have presented a fairly firm front. The Seven per cent. loan is unchanged at $115\frac{1}{4}$, the $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. loan is 1 down at $68\frac{1}{4}$, while the 3 per cent. loan is $57\frac{1}{4}$ x.d.

Inactivity has prevailed in the foreign market and quotations in some instances have shown a tendency to fall away. French stocks, exceptionally, have been strong, War Loan Fives being $1\frac{1}{2}$ up at 45. German 3 per cents. have continued to improve, and are 5-16 up at 2.15-16. Italian Rentes are unchanged at $24\frac{1}{2}$.

Russians have been dull, the 4 per cents. being 7, the $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cents. 10, a decline of a point, and the 5 per cents. 14, also a point lower. Brazilians have been inclined to dullness, while Chinese stocks have been weak.

Industrials Inactive.

Once again there is little change to record in the Industrial group. Business has been on the smallest possible scale, and price changes have been few and far between.

Textiles have been fairly steady. Coats are unchanged at 3.5-32, while Courtaulds are 6d. down at 50s. 9d. Tobaccos have been a firm spot, with Bats 6d. up at 79s. 6d. and Imperial Tobaccos 2s. 9d. up at 61s. 6d. Dunlops, after fluctuating somewhat, close at 9s. 3d., a decline of 3d. on the week. Iron and Steel shares have been steady. Vickers are unchanged at 11s. 6d., Armstrongs are 9d. up at 16s. 9d., while Guest Keens are also 9d. up at 34s. 9d. Indian railways have been firm with Bengal and North Western at 122, Bengal-Nagpur at 97, and Madras and Southern Mahratta at $102\frac{3}{4}$.

Shipping securities have been inactive. P. and O. Deferred are 5 down at 315. Cunards have shed 9d. at 20s. 9d., while Furness Withys are 3d. up at 30s.

Oils Unsettled.

Unlike most of the markets there was a good deal of activity in the Oil group before the holidays, and a somewhat erratic tendency was in evidence. Burmahs at 5.3-8 show a gain of 1-8, while Anglo-Persian Ord at 4.7-16 are $\frac{1}{4}$ down. Mexican Eagles at $3\frac{1}{2}$ are 3-16 up. Trinidad issues have been steady. Apex at 2.1-8 are unchanged. Centrals remain at 2.1-8, while Leaseholds are the same at 1.3-16.

Among Egyptians Anglo-Egyptian B are 1.27-32, a rise of 5-32, while Oilfields of Egypt are unchanged at 6s. 6d. In the Roumanian group Phoenix are unchanged at 28s. 3d., Steaua Romanas are 6d. down at 12s. 6d., Roumanian Consolidated are unchanged at 17s. 6d., while Dacia Romanos are $\frac{1}{4}$ down at $1\frac{1}{4}$.

OIL REPORTS.

Phoenix Oil.

The Secretary of the Phoenix Oil and Transport Company announces that the following telegrams have been received from Roumania:—(1) "Moreni Five: flowed five hundred tons in six hours early Saturday; flowed again eleven evening to eleven Sunday morning." (2) "Moreni Five: including Saturday morning's flow estimate production fifteen hundred tons; half already delivered pipeline. Now repairing fountain shield."

Oilfields of Egypt.

The following cablegram was received by the Oilfields of Egypt on May 30, from the field manager: "Ras Bahar No. 3. 769 ft. Gypsum dark grey shade 703 to 708 ft. little gas. Ras Dhid No. 3. 888 ft. 861 to bottom alternating bands grey shale, cemented sand, rock grey limestone. Species Ostrea 872 ft. Exogyrae 883 ft. (Cretaceous series) all little gas."

Dacia Romano.

The Dacia Romano Syndicate, Ltd., have received news from Moreni that their new well is yielding a violent, but irregular, flow of good oil. When this has settled down it is reasonable to anticipate that the well will give a steady and satisfactory output.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

ORIENTAL TELEPHONE AND ELECTRIC COMPANY.

The twenty-eighth ordinary general meeting of the Oriental Telephone and Electric Company, Limited, was held on June 1 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C.

Sir H. Babington Smith, G.B.E., C.H., K.C.B., C.S.I., Chairman of the company, presided.

The Secretary (Mr. J. Macleod) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors, the Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the results of the year 1921 were not unsatisfactory. The net revenue for the year was £49,227. This was almost identical with the corresponding figure, £49,207 10s. for the preceding year. They were therefore able to recommend the payment of the same dividend and bonus as last year.

At their own branches the business continued to expand. The number of exchange lines had shown the satisfactory increase of 10 per cent. during the year. The net proceeds showed a decrease mainly owing to the fall in the Indian exchange; but the prospects of further expansion were good, and under the new arrangement with the Government of India the maximum rates at Madras and Rangoon would be increased.

He now came to the important question of the Indian Licences, and he was glad to be able to inform them that it was at last settled. The conditions accepted by the Government of India would, they believed, enable the companies to provide a thoroughly efficient service on fairly remunerative terms, and would consequently make it possible for them to raise the capital required for the normal growth and improvement of the systems. The terms, briefly, were that the Government undertook not to exercise their option of purchasing under the existing licence before 1943.

Conditions were laid down for securing efficiency in the plant and its operation (including the obligation to provide automatic or central battery plant in all exchanges over 200 subscribers). The maximum rate chargeable for an exchange connexion within four miles of the exchange was raised from Rs. 250 to Rs. 350 per annum per subscriber, subject to certain conditions as to periodical revision of the rates, such revision to be on the basis of a standard dividend of 1½ per cent. on the paid-up capital. He might mention that the rate charged in the past had not, till recently, exceeded Rs. 200.

The agreements applying these conditions to the Bombay and Bengal Companies had already been signed. Those relating to their branches at Madras and Rangoon were practically settled and would be signed in the near future.

Steps had been taken for organizing the Bombay and Bengal undertakings on a new basis, suited to the new conditions, and for raising the capital required for new developments. It was probable that it might be found advisable to form separate Indian companies to take over the systems at Madras and Rangoon, and he anticipated that they might soon have proposals to lay before them at that end.

Mr. Parker Ness had at the request of the board made another journey to the East. He left this country in October last, and had visited Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Rangoon, Singapore and Hongkong. He was now at Hongkong and would pass through India again on his return journey. His presence in India had been most valuable, and had contributed in no small degree to the successful conclusion of the negotiations and to the settlement of the new basis for the Indian undertakings.

They found it necessary also to ask Mr. W. W. Cook—their consulting engineer—to undertake a journey to India, Singapore and Hongkong for the purpose of advising them on numerous questions which had arisen or might arise in those countries. He was giving particular attention to the question of the use of automatic exchanges in tropical climates and would advise them also on questions of rates and organization generally as well as on the valuation of their plant—a matter of great importance when they were considering the transfer of undertakings to local companies.

The conditions now settled for the Indian licences gave security of tenure for a certain period and a reasonable increase of rates. There was a good prospect of similar arrangements in Hongkong and Mauritius, and perhaps in Singapore also. If those prospects were realized, they would have the essential conditions necessary for progress.

Before concluding, he would like once more to say how much they appreciated the excellent services rendered by the company's staff, both in this country and abroad.

Mr. H. Johnstone Grewing seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The Hon. Evelyn Hubbard moved the re-election of Mr. G. Parker Ness, the retiring director. He said that all the shareholders knew what admirable service Mr. Parker Ness, their vice-chairman, had rendered to the company. He had very much increased their obligation to him by the work that he was now undertaking. He was on a long and arduous journey and had had difficult negotiations to carry through. He had accomplished his task with great pertinacity and success. Had it not been for his journey they would not be able to report now that the great licences question was satisfactorily settled.

Mr. Grewing seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

A cordial vote of thanks was accorded to the chairman and directors, and to the staff, and the chairman having briefly responded, the proceedings terminated.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Land and Mortgage of Egypt.

The net profit of the Land and Mortgage Company of Egypt for the year ended March 31 was £9,709, making with £10,942 brought in £20,651. The directors recommend a dividend of 6 per cent. for the year, less tax, carrying forward £11,651. The report states that the total outstanding debentures and debenture stock having been reduced by drawings and purchase to £58,525, the directors will submit a resolution for extinction of nominal liability on shares and their conversion into £3 fully paid shares.

Tata Industrial Bank.

The report of the Tata Industrial Bank for the twelve months ended March 31 states that the profit for the year, including the amount carried forward, and after making provision for all known bad or doubtful debts, amounts to Rs. 18,56,733. The directors have made the following appropriations:—In payment of an interim dividend of 10 annas per share, free of income-tax, as on November 15, 1921, Rs. 6,32,279, provision for adjusting securities to or under market value, Rs. 1,70,019, transferred to reserve fund, Rs. 3,50,000, provision for income-tax and super-tax, Rs. 1,38,206—Rs. 12,90,505. The directors now recommend payment of a final dividend of six annas per share (making Rs. 1s. for the year) free of income-tax as on June 1, 1922, Rs. 3,75,092, to carry forward Rs. 1,91,136—Rs. 18,56,733.

Guardian Eastern Insurance.

The report for 1921 states that 26 new life policies were issued, assuring £25,158 for annual premiums £1,064 and single premiums £52. There were no claims during the period. Fire premiums after deducting reinsurances, were £53,926 against £61,517; net losses, £39,750 (73.71 per cent. of premiums), against £33,973. Expenses of management, including fire brigade charges and commission, together amounted to £18,163, being 33.68 per cent. of premiums; interest on fund, £1,680. After providing for losses and expenses there was a profit of £1,453, which has been transferred to profit and loss. On accident, etc., premiums, after deducting re-insurances, £7,683, against £5,846, net losses, £3,127 (40.7 per cent. of premiums), against £1,067. Expenses of management, including commission, £3,073 (40 per cent. of premiums). After providing for losses, expenses and bad debts and for additional premium reserve (£1,129) there was a profit of £1,492 transferred to profit and loss. In marine department, claims, returns and other payments on account of 1920, settled in 1921, were £3,484, and transfer to suspense account to close 1920 required £5,000. On 1921 account premiums were £16,693, claims paid £5,342 and expenses of management £2,722. The fund at the end of the year was £10,063. The company's Stock Exchange investments, consisting entirely of British Government securities, which stand in balance-sheet at £163,613, had a market value on December 31, 1921, of £170,197 and on April 25, 1922, of £190,627.

PERSIA, RUSSIA AND BRITAIN.

The Egypt, Greece and Levant section of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce recently had the following message from Persia submitted to it by a shipper, together with a request that the matter should be taken up with the proper authorities:—

"We hear on unimpeachable authority that on imports from Russia the authorities in the North are imposing the Customs tariff of 1903 while British goods and those from other countries are being charged on the 1920 scale. As the 1920 scale imposed largely increased duties on nearly all descriptions of goods, it is obvious that, unless some alteration is made, British goods stand no chance in competition."

The Secretary immediately got into communication with the Board of Trade (Commercial Relations and Treaties Department), and received the following reply from the Assistant Secretary:—

"I am directed by the Board of Trade to state that negotiations between Russia and Persia are at present proceeding with a view to a conclusion of a Commercial Agreement on Customs and other matters. In the meantime Russian goods are allowed to be imported into Persia on two Customs declarations, one of which is based on the tariff of 1903 (on which basis duty is actually being paid) and the other on the new tariff of 1920, on the agreed understanding that, if the claim of the Russian Government for the admission of Russian goods at the rates of the 1903 tariff is not accepted as the result of the negotiations, the difference between the duties actually levied and those leviable, under the 1920 tariff, will be paid. I am to add that H.M. Representatives in Teheran and Moscow are closely watching the matter, the importance of which is fully realised H.M. Government."

There is now a motor bus service twice daily between Nazareth and Haifa.

The directors of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway recommend a dividend of 10s. per cent. for year ended March 31, making £2 for the half-year, less tax.

The Imperial Bank of Persia announces an interim dividend for the half-year ended March 20 at 3s. per share, free of tax, payable June 15.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

NEW ELLERMAN LINER.

On May 31 Messrs. Workman, Clark and Co., Belfast, launched from their South Yard the large single-screw first-class steamer "City of Nagpur," which has been built for the City Line Fleet of the Ellerman Lines, Ltd. The new steamer has been specially designed and equipped for passenger service between Great Britain and India. She is over 490 ft. in length, with a tonnage of 10,200. This is the twenty-first vessel built by the firm for the City Line.

PORT EXTENSIONS AT ALGIERS.

Work in connection with the enlargement of the Port of Algiers was inaugurated on April 19, says the *Board of Trade Journal*, when the President of the French Republic laid the first stone of the new port. In a speech delivered at this ceremony, the President of the Algiers Chamber of Commerce stated that the new port would cover an area of 115 hectares, and that there would be constructed, in addition, two new dry docks, five new moles, and new wharves, embracing an area of 175 hectares. Of the funds required for this purpose the Chamber of Commerce had subscribed 135 million frs. out of a total of 180 million frs. Special conveniences would be provided for postal services, and a free zone would be constituted for the purposes of the transit trade.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

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

Anchor Line.—S.s. *Circassia* for Bombay (Liverpool, June 23).

Anchor Broekbank Line.—S.s. *Manipur* for Calcutta (Birkenhead, June 10); s.s. *Maihar* for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, June 20); s.s. *Manaar* for Calcutta (Birkenhead, June 22); s.s. *Malancha* for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 1); s.s. *Malakuta* for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, July 4).

Bibby Line.—S.s. *Arracan* for Rangoon (Middlesbrough, June 10); s.s. *Leicestershire* for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, June 21).

Byron Steamship Line.—S.s. *Maid of Delos* for Patras, Piraeus, Constantinople, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, Braila, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Bourgas and Varna (Liverpool, June 9).

Clan Line.—S.s. *Clan Macmillan* for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, June 12); s.s. *Clan Colquhoun* for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (Birkenhead, June 15).

Cunard Line.—S.s. *Brescia* for Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Ancona, Venice, Trieste, Fiume and Gravosa (Swansea, June 13); a steamer will sail on July 13 from Glasgow for Gibraltar, Ceuta, Melilla, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Odessa etc.

Ellerman Line.—S.s. *Gerano* for Gibraltar, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas and Varna (Liverpool, June 16); s.s. *Flaminian* for Gibraltar, Melilla, Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, June 21); s.s. *Andalusian* for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Ancona, Venice and Trieste (Liverpool, June 22).

Ellerman's "City" Line.—S.s. *City of York* for Calcutta (Birkenhead, June 15); s.s. *City of Harvard* for Bombay and Karachi (Birkenhead, June 22); s.s. *City of Baroda* for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 1).

Ellerman's "Hall" Line.—S.s. *City of Karachi* for Bombay, Karachi and the Punjab (Liverpool, June 15).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—Steamers sail fortnightly for Malta, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz and Braila.

Glen Line.—S.s. *Pembrokeshire* for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, June 15); s.s. *Glenade* for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, June 20).

Harrison Line.—S.s. *Matador* for Calcutta (Liverpool, June 15); s.s. *Chancellor* for Port Said, Port Sudan, Aden, Mombassa, etc. (Birkenhead, July 13).

Henderson Line.—S.s. *Amarapoora* for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, June 14); s.s. *Sittang* for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, June 28).

Holt Line.—S.s. *Mentor* for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Swansea, June 8); s.s. *Titan* for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, June 15).

Johnston Line.—S.s. *Incemore* for Piraeus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool July 5).

Moss Line.—S.s. *Karnak* for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Piraeus, Syra, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza and Sulina (Liverpool, June 26).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. *Grodno* for Algiers, Malta, Syra, Smyrna and Constantinople (Liverpool, July 5).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. *Nyanza* for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, June 16); s.s. *Kaisar-I-Hind* for Bombay (London, June 10); s.s. *Novara* for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, June 29); s.s. *China* for Bombay (London, July 14).

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. *Warfield* for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, June 10); s.s. *Nevasa* for Bombay and Karachi (London, June 16); s.s. *Morvada* for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, June 23); s.s. *Mantola* for Bombay and Karachi (London, June 30); s.s. *Hatipara* for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, July 8).

Prince Line.—S.s. *Sailor Prince* for Tunis, Malta and Alexandria (Manchester, June 17); s.s. *Tudor Prince* for Malta and Alexandria (London, June 28).

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated May 29:—Condition of Crops.—Bengal.—Slight rainfall on May 20 to 22 in jute districts, but on the whole weather continues hot and dry and unfavourable for jute and autumn crops. Markets.—May 25—Bombay cotton market weak. Fine M.G. Omras Rs. 439 July. May 27—Calcutta jute market strong with sellers very reserved and generally asking higher prices. Hessians very strong with prices advanced. Ready 9" and 11" porters at Rs. 22.12 and Rs. 32.8. Heavies very firm with prices advanced in sympathy with Hessians. B. Twills Rs. 47. Shellac.—Calcutta, May 26—T.N. Rs. 183. Market slightly steadier. Rangoon, May 26—Special Straits quality rice, Rs. 495. No change in bank rates.

Jaffa oranges are now being shipped to Amsterdam.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended May 20 amounted to £6,079.

The Canadian Pacific announce special cheap fares to Canada, available during the holiday season from June to October. An attractive booklet entitled "Pictorial Tour Through Canada" may be obtained free on application to the Canadian Pacific Railway, 62 Charing Cross London, S.W.1.

ANCHOR LINE

First-Class Passengers only.

LIVERPOOL TO BOMBAY.

KARACHI via Bombay calling at Gibraltar & Egypt.

LARGE STEAMSHIPS. UPPER DECK CABINS.

FITTED WITH ELECTRIC FANS.

RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

PASSENGER SAILING DATES—

CIRCASSIA, JUNE 23. OLYMPIA, JULY 18. CASTALIA, AUG. 9. SCINDIA, AUG. 22.	MASSALIA, SEPT. 8. ELYSIA, SEPT. 20. CIRCASSIA, OCT. 20. OLYMPIA, NOV. 7.
--	--

Anchor Line (Henderson Brothers), Ltd

16, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.3.

CONDITIONS IN CYPRUS.

A report received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank dated May 15 states:—

Since the date of our last report, *viz.* April 15, not a drop of rain has fallen in the Island. Consequently the wheat crop and vetches have considerably suffered, and the shortage will be very appreciable. Such conditions affect the purchasing power of the peasants, and the general stagnation in business continues.

Silk cocoons. Climatic conditions have been extremely favourable for this industry and the prospects are good.

Carobs. The sale of small parcels has been effected in France, where, apparently, there is some demand at a price of £6 per ton c.i.f.

MANCHESTER COTTON REVIEW.

The cotton trade review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended June 3 states:—

Genera!.—The past week has not maintained the standard of its immediate predecessors as regards business done. This may be partly due to the fact that next week is the Whitsuntide Holiday, which is the principal holiday of the year in Manchester. Merchants' offices and warehouses will be closed during the whole week and consequently they have been more engaged in settling up outstanding matters than in entering into fresh commitments. More probably, however, the chief cause is to be found in the higher range of prices now generally ruling, to which buyers abroad still show a reluctance to conform. So far as India is concerned matters have not got beyond the stage of enquiry, and there is still a disparity between the ideas of Calcutta and Bombay and the ideas of Manchester as to prices. China and other outlets have also been quiet, but the Levant continues to buy small lots of sized shirtings.

Yarn.—In keeping with general conditions the yarn market has been much quieter, and little business of any volume is spoken of. It certainly looks as if a difficulty may be experienced in maintaining prices unless some weight of orders is forthcoming when the Whitsuntide holidays are over. Yet, during the past week spinners have not made any sign of giving way and the tendency of prices has been against buyers.

Cloth.—The principal support in the cloth market during the past week has come from the Home trade, mainly for light summer fabrics. Buyers abroad have not been forthcoming with new orders of any size, though some manufacturers are still booked up with the orders which have been placed on their books during the past few weeks, principally for India.

Raw Cotton.—Prices have been firm and the closing quotations show a rise of 34 points in Fully Middling American. The activity shown in the first days of the week has not been maintained, however, and things have been distinctly quieter in the last two days, both in "spot" and "futures." The first Bureau Agricultural Report regarding the new crop has not provided anything in the nature of a surprise. The figure of 69.70 was generally expected, and the actual figures proved to be 69.6.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

FOUNDED 1863.

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

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

Messrs. P. REDON, Director
B. KERESTEDJIAN
J. UNGAR

} Sub-Directors.

DJEVIAD BEY.
HAMID BEY.
NOURY BEY.

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(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

EGYPT.
Alexandria.
Cairo,
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Port Said.

PALESTINE.
Jerusalem.
Jaffa.
Caiffa.
Ramallah.
Bethlehem.

CYPRUS.
Famagusta.
Larnaca.
Limassol.
Nicosia.
Paphos.

PERSIA:
Hamadan.
Kermanshah.

MESOPOTAMIA
Ashar.
Baghdad:
Bassorah.
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SMYRNA.

TUNIS.

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(Banque de Syrie—Affiliated Bank).

Aleppo.
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Beyrout.

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Hamah.
Homs.

Saida.
Tripoli.
Zahle.

The Bank has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of Credit granted.

Exchange and Merchandise operations effected.

Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Oranges in good request.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Tuesday morning.

Sugar.—Home refined has been in moderate demand at unchanged rates. Tate's cubes are 53s. 6d. and mineral water sugar remains at 48s. 9d. London granulated is firm at 48s. 3d., while Lyle's granulated is unchanged at 48s. 6d. Export descriptions have been steady. West Indian crystallized remains firm at 42s. 6d., while white Mauritius has gained 3d. at 43s. 6d. White Java has come to business at 19s. 6d. Cane sugar quotations are:—June, 15s. 6d.; July, 15s. 6d.; August, 15s. 6d.; and September, 15s. 6d. White sugar quotations are:—June, 21s. 6d.; July, 21s. 3d.; August, 21s. 4½d.; September, 21s. 6d.; and October-December, 21s.

Coffee.—Steadiness has prevailed. East Indian is firm at 120s. Costa Rica shows no change at 118s., while Nairobi is unaltered at 108s. The futures market has been steady. Quotations are:—July, 63s.; September, 62s. 6d.; December, 60s. 9d.; and March, 59s. 9d.

Dessicated Coconut.—There have been signs of improvement during the past week, an increase in sales being noticeable. There is now a prospect of an all round re-action in the market.

Rice.—The Whitsun holidays have had a marked effect on this market, and business has been on a small scale.

Green Fruit.—Another good week has been in evidence for oranges, all offerings having been cleared at a short notice. Good fruit still arrives with further shipments, but Spanish shipments will almost cease in two weeks time. The demand for lemons has been well maintained, while prices have still a tendency to fluctuate. The excellent condition of Naples fruit has resulted in an increase in quotations, but taking into consideration the quality of the fruit, the rise is by no means excessive. Australian and Tasmanian apples have been in favour this week, at firm rates. The demand for Egyptian onions is still declining, and prices have shown a downward move in consequence.

Oilseeds.—Lower prices generally. Indian linseed has dropped 4½d. at 20s. 10½d., while La Plata is 3d. down at 19s. 6d. Rape-seed is lower with Toria 1½d. down at 18s. 10½d. Cottonseed has declined in all cases with the exception of Indian which has remained firm at 90s. Egyptian black has lost 7½d. at 12s., and Sakellaridis has shed 6d. at 11s. 4½d.

Oils.—A steady tone has prevailed. Linseed oil is 6d. higher at 44s. 6d. Rape oil is unchanged with crude at 45s. and refined at 48s. Cotton oil has been steady with the exception of technical which has shed 1s. at 43s. Egyptian crude is the same at 43s., refined is unaltered at 49s. and deodorized at 54s.

Oilcakes.—There has been a loss of 10s. in all cases. Linseed cake is now 280s. ton. Cottonmeal cake is now at 260s. ton; cottonseed cake at 160s. ton; and coconut cake at 140s. ton.

ROUMANIAN CROP REPORT.

Messrs. Watson and Youell, Galatz, report as follows under dated June 1:—

We have had an extraordinary amount of rain with quite cool weather, being most favourable to the crops, while we understand that the first hoeing of the maize has already begun. It is generally considered that the prospects are very good indeed, and it is believed that there never was such a large area cultivated, but it must be borne in mind that it is mostly primitive cultivation.

In this connection the Bucharest newspaper *Argus* publishes the following in its issue of the 21st ult.—In nearly the whole of Wallachia the peasants will start the first hoeing of maize at the beginning of next week. This operation is early owing to the extremely favourable temperature which necessitates the maize, which was sown only a few weeks ago, having to be hoed already. With regard to the other crops of barley, oats and beetroot, the sowing may be considered as finished. Wheat in most districts of the country—although the area under cultivation this year is less than last year—looks healthy and is expected to give a production of about 25 hectolitres per hectare. The fruit trees have suffered considerably from cold and caterpillars—unusually numerous this year—and the damage done comprises the whole crop. We shall therefore have little fruit this year.

The production of oil in Roumania rose from about 100,000 tons in February to nearly 115,000 tons in March.

The Imperial Bank of India has reduced its minimum rate of discount from 7 per cent. to 6 per cent.

It is announced that the Zagreb Sample Fair, which was to have taken place from June 3 to 15, has been postponed until June 17.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting	Parity of Exchange	Latest. Quotations.
Alexandria ..	Piastres to £....	97½	97,7-16
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	107-108
Belgrade ..	Dinars to £....	25.22½	300-320
Berlin	Marks to £....	20.43	1,292-1,294
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3.9-16-1.3½
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3.9-16-1.3½
Brussels	Francs to £....	25.22½	53.44
Bucharest ..	Lei to £....	25.22½	630-670
Constantinople	Piastres to £....	110	670-690
New York....	Dollars to £....	4.86 2-3	4.50½
Paris	Francs to £....	25.22½	49.31-49.33
Prague	Kronen to £....	24.02	228-232
Rome	Lire to £....	25.22½	86½-86½
Sofia	Leva to £....	25.22½	580-610
Teheran	Krans to £....	50	51½
Vienna	Kronen to £....	24.02	52.000-55.000
Warsaw	Marks to £....	20.43	17.500-18.500

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12/12/21	FRENCH 5% WAR LOAN (BI)	37	£ 46½
10/4/21	ITALIAN 3½% RENTES	23	£ 25

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Chemicals.—Acids: Boric 61s. cwt.; oxalic, 8½d. lb.; citric, 2s. 3d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 3½d. lb.; ammonia (sulphate) £16 11s. 6d. ton; arsenic, (white powdered), £35 5s. ton; benzole (standard), 2s. 5½d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £13 15s. ton; borax crystals, 26s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 117s. 3d. cwt.; Potassium: Bichromate, 6½d. lb.; chlorate, 4½d. lb.; caustic, £33 10s. ton; nitrate, £37 10s. ton; permanganate, 9½d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 1½d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £15 5s. ton; Sodium: Crystals, 130s. ton; bi-carbonate, £11 5s. ton; bi-chromate, 3d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £9 1s. 3d. ton; chlorate, 3½d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £23 ton; hyposulphite, £16 ton; prussiate, 9½d. lb.; nitrate, £15 3s. 3d. ton; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £60 ton; glycerine (industrial 1260 per cent.), £87 10s. ton; lemon oil, 3s. 6½d. lb.; quinine, 2s. 10½d. oz.; red lead, £36 ton; white lead, £39 10s. ton; white ground lead, £49 15s. ton; sulphate of copper, £27 5s. ton; sulphate of iron, 60s. ton.

Metals.—Aluminium, £122 10s. ton; antimony (English Regulus), £28 ton; bismuth, 9s. lb.; copper (standard) £62 6s. 3d. ton; copper (electro), £69 15s. ton; gold bars, 93s. 5d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 90s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 90s. ton; galvanized sheets (25 G), £15 17s. 6d. ton; lead (soft foreign), £23 11s. 3d. ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 1½d. unit; molybdenite, 30s. unit; nickel, £162 10s. ton; platinum, 360s. oz.; plumbago, £16 ton; quicksilver, £12 bottle; spelter (G.O.B.), £27 16s. 3d. ton; tin (standard), £150 9s. 3d. ton; wolfram, 11s. 7½d. unit; zinc sheets, £35 5s. ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 19s. 1½d. box; silver bars, 36d. oz.

Miscellaneous.—Cotton (American), 11.83d. lb.; Egyptian (Sakel), 17.75d. lb.; jute (first grade c.i.f.), £34 10s. ton; jute (lightnings), £31 ton; Oilseeds: Linseed (La Plata), £20 2s. 6d. ton; palm kernals, £17 6s. 3d. ton; castor seed (Bombay), £17 19s. ton; sesame seed (China), £24 12s. 6d. ton; soya beans £12 11s. 3d. ton; Oils: Linseed £45 2s. 6d. ton; olive (Spanish) £80 ton; rape (crude), £42 10s. ton; soya £40 12s. 6d. ton; petroleum, 1s. 4½d. gallon; petrol, 2s. 1d. gallon; fuel oil (ext-tank), 70s. ton; coconut (Ceylon), £38 17s. 6d. ton; cotton (crude), £42 5s. ton; ground nut £44 5s. ton; Rubber: Plantation (No. 1 Crepe), 7½d. lb.; smoked sheet, 7½d. lb.; fine hard Para, 10½d. lb.

During last year coal and coke from Czecho-Slovakia found an extensive market in Poland, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Italy, Bulgaria, Roumania, Switzerland, Denmark and Danzig. The excess of Czecho-Slovak exports over imports amounted to 379,000 tons coal, 4,482,000 tons lignite, 185,000 tons coke, and 154,000 tons briquettes.

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MANCHESTER MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Friday.

On the whole the market during the past week has been quiet and featureless. A holiday feeling has prevailed, and buyers generally have been in no mood to commit themselves to any business of importance. It is generally anticipated, however, that a larger business will be done after the Whitsuntide holidays. A great deal of interest has been centred on the Bureau condition report on the American cotton crop, and the figure of 69.6 was generally anticipated by traders. Last year the figure was 66.0. Prior to the figure being issued there was some covering in anticipation of the report being bullish. With regard to cloth not very much business has been done with Egypt, the Levant, and Constantinople. Shippers to the first named outlet report that stocks are gradually being cleared, but the weak seller out there has not been eliminated with the result that low priced stocks keep being thrown on the market. Quotations for Egyptian yarns have been well held, but the turnover has been of restricted dimensions. A small piece goods inquiry has been about for India and China, and scattered transactions have resulted in staple counts. A fair amount of support has been given by South America and the Continent. Home trade buying has been decidedly better on account of the hot weather. American yarn prices have continued firm, but buying has been of a hand to mouth character. The market will be opened only on Tuesday and Wednesday next week.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

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

The quieter markets experienced at the end of last week have again been in evidence and sales have shown a considerable falling off in quantity. The demand has been somewhat more general in character, and at times some difficulty was found in meeting it. For examples, several enquiries for good brown cotton appeared, but the selection naturally was a poor one, as this growth is gradually dying out, and although many spurious growths of so-called brown cotton are pressed for sale on the slightest encouragement, buyers will have none of it and it remains a drug in the market. Good fair upper is another growth which is causing some spinners a certain amount of anxiety, as there is practically no decent staple cotton of this variety on offer either here or in Egypt. And what business does take place is of the "odd lot" variety. Strict good fair Sakel is yet another instance of a quality which is growing rapidly scarcer in this market, and the price of which in Alexandria is rapidly stiffening. The raising of the basis of good Sakellaridis here to-day, as compared with full good fair, caused some astonishment, as it is realised that, of the 100,000 odd bales of Egyptian cotton held in Liverpool and Manchester, a very large proportion of it is of this quality.

Manchester reports have made extremely poor reading after the excellent ones to which we have lately become accustomed. Apparently the demand from abroad has almost died away for the time being, though the tone remains firm, and India still takes an odd lot here and there. Almost a holiday feeling has been noticeable during the last few days, for which the long delayed summer, bursting suddenly upon us, is no doubt responsible. Even the demand for Tokar and Sudan cotton which for months now has been quite a feature of our market here failed for once to-day, not a bale being reported in the sales. The Tokar district this year has produced some remarkable fine cotton, totally different from the product of previous years in the same province. It has quickly found favour, and has been eagerly enquired for. Total sales 2,400 bales (includes 700 Sudan). Quotations of brown and upper are advanced 25 points. In Sakellaridis fully good fair and below are advanced 50 points. Good is exceptionally 75 points dearer, whilst fine and extra fine are left unchanged on the week.

[The Manchester Cotton Review will be found on page 781. The Egyptian Market Report has had to be held over this week owing to pressure on our space.]

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 579—Vol. XXI.

THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 1922.

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At the time of going to press letters due from Greece and Albania have not been received.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Balkan Wedding.

All the fairy godmothers were present to bless the Belgrade wedding last week, and the only absentee to show his displeasure at not being invited was the Clerk of the Weather. The rain may have been an inconvenience; but it could not damp the people's spirits. No happier augury for the success of the union and of King Alexander's reign could be found than in the enthusiasm with which His Majesty and his bride were acclaimed by his loyal subjects. Such attention as could be spared by the public from the central figures would seem to have been devoted to the Duke of York in his double role as representative of King George and *Koom* at the marriage ceremony. The golden opinions that he won on an occasion which called for nothing more than that he should be his own natural self are a source of special gratification to Britons, and we hope that His Royal Highness' visit may rekindle in Yugoslavia some of the friendly feeling towards Great Britain which in political circles has tended to grow cold since the Armistice.

The Little Entente.

It was natural that both the Roumanian and the Czecho-Slovakian Government should be fully represented at the Royal Wedding in Belgrade, and it is satisfactory to find that the Prime Ministers have improved the occasion by providing for an extension of the scope of the Little Entente. Dr. Benes has announced that there is to be a new treaty between Czecho-Slovakia and Yugoslavia, of a more general character, guaranteeing mutual support in other directions than the mere maintenance of the Treaty of Trianon. When the treaty with Roumania comes up for discussion next year Dr. Benes hopes that it will also be renewed on the same lines. In some ill-advised circles the attempt is being made to represent Roumania and Yugoslavia as being willing to pull the Allies' chestnuts out of the Anatolian fire. The idea apparently is that the Allies, having brought Greece to financial and political disaster in the pursuit of a will o' the wisp, should now involve two other countries, themselves in financial straits and with a war-worn population that can only be saved by long years of peace. We are confident that there would be short shrift for any Administration in Yugoslavia or Roumania that accepted the role, and regret to find an

English newspaper acting in this matter as the Devil's advocate.

The Position in Bulgaria.

There is a marked desire in most quarters to paint everything in Bulgaria as unfavourably as possible. What precise object is to be gained by so doing is not clear, because most people prefer to see those whom they regard as black sheep become reformed characters rather than to goad them into becoming still worse. But very little vision has ever been displayed in dealing with Balkan affairs, and the practice of pitting the different countries against each other and of using them as pawns in European politics is apparently still in vogue. We do not pretend that all is well in Bulgaria. It would be strange indeed, if it were so. We feel, however, that the Bulgarians have made a praiseworthy effort to play the game with regard to the Allied Powers since the Armistice, and that they have given the fullest justification for what ought to have been the Allies' policy—to do all in their power to help Bulgaria to make good after her disastrous default in the War. But nobody seems to have the courage to stretch out a helping hand. The old hostility survives; there are the same pin-pricks, the same misrepresentation and manufacture of lying statements—the only effect of which, if persisted in, must be to drive the Bulgarians in the direction of making common cause with Communists, Bolsheviks, and Turks, or whoever in Europe's Cave of Adullam proffers sympathy. The more critical the political position in Bulgaria the greater the need of the Allies' representatives, whether in the Diplomatic Service or on the Reparations Commission, to stand by her with help or advice. They can have no desire to meddle in Bulgaria's domestic politics, but it is tragic to see both King and Government, as well as the people, floundering, as it were, out of their depth, when a single throw of a line by the Allies might bring them into safety, to their own benefit and to that of Europe.

A Fiuman Incident.

Another unpleasant incident is reported from Fiume. Some supporters of the late Zanella Government, who had taken refuge on Yugoslav territory, recrossed the frontier and—after visiting a tavern—came into conflict with a patrol of Italian police. What is described by one correspondent as “a small battle” ensued; troops were hurried to the spot; one Italian soldier was killed and another was wounded; and finally the “invaders” were driven back whence they came. Viewed from a distance the whole affair looks insignificant, little more

than a drunken brawl. But with feelings running so high as they are in the Fiuman Free State, even a drunken brawl may very easily lead to serious trouble. The Fascisti are restless again—of course; but fortunately Belgrade and Rome are keeping cool, and have nominated commissions of inquiry. If the commissions act promptly, and somebody gets severely punished for causing the trouble, such "incidents" may be rarer in the future.

Atrocities in Anatolia.

We have received from a correspondent a copy of a "Report on Certain Destroyed Villages in the Turkish War Zone in Anatolia," by two American ladies, Miss Annie Allen and Miss Florence Billings, members of the American Relief in Anatolia, with a request that we will afford it the same publicity as that given to reports of alleged Turkish excesses. Our own belief is that the publication of these reports does very little, if any, good to either side; but since the Turks complain—and not without reason—that they are often denied publicity, which is readily accorded to Greeks and Armenians, it is only fair to comply with the request. The report, emanating as it does from independent witnesses who, as neutrals, were invited by the Turks to make their own investigations, is clearly deserving of respect. The two ladies state that they "were left entirely free to see and talk as we pleased," and that one of them speaks Turkish well; and their methods of making inquiries appear to have been calculated to secure trustworthy results. They went straight to the Turkish peasants for the bulk of their information, and they declare that their informants "gave their statements simply, with no exaggerations." Internal evidence supports the statement.

"Regrettable Incidents."

We do not propose dealing with the ladies' Report at any length, but if justice is to be done to the Turks, it is necessary to give some idea of the charges it brings against the Greeks. The latter are accused of looting on a wholesale scale, of course. That is practically inseparable from warfare in the Near East, if not elsewhere; and the Turkish witnesses themselves frankly recognized as much, "but," as one of them added, "to burn our homes and to violate our women, this is barbarism." And the crimes mentioned figure largely in the Report. Thus to take the first four villages reported on: at Mulk, out of 100 houses 95 were burned; at Oghlakji, 46 out of 50; at Hammamkarahissar, 57 out of 60; and at Kozaghaj, 196 out of 200. Men were shot for attempting to defend the honour of their women, and, to quote from the Report: "many women who refused to give money were wounded and killed; women were violated; wheat, both on the harvest floor or in the houses, was deliberately burned; sheep and cattle driven off and killed; in fact, every means by which the villagers could sustain life was destroyed." The distinction between such methods and those alleged to have been followed by the Turks may appear to some readers a very fine one. Finally, while the Report shows the conduct of the Greek soldiers in so unfavourable a light, it shows that some of the officers at least, even some of high rank, behaved both brutally and treacherously.

Our Prince in Egypt.

When it was first announced that the Prince of Wales would visit Cairo on his way home some little uneasiness was felt in certain circles, and it must be admitted that the feeling was not altogether unnatural. For Egypt

to-day is restless and—no good purpose is to be served by denying the fact—inclined to Anglophobia; and in view of certain recent manifestations, it was not entirely unreasonable to fear that some of the Egyptians might give an exhibition of ill-manners, if nothing worse, during His Royal Highness' visit. Happily all this anxiety is proved to have been unnecessary. Some of the extremest of the Extremists, it is true, proposed the taking of steps to mar the Prince's visit, but the Opposition leaders, understanding better the feeling of the Egyptian public, set their faces against the proposals, and thus nipped the mischief in the bud. And thanks to the wisdom shown, to the warm-heartedness of the Egyptians as a whole, and, above all, to the Prince's wonderful way of winning smiles and cheers even from those who come prepared to frown, and, if it can be done safely, to jeer, the visit has been a great success.

A Crowded Programme.

His Royal Highness, who landed at Suez on Friday evening and left Port Said early on Monday morning, crowded into his short visit a programme which would make most people quite ready for a rest afterwards. He was entertained at luncheon by King Fuad, who conferred upon him the Collar of the Order of Mohammed Ali; he played a strenuous game of polo, and was largely instrumental in securing a win for his side; made an unexpected shopping tour in the Mousky; attended a boxing tournament arranged by the Military Sports Committee; joined the British cavalry officers in their jumping exercises; and used such spare time as these things—to say nothing of the official calls—left him in playing tennis. And if he played and smiled himself into the liking of the Egyptians, who were at first inclined to aloofness, he left behind him in the hearts of the British a feeling of loyalty, pride and affection which nothing is likely to diminish.

Sudan Notables.

In a letter which will be found on another page our Khartoum Correspondent gives us this week some interesting and valuable information about the Sudan leaders, religious and lay, who formed the Delegation which came to England in 1919. These are the men—or some of them—who during Lord Allenby's recent visit to the Sudan expressed a not unnatural anxiety regarding their country's future. They desire nothing better than for Great Britain to continue to occupy the position she has held on the Upper Nile since Kitchener freed the land from the Mahdist terror. Yet a study of the biographical details given by our Khartoum Correspondent would suggest that some of them might be pardoned if they regarded the change made in 1898 with no particular enthusiasm. The fact that they feel as they do, and that they should manifest their feelings as they have, is a fine tribute to British administration, and, especially, to the type of Briton who has been sent to work amongst them and for them. Plainly, they fear that any change made now would be for the worse, and, though it may be unfashionable to say so, it seems to us that their fears are quite justified.

France and the Arabs.

An official contradiction has been issued in Paris of the report that the French Government had concluded a treaty with Ibn Saud "involving territorial, political and military clauses directed against Great Britain and her protégés, Kings Hussein and Faisal." If rumour had been as explicit as the words quoted imply, it was as exaggerated as the final sentence of the *démenti*,

which states that the report is devoid of all foundation. The basis of the report was the exchange of views between the French authorities in Syria and representatives of Ibn Saud, at a time when the latter was allowing his followers to attack Iraq, which is for the time being under Great Britain's charge. There is certainly no need at present to regard the incident too seriously; the French, having a guilty conscience, see the hand of King Faisal in everything that goes wrong in Syria, and jumped at the opportunity of showing favour to Ibn Saud in the hope that they could encourage the Sultan to embarrass Iraq still more. But the Nejd representatives appear to have learned something from their fellow-Arabs in Syria, and the result was a treaty of peace and amity between Sultan Ibn Saud and King Faisal. It would be a more friendly act on the part of the French Government if, instead of allowing General Gouraud to attack King Faisal in every public utterance that he ever makes—and they are of almost daily occurrence—it consulted the British Government, in order to find out whether there was the least justification for the General's charges. If General Gouraud could adduce any satisfactory proof of the accuracy of the statements, it would be the duty of Great Britain to put a stop to the practices of which he complains. On the other hand the French have no right—to leave the question of good manners on one side—to attribute to the intrigues of a sovereign friendly to Great Britain the shortcomings of their Syrian administration.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Monday.

A Slack Week.

For the first time in the memory of post-war man, the past week has not provided a political crisis. Home politics have been dead; not a speech has been made, and the Under-Secretaries have slept at their posts while their superiors have been scattered in the shires. Only Ireland has been with us: it kept Mr. Churchill in town, and brought Mr. Lloyd George back from Criccieth, but even here there seems a temporary improvement.

Early last week British troops in Ulster repulsed the Irish Republican Army, which ran away; apparently it had not expected that British protection for the Northern Government was seriously meant, and the "whiff of grapeshot" which settled that particular irruption has had a wholesome effect. A long and angry *communiqué* of protest was issued by the Republican Army, which was plainly disconcerted to find itself opposed by regular soldiers.

There has been the usual crop of barbarous outrages in Belfast, and murders and arson have been reported elsewhere in Ireland; but the discussions on the constitution of the Free State have proceeded harmoniously in London. Whether a constitution has much chance of working in a State where the very foundations of society are quaking is a problem that need not be discussed here; and the publication of a further agreement between Messrs. Collins and De Valera discountenancing free candidates at the forthcoming elections seemed to deprive the contests of the last touch of reality.

The agreement was generally interpreted as a tacit threat against candidates who would not obey the party coalition of Provisional Government and Republican forces, and threats in Ireland are apt to be followed by arson and murder. Several candidates, however, have been brave enough to come forward in spite of the threats; it will be interesting to see how they get on. On them, and not on the official parties, depends the hope of Irish freedom. The independents are mostly of the agricultural or labour description, and they appear to be sick of the reign of terror. The real question is whether they can persuade those who agree with them to vote for them.

Westminster and Palestine.

In general politics two matters are certain to call for attention when Parliament meets again. The failure of the projected Morgan international loan will bring up once more the whole question of indemnities, and on this problem the House of Commons will look for information to Mr. Grenfell, the new member for the City, who is a partner in the firm of Morgan, Grenfell & Co. And I hear that a great attack is to be made on the Palestine Agreement for water both by the Die-Hards, who do not love the Jews, and by British industrialists, who do not like the idea of machinery orders going to Germany.

The Channel Tunnel.

Another flying accident has led to a correspondence in the papers as to the safety of the Cross-Channel aeroplane services, and the public mind is rather exercised at the moment on the question. Two accidents in a few weeks are naturally disturbing, but the standard of safety is high taken as a whole.

At the same time, one man's misfortune is another man's good. The dangers of the air and the discomforts of the sea have led to a revival of interest in the Channel Tunnel, and preliminary borings are now proceeding, and full plans being worked out. It seems to be confidently anticipated that Parliament will give its consent some time this session.

Insanity and Capital Punishment.

The anomaly of the distinction between legal and medical insanity was strikingly demonstrated last week, and a violent controversy is raging over the True-Jacoby question.

Jacoby was a pantry-boy of 18 who murdered an old lady in a hotel. There was no excuse for the crime, but the jury recommended the lad to mercy, apparently on account of his youth. The Court of Criminal Appeal dismissed the appeal—pointing out, however, that the prerogative of mercy lay, not in its hands, but in those of the Home Secretary. A petition for reprieve was signed, but rejected, and the execution took place.

There would have been no real protest on this account, but the following day Ronald True was reprieved. True had murdered his paramour for money; evidence was given that he was of unstable mentality, but he was convicted by the jury, and no recommendation of mercy was given. The case was dismissed by the Court of Criminal Appeal, like Jacoby's; but on the day before the execution the Home Secretary, acting on the advice of a medical committee, announced the reprieve.

The decision was doubly unfortunate. The baser part of the public remark that Jacoby was a friendless pantry-boy, and was hanged, whereas True was a man of position, the illegitimate son of a lady of title, and with highly-placed friends; he was reprieved. This of course is material for the agitator, and Mr. Shortt is bound to be closely questioned in Parliament on his decision.

On the other hand, the lawyers are more concerned with the intolerable gap between legal insanity and the mental definition of insanity which the case has disclosed, and the heavy guns of the Temple and Harley Street are getting ready for action. It would not be surprising if the long and angry controversy which is evidently in prospect resulted in a change of the legal attitude towards insanity, which appears to be behind the times and inconsistent with itself. Incidentally, I notice that the *Law Journal*, an admirable paper which seldom errs in extremity of statement, remarks that "the public conscience has been weakened by this latest instance, and the injury done is not confined to the particular case; it extends to the whole administration of justice . . . The waning credit of the Home Office has received a fresh shock."

The Shortage of Clergy.

A diocesan conference last week again deplored the increasing shortage of clergy. There are not enough men in the theological colleges to fill the vacancies in the Church; and not only is the shortage bad in itself, as leaving the Church understaffed, but it operates to lower the standard of men in Holy Orders, as it diminishes the Bishop's powers of selection, since he will naturally hesitate long before rejecting a candidate unless he is

obviously unsuitable. The Church appears to be the only profession which is not overcrowded.

It is suggested that the reluctance of men to enter the Church is not entirely due to the poor financial prospects. There is also a general feeling that promotion too often goes by influence and not by merit, and once again the system of patronage and appointment is being impugned. On the other hand, the quite obviously increasing interest in religious matters on the part of the public since the war should in time operate to secure more candidates. If the quality of a sermon could be as much improved as the quality of the average service has been improved, congregations would be larger, the influence of the clergy would revive, and recruits should be more easily obtained.

The Cause of Cancer.

A dreadful discussion has broken out in several newspapers as to the cause of cancer. One distinguished physician wrote to *The Times* to say that it was a disease of civilisation, brought on by too much tea, coffee, or cocoa. Another equally distinguished medico promptly replied that the real cause of cancer was milk, which adults are not fitted to digest, which carries every germ, and is the cause of more ills than even cancer. A third doctor now remarks that cancer is probably to be sought in water. The only insurance, therefore, seems to be whisky and soda, but it is not everybody who likes it at breakfast. But when the faculty disagree so emphatically the mere layman begins to wonder whether they really know much about it.

It is not even certain that it is a disease of civilisation, since fish and reptiles and even guinea-pigs get cancer, and their standard of civilisation is not, to say the least of it, very high. The real reason why primitive man does not suffer so much from cancer as the modern is that cancer seldom attacks people under forty, and a good many primitive men had fallen victims to the axe and spear before they reached that age.

It is a depressing fact that we are spending thousands of pounds a year on cancer research, but we seem no nearer a solution of the mystery than we were twenty years ago. The one consolation is that many imaginary causes of the disease have been proved not to be responsible for it.

Another Shortage of Water.

We are again faced with a shortage of water. The winter rains did not nearly make up last summer's deficiency; April was a cold dry month, during which surface water evaporated; May ended in blazing sunshine, and June has so far given us clouds and the promise of rain, but no rain. Some of the sensational daily papers, like the *Express*, have tried to work up a scare, and the *Daily News* put the whole trouble down to the wickedness of a Unionist Government a quarter of a century ago, when it refused to bring London water from Wales. This is, of course, absurd, as the shortage is not in London at all, but in the country, where the root crops and the cattle are suffering.

There is a certain shortage in some towns but not in others; this, of course, could be got over by one town supplying another. But local Governments are proverbially jealous of each other, and there has been a great deal of bickering about this matter. If the present

summer rivals that of 1921, and the situation becomes really serious, the Government will probably have to set up a National Water Board.

The Week's Books.

"Red Dusk and the Morrow" (Williams and Norgate) by Sir Paul Dukes, is an admirable description and analysis of Soviet Russia. The Soviet rests on "Jewish brains and Chinese bayonets"; but the tolerance of the Red tyranny by the people "in preference to the White tyranny is based upon the conviction, universal throughout Russia, that the Red is a merely passing phenomenon. Human nature decrees this, but there was no such guarantee against the Whites with the support of the Allies behind them."

It is impossible to do justice to "British History in the Nineteenth Century" (Longmans) by George Macaulay Trevelyan. It is the work of a man of the world who is something more than the merely meticulous student of documents; a broad and brilliant survey of a great period. One may quarrel with some of the judgments of a very masculine mind, but even when one disagrees, one respects the author's point of view.

"Soliloquies in England" (Constable) by George Santayana, is a volume of essays by one of the few philosophers of the day who can write intelligibly. The matter of the essays is perhaps a little slight—it reminds one rather of a holiday task—but the manner is charming.

Some Recent Books.

"Four Famous Mysteries" (Nisbet) by Sir John Hall, tells the story of the Popish plot, the murder of Courier in 1825, the disclosure to Canning of the Treaty of Tilsit, and the disappearance of Mr. Bathurst, British Envoy at Vienna. For those who like the byways of history I can imagine no book more fascinating.

"The Secret Places of the Heart" (Cassell) is Mr. H. G. Wells' latest novel. The characters are really lay-figures who talk socialism, free love, and the reformation of the world. "There was to be one peace and law throughout the world, one economic scheme and a universal freedom for men and women to possess and give themselves." Even with the promise of those allurements, I cannot say that the book strikes me as good. Mr. Wells has reached the stage of imitating himself.

"Books and Characters" (Chatto and Windus) by Lytton Strachey, is a series of reprinted essays by the celebrated author of the "Life of Queen Victoria." They are a collection of acute and able analyses of literary men. A typical instance is his characterisation of Gibbon: "With the 'Christian morals' to guide him, Dr. Johnson set about the transformation of the prose of his time. He decorated, he pruned, he balanced; he hung garlands, he draped robes; and he ended by converting the Doric order of Swift into the Corinthian order of Gibbon."

"Russia's Foreign Relations during the Last Half-Century" (Macmillan) by Baron S. A. Korff, is an unprejudiced survey of Russian foreign policy prior to the Revolution of 1917. The author appears to have no political axe to grind, and he relies throughout on facts which are common to all students of international history. The book contains no secret revelations.

"More Sidelights on Relativity" (Methuen) by Albert Einstein, is a reprint of two lectures given before the University of Leyden. The first deals with the Ether, on which Einstein's opinion is well known, but it is convenient to have an authoritative exposition of his views. The second is more interesting, on "Geometry and Experience." The author raises the question: How is it that mathematics, being after all a product of human thought which is independent of experience, is so admirably appropriate to the objects of reality? Is human reason merely by taking thought able to fathom the properties of real things? The answer given is brief and simple, but important for philosophy: "As far as the laws of mathematics refer to reality, they are not certain; and as far as they are certain, they do not refer to reality." In other words, even mathematical truth is relative and phenomenal.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

From Our Own Correspondents.

EGYPT.

Cairo, June 2.

Empire Day.

Empire Day was as usual celebrated in Alexandria by children's sports at the Sporting Club, where Mr. Victor Naggiar, the President of the British Chamber of Commerce, and Mrs. Naggiar were at home to the British community. Before the sports started Mr. Naggiar delivered a short address, explaining to his young audience the significance of Empire Day. The children, of whom over four hundred were present, thoroughly enjoyed the races, and at the conclusion the prizes were presented to them by Mrs. Alban, the wife of the British Consul-General.

The Foreign Office Protest.

It was with much satisfaction that the British community learned of the protest made by the British Government at the continuation of the outrages on British subjects, but on the other hand the reply of the Egyptian Government is generally regarded as far from satisfactory. Particularly is exception taken to the *communiqué* issued to the general public, and it is felt, not only in British but also in other European circles, that the Egyptian Government must take some effective and decisive action in the matter, if it wants to justify its claim to protect foreigners without intervention from outside.

I detect a tendency in Egyptian circles to shuffle out of the responsibility by putting forward the fact that Englishmen are still holding senior posts and are therefore responsible. No more disloyal argument than this could well be imagined, for since the first day on which the Cabinet took office British control has been almost completely withdrawn, and the Ministers have been left absolutely free to do what they liked. The Englishmen in the service have carried out their work under the direction of their Egyptian chiefs, and if this is the way responsibility is henceforward going to be shifted on to the shoulders of English officials who no longer enjoy the executive powers they had under the Protectorate, then those whose services the Egyptian Government wishes to retain in order to help it over the difficult transition period will have little incentive to remain.

An unsatisfactory feature of the attitude of the Egyptian Government towards these outrages is the manner in which it has delayed and disputed payment of compensation due in previous cases. It is futile for it to say, as it has done in its reply to the Foreign Office's protest, that, while prepared to give generous compensation, it does not admit that it has any further responsibility beyond that of maintaining an efficient police force. The Egyptian Government has always been responsible in the past for damage sustained by foreigners as a result of political disorders, and as it admits that these outrages are the outcome of political excitement it cannot evade responsibility. Moreover, in cases of accidents on the State Railways, for example, in which railway employees have been injured, compensation has always been paid to them or their heirs. Consequently, whether the victims of the recent outrages were attacked while not on duty or whether, as in the case of Bimbashi Cave, they were attacked while in uniform, the Government is responsible, and it is not to its credit that it should try to evade responsibility or should hold up payment as it has done in the case of Mr. Aldred Brown, who was murdered in the middle of February last, and whose widow is still waiting for her compensation.

An interesting fact has emerged from the inquiry showing how well-meaning efforts at retrenchment can defeat themselves. Hitherto the Cairo City Police has had at its disposal several cars, and, knowing the danger which his officers ran, the Commandant has been in the habit of having them conveyed to and from their homes by car. Recently the Ministry of Finance, very rightly

exercised over the large number of Government cars in use, ordered an immediate reduction, and in spite of the protest of the Cairo Commandant he was left with only one car. The officers consequently had to take to bicycles, and it was within a few days of the withdrawal of the cars that Bimbashi Cave was shot while cycling home. Thus in order to save a relatively negligible outlay, not only was the mobility of the senior officers of the Cairo City Police materially reduced and consequently the efficiency of control affected, but the life of a valuable officer was sacrificed; while the Government will be compelled to pay in compensation a sum representing many years' upkeep of the cars which were economised.

The Consular Corps Incident.

Further perturbation has been caused among the foreign communities by the action which the Egyptian Government took at the end of last week in the case of the Consular Corps. A circular letter in Arabic was received by the members from the Governorate advising them that henceforward they would not be received at the Palace receptions, as had been the custom in the past, but that those members who wished to attend could do so in their private capacity, and would be received with the foreign notables. The matter was at once taken up by the Diplomatic Corps. In the first place, it was a glaring breach of etiquette for this communication to be made in the form of an Arabic circular. It should have been in French and, although it is true that the Consuls are accredited to the Governor, the communication should have reached them direct from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through their respective Diplomatic Agencies. Secondly, the refusal to recognise the Consular Corps as a body was regarded as being aimed directly at the root of the Capitulatory régime. It is understood that in taking this decision the Government based itself on the Protocol existing in European countries, but in doing so it overlooked the fact that the Consular Corps in Egypt holds a position very different from and much more important than that in European countries. Here in Egypt the Consuls are the embodiment of the Capitulatory régime. It is they and not the Diplomatic Agents who exercise the extra-territorial jurisdiction conferred on the foreign communities by the Capitulations, and the decision to receive them not as a Corps but only as private individuals was tantamount to refusing to recognise their official capacity and thus materially weakening their position as defenders of the Capitulatory régime.

The Diplomatic Corps, which, it may be pointed out, in Egypt is really a development of the Consular Corps, the members of which in earlier days were the sole representatives of the Powers in the Ottoman Dominions, could not accept what might easily have become a dangerous precedent, and it at once made official representations through its *doyen*. At first the Government refused to give way, but when it became evident that the Diplomatic Corps might absent itself from the Bairam reception a compromise was arrived at, and it was agreed that the Consular Corps should on this occasion be received as such but separately from the Diplomatic Corps.

The whole question, which has assumed importance owing to the stupid way in which it was handled on the

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Egyptian side, is now under discussion. The foreign communities are determined to have the official position of their Consuls maintained, and no doubt a permanent compromise will be arrived at on the lines temporarily agreed to for Sunday's receptions; but the tactless manner in which the question was raised by the Egyptian Government has, I find, had the unfortunate result of creating an atmosphere of suspicion among the foreign communities which it will take considerable time to live down.

Port Said, May 29.

Empire Day celebrations this year were among the most successful that we have had. The International Sporting Club grounds were kindly lent for the occasion, and admission was by ticket, which to a great extent limited the people there to those who had the right to come—a great improvement on other years, when half the riff-raff in the town appeared to gather and the races for the children were more or less disorganised. The proceedings commenced with a march by the English Girl Guides, who saluted the flag, and they were followed by most of the British children of the town. The pipers' band of the K.O.S.B. from Ismailia were there, and constituted a much appreciated and novel feature of the afternoon's proceedings.

The races for the children were most successful, and the tug-of-war among three competing teams aroused great excitement, as they were so evenly matched. At the end, when the prizes were distributed, the first to be taken was the Challenge Cup, given last year by Mrs. Kennard to the Girl Guide patrol, which had shown most zeal and efficiency during the past year. This year it was awarded to the Robin Patrol, whose leader was Gladys Hird, and second, Eunice Trumper. Owing to the close co-operation of all sections of the community the tea went off without a hitch, as did all other items, and everyone felt it had been a most delightful day.

On Saturday morning there was a Memorial service in the Church to the memory of the late Bimbashi Cave, who during the War had spent some years here. The Church was crowded, and all Government departments and other sections of the community were represented, but the most notable thing was the very large number of the Police, both officers and men, of all sections who voluntarily came to pay respect to the memory of their late officer. Much sympathy is felt for Mrs. Cave, whose help in the hospital here during the war is remembered by many.

One of the many improvements that are taking place in the town is that the strip of beach outside the sea road is being enclosed, and will be laid out with flowers and shrubs. The date palms already planted on each side of the road, seem to be all in a flourishing state, and if things go on as they seem to be going, the Plage at Port Said will be second to none in Egypt. It is to be hoped that the Municipality will take strong measures with regard to advertisements on the bathing huts. They are not exactly things of beauty now, but if the owners, whether they are members of the Municipality or not, are allowed to advertise on their huts, Port Said may sink to the level of Cairo or Alexandria.

SUDAN.

Khartoum, May 24.

Leaders of Public Opinion.

In view of the recent allegations in the Egyptian Press that the various members of the Sudan Delegation of July, 1919, were kidnapped from their homes, rushed off to London, and told what they were to say to His Majesty and also to Lord Curzon, it is only just that the composition of the Delegation should be made known.

Owing to the difficulty anticipated in obtaining adequate accommodation for the actual Delegates and their various followers, it was necessary to limit the numbers as much as possible, and as a result of careful consideration the following notables proceeded on their mission:—

Sir Sayed Ali El Mirghani, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O.
El Sheikh El Tayeb Ahmed Hashem, C.V.O., M.B.E.

El Sheikh Ali El Gassem Ahmed Hashem, M.V.O.
El Sayad Ismail El Azhari, M.V.O.
El Sherif Yusef El Hindi, C.V.O., M.B.E.
El Sayed Abdel Rahman Mohammed Ahmed El-Mahdi, C.V.O.
El Sheikh Ali El Tom, M.V.O., M.B.E.
El Sheikh Ibrahim El Musa, M.V.O., M.B.E.
El Sheikh Ibrahim El Hag Mohammed Farah, M.V.O.

El Sheikh Awad El Kerim Abdalla Abu Sin.

Sir Sayed Ali El Mirghani is the head of the principal religious sect of the Sudan—the Tarika el Mirghania. He claims direct descent from the Prophet Mohammed and was born at Dongola in 1879. At the outbreak of the Mahdist revolt, Sir Ali Sayed with his father escaped from the Sudan, and succeeded in reaching Cairo, where he studied Mohammedan Law and Doctrine, until his father's death, when he returned to Suakin, and stayed there until the retrocession of Kassala, when he proceeded to the latter place, subsequently making Omdurman and Khartoum his headquarters after the overthrow of the Khalifa. Unofficially, Sir Sayed Ali is considered as the leader of the country; he possesses very great influence, which he has consistently used in assisting the Government. He was presented to King George at Port Sudan on the 17th January, 1912. Created C.M.G. in 1900, K.C.M.G. in 1916, and K.C.V.O. in 1919, and headed the Sudan Delegation in 1919.

El Sheikh El Tayeb Ahmed Hashem is the Grand Mufti of the Sudan, being the most prominent Mohammedan legal official of Sudanese nationality. He is a Jaali Arab by race. Prior to the Mahdia he was employed by the Khedivial Government as a clerk of the Berber Mohammedan Court. During the Dervish rule he was selected as special tutor to the eldest son of the Khalifa. On the re-conquest of the Sudan he was appointed Kadi of the Berber Court, and later was promoted to his present important position.

El Sheikh Abu El Gassem Ahmed Hashem is President of the Board of Ulema, the principal legal and religious Mohammedan body. He is a brother of the Grand Mufti, and before the Dervish Empire, was employed under the old Government as a teacher in the Berber Mosque. After the revolt he became clerk to the Mahdi and, afterwards, to the Khalifa. On the reconquest of the Sudan he was appointed Kadi of the Sennar Province, and was promoted to his present office in 1912.

El Sayed Ismail El Azhari is the nephew of El Sayed El Mekki, head of the Tarika Ismailia, a prominent religious sect of the country. His father was slain by the Dervishes, and he was allowed to live on sufferance in Omdurman, but was looked on with extreme disfavour by the Khalifa.

El Sherif Yusef El Hindi is of Indian origin, his grandfather having migrated to the Sudan from India. He claims descent from Hussein, son of the Khalif Ali, and is a religious leader of much influence. After the re-occupation of the Sudan he rendered valuable service to the late Lord Kitchener, and was of very great service during the Great War in assisting the Government in their purchases of dhurra and camels for the Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

El Sayed Abdel Rahman Mohamed Ahmed El-Mahdi is the eldest surviving son of the "Mahdi." He was only a boy during the Dervish rule, and after the re-occupation of the country lived quietly on the Blue Nile until 1906, when he came to live in Omdurman. As his father's son he was very greatly venerated by large numbers of the more ignorant of the population. His influence is widespread, and was used by him with conspicuous loyalty in putting a stop to a great many of the undesirable rumours that were inevitable during the great war.

Having dealt with the religious side of the delegation, we now come to the great temporal chiefs, of whom El Sheikh Ali El Tom, as "Nazir" or head Sheikh of the Kabbabish is the most prominent. The Kabbabish are the largest and most powerful of the tribes in the Western Sudan, thoroughly loyal, and pre-eminent amongst all the natives of Northern Kordofan, in strength of

character and general intelligence. Sheikh Ali el Tom rendered invaluable service during the War, and during the occupation of Darfur in particular in protecting the western frontier of the Sudan from raids and inroads of hostile Arabs sympathising with the Senussi.

El Sheikh Ibrahim Musa is another great temporal chieftain, being "Nazir" of the Hadendoa, the largest and most powerful of the tribes of the Eastern Sudan, the "Fuzzy-Wuzzy" of Kipling. At the time of the Dervish outbreak, Ibrahim Musa was but fifteen years of age, and remained loyal to the old Khedivial régime until the fall of Kassala in 1885. He subsequently refused to join the Khalifa in Omdurman, and attempted to escape to Lord Kitchener in Suakin, but was captured by the Dervishes. He eventually got away and reached Suakin in 1890, where he saw a considerable amount of fighting with the Dervishes. He has been Nazir of the Hadendoa since 1904.

El Sheikh Ibrahim El Hag Mohammed Farah is a notable of the Jaalin tribe, whose headquarters are at Berber, but who are scattered all over the Sudan. During the Nile Expedition he rendered very valuable service at Jakdul, Halfaya and other actions under Major Wortley. The vicissitudes of his tribe are fully recorded by Slatin Pasha and Father Orhwalder. Having become the special object of the Khalifa's hatred, the tribe suffered severely in the massacre instigated by him, just before the re-conquest of the country.

El Sheikh Awad el Kerim Abdalla Abu Sin, Nazir of the Shukria, inhabiting the Blue Nile and Kassala Provinces, the largest tribe in the Central Sudan, was the tenth member of the Delegation. His father and grandfather have been prominent in the history of the Sudan, and during the Mahdia the tribe was subjected to the greatest hardships and vicissitudes owing to their loyalty to the old Government.

An Embryo Council.

A comparatively recent innovation on the part of the Sudan Government has been the institution of meetings of Arab Sheikhs and Omdahs at such times and places as may be most convenient to enable them to confer with the Government representatives on points of administration and also to express their views regarding any new or proposed ordinances. To all intents and purposes this is an embryo Legislative Council, and the ruling Sheikhs and notables are given advisory powers as regards self-government, which they appear to appreciate thoroughly. It is hardly conceivable, therefore, that they would prefer to be members of the Egyptian Legislative Council, where they would be swamped out by town-bred hybrids with interests totally opposed to those of the representatives of the great nomad tribes of Arabic origin inhabiting the Northern Sudan. It is generally recognised by all residents in this country that the so-called inspired articles appearing in the Egyptian press purporting to emanate from natives in the Sudan are composed entirely by Egyptian Nationals, who when taxed with the forgery naively confess that they are acting under orders from their employers, and that after all it is only political propaganda. Although we residents in the Sudan know that these effusions are the height of absurdity, there are many misguided people outside the country who, ignorant of their origin, give them undeserved attention and credence, and it is in the hope of affording them a little light on the subject that the foregoing details have been written.

IRAQ (Mesopotamia).

Baghdad, May 25.

Almost the sole topic of conversation in Baghdad at the moment is the treaty between Great Britain and Iraq and especially the question whether Iraq is to remain under the Mandate or is to have complete freedom. The belief has become common that King Faisal has received an ultimatum from the British Government through the High Commissioner to the effect that the Mandate is to be accepted and embodied in the treaty, otherwise the British will evacuate the country. Failing any official announcement on the subject, it is not

possible to say whether this report is true or not, but it is implicitly believed in Baghdad, and as a result all other subjects of discussion have given place to it.

Speaking generally it may be said that people here are divided into three parties. First, those who support the maintenance of the Mandate with a measure of British control and assistance. These form a big majority in Basrah and among the tribes, and have a large body of supporters in Baghdad. Secondly, the extreme nationalists who want complete independence entirely free from any British, or rather foreign, interference or control. The third party lies between these two extremes. They do not as a rule favour the inclusion of the word 'intidab' or Mandate in the treaty, though they realise that a measure of foreign control is necessary and desirable for some years. The word 'intidab' does not mean anything in particular to them, any more in fact than the word 'mandate' does to us. It is not definite, and they realise that whatever else it may mean it implies inferiority on the part of the mandated country, and as such it hurts their feelings. On the other hand they realise their inferiority at the moment, and there are many who now oppose the Mandate but who would support it, if it was definitely laid down in the Treaty that the Mandate was for a fixed number of years only and that at the expiry of those years the country would be given 'istiqal' or complete freedom. It may be that there is such a proviso in the Treaty; but such secrecy is being observed regarding it that no one is in a position to argue the point with any certainty as to the facts.

The local vernacular papers are very largely in the hands of the extreme nationalists and devote a good deal of their time to high-sounding fulminations against the Mandate. The extremists are, however, well behind the other two parties in numbers, though, as is the nature of all extremists, they are extremely vociferous.

The Elections.

Reports from the districts indicate that the tribal leaders are taking the elections very seriously and are busy with their preparations for obtaining the election of the tribal candidates. Owing to the prominence which has been given to the discussions regarding the Mandate little has been heard in Baghdad about the elections.

The Iraq-Nejd Treaty.

The treaty arranged between Iraq and Nejd has met with considerable criticism, especially from the anti-mandate party, which prefers to see in the decision to appoint a British officer as president of the boundary commission an instance of uncalled-for interference by the Mandatory Power. It was not without interest to note that some of the local papers deprecated the treaty altogether on the grounds of Arab national unity, declaring it to be unthinkable that two Arab countries should find it necessary to conclude formal treaties in order to settle their mutual affairs. After the outburst against the Akhwan which resulted from the raids only a few weeks ago one may be excused if one detects a certain note of insincerity in these later articles.

Economies!

A Geddes super-axe committee has been appointed to investigate the Budget estimates of the various Ministries and to reduce the expenditure by 30 lakhs of rupees. This will be no easy task, and gossip is already busy regarding the economies which will be proposed. It is taken for granted that considerable reductions will be made in the salaries of officials and a reduction in the number of officials is expected. There is good reason for a reduction in the pay of officials, as the rates of pay now existing were fixed at a time when the cost of living was very high, and now that a big drop in prices has taken place a lowering of the rates of pay is certainly called for. This, however, will not go far towards effecting a reduction of 30 lakhs, and it will be interesting to see what other proposals are made.

New Railway.

Work has begun on the construction of a branch railway line to Hindiyah Barrage. It will leave the Baghdad-Hillah line at Khan Haswah station and reach the Barrage via Museiyib. It is hoped that in the near

future it will be possible to run the line across the Barrage to Kerbela. The money for this new branch has been found from the budget of the Irrigation Department. Extensive repairs have to be made to the Barrage this year and next, which will necessitate the transport of large quantities of heavy stones, and it has been found that the difference in cost between carrying these stones by the existing means of transport and carrying them direct to the Barrage by rail will be sufficient to pay for the cost of building the line.

General News.

Mr. Gordon Harris, of the Egyptian Irrigation Service, has arrived in Baghdad on a short deputation to inquire into the existing organisation and activities of the Irrigation Department, and to give his advice regarding future development.

Mr. E. N. Drower, the Government Counsellor, has been appointed to officiate as Adviser to the Ministry of Commerce in addition to his other duties.

Yassin Pasha al Nashimi arrived in Baghdad a few days ago from Syria. He has had a distinguished career in the Turkish army and has taken a prominent part in affairs in Syria during the past three years. His arrival created considerable interest and much speculation as to what post he would fill. Up till now he has not been appointed to any office, though doubtless he will be in the near future.

PALESTINE.

Jerusalem, May 28.

The "Wailing" Wall.

Every visitor to Jerusalem has been introduced to the "Wailing Wall" (the nine courses of Herodian masonry still above ground, which form a part of the Western Wall of the Haram Area), where pious Jews are to be found the whole day long reciting prayers and psalms and bewailing the destruction of the Second Temple, of which these stones are supposed to be the only visible remnants. This "Wailing Wall" has, within the last few months, been the subject of unseemly and petty disputes which, anywhere else except in Jerusalem, would have seemed too paltry to merit serious attention. For as long as anyone can remember, the Jews have been in the habit of placing one or two wooden benches by the Wall for the benefit of those who may have been standing there for hours performing their devotions. This was but reasonable and merely kind. Those who pray and lament there are always the most aged of Jews and Jewesses, earning, in many cases, their scanty pittance by saying psalms at this place on behalf of co-religionists in Europe and America, who send money for this very purpose.

Within the last few days the Supreme Moslem Council has (according to the Arabs) obtained a ruling from the Administration that these benches may no longer be placed there, inasmuch as they incommode the passage to and fro of a couple of Arab families who live opposite to the Wailing Wall. It is all very paltry, and due solely to a recently developed caprice on the part of the Moslems. It has led to a paean of praise in the Arab Press of Great Britain's fair-mindedness, and the bitterest of invective and vituperation from the side of the Jews. One Hebrew paper points out that it was left to a British Administration to sink to this unpardonable meanness after the privilege of sitting had been permitted to the Jews during four centuries and more of Turkish rule. It is difficult, as a matter of fact, to see how the benches could have been in anybody's way: and who ever heard of anybody in the Old City developing foibles as to the seemliness of approach to his dwelling? Leading articles have been devoted to the subject in the local Press, and no doubt the Jewish Press throughout the world is waxing indignant.

The inner history of the rise of the trouble appears to have been that the adjoining Moslem families sought in an inspired moment to turn an honest penny by reason of their proximity to this historic site. Their bit was certainly a modest one: it was simply a request, in return for a small rental of a few pounds, to house the benches when they were not in use, and so save the Jews the trouble of moving them backwards and forwards. The Jewish authorities, whoever they may have been (and it is not difficult to guess), determined that if they paid over any money for leaving their possessions in the neighbourhood of the Wall, they would be compromising what they considered their historic rights at the Wall. Then the case at once assumed a high political complexion. The Jewish National Council sat on the matter, and stated the case for the Jews and their benches; and the Supreme Moslem Council argued on behalf of the embarrassed neighbours of the Wailing Wall. The upshot was that the benches were solemnly removed by an armed guard. The whole matter sounds ridiculously trifling, but it is yet another illustration of the local vice of importing higher politics into the smallest affair.

An Interesting Venture.

It is worth while calling attention to an interesting new venture in Jerusalem. It is not so very new really: it is already eighteen months old. Last week the "Marbadia" held an exhibition of its work. The "Marbadia" is a Jewish Carpet Factory, employing nearly two hundred hands and producing hand-made mats, rugs and carpets of excellent quality and mostly of artistic appearance. Its interest lies chiefly in the fact that it is aiming at an original art form, peculiarly Jewish. This is more difficult than it sounds. The Jew has usually shone as an artist in borrowed plumes; specifically Jewish art is hard to find. When the problem is applied to carpets the difficulty is manifest: there are very few *motifs* of his very own which the Jew can use. Infinite repetition of the "Seven-branched Candlestick" and contorted Hebrew letters quickly pall on one as carpet designs. Therefore two recent devices, which the artists attached to this Carpet Factory have adopted, are full of interest. They have been most successful in a rug whose design is comprised of *motifs* derived from the ancient Jewish coinage—of the Maccabean and the "First" and "Second" Revolt periods. Again a new source of design was opened to them in the excavations recently carried out at Tiberias, where an early Synagogue was laid bare and various sculptured forms, mosaic designs and domestic articles—all presumably by Jewish craftsmen—were brought to light. These additions to Jewish "art-forms" are being utilised happily by the designers.

The promoters of this industry are hopeful as to their future. They consider that they can employ as many as two thousand workers, mostly home-workers, in the craft, and ultimately produce £E.300,000 worth of the finished article per annum, without overstocking the market.

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To Develop Resources.

A healthy sign that interest and confidence in Jewish enterprise and growth in Palestine are not confined solely to Jews and Jewish capital, is the announcement contained in the last number of the *Commercial Bulletin* (published by the Government Department of Commerce and Industry) that "a loan of £E.67,000 has been advanced by the Anglo-Egyptian Bank to the Municipality of Tel-Aviv for the purpose of building a new business quarter consisting of 159 shops and store rooms."

A startling indication of what lies before Palestine—whose future, according to some, should be confined to small-scale agriculture and "tourism" (a vile word concocted by the Department of Industry to indicate, apparently, the art of making the most out of the tourist!)—is also to be found in the information given by the same number of the *Bulletin*, to the effect that "a Geological and Mining Branch of the Department of Commerce and Industry was opened on the 1st of May, 1922. Mr. G. S. Blake has been appointed Geological Adviser to the Department and is in charge of the branch. Mr. Blake will also perform the duties of Controller of Mines under the forthcoming Mining Legislation."

The Making of Guides.

Realising the sufferings inflicted on innocent tourists by self-appointed "guides" in Jerusalem, the Pro-Jerusalem Society long ago had the idea of producing certificated "guides" who should have attended lectures and passed examinations in the history and topography of Jerusalem. But nothing came of the idea. We are glad, however, to see that the Zionist Commission is thinking of taking up the same idea. Gentile tourists to Jerusalem (and the majority of Jewish tourists for that matter) are given a most unfortunate impression of Jews and Jewish work in Palestine. This past season saw the Tourist and Guide business almost exclusively in the hands of non Jewish agencies, and there was even a complaint against what was thought to be a deliberate boycotting of Jewish cab-drivers. The tourists were taken through the usual routine of Holy Places; and outside of Jerusalem they were taken only to places like Nazareth and Bethlehem. If they ever had the curiosity to ask "What of the Jews?" they were simply shown the filthy ghetto in the Old City and warned to hold their noses as they passed Meah Shearim. They were never shown the better Jewish quarters in Jerusalem, and were given no opportunity of seeing any of the Jewish Colonies and the really impressive sight of Tel-Aviv. The "conducted tourist" never had an opportunity of seeing these, and the independent traveller was given little or no encouragement or help in seeing them. The Zionist Commission let pass the most obvious opportunities for impressive propaganda, and only bestirred itself in the case of important individuals to entice them into seeing these places. They now see the error of their ways, and make the following announcement: "The Department of Commerce and Industry of the Zionist Executive will open after Whitsuntide a Course for Palestinian Guides. The Course will last three months and consist mainly of evening lectures. The studies will be: the geography of Palestine, the history of Israel in Palestine, the ethnography of all its inhabitants, archaeology, topography, and addresses on our present economic condition in the country and the possibility of economic development. The classes will be given by experts; in the course of studies excursions will be arranged in the City and neighbourhood, and finally a prolonged motor tour throughout the country. At the end of the course there will be an examination, and the successful candidates will be given diplomas."

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, June 3.

The Political Situation.

Thanks to the royal wedding, the internal political situation continues to be calm and uneventful. The various questions which have cropped up with the Government party during the Premier's absence abroad will also be settled after his return from Belgrade.

By-elections have lately taken place in Transylvania, resulting in most cases in favour of the Government's candidates. Nevertheless, the undercurrent in favour of the Transylvanian National party made itself sufficiently felt to prove its virility. The Government again attempted to bring about a reconciliation with the Transylvanian National party, but the latter's leaders remained adamant in their refusal. They even announced that they would continue their parliamentary strike during the autumn session. There is no doubt that politically the Government's prestige is considerably enhanced by M. Bratianu's personal success at the Genoa Conference. Economically, however, the people would like to see a little sooner the promised signs of improvement in the rate of exchange and the cost of living.

M. Bratianu's Return.

M. Bratianu, on returning to Bucharest from the Genoa Conference, was the object of a very hearty reception from his political friends, who came in large numbers to the station to manifest their appreciation of the dignified manner in which he had represented Roumania's interests. At the first Ministers' Council over which he presided after his return, he gave a long account of the Roumanian delegation's activity at Genoa, emphasizing the fact that all their demands were acceded to by the Allies, thereby proving that Roumania's relations with the Allied and Neutral States are of a most cordial character. He then declared that the Bessarabian question is now definitely solved by the full acknowledgment of Roumania's rights over this province, and that the question of the State Treasure sent to Moscow during the war was also resolved in Roumania's favour. M. Bratianu further alluded to the helpful mediation of the Roumanian delegation at a critical moment when the Anglo-French divergencies threatened to jeopardize the work of the Conference. The Prime Minister concluded in stating that the influence of the Little Entente, of which he was one of the spokesmen, was fully recognised on this occasion, which fact was proved by their admittance to the Supreme Council.

Communists' Trial.

This huge trial, in which about 300 accused are implicated, and which has been going on for more than three and a half months, will soon come to an unforeseen end by the imminent amnesty, which will be granted by the King on the occasion of his daughter's wedding. As this amnesty is expected to extend to all political offences, the major portion of the accused in this trial—excluding those who have plotted or perpetrated criminal attempts—will benefit by this act of clemency. This turn of events will put an end to the repeated protestations of a section of the press about the ill-treatment endured by the accused in the military prison.

The Royal Wedding.

In connection with the programme for the departure and journey of the Roumanian royal family to Belgrade, it has now been decided that the bride, accompanied by the King and Queen, Prince Carol, Princess Helen, Prince Nicholas, Princess Ileana and Princess Irene of Greece, will leave Bucharest on Sunday by special train for Turnu-Severin, whence they will continue their journey to Belgrade on board the royal yacht 'Stefan-cel-Mare.' The Roumanian Government will be officially represented by M. I. C. Bratianu, the Prime Minister, M. I. Duca, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, M. I. T. Florescu, the Minister of Justice, and M. Corbescu, the Mayor of Bucharest. A farewell reception took place this afternoon at the Cotroceni Palace, given by Princess Marie to the Cabinet Ministers, ex-Ministers, the Diplomatic Corps, other high officials, and several distinguished personages. On this occasion, M. Corbescu, on behalf of the town of Bucharest, presented the bride with a handsome motor-car as a wedding gift.

General News.

On the return of the King and Queen from Athens, Dr. Romalo, the house-doctor of the Roumanian royal family, who accompanied them to attend to Princess Elisabeth, declared that the Duchess of Sparta is now quite out of danger, having entered upon the stage of

convalescence. It is further reported that Princess Elisabeth, as soon as she is fit to travel, will come to Roumania to spend the summer and autumn at Sinaia. During the winter months she will reside on the isle of Corfu.

M. Nucsia, the new Lithuanian Minister to Bucharest, presented last Tuesday, with the usual ceremonial, his Letters of Credence to the King.

Information has recently come through from Rome that M. Také Jonescu is now completely restored, and that the typhoid fever from which he suffered has left no ill effects. M. Jonescu will leave Rome in a few days for Paris, whence, after a short stay, he will return to this country to resume his political activity and especially to re-organize the Democratic Party, of which he is the Leader.

M. N. Jorga, the well-known Roumanian historian, has left for Paris to give during the month of June at the Sorbonne a series of lectures on Roumania's history.

M. Papayanacos, the national poet of Greece, who during the war followed the Greek armies on all the fronts is now on a visit to Bucharest. M. Papayanacos has recently dedicated a hymn to Roumania.

According to semi-official reports, the visit to Bucharest of Marshal Pilsudski, President of the Polish Republic, who will be accompanied by M. Skirmunt, the Polish Foreign Minister, is definitely fixed for the middle of June immediately after the King's return from Belgrade. The visit is expected to have far-reaching effects on the Roumanian-Polish alliance as well as on the Little Entente.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Belgrade, June 1.

Internal Politics.

Questions of internal politics have been much neglected during the Genoa Conference, but now Parliament is turning its attention to them once more. The nation, too, turns to them with a sigh of relief that it has been possible to reach an agreement on the Adriatic Question, which has been the cause of many alarms and some stormy speeches in the past two months.

The Budget Committee has brought forward for discussion the amended Budget Bill, which shows on paper, if not in reality, something approaching a balance; but as the increase has not been properly distributed, it has been rejected, and has to undergo further alterations.

It is interesting to observe that none of the Parties now forming the Government shows any strong inclination to introduce any increase of taxation on land, although the rural population is very lightly taxed in comparison with other classes of taxpayers. Possibly the explanation of this reluctance lies in the approaching elections, at which the peasants will play the principal part, and will, quite naturally, give their votes to their "protectors." Obviously, as long as a peasant can pay his year's taxes with a pair of chickens the prospect of the Budget's balancing must be remote—except on paper. As a palliative, the Government will enforce a fifty per cent. increase in railway freight charges; this will, of course, provide the merchants with an excuse for putting their prices up; the cost of living will also rise; and the Government will very soon have to increase its payment to its employees, and will thus be out of pocket in the long run. A lot of paper will pass through the Government's safes, and probably the printing machines will get busy too.

General News.

General Henriques, who was in command of a French Army Corps at Salonika, has arrived here to be present at the King's wedding, as a personal friend of King Alexander.

Yesterday a memorial service was held for the Allied soldiers buried in Belgrade Cemetery. General Henriques laid a bronze palm on the grave of Field Marshal Mishitch and wreaths of flowers on the Great Fallen Memorial.

A British flotilla consisting of two monitors and a motor launch arrived this morning, and will remain here during the wedding festivities.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, May 30.

Two Congresses.

Sofia is in the throes of congresses, both the Agrarians and the Reserve Officers being at the time of writing engaged in their annual reunions. On Sunday there were two large but orderly processions parading the main streets, and it was interesting to note that the number of Reserve Officers did not fall far short of that of the Agrarians. The latter had assembled about 10,000 peasants from the Provinces, while the Officers numbered close on eight thousand.

The Government have concentrated a considerable force of gendarmerie and soldiers in Sofia these last few days, fearing that the fact of the two Congresses being held at the same time might lead to trouble. So far their fears have been ungrounded, but the precautions have been wise, as the political atmosphere of the capital is at present somewhat electrical.

No disclosure of any importance regarding the Agrarian Congress has yet been made public, and it is assumed that apart from questions of purely local interest no far-reaching decision will be arrived at. The Note of the Inter-Allied Commission has been discussed, but the final settlement of this question will lie with the Sobranie.

The Reserve Officers' Congress had no extraordinary agenda to discuss, but it is understood that the officers have taken severe umbrage at the recent declaration of M. Radouloff, Minister of Commerce, and are endeavouring to make the most of the matter. M. Radouloff accused certain officers of intriguing against the present Government with the object of making a *coup d'état*.

Ridiculous Rumours.

A week ago many European newspapers published messages stating that a revolution had broken out in Bulgaria. No revolution has broken out, and these messages are as false as they are mischievous. Belgrade seems to have been the source of origin of these rumours, and it is thought that the Wrangelists have had a hand in the matter. To those on the spot, it would be humorous if it were not annoying, to read in a London paper that a revolution had broken out in Sofia, while all the time conditions here were in fact quite normal.

M. Stambolisky's Return.

On Thursday, the 25th, MM. Stambolisky, Tourlakoff, and the other members of the Bulgarian Delegation to the Genoa Conference returned to Sofia.

Beyond a brief declaration to the newspaper *Pobeda*, M. Stambolisky has made no statement regarding the Conference. To the *Pobeda* he declared that he was, in so far as Bulgaria was concerned, thoroughly satisfied with the results obtained. He said that Bulgaria's

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international position was much improved, and the Agrarian Party considerably strengthened.

Internal Politics.

It is stated in well informed quarters that M. Stambolisky would like to make several changes in the Cabinet. Nothing definite is yet known, but the Ministers of Finance, Agriculture, and Railways may possibly give way to others. The most important of these changes would be that of M. Turlakoff, Minister of Finance. It is known that for some time past relations between him and the Prime Minister have not been of the friendliest; but it remains to be seen whether the Prime Minister is strong enough to force M. Turlakoff to resign. The latter has been Minister of Finance for over two years, and is one of the leading members of the Cabinet. He has had a very difficult task to fulfil, and the general opinion is that it will be a pity if he leaves the Cabinet. Added to this opinion, is the tendency manifested among many Agrarians to avoid internal quarrels at all costs.

The Grecoff Murder.

No clues are as yet to hand regarding the murder of M. Grecoff, editor of the *Slovo*, and the affair promises to add another to the long list of undiscovered murders. The Government have offered a reward of 10,000 levas (£17) for information that will lead to the capture of the assassin, regarding whose identity many wild theories have been advanced.

The funeral took place on the 23rd, and was attended by an enormous crowd, including practically all the notabilities of Sofia, both Bulgarians and foreigners. King Boris was among the first to send a wreath, and on the morning of the funeral he paid a personal visit to the family of the deceased. The Grecoffs are one of the oldest Sofia families, and great sympathy has been expressed with Mme. Grecoff and her daughters, who have been deprived of the only male member of their family.

General News.

The Annual Fete of St. Cyril and St. Methodius took place at Sofia on Wednesday. King Boris, being in the provinces, was not able to attend the review of troops and school-children.

Sofia, June 7.

A Better Situation.

The troubled political atmosphere of the end of May has now given way to comparative calm. The Communists are holding their annual Congress, but so far the proceedings have been perfectly orderly.

The Cabinet appear to have patched up their internal quarrels, the only difference being between M. Manoloff, Minister of Railways, and some of his colleagues. M. Manoloff, who is one of the youngest Ministers, is said to be against the measures taken by the Cabinet for the maintenance of internal law and order. He preaches a counsel of moderation, and although his following is not great it contains some of the best elements of the Agrarian Party. M. Manoloff commands respect from all parties and his reputation is rapidly growing.

Russian Refugees.

As was foreseen, the agitation against Wrangel's Army is quieting down. The senior officers have mostly gone to Serbia, but those still in Bulgaria do not anticipate that further measures will be taken against them. The return of M. Stambolisky from Genoa has brought about the above situation, the Prime Minister having declared that Russian refugees would not be persecuted any more. The Government, he added, had been forced to take steps against Wrangel's Army, but now this had been done matters would resume their ordinary course.

TURKEY.

Constantinople, June 5.

Behind the Scenes.

So far as outward appearances are concerned, the political situation in Turkey would seem to have reached one of those quiescent stages which frequently precede a period of excitement and surprises. News from

Anatolia is sparse and generally uninteresting. There are still no signs of a renewal of hostilities, in spite of the bellicose articles which continue to appear in the Anatolian press, and which assert that a satisfactory peace can be secured for Turkey only by allowing the army to dictate terms at the sword's point. Surprise and considerable irritation are expressed in the Angora newspapers regarding the delay on the part of the Allies in replying to the Kemalist proposal for the assembling of a conference at Ismidt, and the circumstance is attributed, of course, to sinister intrigues on the part of the British Government. The Sublime Porte in the meanwhile is apparently content to maintain that masterly inactivity usually described as "sitting tight," so long as money can be raked in from somewhere and officials can be paid something on account of their salaries.

Behind this apparently innocent curtain, however, there is no doubt that interesting and important activities are in progress. The most important indications of this are the despatch to Moscow of an extraordinary mission from Angora, and the return to Angora of Ali Fuad Pasha, who has been acting as Kemalist Ambassador in Moscow for the last eighteen months. Dr. Riza Nur, one of the signatories of the existing Russo-Kemalist Treaty, is apparently at the head of the special mission to Moscow, and it seems tolerably certain that negotiations are to be commenced for the conclusion of a treaty of alliance of a much more definite and extensive character than the "Treaty of Friendship" signed in March, 1921. The preliminary discussions for the opening of these negotiations are said to have been commenced in Angora between Mustapha Kemal and Araloff, the Soviet Envoy, and continued in Genoa between Chicherin and Jelaeddin Arif. Once again, therefore, it is to be made apparent that until a settlement is reached with Russia, there can be no effective settlement in the Near East.

Turko-Greek Relations.

Rumours have been current during the last week to the effect that the Angora Government has been in communication with Athens with a view to the commencement of direct negotiations for peace. The rumour has been denied, but experience has shown that in Turkey official denials are worth very little except as curiosities of diplomatic records. There is reason to believe that some kind of tentative overtures have been made in a semi-official and roundabout manner, but there is unfortunately little hope of any success attending the effort. The military party and Araloff's influence are too strong in Angora to permit of any hope being entertained at present of concessions being made with a view to meeting the necessity for securing the rights of Christians after the withdrawal of the Greek army.

King George's Birthday.

The King's Birthday was celebrated by the trooping of the Colours at the Taksim parade-ground in the morning, and in the evening a brilliant reception was held at the British Embassy. The Trooping of the Colours commenced with the music of the Guards Slow March, played by the band marching up and down the parade-ground. Then came the March Past and the unfurling of the Union Jack, whilst the band played the Royal Salute. The entire proceedings only lasted half an hour, but for that brief half-hour one somehow felt nearer "home," and no Briton who witnessed the sight could help feeling proud of the immaculate appearance and perfect discipline of the troops—few as they were in number.

The Garden Party given in the evening by His Excellency Sir Horace Rumbold and Lady Rumbold was as great a success as the ceremony of the morning. The beautiful grounds of the British Embassy were crowded with representatives of all the Foreign High Commissions and Ministries, and the brilliant uniforms of naval and military commanders and officers found a suitable setting amongst the more soberly clad civilian element. The Garden Party may indeed be considered the most brilliant function of its kind that has taken place in Constantinople since the Armistice.

An Unprecedented Procession.

On Whit Sunday the first Eucharistic Procession since the conquest of Constantinople took place in Pera, and was witnessed by an enormous crowd of spectators. It is estimated that seven thousand children belonging to various Roman communities in Turkey, and three thousand clergy and Catholic members of Roman Catholic religious institutions took part in the procession, which took two hours to pass Taxim corner. The procession started from the Church of St. Antoine in Pera and proceeded to the great open ground opposite the Cathedral of Notre Dame de Sion, where Mass was celebrated in the open air.

SYRIA.

Beyrout, May 17.

The Recent Trouble.

Most of the accounts published so far of the recent troubles in Syria emanated from Palestinian or Egyptian sources and were, therefore, bound to be somewhat exaggerated or at least tendentious; and an impartial review of events by an observer on the spot is necessary not only in the interest of truth, but also to prevent misconceptions which have adversely affected an economic situation already bad enough. Some of the alarmist reports have actually caused the Egyptian Branch Office of a British Insurance Company to telegraph to its agent in Syria to suspend business, as though the country were in the throes of a revolution.

The writer happened to be in Damascus a few days before the bursting of the passing cloud, and having asked a very well informed person whether the Damascenes were contented under French rule, was told that, although they can never be reconciled to foreign Christian domination, especially after the first taste of a transient independence, they had no reason for discontent, if one excepted a minor grievance concerning the recent imposition of a long set of octroi dues and taxes two-thirds of which are alleged to be absorbed by salaries of municipal officials. It was indeed admitted on all sides that the representative of the Haut Commissariat—a rare military type combining administrative ability with political skill, had succeeded in evolving order out of chaos, and in introducing administrative reforms with as little interference as possible with the existing administrative system, and without ruffling national susceptibilities. It was this wise policy that enabled him to achieve a still greater success with the Druses of the Hauran, where harsh innovations have still more studiously been avoided.

Outside Influences.

The sudden outbreak of disaffection is generally attributed to outside influences, Transjordan, according to the evidence at the recent inquiry, being the fountain head.

The first defiant attempt against French authority was the murderous attack at Der'a upon a delegation of high Damascene officials, ending in the death of the President of the Council of State, a prominent Damascene notable, and another Minister. The second was the audacious attack which seventeen horsemen, from Transjordan, made on June 23 last on General Gouraud when driving in his car with his suite some twenty miles outside Damascus, a French officer being killed by his side. The impunity enjoyed by these bandits encouraged the continuance of anti-French intrigue, which found violent expression on the occasion of Professor Crane's visit to Damascus. Professor Crane is a personal friend of President Wilson, and is apparently an ardent believer in the ex-President's creed. He is a man of strong political convictions, to which his great wealth lends a sort of rigid force. He was once recalled from China for a political indiscretion, but it was not long before he was returned to his post as Minister there. It is said that prior to his arrival at Damascus he had visited Tripolitania, Egypt, and Palestine, and the unrest he witnessed there deepened in him the conviction that European Powers did not know how to rule Eastern

peoples. In 1919 Professor Crane came to Syria at the head of the American Peace Delegation sent by President Wilson to ascertain the Syrians' wishes regarding the Mandate. He became thereafter the idol of Syrian Nationalists. At the time of his visit there was general agitation of the public mind. Times were bad, as a result of the economic world crisis, which was accentuated here by local causes; and an idle people in a peevish mood is an easy prey to political agitation. The publication of the *Arreté* defining the functions of the future Council of Representatives of the Grand Liban—before the sincerity of the intention behind it was publicly declared—had produced a passing wave of discontent even among the loyalists, which was skilfully exploited by those agitators who seem to have been receiving their inspiration and material support from outside. The assassination of the Director of the Interior at Beyrout, a man of lovable character who had no enemies but was simply the victim of a political crime, led to searching enquiries that revealed the existence of a widespread political organisation which abetted anarchical methods to attain its ends.

The "Iron Hand."

At Damascus also the authorities, following the recent demonstrations, have succeeded in discovering the headquarters of a similar organisation called the "Iron Hand." The register of the Minutes and the membership list of this secret society were found to contain the clue to conventional letters and cyphers representing the names of members. Seventeen militant ones have been arrested, all young students of the schools of law and medicine: they are to be tried by the Military Court. They are said to have taken an active part in the recent demonstrations, inciting and intimidating the merchants to close their shops. They are suspected also of having carried on political correspondence of a subversive nature with Transjordan and Mesopotamia. A Lebanese is reported to have just been arrested on his arrival at Damascus from Transjordan, with the photograph of the present Director of Police at Damascus and a bill for 250 gold pounds subscribed by a prominent member of the late Damascus Government now in Transjordan.

An Egyptian Parallel.

A noteworthy feature of the demonstrations at Damascus and Homs is that they are copied practically from the Egyptian pattern. In both the students play a leading part, and in both the closing of shops is a common feature. Again, in both the demonstrations assume ampler proportions after the Friday prayers outside the mosques. The Damascenes, however, have milder natures than the Egyptians, and are less inclined to rowdiness and wanton destruction. Although the demonstrations continued for a few days, and the shops remained closed for over a week, yet there have been hardly any casualties, only one or two having been killed and a few wounded. It is indeed believed by some that if no notice had been taken of the first demonstration the first excitement might have fizzled out without any untoward incident; but the active intriguing across the border was of a nature to render the French authorities over-nervous and vigilant. In Homs the garrison was unfortunately composed of black troops, and demonstrations are said to have been attended with some regrettable incidents, four or five having been reported killed and several wounded. The trouble there started with the students demonstrating as a protest against the arrest of the ringleaders of the Damascus demonstrations. They are said to have marched in a body to the Town Hall exciting the crowd as they passed along, until they met the Governor driving in his carriage, when they insulted him publicly and pelted him. The black troops are said to have tried first to disperse the demonstrators, until one of them was injured fatally, when they went to their quarters to fetch ammunition and returned to fire on the crowd, killing a few and wounding many. Official quarters, however, declare this popular version to be greatly exaggerated. In Damascus the trouble started when a crowd of admirers accompanied Professor Crane from the hotel to the railway.

station. The Professor is said to have declared that independence cannot be gained by mere words. He evidently meant that a nation should work and strive to make itself fit for it. However, remembering the former official character of the Professor, the Nationalist extremists wished to interpret this remark otherwise. On the way, cries of "Long live Independence," coupled with other cries offensive to the prestige and harmful to the authority of the Mandatory Power were of a nature to appeal to the mob and excite it. The Nationalist leaders made such skilful capital of the visit of Professor Crane and created thereby such agitation in the public mind that the American Consul-General here had to cable to his Government asking for authority officially to disclaim any connection between the Professor and Washington. It may be incidentally mentioned here that Professor Crane is a Democrat, and therefore not of the party in power.

The arrest of the ringleaders, at the head of whom is the notorious Dr. Shahbandar, who had played a leading part during the Faisalian régime, and was later included in the list of political criminals who received the general amnesty granted by General Gouraud, led to a bigger demonstration after the Friday prayers, followed by a still larger one. For several days perambulation of the streets after dark had to be prohibited, and strong measures were taken to prevent violent outbursts. Dr. Shahbandar is said to have made a brilliant and fearless defence, which did not save him from a heavy sentence of twenty years' isolated imprisonment: other leaders were condemned to lighter terms. A cheque for a thousand dollars, signed by Professor Crane, was found on Dr. Shahbandar, and this, coupled with the fact that he was thought to have abused the clement measure of amnesty, was calculated to embitter feeling against him. It was explained soon after that the amount of the cheque was meant to defray the travelling expenses of a Syrian woman who had done good work in the Orphanage at Damascus under American patronage, and who is to receive a further course of training in America at the expense of the philanthropic Professor.

The General Position.

In justice to the French it must be admitted that they are not responsible for the major part of the causes that are making here as elsewhere for universal unrest. Since they have come to Syria their whole energies and resources have been absorbed by pacificatory measures of a costly nature. After having disposed of the Arab, and then of the Kemalist danger, not to speak of minor local disturbances, they still found their hands tied by the indefinite postponement of the Peace Treaty with Turkey, which stood in the way of public development works, through which alone the country can be appeased and revived. And while they were thus preoccupied with far graver problems the Nationalist leaders have come forward most inopportunistly to push their claims by what threatened to degenerate quickly into subversive means.

It is in the interest of Great Britain, which is faced by the same problems, to discountenance such movements, and it would be far wiser on the part of the peoples of the mandated territories of the ex-Ottoman Empire to possess their souls in patience until the general peace settlement, when they may advance such claims as they may have for national independence by peaceful and rational means. Their cause would especially gain sympathy and support after their fitness for self-government had been shown by diligent work and the display of a larger public spirit. On the other hand, the Mandatory Power will gain enormously by showing real sympathy and friendly concern for the welfare of the people. If they cannot yet give proof of such sympathy and concern by positive achievements, let them at least give the negative proof by the rigorous selection of the fittest officials, by the avoidance of experimental mistakes, and especially by the prevention of abuses. The Syrians are the most critical of Eastern peoples and their critical faculty has been sharpened by travel and by many opportunities of comparisons, some of which are admittedly odious.

France's moral heritage in Syria is far too rich for her to afford losing it by careless attention to these vital points.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

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

THE RUTENBERG CONCESSION.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—It seems to me that some members of the British press have approached the Rutenberg hydro-electric scheme in a very petty spirit. What does it matter whether he is an American Jew or not, if his Company can find the million pounds necessary to give Palestine electric light and power? If a British Company can find it, let our press say so instead of cavilling. You remark in your issue of to-day (p. 775) that Palestine cannot expect to have an industrial future because it possesses none "of the necessary minerals." But have not both France and Italy found in the water-power of their rivers the "white coal" necessary to operate their industrial machinery? Here in Scotland we are going to harness our Grampian streams and give power and light to a wide industrial area.

I am, etc.,

RALPH RICHARDSON.

Edinburgh.

June 8, 1922.

Sir,—The criticisms of *The Times* and the *Post* may be mild, but thousands want to know the engineering side of the question. It is proposed to harness the Jordan, the unique "Descender." Pray where? A dam above Genessaret would leave the sacred shores unchanged, but a dam below???

I am, etc.,

EDWIN RANSOM,

24, Ashburnham Road,
Bedford.

June 9, 1922.

THE PANHELLENIC COMMITTEE.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—The article of the Cyprus Greek newspaper *Phone tes Kyprou*, from which your esteemed Correspondent at Nicosia quoted in his letter of April 18, is based on erroneous suppositions. Both as a Cyprus representative on the Panhellenic Committee of National Defence in London and in my capacity as Director of the Offices of the Committee, I beg to state that there is absolutely no connection whatever between this Committee and the "National Council" in Cyprus or the Cyprus cause. The object of the Panhellenic Committee is thus defined by the first article of its statutes: "to support, at any sacrifice, the cause against subjugation under the Turkish yoke of the populations only recently liberated by the Greek army," and this aim being brought to a successful conclusion, its *raison d'être* ceases, of course, to exist.

The appointment on the Committee of Representatives of the Greek population of Cyprus, together with representatives of all the leading Greek communities and centres throughout the world, was necessary for giving the Committee its "Panhellenic" character, but it does not involve any connection on the part of the Committee with Cyprus' individual affairs, or with the affairs of any other Hellenic centre represented on it.

I am, etc.,

C. S. HOURMOUZIOS.

49, Prince's Square,
Hyde Park.

Digitized by Google June 6.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

AN APOSTLE OF THE JAINS.

'VIJAYA DHARMA SURI, HIS LIFE AND WORK,' By A. J. Sunaval, B.A., LL.B. (Cambridge University Press. 5s. net.)

Students of comparative theology are aware that the sixth century B.C. was an era of consolidation. The floating mass of legend and dogma current in India and on the Mediterranean littoral then assumed definite forms. In fact, that epoch-making century witnessed the birth-throes of the world's organized religions. Hinduism had gained a firm hold in India. It implied the subjection of inferior castes to the haughty Brahman, who claimed the sole right of placating his gods by bloody sacrifice. The kingdom of Magadha, which now forms part of the British-Indian province of Bihar and Orissa, was the theatre of a reaction against the iron-bound ceremonial of Hinduism and its insistence on the slaughter of defenceless animals; and two great Teachers were protagonists of the reforming movement. They held ignorance and selfishness responsible for every human woe; in their opinion existence was an unmixt evil, and relief from the necessity of an endless series of re-births into a suffering world must be sought for in the eradication of desire. It is an oft-told tale how the Buddha renounced his princely rank, and went forth as a mendicant preacher, to found a creed which now numbers 138,000,000 adherents. But the Buddha's outlook was essentially subjective. His followers were intent only on working out their own salvation; and in course of time they established hierarchies on a monastic basis, which became as tyrannical as the Brahman régime which they supplanted.

Monasticism formed no part of the teachings of Mahavira, who was probably a contemporary of the Buddha. Starting from the same premisses he developed a system of belief which extends active sympathy to all mankind. He imposed a five-fold vow on devotees. Respect for life in every form, Truthfulness, Honesty, Celibacy and Freedom from Greed—such are the cardinal precepts of Jainism, which owes its origin to Mahavira. It seems strange that a creed so essentially ascetic should attract wealthy bankers and merchants. Yet such has always been the case; and men of substance abound in the Jain community, which numbers one and a quarter millions. Their generosity has endowed India with many magnificent temples, and is evidenced to-day by countless acts of benevolence. It must be admitted that Jains are apt to carry respect for life to extreme lengths. Fifty years ago there flourished at Murshidabad two brothers of the sect, whose names were household words in the banking community. Their principles were well known and often traded on by the younger generation. A Moham-medan schoolboy would display a live cobra to each of the brothers in succession, and extract a rupee from each by promising to release the captive. He would then take it to the Magisterial Court and claim the official reward offered for the heads of poisonous snakes!

Jainism, however, stagnated until the dawn of the present century when it received a mighty stimulus from a reformer worthy to rank with Mahavira, or even the Buddha. Vijaya Dharma Suri, born sixty-four years ago in Kathiawar, was converted to Jainism at the outset

of a career which held small promise of distinction. After taking the five-fold vow, and studying the sect's theology, he set forth as a wandering preacher, visiting all the cities of Upper India. Hinduism is the most tolerant of creeds: its annals are not stained by any Inquisition or any persecution of dissidents. Vijaya Dharma's gentle persuasion soon won its way to the hearts of influential Hindus, with whose aid he established sectarian schools, held conferences, and published a mass of Jain literature. To him is chiefly due the resuscitation of a slowly dying sect.

Mr. Sunavala has done well to issue an account of this noble career, and a lucid exposition of the principles of Jainism. The latter has attracted the attention of many European scholars. One French and six German adepts are named at p. 73; but the only Englishman who has studied its doctrines is Dr. F. W. Thomas, who contributes an introduction to Mr. Sunavala's biography. It is to be hoped that the latter will stimulate research in a very interesting field, and induce the India Office to include the study of Eastern religions in the curriculum imposed on selected candidates for the Indian Civil Service.

F. H. S.

NIGERIAN STORIES.

"SHUWA ARABIC STORIES," By C. G. Howard. (Oxford University Press. 1921.)

Except to the comparatively few who know what is meant by Shuwa Arabic, it should be explained that it is a dialect of Sudanese Arabic as spoken in Bornu (Nigeria), and some other regions near Lake Chad, by various tribes and branches inhabiting Kanem, Wadai, Bagirmi, etc. Those who speak it are not in the habit of writing it. Educated natives in their correspondence use a "more or less classical Arabic." There is no recognised authority for it, and the more intelligent will often disagree as to whether a particular word—in its very extensive vocabulary—belongs to the dialect or not. The author, Mr. Howard (formerly of the Department of Education, Nigeria) presents about thirty-eight "stories," including ten regarding the customs of these Arabs in respect of marriage, childbirth, circumcision, divorce, and the annual migration of the Shuwa to Chad or elsewhere in the dry season. The longest story deals with the history of the Kings of Bornu from the time of Damara to the advent of British rule, and occupies sixteen pages. The stories are given in English translation, consistency in spelling not being attempted, so that the same word is often spelt differently in different stories. There is a vocabulary of words occurring in the text only, which might have been amplified with advantage. The number of Shuwa students to whom the book will appeal will, one imagines, be very limited. The author expresses his indebtedness, amongst others, to Mr. G. H. Lethem (Assistant Officer, Bornu Province). The admirable work of Mr. Lethem on colloquial Shuwa Arabic, published for the Government of Nigeria in 1920, is indispensable for those who desire to take up the dialect without first studying Arabic. In this work also the Arabic character is not used except in the opening pages. "An Arabic-English vocabulary would have demanded far more time than the chances of Nigerian service allowed." The term Shuwa (probably meaning "pastoral") is not, we are told, used by the Arabs of themselves, but is applied by the natives of Bornu to the Arab tribes who have settled in the country during the last 300 years. These settlers have preserved in a remarkable degree the language and physical characteristics of the Arabs, and in the nineteenth century they became in many respects the dominant race. Shuwa, like some other dialects of the Sudan, is said "in a number of respects" to preserve more closely the classical Arabic than do those of Egypt or Syria, especially in the country districts as distinguished from the towns. The conquest of Bornu by Rabel

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from the Sudan in 1892 introduced many Egyptian words.

Mr. Howard must have devoted much care to the collecting and rendering of these stories. The book is published at Government expense.

THE TALE OF A FORTUNE.

"THE MERCY OF ALLAH." By Hilaire Belloc. (London: Chatto and Windus. 7s. 6d. net.)

Every age has for its self-expression a supreme need, and though letters and the wordless arts may co-exist in a state more or less of equal perfection, it is generally through one medium alone that the particular *Zeitgeist* may be perceived. Now just as in Elizabethan times the national genius of England was shown in dramatists, so to-day the highest need in letters is a satirist, who shall give shape to the manifold hates that seem to increase with every generation. In a peculiar way Mr. Hilaire Belloc, who when he restrains his haste is one of the finest writers of English prose, fulfils our national need, for not only is he perfectly equipped alike in technique and in impulse for the purpose of exposing the ills of our age, but he delights in his task.

Readers of Mr. Belloc need not be reminded how heartily and unreservedly he hates and condemns the creators, breeders, and selfish conservers of wealth, or of how he believes the pursuit and capture of wealth not only debase the concupiscent but incidentally and inevitably warp our political and social system. He has often made fun out of the subservient politician: he has often indignantly attacked the secret and sometimes vile methods of contemporary financiers. But in this, his latest attack, there is something more irresistible than fun, something deeper than indignation. "The Mercy of Allah" is the story of the rise to wealth of one Mahmoud, a Baghdad merchant, in the tenth century. This elderly merchant, whose wealth was so enormous "that his lightest expressions of opinion caused the markets of the Euphrates to fluctuate in the most alarming manner," tells in fourteen chapters the up-and-down history of his life to his seven nephews, the sons of his noble-living and poverty-stricken brother, a doctor. There are in his descriptions of his various successful and occasionally unsuccessful swindles many delightful touches of local colour (it was a charming idea to give an Arabic title to each chapter, and then, for the sake of those who know no more about Eastern things than does Mr. Belloc, its English equivalent), but if the design is one of Islam we know well enough whence the theme is really derived. It would in fact be extremely entertaining to set down what and whom Mr. Belloc is at when he relates Mahmoud's journeyings and encounterings, but perhaps more amusing than profitable. We do not propose to detail any of the hundred ingenious (but not unique) ways in which this Eastern merchant makes and loses money; they are familiar to any student of past or contemporary politics, but it was witty indeed to make this old rascal Mahmoud attribute all his success (except when he was in prison and therefore deprived of leisure) to the mercy of Allah. One is constantly and maliciously engaged with the recital of this man's adventures; interest in his doings at no time flags; and there is a superb climax to the story.

This book is, we think, a great satire; it is written for the most part with beautiful and telling care; and it does not really detract from its value that Mr. G. K. Chesterton has in a design on the cover of the volume conspired to make of an exposure almost an exposition. We hope that Mr. Chesterton's contribution came after Mr. Belloc's (it generally does); but in any case both should be thanked.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Reminiscences of an Indian Cavalry Officer." By Colonel J. S. E. Western, C.B.E. (London: George Allen & Unwin, Ltd. 10s. 6d. net.)

"The Poetic Mind." By F. C. Prescott. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 2 dollars.)

"Exploits of Asaf Khan." By Afghan. With an introduction by Sir George Younghusband, K.C.M.G. (London: Herbert Jenkins, Ltd.)

MUSICAL NOTES.

GRAMAPHONE RECORDS.

In the June issue of "His Master's Voice" records there is a rather undue proportion of vocal reproductions, but the fewness of the instrumental records is compensated for by their excellence. Generally speaking, instrumental records depend more on intrinsic than on external merit; the pleasure they give is therefore deeper and more lasting.

One of the finest pieces of orchestral reproduction that I know is afforded by Adrian Boult in the "Hexenritt" and "Traum" from Humperdinck's "Hänsel und Gretel." The whole recording is delightfully done, and one does not know whether to admire more the point and *finesse* of the first, or the beautiful instrumental balance of the second. Boult is shown here in unusually piquancy of finish and delicate perception.

Utterly different and not quite so successful is Albert Coates in Wagner's "Rienzi" Overture, though it is through no fault of the conductor that the thickness of the scoring becomes at times a little obscure. On the whole the reading is a refreshing one, for Coates lets escape few of the dynamic possibilities of the Overture; he has, moreover, preserved a splendid clearness of line, while in the building up of climaxes he shows genius.

Of the many who will be entertained by Kreisler's playing of Grieg's "To Spring" I am not one. Kreisler I think the finest violinist in the world, and at Grieg I do not scoff as some to-day do, but of the "Peer Gynt" suite one really is a little tired, and from this, a perverted form of it, not even the freshness and richness of the fiddler's tone nor the superb vitality of his rhythm, can remove the charge of hackneyed poverty.

A record that is much more enjoyable is a double-sided one made by Miss Marjorie Hayward of Smetana's "Bohemian Dance" and Frank Bridge's "Gondoliera." The first has been arranged (with extraordinary difficulty) by Ondricek, and if Miss Hayward is not quite perfect technically, spiritually her performance is a triumph, her *rubato* being irresistible. Bridge's piece is notable not only for the fine playing of the fiddler, but for the beauty of the pianoforte part. This is far more than a mere accompaniment, and is done with exquisite lightness. (The name of the pianist might well have been given.) I do not suggest that the composition is a great one, but it is certainly pleasing, and the essence of it has equally certainly been caught. Miss Hayward's tone is distinguished in a flowing and very lovely *cantilena*, and she has a poise and floating of phrase that are superb.

Very good work in the making of pianoforte records has been done by Moiseiwitch, and the distance between reproduced and actual tone is lessening. Moiseiwitch is heard in Moszkowski's "Die Jongleurin," a showpiece, but faultlessly played, with dazzling technique. And on the reverse of this is the delicious "Passepied" from Delibes' "Le Roi s'amuse." The pianist here reaches perfection in his characterisation; his plucked touch is marvellous; and the whole thing is flavoured with the choicest archaism.

ANDANTE.

IS THERE A JEWISH PERIL?

In the course of a recent address at Coalville, Leicestershire, Father Degan said that the Jewish share in engineering Russian communism, the present ill-will between Arab and Jew in Palestine and the recent Montagu episode were being exploited in certain quarters in favour of an attitude of mistrust, suspicion and ostracism against the Children of Israel living in this country. The following sentences from his address will show its nature:—

"Just at the time when the best men of all races are striving to tone down excessive nationalism and to lessen racial antipathies, it comes as a painful surprise to find publicists raising up the bogey of a Jewish peril. Centuries of fanatical persecution and the withholding of political emancipation have inevitably produced clannishness, 'nerves' and sore heads among the Jewry of Eastern Europe. But in England, where the Jew enjoys equality before the law and is treated as an ordinary citizen he has developed a broad, manly outlook and filled with conspicuous merit posts of the highest national responsibility. All Jews are not Shylocks. Many of them are high-minded, generous and chivalrous. The Shakespearean Jew is as much a caricature as the stage Irishman."

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.**To-Day.**

June 15 (New Style).

June 2 (Old Style).

Shawal 19, 1340 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.

Sivan 19, 5682 of the Jewish Calendar.

M. Grégoire Michaesco, Commercial Attaché to the Roumanian Legation, left London last week for Paris.

The Patriarchate of Jerusalem has bestowed on the King of the Hellenes the Grand Cross of St. Sepulchre.

Prince Serban Cantacuzene, a Roumanian aeronautical expert, is now visiting London.

Prince Nicholas of Roumania returned to London from Bucharest last Monday.

The Aga Khan has taken his departure from London for Paris.

Sir Hugh Bell, who has been on a visit to Palestine, has now returned to England.

The Bulgarian Minister, M. Stancioff, leaves town to-day (Thursday) for the Hague.

M. Alex Broz, who was specially attached at the Czecho-Slovak Legation, has now sailed for America to take up his post in Washington.

M. Pantchow Doreff, Counsellor at the Bulgarian Legation, and M. Angheloff (Secretary), have left for the Consulate at Cairo.

M. Constantine Fotitch, First Secretary at the Yugo-Slav Legation, will be away in Belgrade on leave for the next five weeks.

General Tudor will leave this country immediately for Palestine to take up his duties as Commander of the Police and Gendarmerie there.

Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon Walter Guinness, D.S.O., M.P., is suffering from a return of the malaria he caught on his recent holiday trip to Egypt.

Mohamed Ali Shah is now in Paris visiting his son, the Shah of Persia, in whose favour he abdicated from the throne.

Mme. Gavrilovitch, wife of the Minister of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, held an At Home on June 9 at 195, Queen's Gate.

Major-General the Maharajah of Bikanir and his son, the Maharaj Sri Bijey Singhai Bahadur, have arrived in London from Paris.

An exhibition of water colour drawings by Mr. Ben Browne of scenes in Burma and Kashmir, which began at Walker's Galleries, New Bond Street, W., on June 12 is being continued until June 24.

Miss Gertrude Lowthian Bell, who lately travelled from Baghdad to Amman and back by air, had the good fortune to make the westward journey without any stop. She is the first woman to make the journey by air.

Earl and Countess Granville, who have been staying with the Dowager Countess Granville at Kensington Palace, have left London for the British Legation, Copenhagen.

Colonel Sir Henry Ravenshaw Thuillier, K.C.I.E., late R.E., of Philbeach Gardens, Kensington, late

Surveyor-General of India, who died on March 4, aged 83, has left £875.

The engagement is announced between Mr. Percival Walter Partridge, of Madras, the son of the Rev. Walter H. Partridge, formerly of Caston, Norfolk, and Elsie Coghill, only daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. G. De Morgan.

The engagement is announced between Norman Walker I.C.S., second son of the late John Walker and Mrs. Walker, of Errol, Highgate, and Margaret, only daughter of the Revd. Thomas Bentham and Mrs. Bentham, of St. Mildred's, Addiscombe, Croydon.

The engagement is announced of Godfrey, only son of Dr. Edward A. Harbord of 27, Queen Anne Street, Cavendish Square, and Frinington, near Maidstone, Kent, to Olive, elder daughter of Mr. H. A. Webb, of Hindugalla, Peradeniya, Ceylon.

The King has granted to Mr. E. Milton, of the Municipalities Section, Ministry of the Interior, Egyptian Government, licence to wear the insignia of the Fourth Class of the Order of the Nile, conferred by the Sultan of Egypt (now his Majesty the King of Egypt) in recognition of the valuable services rendered by him.

The anniversary meeting of the Central Asian Society, at the United Service Institution to-day, at a quarter past four o'clock, will be followed at five o'clock by a lecture by Sir Valentine Chirol on "Storm waves in the Mohammedan World."

The marriage took place on June 8 at St. Mark's, North Audley Street, of Captain the Hon. Victor Cochrane-Baillie, only son of Lord and Lady Lamington, and Riette, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Neilson, of Wentbridge House, Pontefract.

For the information of the Royal Navy and Royal Marine officers who were present at the Black Sea and Eastern Mediterranean operations it is notified that the Salonika and Black Sea dinner will be held at the Victoria Hotel on Saturday, June 17.

The engagement is announced between Captain Frank Austin Latter, I.A., younger son of Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Latter, of 15 Palliser Court, Baron's Court, W., and Marjorie Helen, youngest daughter of Captain and Mrs. T. Griffin, of "The Barn," Ootacamund, Madras, S. India.

The marriage between Captain Wilmot Reginald Blomefield Peel, 33-34 Cavalry, I.A., second son of the late Right Reverend Bishop Peel, of Mombassa, and Eileen Mary, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. Douglas, of Malvern Link, will take place at Malvern on July 6.

The Council of the British Academy has awarded this year's Cromer Greek Prize of the value of £40, founded by the late Lord Cromer for an essay on a Greek subject, to Miss Lilian Chandler, Classics mistress at the Girls' Grammar School, Leigh, Lancashire, for an essay on "Frontiers in Ancient Greece, with special reference to Attica."

The marriage, following the civil ceremony at the British Consulate, took place on June 6 at the Memorial Church of St. George, Cannes, of Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Albert Stern, second son of the late Mr. G. James Stern and Mrs. Stern, of 25 Prince's Gate, London, and Helen, daughter of the late Sir Frederick Orr-Lewis, of Whitewebbs, Enfield, and the Villa Valetta, Cannes.

The Czecho-Slovakian Minister and Madame Mastny entertained on June 9 at dinner at the Legation, 8, Grosvenor Place, Countess Lutzow, the Earl and Countess of Harrowby, Sir Harry and Lady Brittain, General

Sir Leopold V. Swaine and Miss Swaine, Colonel E. Mossberg, Military Attaché to the Swedish Legation, Mr. O. B. Harriman, Mr. Alden M. and Madame Hellman, and Madame Rossler.

The engagement is announced between Leonard W. McKay-Forbes, captain and adjutant 1-3rd Q.A.O Gurkha Rifles, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. McKay-Forbes, of Honiton, Devon, and Adelaide Louise, only daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel J. G. Edwardes, D.S.O. and Mrs. Edwardes, and granddaughter of the late General Sir Stanley Edwardes K.C.B., and Lady Edwardes, of Spondon, Sandhurst, Kent.

The King of Egypt, who is the owner of the fine triple screw steam yacht Mahroussa, 3,658 tons, and who is prominently associated with the Royal Yacht Club of Egypt, has intimated to Major Sir Gerald Fowler Burton, Commodore of the Royal Plymouth Corinthian Yacht Club, of which the Duke of York is patron, his acceptance of the position of honorary patron of the club, which he hopes to visit on the occasion of his first visit to England.

Sir Herbert Samuel, High Commissioner of Palestine, left London on June 8 after spending five weeks in England. He has been in constant communication with the Colonial Office, and has had several interviews with the Arao Delegation in this country and with the Zionist Organization. Sir Herbert Samuel's health is fully restored, but he is taking a month's holiday in France before returning to Palestine, where he expects to resume his duties in the middle of July.

It is announced from Cambridge University that Mr. H. Rackham, the Senior Tutor of Christ's College, is resigning at the end of the academic year, and Mr. S. W. Grose, Fellow and Librarian, and formerly Scholar of the College, has been appointed to succeed him. Mr. Grose was placed in the First Class in both parts of the Classical Tripos, 1908-9, and was afterwards the University Student at the British School at Athens. For some time he has been engaged in compiling the catalogue of the magnificent collection of Greek coins given to the Fitzwilliam Museum by the late J. R. McClean, and has written a series of articles on numismatic problems raised by new material found in arranging these coins.

His Majesty has given authority to the following to wear the Order of the Nile, conferred upon them by his Highness the Sultan of Egypt, now his Majesty the King of Egypt, in recognition of valuable services rendered by them: Grand Cordon—Mr. Maurice Sheldon Amos, Judicial Adviser to the Egyptian Ministry of Justice. Insignia of Commander—Mr. George H. Hughes, Chief Inspector to the Parquet in the Native Courts, Egyptian Ministry of Justice. Insignia of Officer—Mr. Robert D. Melville, of the Egyptian Ministry of Justice, Professor in the Sultaniya School of Law, and Mr. Sydney Alfred Smith, M.D., Principal Medico-Legal Expert, Egyptian Ministry of Justice. Insignia of the Fourth Class—Mr. Henry Elliot Fitzgibbon, Director, Mechanical and Irrigation Department, Ministry of Wakfs, Egyptian Government.

APPOINTMENTS.

It is stated by the *Madras Mail* that Bishop Waller of Tinnevely will be appointed the Bishop of Madras.

Colonel N. Arion, formerly Roumanian Military Attaché here, has been appointed Director of the Information Bureau at the Foreign Office in Bucharest.

OBITUARY.

A Moscow message reports the death, in Petrograd, of Professor Smirnof, the Russian Orientalist.

His Highness Sir Ghalib-bin Wwadth Al Kaytoi, K.C.I.E., Sultan of Shehr and Makalla, Arabia, has died at Haidarabad, Deccan.

KAISAR-I-HIND MEDAL.

The King has made the following awards of the Kaisar-i-Hind Medal of the First Class for Public Services in India :—

Bertram, the Rev. Father Francois.

Principal and Manager, St. Joseph's College, Trichinopoly, Madras.

Todhunter, Alice Lady, O.B.E.
Madras.

Scott, the Rev. Dr. Hugh Robert.

Missionary, Irish Presbyterian Mission in Gujerat, Bombay.

Thompson, Miss Eleanore,
Lady Superintendent, Medical College Hospital, Calcutta, Bengal.

Hankin, Ernest Hanbury, Esq.
Honorary Fellow, Allahabad University, late Chemical Examiner to Government, United Provinces.

Brown, Miss Edith Mary, M.D.

Principal, Women's Christian Medical College, Ludhiana, Punjab.

Dobson, Mrs. Margaret,
Lyallpur, Punjab.

Chatterton, Mrs. Lily.
Nagpur, Central Provinces.

Campbell, Miss Susan, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. (Ed.).

In charge of the Zenana Hospital, Scottish Missions, Rajputana.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 1922.

BANKING AND INDUSTRY.

The news that the premier industrial bank in India has temporarily abandoned the special line of business from which the designation is derived comes as a serious disappointment, not merely for India itself, but also for the countries which separate India from Europe, and which, like India, are seeking, or at least yearning, for some solution of the problem of national poverty. It may be well then to explain the relation in which such institutions stand towards the typical Asiatic civilisation, and to examine the causes which have resulted in the set-back to a movement that, in India, has commanded the enthusiastic support not merely of industrialists, but of politicians, economists, and philanthropists. The need for industrial banks arises from the distinctive economic and administrative system which throughout the historical period has dominated the life of these countries with such remarkable persistence and uniformity. That system produces poverty-stricken peasants and artisans, wealthy merchants who dare not let their wealth be seen, extravagant Courts, and an esurient administrative hierarchy; but where it prevails, the idea of constructive enterprise can never be realised, because it is practically certain that the pioneer will be deprived of the fruits of his efforts. Two careers only are open to talent and energy, either to enter the ranks of the administration, and join in the scramble for the profits of other people's labour, or to buy and sell, holding few visible stocks of goods, and concealing both capital and profits from the parasites with which the country swarms. Such was the state of India when it came under British rule, and such is still the state of no small portion of Asia. In India British pioneers introduced the novel idea of constructive enterprise. Railways were built, coalmines were opened, jute and cotton mills were set to work, and a long series of object-lessons showed how capital should be employed at a profit to make as well as buy. Indians assimilated the new doctrine by slow degrees: some of them took over, and in time extended, industries which were already an assured success; and at a later stage a few of them began to strike out new lines, and made plans to handle materials which for one reason or other British capitalists had let alone.

When this stage of development was reached, there arose at once the need for new machinery for industrial finance. British pioneers had drawn their capital mainly from the London market, or from the savings of their countrymen in India: these resources were not open to the Indians who wished to follow the same road, and they found nothing in their own country to serve their turn. Indian capitalists and merchants had been drilled through the centuries to certain narrowly-defined activities; under British rule they found these increasingly profitable, and they would not divert funds from old-established business to ventures of which they had no practical knowledge, propounded by enthusiasts whom they had no particular reason to trust. Nor would the British banks in India consent to lock up their funds in such enterprises. They worked on the British system, that product of Scotch caution and Quaker phlegm, which is so familiar to us that we are sometimes tempted to forget its insularity; they handled deposits repayable at short notice, and, while they would lend working capital to factories in being, they would not invest in buildings or plant sums which might shortly have to be realised. A few Indian banks, started professedly on the British model, were for a short time more complacent: in the words of the Industrial Commission, they did long-term business on short-term deposits; in due

time came the inevitable crash, and the half-fledged industries fell with the banks which had attempted to finance them. Then at last men turned their eyes to a different type of institution, the specialised Industrial Bank, at that time so highly developed in Germany, a bank working mainly on its own capital, financing promising ventures after due investigation, steering them through their early difficulties, and, for a price, placing technical knowledge and expert sagacity at the disposal of promoters. Once mooted, this idea rapidly caught the popular imagination, and Indian public opinion felt that a new industrial era had dawned when, only a few years ago, a bank of this type came into existence under the auspices of the foremost financiers of Bombay. Since then a few similar enterprises have been initiated on perhaps less ambitious lines, but Indian aspirations have concentrated on the Tata Industrial Bank as the pioneer which was destined to lead producers towards the promised land.

It is this institution which, after a short experience, has decided to suspend, though not definitely abandon, the attempt to bring new industrial enterprises into being. In the published reports of the meeting held last month in Bombay we read that this decision is due to the difficulties of doing industrial business, and to the very uncertain outlook at the present time; the Directors do not admit that the attempt was premature, but they decline to prosecute it further, and they intend to develop a general banking business of a liquid and realisable nature. It will be noticed that of the two reasons assigned for the change in policy one is permanent and the other temporary; the business is, and must always be, difficult, but at the moment its inherent difficulties are enhanced by exceptional conditions. According to the reports of the Chairman's speech, the immediate obstacle is the extent of State borrowing in India; between regular loans and constant issues of Treasury Bills, the market supplies of capital are being fully absorbed, partly to cover deficits in current expenditure, partly to finance the rehabilitation of the railways and the construction of other productive works; and the rate of interest which must be offered to secure funds for these purposes is higher than new private industries can be expected to pay. We may reasonably accept this statement as indicating the conditions which unfortunately now prevail, but some further examination of the facts is needed before we can agree to regard it as exhaustive. As we read the position, this extensive borrowing by the State is the immediate, but not the ultimate, cause of the present difficulties; it is itself the result of a group of causes with which the whole world is painfully familiar, and if industrial banking has experienced a set-back, the reason is simply that India is suffering from the after-effects of the war. The disturbed frontiers, the internal unrest, the inadequacy of the equipment of the railways, and the other facts which explain, though they may not wholly justify, the frequency and extent of State borrowing, are directly traceable to this source. The numerous recent issues of Indian loans in London prove that India is temporarily unable to finance her own development, and that is the central fact of the situation. We say advisedly that the phenomenon is temporary, because, while it is true that India is short of capital, it is also true that, taking State and private enterprises together, she is even now providing capital on a scale that twenty years ago would have been unthinkable. The supply of capital is inadequate for the needs of the moment, but these needs are altogether exceptional, and they will be overtaken as time goes on. It is already possible to look forward to a restoration of the export trade on which the prosperity of the country so largely depends, and it is reasonable to anticipate that, when that has been accomplished, the supplies of capital will steadily increase, until the present shortage disappears. In time, perhaps before very long, there will be enough to go round, and we may fairly hope that, when that stage has been reached, industrial banking will again become a reasonable financial proposition, and will play an active part in developing the vast resources of the country.

CROSS CURRENTS IN MESOPOTAMIA. Arab, Kurd and Englishman.

BY THE REV. W. A. WIGRAM, D.D.

I.

Medea the enchantress tossed two men into her magic cauldron; one, Pelias, was boiled to death there, because the sorceress, who loved a practical joke, told his daughters only half of the spell that they were to chant as they stirred the brew. The other, Aeson, came out with renewed youth to astonish his household.

One dare not prophesy how things will go with the simmering cauldron in Mesopotamia, into which fate has made England cast two social orders at once; one, the old decayed order of Mesopotamia, based finally on the most ancient civilization in the world; the other, the primitive Arabian society that has always refused to develop, and that remains to-day what it was in the days of Abraham, and which has always provided fresh drafts of desert-bred manhood, to refresh the old when necessary. They are in the cauldron together now, with England's sons to stir it: has fate told us the whole of the spell, or only half of it?

To say how things will go is beyond us. We can only indicate some of the various currents, upward and downward, that are stirring in the cauldron now; tell something of the ways in which the minds of men are working.

Most conspicuous to the European outsider, and far the most important in his own estimation, is what one would once have called the Baghdad "effendi" class, the "intelligentsia" of the country. Whether they are really more than the bubbling froth on the surface, is just one of the questions needing an answer. Members of this class really have ideas and aspirations. They want to revive the old glories, and dream of Harun-er-Rashid and of the days when Baghdad was the focus of the world's civilization. They may be ignorant of their own ignorance, and not realize "*quantae molis erat Romanam condere gentem*," while liberty and freedom of the press combined are a heady drink for youth to take in large draughts. So you get at times such fustian as: "We Arabs are the People. When the Turks forgot themselves, we waved our bright swords, and bade them go; and the Turk fled. Now if the English should forget themselves, are not the same swords still bright?" Still, much is to be forgiven to aspiration, and if the drink has proved heady, it was we who gave them the draught!

Half patriot, and half adventurer, they wish to make their own country, but also to make their own careers. The conscience that generations of public service has fostered in so many English families, which will keep a man carrying out arduous and thankless duties, when there is none to see if he shirks, with no more stimulus than the feeling "this is the thing to do; this is what I am here for" is lacking to the Oriental—and indeed our present governors at home are labouring to eradicate it there. Why should you not put all your friends into office, to draw salaries from the Government? "Surely there can be no objection if I take the Government cars when I want to give my family an airing" said one in high position, and the very guilelessness of the statement is instructive. That there should be anything even questionable in swindling the Government is an idea that has not risen above their mental horizon. One of the class was detected in flagrant malversation, and his books proved the charge beyond all denial; he found that gaol was before him, and made his petition to his British superior. "I hope, Sahib, that this unfortunate little circumstance will not militate against my future career and promotion." The Sahib feared that it undoubtedly would, considerably. "Then surely, Sir, it is your duty, when I shall come out of gaol, to find me as good a post as the one which I now unwillingly vacate." After all, Mr. Bumble made a similar suggestion once, and was similarly shocked to find it unacceptable! As for putting your friends into jobs in your office, look at it from the point of view of the Arab. Whom can you know so well, and who can be better fitted to manage the country, for its own good and for theirs, than the

small minority of educated men whom it contains? That is democracy, and self-determination. You say that the desert Arabs, and the Kurds will not like it? Oh well, if you are going to ask "wakshi" (uneducated) folk like that for their opinion! It is those who are educated, who know what the country needs!

So, like others elsewhere, they want to run—not to say, do gymnastics—before they can walk. Notions of what we should call elementary fairness and equity are beyond them: they will complain bitterly, for instance, that in a certain provincial capital the Christians are getting actually more than Moslems over the education grants. It is no consolation to point out that by their own wish and suggestion, the grants are "capitation grants" paid on a basis of attendance, and that if a Christian population of 7,000 sends more children to school than a Moslem one of 70,000, and the large schools provided for the latter stand empty, the fault does not lie with Government!

They have their aspirations for many excellent things, but cannot realize the hard fact that England cannot and will not pay for them; the Arab is to manage his own land, of course; but England is to stand behind and finance him, taking all the blame if things go wrong, and this is somehow to be reconciled with independence!

"The Christians in this land are no better to work with than I had been led to expect," said one of those who know, "but the Moslems are far worse. Give a Christian a job and cash for it, and he will produce something. It may not be good, but there will be something for the money, and if he gets into a hole he may ask for your help before he has slipped quite to the bottom. Give the same chance to a Moslem, and he will set up a committee of nineteen. In a month, there will be nineteen parties in that committee, nothing will have been done, and all the money will have gone nobody knows where!"

II.

Behind the "intelligentsia" (which after all is a small, if very vocal, minority) stands another force; the old-fashioned Arab of the Towns; a force which was, of course, far more influential than they, in days when noisiness was not thought to be synonymous with importance! Aristocratic Moslem gentlemen, charming and stately as few but the high-class Mussalman can be; the material of a ruling class if ever there was one, but one that is sadly handicapped in days of democratic rowdiness by the limited outlook of conservative Islam. One of the finest of the type tried to govern as associate of the British, with whom he could work perfectly, but found his own Arab colleagues impossible. "But what saith the Prophet?" he was in the habit of saying to every problem of government. It was his native colleagues who replied with the newest democratic catch-words, till a flippant Englishman summed up the case in a "Limerick":

There was an old man who had read
All the Prophet was said to have said;
But, bored by the Prophet,
They bade him "come off it"

And quoted Lord Northcliffe, instead!

But the type feels itself out of place in modern days. The new force of the Press is one with which it cannot wrestle, and its representatives are like the old knight-hood of Araby, of whose blood they are, in the face of an enchanter. One of the class was known as a fighter of old, and blood affected his nerves not at all. "I don't think much of my colleagues," he said. "A Minister of State is like a doctor; he has not learnt his trade till he has killed two hundred patients. Now I have qualified, and none of my colleagues have!" His boast was a perfectly true one, and yet to suppress or suspend a seditious rag in Baghdad was almost more than he could find courage to do. The new force of the Press unnerved him, and he simply did not know how to deal with it. He could have sent ruffians to put an end to the editor, or any other of his enemies, and have buried him thereafter in the special cemetery to that end made and provided—but to suppress a Newspaper!

III.

The Arab of the nomad tribes is a much more primitive type, though there is, really, no hard and fast line to be drawn between him and his settled brother of the river-side or swamp. The desert has always bred men, who drift into the sown lands and settle there; they may be held by their nomad brethren to have lost caste somewhat by the act, but they keep kinship with the tribe nevertheless, even as the domestic geese on the village green will greet their wild brethren, as they go honking overhead, en route for Siberia. As little groups have settled anywhere along the river line where they could find land, the tribal groups are scattered and mixed to a bewildering extent, and must in time lose their identity.

If you ask the Arab of the desert what he really wants, he would most likely tell you that he wants to be let alone, to live his own life without government interference, and that he accepted Faisal as King on that understanding. "We want self-determination," said one of the breed to a British official. "But what do you mean by that, Sheikh?" "The right to do exactly what I like with my own tribe, and to pay taxes to nobody," replied the ruler of twenty tents; and really the definition is a very fair one. Makers of phrases ought to define their limits, before turning such explosive gear loose into the world of to-day!

But though he wants to be let alone by Government, yet a changing world has not spared the Arab. The old desert life ceases to satisfy him now, and he is no longer content to send in camels and a trusted man once a year, to get such dates and coffee as he requires. He hankers after the flesh-pots of civilisation and no wonder, for it is seldom that any but the guest eats bread to the full out in the wilderness; it is true that like many another, he wants to have it both ways, and wishes to have the benefits, without the bonds, of our civilisation. With this has come a longing for education. In the old days in the desert—as once in England too—the Mollah or Parson was the only 'clerk' of the tribe or village. The fighting man did not bother himself with books and pens. Now, like all warrior races who have good brains, he is coming to realise that learning is a means of power, and that the old order is changing; the ruler must have knowledge, and the sheikh is demanding that his sons shall have it. Hence, the provision of such an education as shall train the young chief, and not make of him just another dissatisfied effendi, is one of the great needs of the day.

Alongside of this craving for education there is present a distrust and dislike—eminently natural and justifiable both of them—of the Baghdad Effendi. Members of that class hold, in all good faith, that they are the only people entitled to rule, and capable of ruling, Iraq. They own the Press, and proclaim it, loudly. Now the Arab of the desert is aware that he is at least as good a man as the Baghdadi, and thinks that he knows better what he wants than does that worthy. Hence the recent ruling of the Government, that those who seek to represent a province or district must be real residents in that district, is as popular among the desert dwellers as it is unpopular among the townsmen, who had expected to monopolize the new Parliament. A like ruling for other and older Parliaments might have its advantages too!

Like most wild men all the world over, the Sheikhs have the utmost confidence in the straightness of such Englishmen as they know, and very often a genuine and warm liking for them. Hence it is that they do not at all, in many cases, like being handed over to a native administration, and say so with the utmost plainness. "But two years ago you were making open war, Sheikh," protested a typical British officer to an old acquaintance, with whom he had stayed, and against whom he had fought: "you were then declaring that nothing would satisfy you Arabs but absolute independence!" "Of course we did," said the Sheikh, "but surely you never thought that we meant that you were to give up governing the country!" It is true that they grumble at times, and from their point of view, not unreasonably. "We know that your taxes are low, Sahib, and those

of the Turk were much higher: but then nobody ever paid the Turk anything, and you seem to expect to get cash." Further, they complain that whereas they have to pay the taxes, they seem to be all spent on roads that the Arab does not desire to travel on, and police that curb his natural liberties. Any balance that may remain goes to salary the Baghdadi! Nor can the desert-dweller get that prompt redress for any grievance that the natural man expects from Government in the East. "Here is my petition, Sahib, and I want you to see to it yourself. You say that you will advise the Minister? I don't want any Minister advised, I want this grievance put straight!" This is hard for the Englishman. Our ideal of "enabling these people to govern themselves" is a high one, but for a practically minded man, who sees an abuse or a grave defect before his eyes, it is very much easier to order its correction, and to see that such order is carried out, than elaborately to train the Oriental until—in the teeth of centuries of inherited habit—he does of his own accord and motion what the other knows to be right. To give advice to the Oriental is not enough, and the danger is that an Englishman who is limited to that by his orders, and who sees that his advice is habitually neglected, may either sink into just putting his counsel on record and drawing his salary, or may—more probably—say "This is not good enough," and throw up the task altogether.

The very soundest of advice as to what is good policy and orthodox economics, does not go far with an Oriental when his personal and family interest, to say nothing of his previous training, all draw him the other way. With an Englishman, of course, the case is different, as we see, for instance, in the sweet reasonableness of the Poplar local authorities! It is a very rare thing to get personalities of such force that they can get the Oriental official, not only to do the right, but also to take the endless trouble of enforcing his will on lazy and uninterested local authorities, unless there is a measure of power behind the "adviser." The English sphere may be limited to giving counsel, but while England remains responsible for the country at all, such advice as is given after mature consideration will have to be followed, and in the last resort, those who cannot follow the advice will have to cease to hold their offices. This was the rule which, in a parallel case, it was found needful to enforce in Egypt.

It is to be feared that this line, though it is the right one to follow, will not make England popular in the land. Were we to rule, outright, putting the right men to do the work and supporting them, such men might be almost adored by folk who want strength and justice in their rulers: the Oriental however wants—who can blame him?—either to be master or to have a master. To be advised under penalty to do what he does not want, does not make him feel free, and does make him feel uncomfortable!

(To be concluded.)

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The women's hospital in Baghdad has now been completed, and many women attended the opening ceremony.

In celebration of the jubilee of the Egyptian Geographical Society, King Fuad has invited the Eleventh International Geographical Congress to meet in Cairo in 1925.

Serbs in California have sent two magnificent Mexican saddles as a wedding present to King Alexander and his future Queen in Belgrade.

Our Albanian Correspondent calls our attention to the fact that, for the first time, Albania figures in the "Almanach de Gotha."

A number of rams with gilded horns were driven to Belgrade as a wedding present to King Alexander from his Albanian subjects.

King Hussein has issued orders for an alteration in the position of the colours of the Hejaz flag. It now becomes similar to the Iraq flag.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

In consequence of inquiries, the Editor thinks it advisable to state that the quotation from any article does not necessarily imply that the views expressed are shared by "The Near East." On the contrary, an attempt is made to include as far as is possible in the available space all sides of the various questions discussed.

The Future of Egypt.

Under the title of "The Riddle of the Sphinx," Mr A. H. Beaman contributes to the May issue of the *Fortnightly Review* an article, the concluding paragraphs of which are particularly instructive:—

It would be a grave and fatuous error to believe that the Egyptian question has already been permanently solved. The Egyptian question of to-day was asked by Zaghloul Pasha and nine-tenths of the people behind him when they demanded full sovereignty over Egypt and the Sudan, free from all restraint. The reply was a distinct negative. As long as England intends to hold India, and as long as Egypt is her high road of communication, the English must remain keepers of the gate. They cannot permit the custody to pass into that of any other Power or of Egypt, which is obviously incapable of resisting any outside attempt to wrest it from her. When a nation like the Egyptians claims possession of the right to take the place of guardian of the security of the British Empire, it exhibits a lamentable want of proportion in its ideas. Until it changes its perspective and recognises that fundamental commonsense precludes England from totally abandoning the country to the mercy of any reckless adventures, the Egyptian question will necessarily subsist in materially its original form. In spite of the abolition of the Protectorate, England remains, and must remain, the protecting Power. It is not Egyptian diplomacy but England, that undertakes to negotiate the giving up of the Capitulations with foreign Powers, and it is England that has officially warned the nations that she will consider any interference whatever in the affairs of Egypt as an unfriendly act, thus reaffirming the protection she extends to the internally self-governing State.

The situation must appear to all but the die-hard Nationalists so simple that it hardly needs explanation. For the last year or two we have perhaps deluded them into false hopes by protracted negotiations, but we have now declared in unmistakable terms, in our letters to the King, the basis and requirements of our policy. It is an honest, straightforward policy, dictated by a genuine wish to satisfy Egyptian aspirations to the utmost limit of compatibility with our own vital interests. The carrying out of this policy has been entrusted to an honest and straightforward soldier, who, with a real sympathy towards Egypt, was the true author of it. If the Nationalists continue their insensate agitation, it is possibly because they do not believe that the policy declared is in the very nature of things unalterable, and still hope against hope. It is scarcely likely that they will cease fighting until they themselves have had some share officially in carrying out a policy which they now view with mistrust, both because it has imposed a *régime* without consulting them, and because they consider the present Government merely as an English stop-gap, and not a representative national Government. The campaign they are endeavouring to prosecute is, in fact, not a struggle against the Government, so much as a rebellion against the execution of British policy—as is evident in the telegram previously quoted.

No amount of casuistic camouflage can ever persuade the Egyptians that black is white, and that they have yet gained anything but a qualified internal independence, whose completion rests with themselves. Instead of insisting on the independent

sovereignty of Egypt, it would be more practical to explain that England has consented to allow the Egyptians a free trial in self-government—absolutely free as long as they have the sense to avoid threatening the great foreign interests of which they are appointed guardians.

Egypt owes her progress, her riches and prosperity in great part to foreign enterprise, brains and money, and she will at every turn require foreign support in building up her future. Hitherto no Egyptians have managed unaided to create any important successful enterprise, either financial or commercial and they seem to lack economic constructive power. Their best policy, therefore, will be to encourage to the utmost the most cordial relations with the strangers within their gates, and with the keepers thereof. It may be several years before these truths are generally recognised; and until the constitutional machinery has been framed and set in motion the prospect of freedom from agitation is not very favourable. Only when the Nationalists can be brought into the scheme, and can be interested by having a responsible share in Government under the new conditions, will a beginning be made of a real and lasting solution of the Egyptian question, which depends on the whole nation realising that its happiness lies in the exercise of complete internal sovereignty, and self-government under the necessary international aegis of England.

Greek and Turk.

The *New Statesman* recently contained a "neutral" article on "The Uses of Atrocity." After a brief introductory comment on the new tale of Turkish atrocity it addresses a warning to the British Government:—

We have no fault to find with what the Government have so far done in the matter. Lord Curzon has asked France, Italy and the United States to act in concert with us in sending "carefully-selected officers to Trebizond, or whatever Black Sea port may be most suitable for the purpose, with a view to proceeding to such places in the interior as may best enable them to conduct the necessary investigation." That is very well; it is desirable that we should know all the facts, and it is possible that, if the four Great Powers can be got to co-operate in this way, their representatives may exercise a salutary restraint on the ardour of the Turks. We would add, incidentally, that Lord Curzon ought also, as Lord Robert Cecil suggested, to send similar officers to the Smyrna districts, where it is only too likely that reprisals will be made by the Greeks upon the Turks. But, if we can approve what Lord Curzon has done, we feel very serious misgivings about some of the things he has said. Should the Angora Government refuse permission for the Allied officers to go to Trebizond, he declares, then "His Majesty's Government will have to reconsider their entire attitude towards peace proposals." And certain organs of the Press are busily engaged in dotting his i's and crossing his t's. The old hymn of hate against the Turkish butcher is swelling forth, and Greece is again cried up as the saviour of humanity; we are told that, if the ruffians of Angora cannot be brought to book in any other way, they must be blockaded on the coasts and bombarded by the Greek armies equipped with every support that we can give them. What is to be said of all this? It seems to us that the answer is perfectly plain. It is a proposal inspired by passion—a generous passion in some cases, a passion whose generosity is tempered with rancour and prejudice in others, and it is a dangerous and a futile proposal. The Turks are doing an evil thing in using atrocities as a method of government; we shall be doing a mad thing in making their atrocities the basis of our policy in the Near East. A statesman's heart, as Napoleon observed, should be in his head. We have had some experience

in connection with Russia of what may happen when our statesmen's hearts are in their bile. Let us see that the experience is not repeated in the case of Turkey.

The task with which we are confronted, and which we have been bungling for three years, is to make a real peace in the Near East. But how, it is objected, can we look for a real peace when the Turks are committing these outrages? How, we reply, can you look for anything else but outrages while you refuse to make peace? It is, of course, a verbal exaggeration to say that we have refused to make peace with Turkey, but it is in fact the damning truth. The cynical pretence of the negotiations at Paris in 1919, the later proceedings at San Remo, when Mr. Lloyd George founded the Greek Empire for his friend M. Venizelos, the intolerable conditions of the Treaty of Sèvres, the seizure of Smyrna, the letting loose of the Greek armies in Anatolia, the ceaseless bickerings of the Powers—all these things, illuminated from time to time by Lord Curzon's oratory, make a very pretty picture of peace efforts! Foolish or intractable as the Turks may have been, the Allied politicians have been worse, and they bear the larger part of the responsibility for the state of Asia Minor to-day and—we say it deliberately—for the brutalities to which all the wretched minorities are being subjected. The Turks have continued, as of old, to massacre Armenians. The Western Powers could have prevented it. Three years ago Armenia was at Paris, waiting to become by the grace of Europe and America an independent State. It was in the days when mandates under the Covenant of the League of Nations were supposed to mean something beyond oil or nitrates or black troops or strategic bases for the mandatory Powers. The "Armenian mandate" was hawked about, but the European States found their hands full, and America preferred to keep hers empty. The Supreme Council offered the thing to the League, knowing very well the League could not take it, and a band of American bishops soothed their consciences before the world by urging Britain to do her duty. Meantime, the Turks continued their pleasantries, while the Allied Governments, in the words of Mr. Chamberlain, "repeatedly warned them that they were adversely affecting Allied public opinion and Allied policy"! That, in a nutshell, is what we have done for the Armenian minority.

It then refers to atrocities committed by the Greeks (as witnessed by Professor Toynbee in Asia Minor), and concludes:—

We do not refer to these atrocities of the Greeks in order to condone those of the Turks; we feel an equal abhorrence of the conduct of both sides. We refer to them for the purpose of making clear what is the position of the Allied Governments and what our policy ought to be. Our policy was supposed, till the other day, to be the conciliation of Turkey; but now, in the light of the Trebizond massacres, that policy ought to be "revised," say the Turcophobes. "Revision," presumably, means back to 1920-21—a fresh attempt at the coercion of Turkey, and a fresh mandate to Greece to police and exploit the relics of the Ottoman Empire. We repeat that this proposal is futile. In the first place, supposing that there was any hope of its being successful, it would not achieve its ostensible object—the prevention of atrocities. It might, indeed, save some Christians from being maltreated by Moslems. But would it save the Moslems from being maltreated by the Christians? The Greeks may not have succeeded, owing to lack of opportunity or time, in making such a big bag of victims as have the Turks, but they have done their abominable best, and no one, save the most infatuated Philhellene or a sentimentalist who is ignorant of

the races of the Near East, will expect the leopard to change his spots in the middle of the Anatolian jungle. In the second place, however loudly the hotheads in Athens and their friends in London may clamour for it, the policy of coercing Turkey is hopeless. It is astonishing that intelligent men, with the events of the last eighteen months before their eyes, should be harking back again to the old illusions. The Greeks will be beaten again, as they were last year, if they renew their fight with the Kemalist forces, and we do not think they will find themselves very greatly strengthened by any "material support" from the Powers, for the Powers are in no case and in no mood to give them either money or men. Neither France nor Italy wants to coerce Turkey, and Mr. Lloyd George and Lord Curzon, though they may want to do it, have learned by this time that they cannot. The most that they can do is to irritate the Turks afresh, to sacrifice more of their Greek dupes and to provoke more atrocities.

There is, in fact, only one way to deal with Turkey, and that is to make peace with her with the least possible delay. We are under no romantic illusions about the Turks. A settlement which tears up the Treaty of Sèvres, restores Smyrna to them and brings them into the League of Nations, will not suddenly turn them into loving fathers of their Christian subjects. But it will at least go far to remove their desire to spill their Christian subjects' blood, and it will entirely remove any excuse for spilling it. It will also give us what we want—the chance of protecting the minorities by some less disastrous method than threats and cant.

Enrolment will commence of eight platoons of the Madras University Territorial Force when the colleges reassemble after the vacation. Membership of the Corps will not entail liability for active service or to aid the civil power.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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Yugoslavia's American Loan.

At one time it appeared possible that Yugoslavia's negotiations with the Blair group would fall through, but it is clear that there was never any very serious hitch, and the contract for the loan has now been signed. The terms on which the loan has been arranged vary somewhat from those already mentioned. The loan is to be of the amount of 100,000,000 dollars (not dinars as stated in a leading contemporary, which would make the loan a mere £300,000 or so), bearing 8 per cent. interest, the issue price being 86½, and Yugoslavia will be able to obtain immediately 25,000,000 dollars. Railway construction is the principal object of the loan, and a firm of the Blair group will shortly commence operations on the projected Adriatic railway.

A Lost Opportunity.

It is little good deploring what is past, but it may be pointed out that Yugoslavia only turned to America for financial assistance because it was impossible to obtain it here on satisfactory terms. Our financiers must have been strangely lacking in enterprise to turn down an opportunity which was considered good enough by an American group. It is to be feared that the result of their apathy will be that British interests in Yugoslavia will be affected. It goes without saying, as I have emphasized time and again in these columns, that the country which affords financial assistance to the States in the Near East will naturally be in a strong position as compared with its competitors. In the present case America reaps immediate profit in the contract to construct the Adriatic railway, the material for which will no doubt come from America instead of from this country where the order would have helped to ease the unemployment problem.

America and the Near East.

The most interesting aspect of the loan is the fact that it constitutes the first definite assistance of the kind given by America in the Near East. A financial stake in a country is the first step to taking a greater interest in it, and it will remain to be seen whether if this departure is followed by similar ventures America will be able to maintain her attitude of frigid aloofness from anything that happens in the Near East. I doubt it very much.

British Interests in Bulgaria.

The statistics given by our Sofia Correspondent this week of the amount of foreign capital invested in limited companies in Bulgaria throw an illuminating light on the extent of British interests in the country. Out of a total of almost three hundred million levas of foreign capital the British share is only 4,300,000, and the only countries below us in the list are Holland and Switzerland. The holdings of our principal rivals show very plainly that they realise the potentialities of Bulgaria, and that they understand to the full the advantageous position that must be the result of an extensive interest. France, Italy, and Belgium, to men-

tion only a few of our competitors, have their own banks in Bulgaria; but there is as yet no British bank, and though there has been a good deal of discussion in regard to the establishment of one, we still seem to be no nearer to having this very obvious accessory to more intimate commercial relations.

The Cotton Crop Position.

The American Bureau report on the cotton crop leaves the position practically unchanged. The condition figure of 69.6 was almost exactly in accordance with expectations, and therefore had little effect on the market. While the prospects at the moment seem somewhat uncertain, the figure would suggest the likelihood of a medium crop. Prices will be affected, however, not so much by the crop, as by the development of the markets generally. The cotton now being produced is not nearly sufficient to supply potential requirements, and once the world is in a position to make its demand for cotton a reality, then the cotton market is likely to experience considerable vicissitudes.

Rubber Trade Crisis.

The position in the rubber plantation industry continues to be very critical, and it is perfectly clear that if present conditions obtain much longer a number of companies will be unable to stand the strain, and will disappear. It is a dismal outlook, but that is the possibility that has to be faced. The whole trouble is due to the fact that production is far ahead of consumption as the direct consequence of so many markets being closed to trade. Various efforts have been made to meet the situation by the voluntary restriction of output, but they have not succeeded, and whether any really effective steps can be taken in this direction depends on whether a general agreement can be arrived at on the question—a difficult matter to arrange, seeing that it is by no means only British companies that are concerned. Failing restriction companies will be thrown on their resources, and those who are able to reduce costs sufficiently to avoid loss will be able to weather the crisis. While the present position is so unsatisfactory there is, it may be added, very little doubt as to the future of the industry. Eventually rubber will come into its own again.

Commentator

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Commerce and Industry.

REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Belgrade, June 1.

The Loan Negotiations.

No settlement has been reached so far, and the negotiations are dragging on. The Minister of Finance has now been compelled to fix a time limit of seven days, and when that has elapsed no fresh alterations will receive any consideration. The time limit expires on the 2nd inst., when the Council will proceed to examine all the offers simultaneously.

So far it appears that the only serious offer is that of the Harrington—Blair group and that the others are only "sounding the ground." The conditions of the group in question are very difficult, and moreover it is a question whether the exchanges could be re-adjusted with such a small quantity of good currency which the Government would have at their disposal. The actual amount on which the Government could draw cheques is about 23 millions and their "pressing liabilities," interest due, and small floating debts are about 7 millions, therefore the net amount would be only about 16 millions.

When one considers the fact that the inflow of dollars is about 15-20 thousands per week and that despite this the exchanges are remaining unfavourable it is very doubtful whether any great improvement could be effected with such a small quantity of dollars as would be obtained from this loan. It really seems that the Government will have to seek fresh offers on another money market, and it is not at all improbable that, even if the Government accepts the present offer, the Parliament will turn down the Bill because of its hard conditions.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, June 3.

Consolidation of Treasury Bonds.

The local press throws some fresh light on the negotiations which are now being carried on in Paris and London with the object of consolidating and converting the Roumanian Treasury Bonds. In the first place it proposed to consolidate only the bonds in private hands abroad, amounting in all to about one and a half milliard French francs. As regards the bonds in the Allied Governments' possession, these, having been issued for war needs, will not be included in the present negotiations, but will be dealt with simultaneously with the settlement of war debts among the Allies. The Rentes which will be issued in exchange for the old Treasury Bonds will not bear a uniform rate of interest but a

progressive one, viz., 3 per cent. for the first two years 4 per cent. for the following four years and 5 per cent. for the rest of the period. The interest for the first two to three years will be guaranteed by the export taxes, thereafter it will be included in the ordinary budget. It is further reported that M. V. Bratianu, the Minister of Finance, assisted by M. Titulescu is endeavouring to contract a loan in sterling for the purpose of ensuring the annuities for the first few years and thereby obviating the eventual necessity of buying large amounts in inflated currencies which would obviously further depreciate the leu.

New Export Regulation for Grain.

At the last meeting of the Supreme Economic Council, it was decided to adopt the following principle in regard to trade in the coming grain crop:—All cereals, excepting wheat and rye, may be exported unrestricted by permits, etc., the exporters to pay only the export tax, which, however, will be increased. With regard to wheat and rye, as these grains were not sown in sufficient quantities last autumn and even in the spring, they will continue to be among the prohibited exports. Any surplus production, after home requirements have been ensured will be used by the State to fulfil their old engagements to France and Switzerland. The above scheme will be put before the Ministers' Council for approval immediately after the return of the Minister of Finance from abroad.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, May 30.

The Financial Crisis.

The shortage of money is daily becoming more serious and recently the Sofia Chamber of Commerce summoned a meeting to consider the problem. This meeting was attended by representatives of the Provincial Chambers of Commerce, and also by leading bankers, business men, and economists. The following questions were discussed:—

1. Whether, as the cost of living is thirty times higher than it was before the war, it is not necessary to increase the currency up to six milliard levas.
2. Whether the construction of houses at Sofia is not increasing the financial crisis, owing to the large amount of capital that is involved.
3. Whether the fact that Bulgarians should pay their pre-war debts to Great Britain by May 30 is a cause of the money crisis.
4. Whether the financial difficulties will not counteract the relief which a good harvest would bring.
5. Whether the introduction of the new customs tariff has not made the money crisis more serious.
6. Whether it is not incumbent on the Bulgarian National Bank to aid traders by discounting their bills of exchange.

Many well known men including Dr. Damyanoff, Governor of the Bulgarian National Bank, M. Tchakaloff, former Governor of the Bulgarian National Bank, M. Milosheff, Manager of the Bank of Sofia, Dr. Ivan Zlatareff, Secretary of the Sofia Chamber of Commerce, and M. Liaptcheff, economist and a former Minister, took part in the discussion.

The general opinion was that the only way out of the present crisis lay in issuing new currency which would not unfavourably affect the value of the leva, providing the new money was devoted to the encouragement of production. M. Liaptcheff alone spoke against the issue of new currency, declaring himself an opponent of the inflation policy, which was, he said, a very dangerous one. The meeting appointed a committee to work out the demands of the meeting, and decided to submit them to the Minister of Finance at an early date.

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Foreign Capital in Bulgaria.*Sofia, June 7.*

Figures have just been published showing the amount of foreign capital invested in limited companies. At the end of 1921 the total amount was 292,669,000 levas (approximately £500,000). This capital is divided up as follows (the figures representing million levas):—French 51, Franco-Austrian 49.4, Italian 40.8, Franco-Belgian 33.6, Franco-Hungarian 28.4, German 27.2, Belgian 19.5, Czech 15, Hungarian 10.3, Austrian 7.5, British 4.3, Dutch 3.5, Swiss 1.7. The figures show that France easily leads the way in participation in Bulgarian enterprises. Apart from the 51 million levas, she has 111 million levas invested in conjunction with Belgians, Austrians, and Hungarians. Before the war Germany and Austria-Hungary had the largest investments in Bulgaria and were followed by France, Belgium, Italy, and England in the above order. It will be noticed that England has now only a few thousand pounds invested in the country. Italy has invested approximately 14 per cent. of the whole, and she has a first class bank which is very firmly established. There are also French, Belgian, Austrian, and Hungarian banks, but there is no English bank. It would appear as though we took no pains to cultivate relations with Bulgaria.

The Financial Crisis.

In connection with the recent meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, the Committee of that body have asked M. Tourlakoff, Minister of Finance, to consider the following:—1. That the Bulgarian National Bank should grant a credit of 700,000,000 levas to trade and industry. 2. That this credit should be granted immediately. 3. That for this purpose all Treasury Bonds should be used and new ones printed

TURKEY'S TRADE WITH RUSSIA.*(From a Correspondent.)*

There must still be optimists, both in Constantinople and Russia, for the Soviet Government has a trade delegation of the Russian People's Commissariat for Foreign Trade now "firmly established" in the Turkish capital. This is called the "Vneshtorg," of which the operations have recently increased very substantially. Considerable purchases have been made on behalf of the local Foreign Trade Departments of Southern Russia, and are covered by raw materials forwarded to the delegation for disposal. The official statistics issued by the Russians for the turnover for the first three months of the current year are as follows:

	£T.
January	1,207,177
February	2,128,194
March	3,548,308

It is claimed that the local banks in Constantinople consent to give credits in the following form:—21.8 per cent. at conclusion of contract; 38.6 per cent. on receipt of goods; 39.6 per cent. various forms of credit. For a total sum of £T.661,125, credits have been given for £T.183,000 on raw materials, and the balance of £T.329,125 as open credits, some of which have been for a period of four months.

The credits on raw materials have enabled the trade delegation to ship goods to London or elsewhere, instead of disposing of them locally. The merchandise thus bought by the Russian includes sacks, soap, chemical products, boots, clothing, fishing nets, sugar, flour and grain. The tobacco planters of Abkhazia in the Western Caucasus have made purchases to the value of £T.120,000.

The raw material which the Russians have sent to Constantinople amount to 4,432 tons, with a total value of £T.1,075,298, which has been disposed of as follows:—Realised in Constantinople, £T.209,850; realised in London, £T.676,406; stored in depots, £T.189,042. These raw materials include wool, sheepskins, camelhair, horsehair, furs, tobacco, carpets, wine, cement, hemp, bristles and ozokerite, by which perhaps they mean *mazout*.

TENDERS INVITED.

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

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

Egypt.

Cement.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo Station, invites tenders for the supply of 800 metric tons cement. Copy of the conditions (price 200 millèmes) may be obtained at the Office of the Administration's Inspecting Engineer in London. July 25.

Paper, Bristol Board, Mill-board, etc.—The Superintendent of the Government Press, Bulaq, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of writing paper for certificates; strong writing paper for certificates; strong writing paper for registers and books; strong writing paper for registers and books coloured; bristol boards coloured; bristol boards coloured for covers; paper for file covers; cream wove paper for forms; coloured paper for forms; mill-board; gummed paper, required for the year 1922-3. Representation by a local resident agent is essential. (D.O.T.) June 20.

Various.—The Inspector-General, Prisons Department, No. 43, Sharia El Bostan, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of various articles required by the Department in 1922-1923 (tools, tool-steel, ironmongery, thread, tassels of tarbushes, food bowls, boilers, saddles, dynamos, etc.). June 12.

Beech.—The Inspector-General, Prisons Department, No. 43, Sharia El Bostan, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 375 pieces beech (European) 12 inches by 4 inches by 4 inches. July 1.

Bulgaria.

Creosote and chloride of zinc.—The Directorate of Railways and Ports invites tenders for the supply of 500 tons of creosote and 50 tons of chloride of zinc. The estimated price of this contract is 4,100,000 levas. A deposit of 1 per cent. of the estimated price must be made by the tenderer, which is to be increased to 5 per cent. when the contract is placed. Terms of payment: one half against shipping documents, the contractor undertaking to give a bank guarantee against this sum, which will be freed on arrival of the material in Bulgaria—remainder after arrival and acceptance of material in Bulgaria. Delivery time: four months for the first half of the creosote and the whole of the chloride of zinc, and six months for the second half of the creosote. Delivery c.i.f. Black Sea or Danube port. Import duty to be paid by the Directorate. Local representation is essential. June 26. (D.O.T.)

India.

Steel felt, bicycles, tapes, sodium, nitrate, cable, etc.—The High Commissioner for India invites tenders for the supply of:—1. 514 tons steel, mild, round, various sizes; 2. 1,722 yards felt, brown, for panels, 60 ins. wide; 3. 200 bicycles, similar to G.P.O. pattern, without tyres; 4. measuring tapes, steel and linen, in leather cases, refills for ditto, and rules, boxwood; 5. 100 tons sodium nitrate, commercial; 4,000 yards cable, switchboard, lead sheathed; 34,000 yards cable for wiring buildings; 7. 67,500 yards cable, dry core, lead sheathed, steel tape armoured; 1,750 lead sleeves; 9,800 yards cable, under-water, unarmoured, lead sheathed. June 23.

RECENT ADJUDICATIONS.

Messrs. C. and J. Webb and Co., Ltd., London, and Messrs. the Clothing and Equipment Company of Egypt, S.A., Cairo, were the successful tenderers to the Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones for the supply of winter clothing for the season 1922-23.

Messrs. the Clothing and Equipment Company of Egypt, S.A., Cairo, headed, with the amount of £E.17,175.055, the list of successful tenderers to the Personnel and Equipment Department of the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior for the supply of stores to the Police Stores Department for the year 1922-23.

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British Consular Reports.

IV. PERSIA

We give the following extracts from the report of Major Temple, I.A.R.O., Commercial Secretary to H.B.M. Legation, Teheran, on trade and transport conditions in Persia for 1921 :—

While all the world is suffering in different degrees of intensity from the economic damage of the war, it would be strange if Persia alone had escaped ill effects. Dependent on external sources of supply for almost all its necessities of life except food, and even indeed for some necessary foodstuffs also, Persia is now required to pay the greatly enhanced world-prices of world-commodities at a time when its own raw products which constitute its purchasing power have lost their pre-war foreign markets. As a result less has been bought and less sold, and the country is the poorer and the worse provided. Thus, measured even by price, imports have fallen from 647 million kran in 1913-14 to 482 million kran in 1920-21, and measured by quantity the decrease is greater; while measured by price, exports exclusive of petroleum have fallen from 447 million kran in 1913-14 to 138 million kran in 1920-21. (These figures are to be taken at relative, not absolute, value; because they exclude "invisible" imports and exports.) The consequence is an adverse balance of trade, so large as to strain to breaking-point banking resources of foreign remittance.

In this predicament importers, unable to buy foreign currency with which to pay for their foreign purchases, took in some instances to exporting silver kran at bullion value. This misuse of the currency was stopped by law. Relief was next sought in kran-smuggling to silver buyers abroad. This malpractice, too, has been checked, but probably not stopped. Gold and silver of all other kinds, such as foreign coin, ornaments, jewellery and plate, were next mobilised for exportation. This shift, again, was restrained by a Customs interdiction. No other resource remaining, the import trade has been brought almost to a standstill for lack of a medium of remittance; and, although the sterling rate of exchange, which a year ago remained under 30 kran to the £1, now keeps above 50 and at the present time is quoted at 60 kran to the £1, sterling except in very small amounts is not purchasable even at the latter exorbitant rates (exorbitant because divorced from the silver value of the kran which at silver rates would be about 44 kran to the £1).

Abstruse as the situation may appear when all its complication rise to view, it but expresses the operation of the inexorable economic law that in the long run a country's incomings of goods and services must be equalled by its outgoings of the like, and that if the latter continually fall short expedients for adjusting the adverse balance must become increasingly difficult. Yet, as always happens where economic science is not studied, popular opinion in Persia tends to discover illusory causes of the trouble and to demand illusory remedies. Some of the public imaginings in this regard have assumed an anti-foreign shape. This is particularly regrettable because the less her native energy in exploitation the more would she be dependent for economic development on such external aid as can by good will be attracted. Certainly a country which at the best has but few present inducements to offer to large capital-enterprises, and little or no capital of its own to engage, can only hamper itself by allowing anti-

foreign repulsions. The commercial evil of misguided ideas may be seen in a recent proposal to the Parliament to limit imports by law. A country outrunning its purse may, of course, do well to retrench its purchases; but a country which on the one hand imports little else than necessities and on the other hand has a smaller purchasing-power per head of population than any other country in the world may perhaps do better to turn its mind to the increasing of its imports.

Decrease in Commerce.

The total commerce of Persia with foreign countries during the Persian year 1920-21 (March 21 1920 to March 20, 1921) amounted in value to 853,550,412 kran. This figure is exclusive of the commerce of the province of Ghilan which was in rebel occupation. In the preceding year (1920-21) the total commerce of Persia with foreign countries amounted in value to 997,610,009 kran. Thus a decrease of commerce amounting to 144,059,597 kran is shown. The total value of the imports into Persia during the year was 482,351,633 kran. Thus an adverse balance of trade amounting to 111,152,854 kran is shown. In the preceding year the imports amounted in value to 629,792,656 kran, and the exports to 367,817,353 kran, showing an adverse balance of trade amounting to 256,975,303 kran. There thus appear a decrease of imports amounting to 147,441,023 kran, or 23 per cent., and an increase of exports amounting to 3,381,426 kran, or 0.9 per cent. The decrease in imports occurs under the following main heads:—Animals 6,298,684 kran, raw materials 13,788,926 kran, manufactured articles 126,422,797 kran, and precious metals and money 18,214,512 kran; against which an increase has occurred under the head of articles of food and drink amounting to 17,283,896 kran. The increase in exports occurs under the sole main head of raw materials which amount to 51,100,870 kran, against which decreases have occurred under the following heads:—Animals 152,967 kran, articles of food and drink 33,870,556 kran, manufactured articles 11,498,601 kran, precious metals and money 2,197,320 kran.

An Undeveloped Country.

In Persia there are virtually no indigenous industries to be protected or fostered against foreign competition, and the only effect of any measure of prohibition in its immediate operation would deprive Persian consumers of the use or enjoyment of the particular species of commodities brought under interdiction. This, nevertheless, might or might not be a necessary expedient for a poor and undeveloped country which finds increasing difficulty in paying for imports with exports, but at any rate it would in no true sense be a "swadeshi" device, unless indeed it should force into existence industries which as yet are not even nascent.

By sole exception, there has sprung up in Persia, as a consequence of the temporary block of imports during the war, a leather-making industry and a boot-and-shoe-making industry but the methods and processes are those of the cottage not of the factory, and prices are as high as qualities are low. Similarly there has also sprung up a button-making industry, but its products are far from satisfactory, and it makes no headway. If Westernised industries are to thrive in Persia, they must have Western support, and for that the time is not propitious.

Meanwhile there is more to be gained by promoting exports than by prohibiting exports. Inexorable economic laws impose their own prohibitions on nations disposed to purchase beyond their purses. That indeed is beginning to be realised by Persian importers who with coffers full of silver kran cannot move the bank to sell sterling. The Persian currency has lost its purchasing power outside its own country.

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COMPANY NOTICES.

Societe Anonyme du Behera.

Notice is hereby given to bearers of the Company's Debentures (Obligations) and Preference Shares that the COUPON No. 56 of the DEBENTURES and COUPON No. 35 of the PREFERENCE SHARES will be PAID from 1st July next at the following establishments:—

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At Cairo—National Bank of Egypt.

At London—National Bank of Egypt, 6 and 7, King William Street.

By Order of the Board,

Alexandria, May 27th, 1922.

E. MORDO, Secretary.

Engineering Topics.

By Our Engineering Representative.

New Vauxhall Engine.

More than usual interest attaches to the new Vauxhall engine which is the joint work of the celebrated motor firm and Messrs. Ricardo and Co., Ltd., engineers, who have designed so many internal combustion engines for general and special purposes, of extraordinary efficiency. The collaboration with the Vauxhall firm over the new engine appears to be the outcome of certain theories and suggestions made by Mr. Ricardo himself to the chief designer of Vauxhall Motors, Ltd., and these after discussion and minor modification have been adopted.

The new engine is of the four cylinder type, the bore and stroke being respectively 85 and 132 millimetres, so that the exact capacity of the engine is 2,985.7 cubic centimetres. At maximum speed it should develop rather over 110 horsepower, although the Treasury rating will be only 17.9 horsepower, a fact which seems to shew that a little revision regarding the Treasury methods of calculating horsepower would not be out of place. The new engine, all out, is capable of the almost incredible speed of 4,500 revolutions per minute.

The cylinders rather depart from usual practice with engines of this size as they consist of four steel liners in an aluminium block, with detachable heads in pairs. Each cylinder has two inlets and two exhaust valve actuated by two overhead cam shafts in aluminium cases, driven by a train of spur gears at the front of the engine. Two carburettors, each with its own induction pipe, are used, one being for the two end and the other for the two centre cylinders. Ignition, instead of being by magneto in the usual manner, is by coil and battery, and it is interesting to see that this leading firm has adopted this new and somewhat daring method, which is in effect and principle a reversion to the earliest car practice. Of course the battery is of the most improved type, and exponents of modernity in engine design will be elated to hear that the makers are fitting three sparking plugs, presumably running in parallel, to each cylinder. A total of 12 plugs for a four cylinder engine seems carrying refinement to rather extreme lines, and it seems difficult to see how the charge can be fired more quickly in practice by three than by two plugs placed in correct positions.

The crankshaft is mounted entirely on ball bearings, and the big ends are fitted with roller bearings which after all seems the best possible practice, whatever the adherents of split bearings may say. Presumably the big ends are threaded on the crankshaft first and the roller bearings put in place and secured by split plate

afterwards. One of the most interesting departures from customary design is that the flywheel is placed in the centre and not at one end of the crankshaft, so that we have two cylinders on either side of the wheel. This arrangement is in view of the extraordinary speed of the engine, and as the flywheel is completely enclosed in the crank case the latter has an unusually robust appearance.

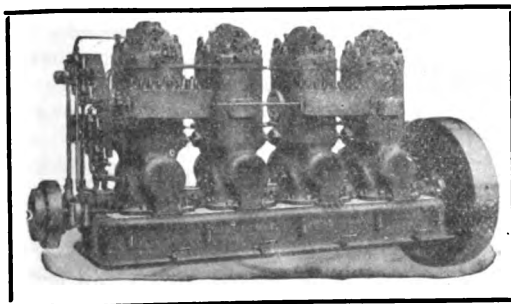
The engine clutch and gearbox form one unit which is carried on three trunnion bearings, two being on the centre line of the engine and the other at the rear of the gear box. The whole unit is set as low as possible in the chassis so as to ensure a low centre of gravity and consequently to improve the element of safety in cornering at speed.

The clutch is of the multiple plate type with Feroda surface, and the gearbox which has four forward speeds and reverse is very much on the lines of the firm's standard production. The back axle is connected with the gear box by an open propellor shaft with a fabric disc joint at the front and a universal joint at the rear. A channel section torque member takes the torque, that from the rear braking action being taken through the springs.

The rear brakes are fitted with exceptionally large diameter aluminium drums with steel liners, and are actuated by a hand lever. The front wheel brakes, which have drums of smaller diameter, are controlled by a cable from the foot pedal. A further means of actuating the brakes, provided by compressed air, enables all four brakes to be put into action simultaneously and this auxiliary means can be used either with or without the hand and foot control.

A Fine Performance.

Down at Brooklands the other day I had the pleasure of seeing the little A.C. sports model accomplish another remarkable performance, or rather, perhaps, I should say I saw a part of it. Driven by Mr. Kaye Don and Mr. A. Joyce in turn it broke no fewer than 19 records, up to the 12 hours and also the 1,300 kilometres. This puts the car in the amazing position of holding 105 Brooklands' records, which Mr. S. F. Edge tells me is four times more than the combined records held by all other cars in the same class. This, by the way, is the third 12-hour record taken by this make of car, and, as Mr. Edge says, is all the more noteworthy in that no other light car has ever lasted for 12 hours on the Brooklands track.



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Stock and Share Markets.

QUIET AND DULL TONE.

Prices again Lower.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Tuesday Morning.

A very dull tone has ruled in the markets during the past week. The main factor in bringing this about has been the postponement of the negotiations for a loan to Germany.

Stocks generally have moved downwards, headed by the gilt-edged group, and even Railways, which have been such a buoyant feature in recent weeks, have declined in sympathy with other securities. It is of course, only a passing phase, but nevertheless an unpleasant shock to the investor, who for quite a number of weeks has had, comparatively speaking, a good time. For an improvement in the position we must await a clearer political atmosphere.

Gilt-Edged Loan.

Gilt-edged, as I have pointed out, are down on the week. Consols are $2\frac{1}{2}$ lower at $54\frac{1}{2}$, the Conversion Loan has shed 2.7-16 at $74\frac{3}{4}$, while War Loan Fives at 99.1-16 are $\frac{1}{2}$ lower. Indian stocks have shared in the decline. The Seven per cent. loan is $2\frac{1}{2}$ down at 113, the $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. loan is 2 down at $66\frac{1}{4}$, while the 3 per cent. loan is a point lower at $56\frac{1}{4}$.

The foreign market has generally been dull. French loans have been a specially weak spot, with War Loan Fives 4 down at 41, while the 4 per cents. are $32\frac{1}{2}$. German 3 per cents. eased off sharply to 2.5-16 at which they are 5-8 lower. Italian Rentes have shed $1\frac{1}{2}$ at 23. There has been little doing in South Americans. Brazilians have varied somewhat, while Argentines have been dull. Chinese stocks have been weak.

Industrials Dull.

There has been a marked absence of activity in the Industrial group even compared with the restricted business of recent weeks. Investors are evidently firmly determined to hold aloof until the general outlook is more certain. In some stocks a certain amount of realisation has been taking place.

Textiles have been rather weak. Coats are 1-32 lower at 3.1-8, while Courtaulds are 2s. 6d. down at 48s. 3d. Tobaccos have been a dull spot, with Bats 2s. down at 77s. 6d., and Imperial Tobaccos 1s. lower at 60s. 6d. Dunlops are again lower at 8s. $10\frac{1}{2}$ d., a decline of $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. Iron and steel shares have been steady. Vickers are 3d. up at 11s. 9d., Armstrongs are unchanged at 16s. 9d., while Guest Keens remain at 34s. 9d. Indian railways have shown a tendency to firm up somewhat. Bengal and North Western are 3 up at 125. Bengal Nagpur 4 per cent. Debs. have been done at $73\frac{1}{2}$, while Madras

and Southern Mahratta Debs have been in some request up to $75\frac{1}{4}$.

Shipping securities have made a rather stronger showing, with P. and O. Deferred 15 up at 330. Cunards are 3d. down at 20s. 6d., while Furness Withys are unchanged at 30s.

Oils Variable.

Sharp weakness has developed in the Oil group as the result of a variety of factors, among them the political situation, while the dullness prevailing in other markets has not been without its effect. As a result stocks in many cases show a decline.

Burmahs, exceptionally, are 1-16 up at 3.7-16, while Anglo-Persian Ord are $\frac{1}{4}$ up at 4.11-16. Mexican Eagles at 3.9-16 are 1-16 up. Trinidad issues have been variable. Apex are 2.5-32, a gain of 1-32. Centrals at 2.11-32 are 7-32 up, while Leaseholds are 1-32 up at 1.7-32.

Among Egyptians, Anglo-Egyptian B are $1\frac{1}{4}$, a decline of 3-32, while Oilfields of Egypt are $\frac{1}{4}$, at which they are 1s. 6d. lower. In the Roumanian group, Roumanian Consolidated are 3d. down at 17s. 3d., Dacia Romanos are 1.1-16, a decline of 3-16, Steaua Romanas are 11s. $10\frac{1}{2}$ d., at which they are $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. lower, while Phoenix are 1s. down at 27s. 3d.

Banks Fairly Steady.

A fairly firm tone has ruled in banking descriptions. Chartered of India are 17.15-16, National of India are $44\frac{1}{4}$, P. and O. Banks are 14.1-8, and Bank of British West Africa are 5.1-8.

In Egyptian securities Aboukirs are 20s. 6d., Béhéras are 8, Egyptian Markets are 20s. 9d., and Gharbieh Lands are $1\frac{1}{4}$.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ..	Piastres to £....	97 $\frac{1}{4}$	97.15-32
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22 $\frac{1}{2}$	110-113
Belgrade ..	Dinars to £....	25.22 $\frac{1}{2}$	300-310
Berlin	Marks to £....	20.43	1,395-1,435
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3.9-16
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3.9-16
Brussels.....	Francs to £....	25.22 $\frac{1}{2}$	54.20-54.50
*Bucharest ..	Lei to £.....	25.22 $\frac{1}{2}$	645-665
Constantinople	Piastres to £....	110	670-690
New York....	Dollars to £....	4.86 2-3	4.40 $\frac{1}{2}$ -4.48 $\frac{1}{2}$
Paris	Francs to £....	25.22 $\frac{1}{2}$	50.50-51.05
Prague	Kronen to £....	24.02	231-237
Rome	Lire to £.....	25.22 $\frac{1}{2}$	89-90
Sofia	Leva to £.....	25.22 $\frac{1}{2}$	600-630
Teheran	Krans to £....	50	51 $\frac{1}{2}$
*Vienna	Kronen to £....	24 02	85,000-105,000
Warsaw	Marks to £.....	20.43	18,500-20,000

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Cotton & Cotton Goods.

MANCHESTER COTTON REPORT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Saturday.

The past week has been the quietest during the year owing to the Whitsuntide holidays which have extended over the whole of the week. Many of the big shipping firms have been closed down altogether, and the attendance upon the Manchester Royal Exchange was very thin. In the cloth section no serious business has been entered into, but it is expected that favourable developments will take place when the principal buyers return next week. In the yarn section quotations for American and Egyptian counts have remained unchanged, and no transactions worth mentioning have been recorded.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds & Gibson report as follows for the week ended June 7:—

In spite of the week being cut into by the holidays and Manchester practically closed, the daily spot sales have been well maintained at the level ruling recently. Sudan and Tokar cotton have again come into prominence, and approximately a third of the turnover has been in these qualities. There is no doubt that Tokar cotton is very cheap compared with any other growth offering in this market. Spinners are beginning to realise this fact, and, whilst a short time ago they would not seriously consider it on account of colour, now overlook this, and the large stocks that have been held for so long are beginning to show signs of diminution. Business in the ordinary Egyptian qualities has been practically confined to Sakellaridis, grading from strict good fair to strict fully good fair. As mentioned before, the selection in the above grades is becoming very thin, a curious state of affairs when consideration is given to the fact of the very large Alexandrian stock which must include a large percentage of the medium qualities. Sakel cotton of tenderable quality cannot be imported to compete with present spot offerings, and it will be interesting to watch the developments in this quarter as the season matures. The estimated sales for the week amount to 2,500 bales (including 950 bales Sudan), against 2,400 bales last week (including 700 bales Sudan). Quotations are reduced all round 25 points. Fully good fair Sakellaridis 19.00d.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Commercial Co. of Egypt in their report for the week ended May 26 state:—

During the past week the market has been only moderately active, and the tone to-day has been decidedly weak. The recent good buying on the spot markets both here and in Liverpool encouraged many to the belief that the trade revival so long predicted was about to materialise and that we were on the eve of a period of increased activity, and sentiment became bullish. On Tuesday there was a good deal of speculative buying, which pushed up prices to 38.90 for July Sakellaridis and 27.00 for June Ashmouni. A slight falling off on the commercial demand on Wednesday induced the liquidation of many of the previous days purchases and the bullish sentiment quickly evaporated; prices continued to sag and we close to-day at the lowest of the week. The spot demand has certainly eased off during the last couple of days, but actual cotton is well held, and has not followed the decline in futures. Selection gets poorer every day.

Spot. Total bales this week amount to about 10,000 bales; of this total we estimate 7,600 bales Sakellaridis, 1,950 bales Uppers, 300 bales Brown and 150 bales White. The demand, which fell off slightly towards the close of the week, appears to be veering round more to the better grades.

There is nothing of any importance to remark on the new crop. The plant is progressing normally and few complaints are heard. The Government continues to emphasise the fact that the summer water supply will be short, and to impress on the natives the vital importance of getting their pumps and water lifting plant in order.

In their report for the week ended June 2 the Commercial Co. of Egypt state:—

The feeling prevailing during the week has been undecided. Speculators have not operated to any extent, being apparently nervous of the Bureau Report on the American crop due to be issued to-night. Actual cotton is very firmly held and on the basis of the spot demand the futures market should have shown a better tone, and probably would have done so but for the straddle selling of new crop positions against American and Egyptian in Liverpool.

Spot.—Total sales amount this week to 8,500 bales of which we estimate 6,500 bales Sakellaridis, 1,500 Uppers, 200 bales Brown, 200 bales White and 100 bales Pilon. The market was closed on Monday last owing to a native holiday.

There is nothing of importance to say on the growing crop. The plant is progressing normally and satisfactorily. Nights have been rather cool and three days ago rain fell in the Northern Delta but not sufficient to cause damage. Leaf worm has appeared in places, but has quickly been destroyed and no damage is reported.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated June 5:—

Season. June 1.—Nearly general rainfall in Burma, Central India, Western Central Provinces, North Hyderabad (Deccan), Mysore and Malabar. Local elsewhere in north-west and southern India. June 2.—Monsoon developed with unusual rapidity and gave wide spread rain along Himalayas and heavy rain fell on west coast of Peninsula. June 3.—Monsoon active from east Punjab to Orissa, Deltaic Bengal and central parts of India. June 4.—Monsoon active in Burma and north-east India, but weakened over rest of country. Condition of Crops, Bengal.—Good rain, but in the opinion of the Director of Agriculture too late for jute in East Bengal. In Punjab, sowings of cotton average.

Markets. June 1.—Bombay cotton market steady. Fine M.G. Oomras, Rs. 445 July, Rs. 460 September. Bombay cotton arrivals from September 1, to May 27, were 2,918,000 bales as compared with 2,176,000 bales during the same period of the last year. June 1.—Bombay imported piece-goods market depressed. Fancies and prints still very low. Local goods continue firm. June 2.—Calcutta jute market quieter. Firsts, Rs. 90, Lightnings, Rs. 80, Hessians fluctuating. Ready 9 inch porters being quoted as low as Rs. 21 with 11 inch porters about Rs. 30. Heavies also easier and rates tending downwards. Tea.—May 30.—At first sale of the season 8,616 packages sold at an average price of 11 annas 2 pies per lb. All districts were represented. Qualities were useful and above average for new season tea though not up to last year's standard. Demands confined to good quality tea, broken and fannings. Good demand from Bombay for pekoes. Fair demand from Persia for broken with tips. Dusts strong. June 2.—Rangoon rice market dull. Price tending to rise after recent sharp fall. Big mills, June, Rs. 472; July, Rs. 475. Three months Rs. 480 by boat. Paddy, Rs. 204. Bank rate. Imperial Bank of India rate 6 per cent. This has fallen from 7 per cent. which was ruling from May 1.

The Messageries Maritimes has inaugurated a monthly service from Haifa.

The monsoon has arrived in India, but the first rains have only been weak and of short duration, says a Reuter message.

The Land Bank of Egypt announces an interim dividend of 3s. per share, less tax, payable June 15.

The British Overseas Bank announces an interim dividend on the "A" ordinary shares at the rate of 6 per cent., payable on June 19.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the week ended May 10 amounted to £E.7,200; total for the year, £E.32,733. For the corresponding period of last year receipts amounted to £E.10,335; total for year £E.39,652.

Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Price of Sugar Rising.

(From Our Own Correspondent).

London, Monday evening.

Sugar.—Home refined has been in steady request at advanced prices. Tate's cubes have advanced 2s. 6d. at 56s, while mineral water sugar is 1s. 6d. up at 50s. 3d. London granulated has gained eighteenpence at 49s. 9d., while Lyle's granulated has risen 1s. 3d. at 49s. 9d. Export descriptions have shown signs of rising. West Indian crystallized has jumped 1s. at 43s. 6d. and white Mauritius at 46s. 3d. is 3s. 3d. up. White Java at 20s. 3d. shows a gain of 9d. Cane sugar quotations are:—June, 16s.; July, 16s.; August, 22s. 6d.; September, 22s. 4½d.; and October to December 21s. 7½d.

Coffee.—All quotations are 2s. lower. East Indian is now at 118s.; Costa Rica is at 116s.; while Nairobi is quoted at 104s. The futures market has been firm. Quotations are:—July, 63s.; September, 63s. 6d.; December, 61s. 3d.; and March, 61s. 9d.

Dessicated Coconut.—No large re-action is expected in the market yet, but enquiries are still improving, while quotations are easier.

Rice.—The past two weeks have been dull, but firmness has prevailed throughout. With improved demand prices are expected to be higher.

Green Fruit.—The Whitsun holidays have not passed without some effect on oranges. Heavy sales are reported from all quarters, while prices have advanced considerably. Lemons are still the leading feature of the market, supplies having been cleared as soon as the vessels are discharged. There is little prospect of a decline in prices while the present heat wave is in progress, although when shipments are steadier, we may look for some improvement in this respect. Apples have remained in steady request at unchanged rates. There has been an indifferent demand for Egyptian onions, the market being almost at a standstill.

Oilseeds.—Prices are unsteady. Indian Linseed has dropped 4½d. to 20s. 6d., while La Plata is 9d. lower at 18s. 9d. Rape-seed is lower with Toria 7½d. down at 18s. 3d. Cottonseed has declined with Egyptian black 3d. down at 11s. 9d. and Sakell-arides has shed 1½d. at 11s. 3d. Indian has been steady at 9s. 3d.

Oils.—An unsteady tone has been in evidence. Linseed oil has declined 1s. at 43s. 6d. Rape oil remains unaltered with crude at 45s., and refined at 48s. Cotton oil has been variable. Technical and Egyptian crude have lost 6d. and 1s. respectively at 42s. 6d. and 42s. Refined at 49s. and deodorized at 54s. are firm.

Oilcakes.—There has been a further loss of 10s. in all cases. Linseed oil in now at 270s. ton. Cottonmeal cake is at 250s. ton, cottonseed cake is at 150s. ton, and coconut cake at 130s. ton.

ASIA MINOR FRUIT REPORT.

Sultana Sales Small.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud & Co., Smyrna, report as follows under date May 27:—

The total estimated arrivals of sultanas amount to 173,430 bags as compared with 103,500 bags for 1921. The total estimated sales are 191,430 bags as against 103,500 bags for last year, while the estimated stock unsold amounts to 2,000 bags.

Markets.—Sultanas—Unchanged. Small daily purchases, mainly for the Continent continue to be effected which contribute to lighten the remaining stocks. Interest generally is waning owing to the gradual exhaustion of good sound quality fruit. The bulk of supplies available are low grade stuff. During the past fortnight there has been a good deal of rain all over the country, more than usual at this season of the year, and opinions are somewhat divided as to its ultimate effect on the growing crop. The effects will only become apparent in the course of July.

AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS IN IRAQ.

Excellent Harvest Prospects.

The following extracts are taken from the Agricultural Bulletin of Iraq for the month ended April 15:—

Well distributed and fairly heavy rains fell during the first week of March. Though no subsequent rains of note have fallen in Lower Iraq, the seasonal distribution has been well suited to the cultivation of all winter crops. Occasional showers continue to fall in Upper Iraq where the unirrigated crops are in splendid condition.

The report of the Director of Irrigation was not received at the time of submission of this bulletin, but it is reported that the water supply is satisfactory on all canals. The absence of late rains has occasioned a heavy demand on the water supply in all canals. The irrigated cereal crops are exceptionally good, and the absence of continuous cloudy weather has had the result of suppressing the "Rust" disease of the wheat crop. On all canals land is being prepared for the summer crops of maize, millet, sesame, cotton and rice. Fertilization and trimming of date palms is practically completed.

Flood inundation canals on the banks of the rivers and also the Hai area have received an abundance of water owing to the high floods.

Condition of Stock.

The Director of Civil Veterinary Services reports outbreaks of Rinderpest in cattle in the Diyala Area and in the Busreh Liwa. Altogether 995 animals were inoculated, of these, 20 were diseased and were treated with success; 218 animals died before veterinary aid could be rendered. Contagious pleuro-pneumonia in sheep was reported from Kirkuk; 308 head of sheep died before veterinary aid could be rendered. Sheep pox was reported from the Mosul Liwa and successfully dealt with. The condition of stock is particularly good.

Grazing continues to be plentiful. In Lower Iraq owing to the absence of late rains, the herbage has already withered in non-irrigated areas. On the steppe lands of Upper Iraq, vegetation continues to be green and rank.

Experimental Farms and Research.

The winter cereal crops on Government Farms at Rustam, Kut and Baquba have made good progress. The absence of late rains necessitated all the cereal crops being irrigated. The flax crop at Kut has been harvested, and is being stored pending the arrival of a hand scutching machine. The spring sown flax crop at Baquba has made good progress, but it is inferior to the autumn sown crop at Kut. The sowing of all cotton seed on experimental farms was completed by the middle of April. About 100 acres of bulk crop cotton have been sown for propagation of seed, and various experiments have been laid down on about 20 acres. Germination is good. About 50 varieties of imported tree seeds have been sown at the Rustam Tree Nursery. Shade trees have been planted all along the main roads on the farm. The bulk crop of poplar and willow cuttings on about 4 acres is making satisfactory growth. The large number of wheat and barley varieties under experiment at Rustam have made vigorous growth.

Owing to the anticipated reduction in the budget allotment of the Department of Agriculture, the closing down of the experimental farms at Kut and Baquba is under consideration.

A further attempt has been made in the current year to combat outbreaks of locusts. The two solutions named Cyllin and Solomia used for this purpose have given satisfactory results in that they destroy the locusts that come into contact with the spray. They have the advantage of being economical of labour, but the disadvantage of being relatively expensive. The locust outbreak in the Upper Iraq is reported to be about normal. Comprehensive measures of control over large areas are essential to the success of an anti-locust campaign.

District Work.

The work of the District staff has been largely confined to the distribution of cotton seed and to giving necessary advice to prospective cultivators. Out of the available supply of 75,813 lb. of cotton seed, 72,353 lb. have been distributed. This compares favourably with 3,021 lb. in 1920 and 28,101 lb. in 1921.

Silk demonstration work with headquarters at Baquba is progressing satisfactorily. During the month this work was honoured by a visit from H.M. the King as well as numerous other interested visitors. It is regretted to have to report that only a small portion of the consignment of imported worm eggs have been distributed. It would appear that a fairly considerable amount of propaganda work will be necessary before re-suscitating this important industry.

An enterprising local firm has placed at the disposal of the Department of Agriculture a consignment of artificial manure for date palms. Experiments are being conducted on private estates to discover the suitability of these manures. A further consignment of artificial manures has been received from another firm to discover their suitability for the cotton and cereal crops on the Government farms.

There is a strong demand for light weight mowing machines in the Mosul-Erbil wheat area. Most of the machinery imported by the Mosul Farms, Ltd., has arrived at their estate and has greatly impressed local landowners. Numerous demands have been received from Busren for the Department of Agriculture to import on behalf of land-owners suitable sugar cane sets from India. Lateness of season and shortage of staff necessitates the postponing of this work. A request for assistance has been received from the commercial community in Busreh in estimating the yield of the date crop, but, as in the case of various other lines of work, which demand attention, it will be impossible to assist in this matter until budget provision can be made to employ the necessary staff.

GOOD YUGOSLAV HARVEST EXPECTED.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Belgrade, June 1.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture's report this year's harvest leaves nothing to be desired. Wheat and maize are progressing very favourably. Plenty of spring rain with sunny intervals have provided good soil for spring sowings. In some warmer districts the first hay has been mown. The oats and barley harvest has begun; in some districts (Vardar and Doiran) barley has suffered from the mice. Flax and hemp are much better than last year, and if no accidents happen the harvest will yield 70 per cent. above that of last year. Tobacco plantations have had enough water all round, but it is doubtful whether any tobacco will be available for export because of the great increase in the consumption in the country. The opium poppies have not yet come out and the report gives no indication of the prospects for this crop.

DRIED FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton & Co. of Liverpool report as follows for the period ended June 1:—

Currants.—We have experienced an exceedingly quiet month, and although the tone of the market has kept fairly steady the volume of business has been disappointing for everybody concerned. Buyers generally have displayed no inclination to operate beyond absolute requirements. The pause, however, is

only to be expected after April's activity. The month opened firm, but the depreciation in the Greek drachma allowed merchants to reduce their C.I.F. offers for shipment and this had a weakening effect on spot currants, and with buyers holding aloof a period of extreme quietness and a slackening of interest all round was noticeable. The Cressado's cargo of 200 tons was quickly disposed of, Zante, Gulf and cleaned Patras selling at 62s. to 64s. S.s. Gerano arrived on the 23rd ultimo, with 850 tons, a large proportion of which had been disposed of prior to arrival. Sales were:—Pyrgos 57s.; Amalias, 4-cases, 58s. to 59s.; cleaned Patras 61s. to 63s. Latest prices shew 1s. to 2s. decline. The s.s. Brescia is expected about the 9th inst. Quotations are:—Pyrgos 57s.; Amalias 58s. to 60s.; Patras 60s. to 63s.; Zante 60s. to 64s.; Gulf 62s. to 63.; Panariti 65s.; Vostizza 63s. to 74s.

Valencia Raisins.—Retail sales only possible.— $\frac{1}{2}$ -boxes 40s., $\frac{1}{4}$ -boxes 50s., 70s.

Sultanias.—In the opening days a firm tone was maintained, and a more general feeling of optimism, but the amount of enquiry was not sufficient to stimulate the market into activity, and the closing days witnessed more desire on the part of sellers to make progress. Sales were:—Medium 122s. to 125s.; Fair to good 127s. to 135s.; Fine up to 140s.; Australian 3 crowns 110s. c.i.f. Cape sultanias—sun dried 105s.; bleached 110s. to 130s. Afghans—reds move slowly 90s. to 92s.; yellows 100s. to 115s.

Figs.—Naturals are again lower, Prima selling 56s., Genuine 58s.

OPIUM MARKET REPORT.

Smaller Arrivals.

Messrs. Barker Bros., Smyrna, report as follows under date May 31:—

The sales of opium this month amount to 300 cases of 160 lbs. or about 48,000 lbs. Our market closes firm at Ps. 1100 per oke as to quality and morphia strength first cost, and the sterling price as per our exchange to-day is equal to 13s. to 17s. per lb., c.i.f. port of destination. Our exchange is Ps. 1100 per lb. sterling for cheque on London, and 0.64 dollars for one Turkish paper pound.

The total sales of opium this year amount to 1015 cases of 160 lbs. per case, of which amount 60 per cent. has been shipped to the Near East, and the balance to the United States, England, Germany, France and Italy. The stock in first and second hands is now about 730 cases of 160 lbs., and the arrivals are 1370 cases against 1480 at the same date last year; as we reckon our arrivals from June to June we have to discount from above 1370 cases, 960 arrivals up to last January, therefore we have only 410 cases for this year, and as our sales since January are 1016 cases, we have shipped 606 cases over and above what we received from the growing districts.

Czecho-Slovak wool imports were valued at 2,200 million crowns in 1921, and also 1920, whilst exports of woollen goods dropped in value to 6,300 crowns in 1921 against 6,700 crowns in the previous year.

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SUDAN PRODUCE.

Wheat Crop Disappointing.

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

Gum.

Kordofan Province.—18,416 kantars were sold in El Obeid market during April as against 12,562 kantars during the same month last year, at an average price of £E.1.040 per kantar of 100 rottles (45 kilos). The arrivals at El Obeid from Nahud were 8,253 kantars as against 3,846 kantars last year. The amount sold at Nahud during the month was 8,612 kantars as against 6,148 kantars, the average price being 831 m-ms. per kantar. 3,381 kantars were sold at Um Ruaba at an average price of £E.1.045 m-ms. the kantar as against 2,829 kantars last year. At Rahad 1,232 kantars were sold at an average price of £E.1.040 m-ms. as against 2,683 kantars during April last year.

Kassala Province.—716 kantars of 100 rottles (45 kilos) of gum were exported from Gedaref and 1,175 kantars from Mefaza.

Nuba Mountains Province.—1,595 kantars of 100 rottles (45 kilos) of gum have been exported from the Province during the 1st quarter via Kaka and 858 kantars via Kordofan.

Wheat and Barley.

Berber Province.—Wheat has nearly all been cut. Rust has spoiled what would have been a splendid crop. The best experimental wheat was Indian 40 which yielded at the rate of 6-2-3 big ardebs (15 keilas) a feddan, closely followed by two lots of Bunyib yielding 5½ and 5-1-3 big ardebs.

Mikeilab.—Wheat was disappointing and only yielded an average of 2½ ardebs. Rust did a good deal of harm in the Gezira but the main cause of failure was insufficient seeding.

Kitiab.—The wheat has now been assessed and works out at 3-47 ardebs (420 rottles 189 kilos) per feddan.

Dongola Province. Muri.—Wheat was a fair crop; a lot of the best of it was spoiled by rust. The yield according to the assessment was 3½ ardebs per feddan.

Chaba.—On the whole the wheat crop was disappointing owing to the rust. The average yield according to the assessment was 3½ ardebs per feddan.

Darfur Province.—Wheat was sold in El Fasher market for £E.1.500 m-ms per ardeb of 300 rottles (135 kilos).

Rainfall and Cultivation.

Nuba Mountains Province.—No rain fell during March. But there was a shower at Talodi on April 1, and a considerable amount of rain fell during the period on different parts of the Tonga-Taledi road, but only sufficient to impede motor traffic very slightly. The weather has been very hot with a good deal less wind at night.

Berber Province.—Wad Hamid Basin.—Arrangements were made for allotment for 1922-1923 crops. It has been decided to keep the Upper Hod closed next season and to flood the Lower Hod only in the hope of killing off the luxuriant growth of grass in the Upper Hod which makes cultivation almost impossible.

With the object of securing better methods of cultivation and at the same time getting more land under cultivation, smaller allotments are to be given than in previous years.

Roads and Communications.

Bahr el Ghazal Province.—The channel at Gerinti has been widened considerably by removal of rocks. A safe and easy passage for steamers is now assured.

Nuba Mountains Province.—The Kaka-Talodi road. The section Eliri-Lubad, a distance of 33 miles, was cleaned and the Khors ramped. One Crossley tender and one Leyland lorry covered the distance in three hours without difficulty. This is the first time motors have ever reached Lubad which is 20 miles short of Werna. A well is being sunk at Takheim on this road, and water was reached at a depth of 70 feet. The Divisional Engineer, has been at work on the Khor Affin bridge most of the month. It is hoped that the bridge will be finished before the rains.

Mongalla Province.—The road from Tindelu to the new Gell River Post has been made fit for the bull transport.

Red Sea Province.—40 merchant ships of a net registered tonnage of 107,037 visited Port Sudan during the month.

CURRENT PRICES.

General Produce.—Bacon: (Continental), 143s cwt.; (Canadian), 135s cwt.; (American), 102s. 6d. cwt.; butter (Danish), 180s. cwt.; (Australian), 156s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 164s. cwt.; cheese (Canadian) 79s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 70s. cwt.; lard 69s. 3d. cwt.; eggs (Danish), 14s. 6d per 120; (Styrian), 10s. per 120; chillies, 102s. 6d. cwt.; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 2½ lb.; cocoa (Ceylon good to fine), 87s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 125s. cwt.; (East Indian), 125s. cwt.; (Central American), 104s. cwt.; (Jamaica), 99s. 9d. cwt.; (Mocha Longberry), 105s. cwt.; (Santos superior), 99s. 6d. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochin), 50s. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 11½ lb.; pepper (Singapore black), 4d. lb.; (Muntok white), 7½ d. lb.; pimento, 2-1-8d. lb.; raisins (Valencias), 55s cwt.; sultanas (Smyrna), 119s. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 71s 6d. cwt.; (Amélias), 59s cwt.; sugar (Tate's cubes), 53s. 6d cwt.; (Lyle's granulate), 48s 10½ d. cwt.; (Mauritius crystals), 45s. 3d. cwt.; (West Indian crystal-lised), 43s. cwt.; (centrifugal), 14s. 3d. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 2d. lb.; rice (Rangoon No. 2), 14s. 7½ d. cwt.; (bran Rangoon), 66 8s. 9d. ton; cinnamon (firsts), 11½ d. lb.; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 6½ d. lb.; tea (Indian, common to good common), 1s. 1d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 6d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 7½ d. lb.; Ceylon (common to good common), 1s. 2d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 6d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 7½ d. lb.;

Java (common to good common), 10½ d. lb.; wheat (English white), 57s. qr.; wheat (Australian), 60s. qr.; oats (English), 38s. qr.; oats (La Plata, ex-ship), 26s. 3d. qr.; maize (La Plata), 37s. 9d. qr.; flour 45s. 9d. sack.

Chemicals.—Acids: Boric 61s. cwt.; oxalic, 8½ d. lb.; citric, 2s. 3d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 3½ d. lb.; ammonia (sulphate) £16 11s. 6d. ton. arsenic (white powdered), £35 5s. ton; benzole (standard), 2s. 5½ d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £13 15s. ton; borax crystals, 29s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 115s. 6d. cwt.; Potassium: Bichromate, 6½ d. lb.; chlorate, 4½ d. lb.; caustic, £33 10s. ton; nitrate, £37 10s. ton; permanganate, 9½ d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 1½ d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £15 5s. ton; Sodium: Crystals, 120s. ton; bi-carbonate, £11 5s. ton; bi-chromate, 3d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £9 1s. 3d. ton; chlorate, 3½ d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £23 ton; hyposulphite, £16 ton; prussiate, 9½ d. lb.; nitrate, £15 3s. 3d. ton; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £60 ton; glycerine (industrial 1260 per cent.), £87 10s. ton; lemon oil, 3s. 6½ d. lb.; quinine, 2s. 10½ d. oz.; red lead, £36 ton; white lead, £39 10s. ton; white ground lead, £49 15s. ton; sulphate of copper, £26 17s. 6d. ton; sulphate of iron 60s. ton.

Metals.—Aluminium, £122 10s. ton; antimony (English Regulus), £28 ton; bismuth, 9s. lb.; copper (standard) £63 9s. 3½ d. ton; copper (electro), £70 10s. ton; gold bars, 92s. 11d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 90s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 90s. ton; galvanized sheets (25 G), £15 17s. 6d. ton; lead (soft foreign), £24 6s. 3d. ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 1½ d. unit; molybdenite, 30s. unit; nickel, £162 10s. ton; platinum, 360s oz.; plumbago, £16 ton; quicksilver, £12 bottle; spelter (G.O.B.), £27 18s. 9d. ton; tin (standard), £154 1s. 3d. ton; wolfram, 12s. unit; zinc sheets, £35 5s. ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 19s. 1½ d. box; silver bars, 30½ d. oz.

Hides and Skins.—Ox and Heifer (first), 90 lbs. and up, 9d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 9d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 8½ d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 8½ d. lb.; 50 lbs. and under, 6½ d. lb.; (second) 90 lbs. and up, 7-5-8d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 7-1-8d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 7½ d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 6½ d. lb.; 50 lbs. and under, 5½ d. lb.; Cows (first) 60 lbs. and up, 7d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 6-5-8d. lb.; (second), 60 lbs. and up, 5d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 5d. lb.; Bulls (first), 4½ d. lb.; (second), 3d. lb.; Kips (first), 5½ d. lb.; (second), 4½ d. lb.; (third), 3½ d. lb. Calcutta Market. Prices in rupees per 20 lbs. —Arsenic hides (cows): Agrad, 7 to 12-8; Durbhanganas, 6 to 7-8; Patnas, 5 to 6-8. Salted cows: 4-8 to 7. Arsenic hides (buffalo): 3 to 7-8. Skins: Calf, 8 to 10 per 20 lb.; goat, 180 to 220 per 100 pieces.

Miscellaneous.—Cotton (American), 12-15d. lb.; Egyptian (Sakel), 18-10d. lb.; jute (first grade c.i.f.), £36 15s. ton; jute (lightnings), £33 15s. ton; Oilseeds: Linseed (La Plata), £19 9s. 6d. ton; palm kernels, £17 8s. 3d. ton; castor seed (Bombay), £17 19s. ton; sesame seed (China), £26 15s. ton; soya beans £12 11s. 3d. ton; Oils: Linseed £43 7s. 6d. ton; olive (Spanish) £77 ton; rape (crude), £43 5s. ton; soya £40 5s. ton; petroleum, 1s. 4½ d. gallon; petrol, 2s. 1d. gallon; fuel oil (ext-tank), 71s. 3d. ton; coconut (Ceylon), £38 15s. ton; cotton (crude), £42 5s. ton; ground nut £45 15s. ton; Rubber: Plantation (No. 1 Crepe), 7½ d. lb.; smoked sheet, 7½ d. lb.; fine hard Para, 10½ d. lb.

The transfer books of the 5 per cent. debenture stock of the Anglo-Persian Oil Co., Ltd., will be closed from June 19 to June 30 inclusive.

On the occasion of the second Orient Fair at Bratislava, which will be opened on July 9, the Czecho-Slovak Federation of Industries and the Commercial Federation will hold their congresses.

ENQUIRY BUREAU.

Merchants, etc., may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau," "The Near East," 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2." It must be understood that "The Near East" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.

121. Exporter of Greek Ores in Athens, especially of purest quality Magnesite and Chromite wishes to be connected with interested British Firms.

122. Merchant in Galatz, Roumania, wishes to enter into business relations with British firms willing to ship goods on consignment terms. Guarantees by Leading Banks given. Full details on application. Correspondence in French.

123. Import and Export Merchant in Beyrout (Syria) invites correspondence with British firms. General Merchandise. Will act as agent, commission basis, or own account.

124. Solicitor in Zagreb, Croatia, open to act for British firms requiring legal assistance in Yugoslavia. Correspondence conducted in French, German, Italian and Croatian.

125. A firm of British Merchants and Commission Agents in Liverpool desire to extend their connections in the Near East for General Merchandise.

126. Confectionery. British firm of manufacturers extending their export trade in best quality confectionery suitable for sub-tropical climates will supply details to enquiries from oversea buyers.

127. A Firm exporting all kinds of Metals and other merchandise to Egypt and India would like to get in touch with Importers in the Near East of similar goods.

128. General Commission Agent and Merchant in Cairo, Egypt, open to represent British manufacturers and merchants on commission. Can also export all kinds of Egyptian products.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

DEVELOPMENT OF BRATISLAVA AND KOMARNO.

In a statement to the editor of a Viennese Magyar paper, M. Vaclav Jirik, a prominent official in the Czecho-Slovak Ministry of Public Works, gave some interesting particulars, says *Lidové Noviny*, with regard to the development of the Czecho-Slovak Danubian ports of Bratislava and Komarno. The harbour at Bratislava, he stated, was planned to accommodate three million tons, and by the end of July it would have seven cranes at work. By that date also the winter harbour and the jetty would be complete. If the winter harbour proved to be inadequate, work would soon be started on an extensive landing stage for industrial purposes, which would provide ample space for large factories. The monthly trade of the port, he added, now exceeded the whole of the annual trade before the war.

With regard to the harbour at Komarno he said that its importance was increasing daily. The Danube at Komarno was deeper than at Bratislava, and was, therefore, more convenient for steamers and tug-boats. The swiftness of the current and the accumulation of sandy deposits between Bratislava and Komarno resulted in the loss of much time and cargo tonnage. Were adequate railway communications to be installed in the harbour at Komarno it would be possible to unload goods there more quickly than at Bratislava, and there was a general opinion that the trade potentialities were greater at Komarno than at Bratislava.

He added that he thought it was absurd to argue about the competitive merits of Vienna, Bratislava or Budapest as regards the future headquarters of shipping transport on the Danube. The goods themselves would decide as to the best route. The nationality of harbours or vessels would not weigh with business men, the decisive factors for them being security and rapidity of transport.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

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

Anchor Line.—S.s. Circassia for Bombay (Liverpool June 23).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Maihar for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, June 20); s.s. Manaar for Calcutta (Birkenhead June 22); s.s. Malancha for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 1); s.s. Malakuta for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, July 4).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Leicestershire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, June 21); s.s. Herefordshire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, July 5).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Colquhoun for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (Birkenhead, June 15).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Syria for Gibraltar, Ceuta, Melilla, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Odessa, etc. (Glasgow, July 13).

Ellerman Line.—S.s. Gerano for Gibraltar, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, June 16); s.s. Malatia for Gibraltar, Varna, Melilla, Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, June 21); s.s. Andalusian for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Ancona, Venice and Trieste (Liverpool, June 22).

Ellerman's "City" Line.—S.s. City of York for Calcutta (Birkenhead, June 16); s.s. City of Norwich for Bombay and Karachi (Birkenhead, June 22); s.s. City of Baroda for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 1); s.s. City of Exeter for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 17).

Ellerman's "Hall" Line.—S.s. City of Karachi for Bombay, Karachi and the Punjab (Liverpool, June 5).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—Steamers sail fortnightly for Malta, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz and Braila.

Glen Line.—S.s. Pembrokeshire for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, June 15); s.s. Glenade for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, June 29).

Harrison Line.—S.s. Matador for Calcutta (Liverpool, June 9); s.s. Collegian for Calcutta (Liverpool, July 3); s.s. Electrician for Port Said, Port Sudan, Aden, Mombassa, etc. (Birkenhead, July 13).

Henderson Line.—S.s. Sittang for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, June 28).

Holt Line.—S.s. Mentor for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Swansea, June 8); s.s. Titan for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, June 15); s.s. Troilus for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, June 29); s.s. Hector for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, June 29).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Incemore for Piraeus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, July 5).

Moss Line.—S.s. Esneh for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Famagusta, Beyrout, Haifa, Jaffa and Port Said, (Liverpool, June 17); s.s. Karnak for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Piraeus, Syra, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza and Sulina (Liverpool, June 26); s.s. Sitra for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, July 1).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. Grodno for Algiers, Malta, Syra, Smyrna and Constantinople (Liverpool, July 5).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Nyanza for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, June 16); s.s. Kaiser-I-Hind for Bombay (London, June 16); s.s. China for Bombay (London, July 14); s.s. Plassy for Bombay (London, July 28).

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. Nevasa for Bombay and Karachi (London June 16); s.s. Moravia for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, June 23); s.s. Mantola for Bombay and Karachi (London, June 30); s.s. Hatipara for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, July 8); s.s. Merkara for Bombay and Karachi (London, July 14).

Prince Line.—S.s. Sailor Prince for Tunis, Malta and Alexandria (Manchester, June 17); s.s. Tudor Prince for Malta and Alexandria (London, June 28).

INDIAN RETRENCHMENT COMMITTEE.

The following gentlemen have consented to serve on the Indian Retrenchment Committee over which Lord Inchcape is to preside :—Sir Thomas Catto, Bart, C.B.E.; Mr. D. M. Dalal, C.I.E., Member of the Council of India; Sir Alexander Murray, C.B.E.; Sir Rajendra Nath Mukerjee, K.C.I.E., K.C.V.O.; Mr. Purshotamdas Thakurdas, C.I.E., M.B.E. The Committee, including the chairman, will thus consist of six members. Mr. H. F. Howard, C.S.I., C.I.E., Indian Civil Service, Controller of Finance at the India Office, will be Secretary. Mr. R. A. Mant, C.S.I., Indian Civil Service, will supervise the preliminary work, which is now being carried out by the administrative departments of the Government, in advance of the assembling of the Committee.

It is now estimated that there are thirty motor vehicles in Crete.

Persia's imports from the British Empire during 1920-1921 amounted in value to 365,927,422 krans while Persia exported to the British Empire goods to the value of 106,738,646 krans.

ANCHOR LINE
First-Class Passengers only.
LIVERPOOL TO BOMBAY.
KARACHI via Bombay calling at Gibraltar & Egypt.

LARGE STEAMSHIPS. UPPER DECK CABINS.
FITTED WITH ELECTRIC FANS.
RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

PASSENGER SAILING DATES—

CIRCASSIA, JUNE 28.	MASSALIA, SEPT. 8.
OLYMPIA, JULY 18.	ELYSIA, SEPT. 20.
CASTALLA, AUG. 9.	CIRCASSIA, OCT. 20.
SCINDIA, AUG. 22	OLYMPIA, NOV. 7.

Anchor Line (Henderson Brothers), Ltd
 16, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.3.

TRADE OF CONSTANTINOPLE.

Large Imports from America.

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

Constantinople, May 22.

The imports of the past week have attained an importance unusual in the past two months. America this time takes the first place in the imports list. The following arrivals are recorded from that country (the figures representing tons) :—flour 14,040, sugar 1,200, cabots 280, cotton and cotton goods, 100, various oils 450, petrol 1,300, benzine 360, condensed milk 100, clothing 80, salted fish 30. The imports from Great Britain are 14,500 tons of coal and coke, 750 bales of cotton goods, 420 barrels of mineral oils, and 1,900 cases of various liquors and foodstuffs.

Despite the importance of the arrivals of flour there has been no reduction whatever in prices, the explanation of which is to be found in the fact that considerable quantities reaching this market are re-exported to the Russian ports.

PROMISING BUSREH DATE CROP.

A report received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank from Busreh dated April 22 states :—The prospects of the coming date crop are good, and the yield promises to be much in excess of that of last year. The stocks of the two best qualities (Khedrawi and Hellawi) in London are almost depleted, but there remain 150,000 cases of the 3rd. quality (Sayers) still unsold there. As far as can be judged thus early the quality of the Sayers crop this year will be somewhat inferior to that of last year. On the other hand the Khedrawi and Hellawi crops promise to be of exceptional quality and the latter variety of great abundance.

MANCHESTER COTTON REVIEW.

The cotton trade review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended June 10 states :—

This market having been virtually closed during the past week there is nothing whatever to report with regard to yarn and cloth.

Raw Cotton.—The Liverpool market was open on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, but business has naturally been on a small scale in view of the closing of Manchester. Reports from New York regarding the growing crop continue to be pessimistic, and prices there have advanced, Liverpool, of course, having adjusted accordingly. Closing prices are as follows :—American fully middling 12.45 d., Egyptian fully good fair 19.25 d.

The Duchcov-Podmokly (Dux-Bodenbach) Railway held its general meeting on April 29. After an allowance amounting to 2 million crowns for wear and tear, and 4.5 millions for a special construction fund, it was decided to distribute the net profit of 2.5 million crowns in the form of a 10 per cent dividend. It was also decided to transfer the headquarters of the company to Prague.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

FOUNDED 1863.

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

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Messrs. P. REDON, Director

B. KERESTEDJIAN

J. UNGAR

Sub-Directors.

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NOURY BEY.

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Bethlehem.CYPRUS.
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Kermanshah.MESOPOTAMIA
Ashar.
Baghdad:
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SMYRNA.

TUNIS.

SYRIA.

(Banque de Syrie—Affiliated, Bank).

Aleppo.
Alexandretta.
Beyrout.Damascus.
Hamah
Homs.Salda.
Tripoli.
Zahle.

The Bank has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of Credit granted.

Exchange and Merchandise operations effected.

Oil Notes & News.

ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL REFINERY.

Undertaking of National Importance.

With the formal opening of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company's new refinery at Llandarcy, South Wales, on June 29 by the Rt. Hon. Stanley Baldwin, M.P., President of the Board of Trade, there will be brought to virtual completion a national enterprise of the greatest interest and importance. It is one, moreover, in which the British taxpayer as the holder of two-thirds of the Ordinary shares of the company—the most fortunate investment our Government has ever made, not even excepting the Suez Canal—is closely concerned. It touches him also in another way, because the purpose of the refinery is to supply the British public with the best oil and the best bye-products of oil obtainable anywhere in the world for transport, lighting and industrial purposes.

The erection of the refinery marks an innovation of the highest moment in the oil industry. For the first time crude oil will be refined into its constituents—petrol, aviation spirit, kerosine, lubricating oils, wax, and so on—six thousand miles away from the source of production. Nothing like that has hitherto been attempted, but the success of the experiment is already assured by the excellence of the plant and of the vast organisation behind it. In perfection of lay-out, in efficiency and economy of operation, the refinery is the last word in scientific construction. With its tank farm and other storage installations, including the area at the docks and the company's model village, it covers, roughly, 659 acres. Three years of continuous work and some £3,000,000 have gone to the filling up of this great gap in our national industrial equipment.

Installations.

Viewed from the heights beyond Swansea, the refinery and its adjuncts at the port provide an interesting panorama. This begins with two storage tanks for oil fuel, situated close by the jetty at the harbour entrance, so arranged that ships can bunker without entering the harbour. The main installations commence however, within the harbour. Here one of the three docks, known as the Queen's Dock, has been devoted to the uses of the refinery, and three jetties, of which two are in operation and the third rapidly approaching completion, have been built for the service of the oil-tankers which bring the crude oil from Persia. It will thus be possible for three vessels at a time to berth, and simultaneously discharge or load their respective cargoes.

Pipelines laid from these jetties carry the crude oil or refined products to and from transit tanks, eight in number, each with a capacity of 10,000 tons, which form a tank farm on an area adjoining the docks. This "transit site," as it is called, is designed to provide for rapid unloading or loading of the tankers, the crude oil being pumped by the ships' own pumps into the transit tanks. From these powerful direct coupled centrifugal pumps, driven by electricity, force it to the tank farm adjoining the refinery, distant about four miles. Similarly, quantities of the refined products for shipment around the coast or abroad are stored in the transit site tanks, and from these pumped into the tankers at the docks. The total storage at this subsidiary tank farm amounts to no less than 20,800,000 gallons.

Loading and Unloading.

The operation of unloading a 10,000 ton tanker of crude oil takes approximately only 12 hours with this efficient installation, and loading operations can be carried out with the rate of 500 tons per hour of any product, so that a 10,000 ton vessel can load in 20 hours. It is interesting to know that oil unloaded one day can be at the tank farm on the following day, go through the refinery the next, and in the form of fuel oil be back at the docks ready for shipment on the third day.

The pipelines used in conveying the oil range in size from 8 to 12 ins. in diameter, according to the product they are designed to carry. There are six of them running from the tank farm to the transit site, two being utilised for crude oil and the remainder for other products, such as petrol, kerosine, fuel oil, etc. Altogether there are 34 miles of these large-diameter pipes required for transit to and from the refinery, apart from the miles in the refinery itself. All the pumps are electrically driven, power at the transit site, where the motors are driven by a 3,300 volt current, being supplied from Swansea, while the current use at the refinery is all generated there.

Storage Capacity.

There are no fewer than 33 tanks in use on the main tank farm, 25 of these, each holding 10,000 tons, being for the storage of crude oil and fuel oil. For kerosine (more generally known as paraffin or petroleum oil) there are four tanks, each of 5,000 tons, and the same number of similar size for the storage of petrol. The total storage capacity of the farm is 75,000,000 gallons.

At the refinery the most noticeable detail of the plant is the immense water-storage tank, situated at the highest point of the property. The reservoir which feeds it has a capacity of 13,000,000 gallons, which immense quantity of water is required daily for the steam plant and the stills. Surmounting the water tower is a look-out from which every part of the refinery property can be seen, a search light fitted here permitting observation to be made at night.

In planning the refinery every advantage has been taken of the knowledge gained from practical experience in other refineries throughout the world and from the studies of the company's staff of research chemists, who have for some years past been closely examining the properties of Persian oil with a view to securing the best possible results. The result is a plant embodying all the latest improvements and designed to give products of the best and most uniform quality, produced on the most economical basis possible. The excellence of Persian crude oil, with its high percentage of petrol and other valuable constituents, has simplified the solution of these problems, since it is actually easier to produce from it the higher grades of petrol than the inferior qualities, because the production of the latter would necessitate a further operation.

Fuel Consumption.

The total fuel consumption of the plant is at an extremely low figure. The direct waste of oil which used to be a common defect of refineries, has been eliminated entirely, and fuel costs are kept at the lowest level by an efficient method of heat inter-changers, the hot distillate being run through pipes in such a way as to give up a large percentage of its heat waste to the cold crude prior to this entering the stills. An idea of the care taken to conserve heat may be gained from the fact that in cold weather snow remains unmelted on the pipes which carry steam from the boiler house to the various units surrounding it, thus showing the perfection of the insulation methods employed.

The great boiler house contains six furnaces, with space for two more. In general, oil-firing is the method employed throughout the refinery, this being invariable in the case of the stills where direct heat is utilised. For heating the stills the Kermode steam type of oil burner is used, while the Howden pressure system is that employed in the boiler house, which, in addition to providing steam to drive the turbo-generators of the electricity plant, furnishes steam for use in the stills. There are three generators producing the electric current which is used for driving the oil and water pumps, for lighting the entire plant and the staff houses at Cefn Park, and for the electrolytic processes in the refinery itself. The generators are of 3,300 volts each, producing 10,000 horse-power.

Throughput of Crude Oil.

Though there is a daily throughput of crude oil at the present time of 2,000 tons, which will soon be increased to 3,000 tons (or roughly 1,000,000 tons per year), the visitor to the refinery sees no oil exposed in the whole course of his tour through the plant. The method of continuous distillation is that employed, the oil going through the various stills in which the various products are separated in a continuous flow.

Of the crude oil the lighter portion is taken out in the first process, and later is re-distilled to produce petrol and kerosene. The remainder is fuel oil of excellent quality requiring no further treatment.

The re-distillation of the lighter portion of the oil referred to yields approximately 60 per cent. of benzine and 38 per cent. kerosene. For production of the petrol of commerce the benzine is first washed with caustic soda to deodorise it and remove sulphur, and after again going through the stills gets its final treatment in the hypochlorite plant. Common salt solution subjected to an electrolysis process is the basis of this treatment, the hypochlorite so formed having a chemical affinity for sulphur, which it extracts from the crude petrol without, as in other processes, destroying or weakening the hydrocarbons, which are the most valuable constituent of petrol for power-producing purposes,

and the one which renders benzol so popular with some consumers.

For treatment of the kerosene—the lamp oil of every-day use—it is only necessary to run it through large filters filled with granular bauxite, a material having properties somewhat similar to Fuller's earth. Sulphur and colour are removed by this process.

At present about 30 per cent. of the fuel oil is further refined, and from it are produced gas oil, used by gas companies to improve the illuminating quality of gas, and a heavy oil producing paraffin. This latter is again split up to produce lubricants and wax, leaving a residue of pitch.

Wax production is a complicated process requiring elaborate equipment, which includes an extensive refrigerating plant and filter presses. A large and efficient plant has been provided for this process, and another for production of the wide variety of lubricants demanded by industry, for which Persian oil provides an excellent base.

Oil refining is essentially a chemical process, and the laboratory at Llandarcy is an important item of the plant. Here nearly 1,000 routine tests of oil in every process are made each day to ensure uniformity of product.

The present throughput of the refinery is upwards of 15,000,000 gallons per month, but this will shortly be considerably increased. The daily production of petrol is about 450 tons, and when fully operating this refinery by itself will be able to supply at least one-third of the total consumption of the country.

In addition the company has a refinery in the Persian Gulf, with a capacity of more than double that of the one at Llandarcy, and is also erecting refineries in Scotland, France and Australia.

A Complete Organisation.

With the installation of these refineries the company will have a complete organisation for dealing with petroleum in all stages of its progress from the production of crude at the wells to the delivery of the refined products to the consumers, including transport by pipe-line and tank vessel, refining, and distributing in any quantity by road, rail or water, down to the familiar "B.P." can.

One of the many advantages of refining in the country where the products are to be sold instead of in the country where the crude oil is produced is that it enables the refiner to supply the precise quantity required by each merchant, and also to manufacture at first hand all the various valuable by-products of petroleum, which yield large profits, such as special qualities of lubricants, paint and dye spirits, vaseline, various qualities of waxes, candles, etc. The manufacture of many of these by-products is not practicable at the sources of production owing to climatic difficulties, the cost of packages and transport for the finished goods as compared with transport in bulk to the consuming markets of the crude oil, and various other difficulties. Consequently the manufacture of these articles under previously existing conditions has to a large extent been carried on as secondary operations by middle men.

ALGERIAN OILFIELDS.

Advices have been received from the Societe Algerienne des Patroles de Tliouanet—in which the Algerian Oilfields is so largely interested—that the production for the month of May was 147,000 kilos. It is also reported that drilling is proceeding on well No 23 (Medjillah), which has reached a depth of 85 metres, and on well No. 25 (M'Silah), which at the end of May had reached a depth of 259 metres, drilling is proceeding

ROUMANIAN OIL AREAS.

The Late Mr. Kennedy Jones's Interests.

It is not generally known that the late Mr. Kennedy Jones, M.P., was the owner of a number of carefully selected oil areas in the leading oilfields of Roumania. A lease on the Moreni field was already producing over 30 tons per day when the works were destroyed by the military authorities in 1916. A considerable quantity of new plant had been purchased for the reopening of these wells at the time of Mr. Kennedy Jones's death last year. These properties, with an important additional area, are now being organised for public issue, and this will probably be made about the middle of the current month. The board will include Mr. W. Kennedy Jones (son), who is thoroughly acquainted with the properties. With the exception of £5,000, the whole of the purchase consideration is being invested by the vendors in shares of the company, and they are also underwriting a substantial

portion of the working capital. The Anglo-Scottish Finance Corporation, Ltd., of 16, Eldon Street, E.C.2, are making the issue, and they are prepared to receive applications in connection with sub-underwriting.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS

Mortgage Company of Egypt.

The report of the Mortgage Company of Egypt for the year ended March 31 states that after providing for interest on the 4½ per cent. first charge debentures and on temporary loans, and applying a sum of £1,500 in writing down the value of the freehold premises of the company in Cairo, the accounts show a profit for the year of £96,354 15s. 4d. Deducting the amount of the dividend paid and accrued on the 5 per cent. preferred shares to March 31, viz., £50,000, there remains a balance of £46,354 15s. 4d. Adding the amount brought forward from last year's account, £43,249 4s. 6d., there is available for distribution a total sum of £89,603 19s. 10d., which the directors propose to allocate as follows:—

(1) To payment of a dividend of 12 per cent. being 3s. per share, on the amount paid up on the ordinary shares (less income tax), £30,000; (2) to special reserve, £15,000; total £45,000, leaving a balance to be carried forward to the next account, subject to excess profits duty (if any) of £44,603 19s. 10d.

The restriction imposed by the Egyptian Government on the area to be cultivated in cotton, during the summer of 1921, combined with adverse conditions for cultivation, resulted in the lowest crop that the country produced for many years past. Prices, although more stable during the realisation of the crop than in the previous year, did not compensate for this lower production and the general results have been only moderate. The instalments in arrear, owing to the causes above mentioned, show a substantial increase: but with the reserves proposed or already made, it is considered that any doubtful cases are provided for. Notwithstanding the unfavourable conditions stated above, demands for loans, at one time more active when the heavy fall early in the year 1921 of the price of cotton took place, remained within reasonable proportions, the increase in the total amount outstanding, as compared with the previous year, being £244,176. During the financial year, the company purchased an additional amount of £9,200 nominal of its 4½ per cent. first Mortgage debentures. The total amount of debentures now purchased amounts to £740,900 nominal, of which £648,480 have been cancelled, the balance £92,480 being held in investment account.

Owing to the change of control from the United Kingdom to Egypt, Sir Henry Babington Smith has resigned the chairmanship of the Board, and V. Harari Pasha has been appointed in his place. The directors wish to record the valuable services rendered to the company by Sir Henry Babington Smith as chairman of the board, and are pleased to inform the shareholders that the company will continue to benefit from his co-operation as chairman of the London Committee. According to the Articles of Association, as recently modified, a London Committee has been constituted, consisting of Sir Henry Babington Smith, G.B.E., K.C.B., C.S.I., Brig.-General The Hon. Everard Baring, C.V.O., C.B.E., Sir William E. Garstin, G.C.M.G., G.B.E., and Col. The Hon. Sidney Peel, D.S.O., M.P. The two directors who have elected to retire in order to reduce to four the number of directors resident in the United Kingdom, in conformity with the provisions of the Articles of Association, are Mr. E. W. P. Foster, C.M.G., and the Hon. Algernon H. Mills. The board very much regret the retirement of these gentlemen and desire to offer them their sincere thanks for the services which they have rendered to the company since its formation. A proposal will be submitted to the shareholders for providing suitable compensation for loss of office. Mr. T. A. F. Critchley, Sir William E. Garstin and Col. The Hon. Sidney Peel who retired by rotation, were re-elected at the general meeting held in Cairo on May 17. Sir F. T. Rowlatt, K.B.E., Mr. T. S. Richmond, and Mr. T. F. Stevens, who had been appointed by the board as directors of the company and who retired at the above-mentioned general meeting, were also re-elected.

Meeting, Cannon Street Hotel, E.C.4., June 22, 2.30 p.m.

British Burmah Petroleum.

The directors of the British Burmah Petroleum Company, Limited, have declared an interim dividend at the rate of 9½ p.c. p.a., free of income tax, payable on July 7, to shareholders on the books of the company on June 21, in respect of the profits for the first six months of the current financial year. The foregoing dividend being for six months only will amount to 3 1-8 per cent. (free of income tax) or 3d. per share.

A cablegram has been received from Burma reporting that the production of crude oil by this company and the Rangoon Oil Company, Limited, for the month of May, 1922, amounted to 74,434 barrels.

'BALKAN' NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

FOUNDED 1895

Capital paid up	5,000,000
Total reserves as per December 31st, 1920	53,200,000
Premium Income during 1920	28,300,000
Amounts insured of Life branch exceed	150,000,000
Branches maintained: Fire, Life, Marine, Casualty and Re insurance of all branches.	

HEAD OFFICE: SOFIA, BULGARIA.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 580—Vol XXI

THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 1922.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Return of the Prince.

By the time these lines are in print the British public, we may hope, will have been able to welcome back to England the Prince of its heart. In the warmth of the greeting that awaits him His Royal Highness may be able to find some consolation for the strenuous service that he has performed on the Empire's behalf during the last seven months. The tour has been no mere picnic. Much has been made in the public press of the sport and social recreations with which the more official part of the Prince's programme has been interspersed; but the whole undertaking has meant hard work, and, it is to be feared, not always in the most congenial circumstances. There has been a tendency in some quarters to inveigh against the lack of consideration shown by the Cabinet in subjecting the Heir to the Throne to the ordeal through which he has passed. Theoretically there was much to be said in favour of the Prince's including India in his Empire tour, and it would always be debatable whether at any given moment the disadvantage of affording the malcontents an occasion for airing their disloyalty would outweigh the advantages accruing from the timely support accorded to the loyal Moderates by the Prince's presence. On the balance the tour can hardly fail to have been a success. In the case of Egypt, it is regrettable that anyone should have so misjudged the purpose of the Prince's visit to Cairo, as to imagine that it ought to have been omitted because of Egyptian disaffection towards Great Britain. The Prince responded to the loyal invitation of the British residents, who have surely been sufficiently tried of recent years to have deserved the honour conferred upon them by His Royal Highness.

The Near Eastern Settlement.

The visit of M. Poincaré to London affords the Allied Governments a further opportunity for an agreement on Near Eastern affairs. As a preliminary to the new discussions the British Government is reported to have proposed to France that one of two courses should be adopted; either that the Governments of Athens, Angora and Constantinople should be given a certain period within which to accept the peace proposals formulated last March, or that the Allies should at once throw up the sponge as far as the attempt to settle the Near Eastern question is concerned, and—publish the correspondence. Such a crude suggestion would imply the bankruptcy of Allied diplomacy, and we can only

hope that the report is not accurate. The March proposals laboured under the disadvantage of representing an attempt to save something of the Treaty of Sèvres. It would be ludicrous, if it were not so pathetic owing to the results being prejudicial to British interests, to watch the British Government still trying to find a settlement out of ideas that formed the basis of that unworkable Treaty. All but one or two of those ideas have had to be abandoned; but the Government clings to these last illusions, apparently under the impression that its face will be saved, if only a single clause of the Treaty can be incorporated in the final settlement. The obstacle to a settlement does not lie only in the intransigence of Angora; it lies also in the failure of the British Government to realize that prejudice and passion make poor substitutes for knowledge and reason in dealing with the Near East. Almost the only point now at issue between Angora and the Allies is Adrianople; neither knowledge nor reason has prompted the Allied attitude on this particular question.

The Allies and Angora.

The advantage of a further discussion on Near Eastern affairs would depend on whether either of the parties was nearer an appreciation of the facts of the case than they were some months ago. France has yet to show that she realizes the unwisdom of encouraging the Turks to believe that they will always be able to play off one Great Power against another. Her views of a settlement have all along been closer to actualities than those of the British Government; but she has done her best to prevent them from being accepted by dealing direct with Angora behind Great Britain's back. There can be little doubt that the difficulties of Angora are accumulating with the lapse of time. This circumstance has given rise to the suggestion in some short-sighted circles that the moment has now come for bringing the Kemalists to reason, and it is proposed that, as the Greeks are not able to do this single-handed, the Allies should avail themselves of the services of the Roumanians and Yugoslavs. Such a project merely repeats the fatal arguments that led to the Greek landing and subsequent advance into Anatolia. The Kemalists may be beaten on the field of battle; but the world would be no nearer permanent peace in the Near East, if the settlement perpetuated injustices, which sooner or later must lead to unrest. Thanks to French encouragement Angora has overdone its part; its present difficulties will make it anxious to shed non-essentials, but are not likely to weaken its hold on the principle of nationality.

Italy and Albania.

An unfortunate incident at Durazzo, where an Italian building was raided and roughly handled by an Albanian crowd, is a reminder that the two peoples have not yet buried the hatchet. The Italian Government adopted such a wise attitude towards the Albanians when the latter proved by force of arms that they were resolved to attain real independence, that there seemed to be good ground for supposing that the relations between the two countries had been permanently established on a satisfactory footing. Recent happenings in Albania, however, showed that some Italians at least were not prepared to accept a Hands Off policy in Albania. Doubtless as a reaction against these intrigues comes the Durazzo outrage. The facts are not quite clear. During their military occupation the Italians had set up a post and telegraph office in the town, and apparently, instead of closing it altogether when there was no longer any justification for a foreign postal service, they proposed to hand the office over to the Lloyd Triestino, the State shipping organisation. The Albanian populace had no right to take the law into its own hands, and Italy will feel compelled to exact satisfaction for the offence. But it is to be hoped that the whole matter will be carefully investigated, to see whether it is necessary to wound Albanian susceptibilities by maintaining an Italian post office, however camouflaged, on Albanian territory.

Zionism and Palestine.

To stick to one's guns can be a very fine thing ; but it may in certain circumstances betoken mere obstinacy and crass ineptitude. To the last category, we fear, belongs the foolish reiteration by the *Jewish Chronicle* of the Zionist creed in regard to a National Home. In a recent article the organ of Zionism writes :—

"The Government may limit the implications of the Balfour Declaration. It may cramp and confine Zionist policy in Palestine. But in the long run the decisive voice will be with us Jews. And the Jewish people will determine—at least, for our part, we have no hesitation in believing that it will determine, come what may—that it will once again become restored as a nation in Palestine, that it will make of Palestine a Jewish Commonwealth, as Jewish as England is English. That is the Jewish meaning of a National Home for the Jewish People, and in the ultimate it stands to reason that the interpretation of the phrase by the Jewish people must prevail."

By general admission a healthier atmosphere prevails in Palestine ; because it was beginning to be realized that the Extreme-Zionist attempt to interpret the expression "Jewish National Home" as entailing a purely Jewish State had been repudiated by all sane Jewish opinion. The foolishness of the Zionist organ will only strengthen the hostility of the Arabs and render more difficult a compromise that might satisfy the moderates on each side. A further statement on the subject by the British Government, if it can be expressed in clear, unequivocal language, would seem to be called for, in order that the Arab Delegation may return to Palestine and prepare for co-operation under the Mandate, which is due for ratification within a few weeks.

The Indian Budget Debate.

Last week's debate on the Indian Budget presented no features of outstanding interest. Lord Winterton's opening exposition of the situation did not go far below the surface, but it was adequate to the occasion, and offered few targets for criticism, while the speeches which

followed were to a great extent mutually destructive, and there was no suggestion of an impending division to secure the interest of the House in general. To say so much as this is not, however, to assert that the House is not anxious regarding the future : it would probably be nearer the truth to say that English legislators, unlike their younger brothers in India, understand that talk is not really wanted at the present juncture. A great experiment has been started, some of the worst initial obstacles to its success have been removed or surmounted, and the thing to do now is to watch how it works, and avoid distracting the attention of the men who have it in their charge. We wish there were the slightest prospect that such an excellent example should be followed in India.

The Services and Reform.

An interesting feature of the debate was Sir Thomas Bennett's declaration, based on his personal experience, that the *malaise* affecting the Civil Service in India is felt by Indians as much as Englishmen. Our own information is to the same effect, and there are now sufficient Indians in the Service to make the matter practically important. It is indeed natural that Indians should resent the change in their position resulting from the constitutional reforms. Young Englishmen are not born bureaucrats, though in a favourable environment some of them manage to acquire the habit tolerably well. On the other hand, young Indians of what were once the ruling classes have bureaucracy in the blood ; they joined the Service with the idea that their business was to take part in the autocratic administration with which they were familiar ; and it is in fact harder for them than for Englishmen to learn to take orders from an ignorant electorate. The reality of the difficulty may be gathered from the fact that Indian Ministers are themselves becoming bureaucratised ; some of them already look more like "Permanent Heads" than Ministers, and there is undoubtedly some danger that when the next elections are held, they will find themselves in an altogether false position.

The New Constitution for Burma.

The House of Commons last week formally approved of the draft rules which are to bring Burma into line with the various provinces of India, and unless unexpected difficulties should arise in the Lords, the new Constitution may now be taken as settled. The reformed Burmese Legislature will, however, be very different from those which now exist in India, because the wide franchise, including of course women, will make it a democratic body from the outset, while in India the masses have not yet been enfranchised. Apart from the franchise, the most striking feature of the rules is the transfer to Ministers of the control of the forests, which cover so large a proportion of the country. Successful forest administration requires most of all the gift of balancing the future against the present ; you must look somewhere about a century ahead, and if constitutions could be based wholly on theory, forests would be the very last thing to hand over to a successfully established democracy. Their transfer to an utterly inexperienced democracy on the day it gets the first taste of power is at any rate a striking proof of good faith : it may easily prove to be a huge economic blunder, but we hope the first Ministers to be appointed will be sufficiently enlightened to effect a reasonable compromise between popular demands and the requirements of their scientific staff.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

Monday Evening.

A Dull Parliament.

There was an interesting discussion in the House of Commons last week on the new Cabinet Secretariat, but otherwise Parliament has been excessively dull. The chief interest has really been in the signs of revived activity in the Die-Hard Conservative camp, which is raising a campaign fund through the *Morning Post*. The appeal is being very successful, but I gather that the Die-Hards have yet to create a proper administrative organisation. No doubt this will come in time, as it is essential to any real political success.

The Irish Constitution.

The amended Irish Constitution has been well received. It contains several novelties, including an infusion of the Socialist idea of Functional or Vocational Councils—an attempt to unite the old idea of regional representation with the occupational theory, which will be watched with some interest. It differs radically from the British Constitution, not only in being written, but in providing that constitutional amendments can only become effective after a referendum.

These points are mainly of interest to professed constitutionalists; what the public as a whole has fastened upon is the fact that the Constitution explicitly acknowledges the supremacy of the British Crown, and requires every member of the Irish Parliament to take a definite vote of allegiance. This provision, therefore, disposes of a great deal of the dissatisfaction and uneasiness which have hitherto been felt in this country on the subject of the Irish Treaty; although it is idle to pretend that the Collins-de Valera compact has not weakened the hopeful feelings of six months ago, and the Constitution and the oath have consequently evoked no such feelings of enthusiasm as the original treaty.

But the very fact that the Constitution provides this definite test of allegiance is reported to have decided the Irish Republicans to refuse to accept it. In fact, it is difficult to see how Mr. de Valera can do so on his record, and some of the extremists have openly declared already that they will have nothing to do with it. The gunmen, of course, and the Bolsheviks will not touch it; all they want is anarchy and the invasion and destruction of Ulster.

If Irish opinion can assert itself, the situation can be saved; and the Constitution, which is theoretically good, will be practically workable; if it allows itself to be terrorised again, then the position will remain hopeless. Opinion here tends to be pessimistic as to the power of Ireland to work out its own salvation; the events of the last six months have disillusioned us all.

Home Political Prospects.

There is no longer any talk of a general election this year; admittedly nobody and no party organisation wants it. The present prospects are that Parliament will rise as early as possible in August, and meet again in October for an autumn session. But the course of business depends mainly on events in Ireland; so far as can be seen, foreign affairs are not likely to disturb the Government's peace for the present. After the Grand Concert of Genoa the taste for international music has perceptibly weakened, and The Hague opens as a very poor anti-climax.

The True Case.

The outburst of controversy over the True case shows no signs of dying down, and columns of letters appear in the newspapers every day. But a great many of the public seem less concerned to discuss the merits of the case than to attack Professor Freud, of psycho-analytic fame; and it is astonishing to see what extraordinary ideas some people have as to what constitutes psycho-analysis. The fact that it is a new idea probably accounts for a great deal of its unpopularity; but after all the denial of moral responsibility is really an old idea in a new guise—it is simply predestination stripped of its theological attributes and applied to psychology. There is a strong scientific case for determinism, but I am illogical enough to feel that it ought not to be permitted to excuse the burglar who takes my spoons.

The fact is that whether freewill is an illusion or not we run the world on the assumption that freewill exists; and on this the lawyers will always beat the doctors—if only because there is no difference of opinion among lawyers, whereas every doctor disagrees with every other doctor. It is, by the way, rather curious to reflect that fifty or a hundred years ago every pulpit would have joined in this controversy, on the ground that the Church, and not the law or medicine, was the real guardian of morals. I have not heard of a single sermon being delivered on the subject: the oracles are dumb.

Prayer-Book Changes.

But the Church itself is changing. The new marriage service, which already appears in the Canadian (Anglican) Prayer Book, and will probably be adopted in the English Liturgy, contains many alterations. It significantly omits the declaration that matrimony was "instituted of God in the time of man's innocence"; it deletes or softens the rather gross words as to the purposes of marriage that have caused many a bride to blush at the altar; but I notice with amusement that it still includes that meaningless word "obey, which every woman swears—and promptly forgets."

In the proposed Burial Service, the words "our vile body" are changed; and phraseology is adopted which might be construed into a prayer for the dead, by those who so desire. This is primarily an effect of the War, when such prayers, although officially unauthorized, became very popular. There will probably be some protest against the change by the Evangelical party.

A Dull Ascot.

The Press had announced the most glorious Ascot for many years past, and the picture papers were full of the wonderful frocks that were going to be worn there. Nobody thought of the weather breaking; but on Tuesday morning the meeting opened in a downpour, Burberries covered the triumphs of the dressmakers, and umbrellas protected—or ruined—the magnificent hats. The racing, which is a mere detail at Ascot, is understood to have taken place successfully, but there were heavy hearts among the ladies at this black treachery by our fickle climate. The first three days were wet and cold, and the only real fashion parade was at Waterloo station before the rain started.

Changing Fashions.

I gather from a lady who is an authority on these matters that Ascot definitely marked a new fashion era; in other words, the return of the longer skirt and the large hat. For the last two or three years the less a woman wore the more fashionable was she—I heard an evil rumour that a Bishop's wife had even shown her ankles, to which one could only say *credo quia impossibile*—but now it appears that the worm propriety has turned, and outraged modesty is to have an innings.

Personally I could never see anything very immoral in the short skirt, but its real disadvantage is that so many women cannot afford to show their feet—which, according to some authorities, are a sterner test of good-breeding than faces. A milkmaid, it is said, may be as pretty as a duchess, but her instep gives her away.

OEELLUS.

For Hire

PRIVATE CARS
OF THE HIGHEST CLASS

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1222
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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

From Our Own Correspondents.

EGYPT.

Cairo, June 9.

The King's Birthday.

The Birthday of King George V. afforded a further opportunity for demonstrating the political change which has taken place. For the first time since the War the occasion was not celebrated by the Egyptian Government as an official holiday, and it was noteworthy that, while all the Diplomatic Agencies hoisted their flags, no such courtesy was observed by any of the Government offices. The traditional garden-party was held at the Residency and in view of the decision of the Egyptian Government no longer to celebrate the day the guests were restricted to residents of British nationality, no Egyptians on this occasion being included in the invitations. The party was a great success. The beautiful gardens were absolutely at their best, and for once in the way there was no trace of the "Khamsin" which in former years generally attended this annual event. On Monday His Majesty King Fuad gave a banquet in honour of the High Commissioner and Lady Allenby, who returned the compliment at the Residency two days later, the Ministers, Adly Pasha, General and Lady Congreve being amongst the guests on each occasion.

The Consular Corps Incident.

There are signs that the Consular Corps incident reported last week will have a speedy and satisfactory conclusion. The Egyptian Government has issued a note explaining how the incident arose and has given assurances that there was no intention of touching the Capitulatory régime. The Diplomatic and Consular Corps appear quite content with the explanation and an arrangement satisfying the dignity of the Consular Corps and meeting the views of the Egyptian Government will shortly be announced. It may be mentioned that the

communiqué referred to above particularly emphasised that, although the incident occurred in connection with the Bairam receptions, the Court had had nothing to do with it.

The Cave Murder.

The inquiry into the murder of Bimbashi Cave is progressing slowly, but, I understand, satisfactorily. The great difficulty with which the authorities are having to contend is the disinclination of eye-witnesses or of any of those who know anything about the case to come forward. This disinclination to give evidence is ingrained in the Egyptians, who with difficulty are brought to appear as witnesses even in the most ordinary cases. When to this natural timidity there is added the "pillorying" and personal violence to which they fear they may be subjected by the student class, if they give evidence in political cases, one can perhaps understand this attitude, though this deplorable lack of public spirit scarcely redounds to the credit of a nation which claims to rank among the civilized countries of the world.

What is undoubtedly adding to the difficulties is the attitude of a large portion of the vernacular press. The latter during the past week has published article after article, which in the circumstances are not only in the worst of taste, but give evidence of a mental outlook which, since it represents the view of the bulk of the educated classes, is hardly calculated to reassure the foreign communities in regard to the protection of their interests. Those who pose as the moulders and representatives of public opinion appear indeed to be far more concerned with making temporary political capital out of each episode as it occurs than with the consideration of the wider issues involved by it.

Great satisfaction has been expressed by the British community at the news that the Egyptian Government has at last agreed to pay the compensation demanded on behalf of the widow of Mr. Aldred Brown, who will receive the sum of L.E. 10,000 in addition to her pension. We now wait to hear that a similar decision has been come to in the case of Bimbashi Cave, the position of whose widow is all the more serious seeing that she has a young son of ten to educate, who is now at a school in Eastbourne.

The following details of Bimbashi Cave's career and extracts from his diary may prove interesting. Born in 1874, he was originally intended for the Church but the spirit of adventure was in him and at the age of eighteen he ran away from home and enlisted as a private. At the end of his seven years' engagement he left the Army, in order to strike out afresh; but on the Boer War breaking out, he immediately volunteered. A fearless and expert horseman, he fought in many of the battles and took part as a sergeant of a Cavalry troop in the relief of Kimberley, which he was one of the first to enter. His diary contains the following note of this event. "The great Cecil Rhodes came out to greet us. He was riding a grey horse and was so overcome with joy that he fell off!"

In 1901 he joined the South African Constabulary as sergeant, but was retrenched in 1907. He regarded the Constabulary as a splendid force. "They not only helped to still the spirit of hate of khaki which the Boer naturally felt, but also, I can truthfully say, fostered a feeling of respect and gratitude. In fact we were their doctors, their veterinary surgeons, legal advisers, postal officials and even on occasions were asked to officiate at baptisms and funerals. We had a splendid spirit in the Force and splendid material to work on, most of the troopers originally being old Public School boys. Nearly all the N.C.O.'s. and men were gentlemen and all were sportsmen."

Promoted to the rank of Troop Sergeant-Major, he was selected to command the body-guard of the High Commissioner, Lord Milner, a post which he held for eighteen months, at the conclusion of which Lord Milner

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presented him with a handsome cigar-case. In this connexion his diary contains the following note. "Every morning Lord Milner went for a ride; he rode fairly fast and went some distances out and I was sometimes afraid that the Boers might waylay him. I remember going down with him to meet Mr. Joseph Chamberlain and we all went on to Pretoria. Once we went to Irene, a lovely Boer farmhouse about twelve miles south of Pretoria. I was rather nervous as the place had been raided by Boers only two days previously. I only had twelve N.C.O's. and men with me and we slept all round the house in skirmishing order—a sentry on each side, with his relief near him. I had given orders that anyone approaching should be made to put up his hands and halted. I myself took post under His Excellency's window. It was a very dark hot night and after dinner Lord Milner came out into the garden for a stroll, as was his custom. One of my sentries not knowing who it was made him halt and hold up his hands and shouted loudly for me. I nearly had a fit, but the High Commissioner was very nice about it and told the story subsequently to the amusement of his listeners."

Subsequently Bimbashi Cave received a commission and was posted to a mobile column; but in 1907 he decided to seek pastures new and came to Egypt where he took service as Head-Constable in the Alexandria mounted police. He threw himself heart and soul into his work and by reason of his conscientiousness and ability fought his way up to the rank of Bimbashi. He did excellent work during the war on the Canal and as A.P.M. at Suez, and because of his efficiency and personality was selected as one of the Assistant Commandants of Police in Cairo in March, 1920.

As can be seen Bimbashi Cave was typical of the class of Englishmen who have made the name of Britain what it is throughout the world, and it is for this reason all the more deplorable that he should have lost his life as a result of such a cowardly attack, though his manner of "going out," on duty and with full military honours, was thoroughly in keeping with his character and was undoubtedly what he would himself have wished for.

The New Oriental Secretary.

Mr. R. G. Gayer-Anderson, who has just been appointed Oriental Secretary at the Residency in Cairo, has seen considerable service in Egypt. He started life as a doctor, entering the R.A.M.C. in 1903 and joining the Egyptian Army in 1907. Interesting himself in tropical medicine, he was appointed to the Sudan Sleeping Sickness Commission and later carried out leprosy and anthropological research in Southern Kordofan and other parts of the Sudan. About ten years ago he abandoned medicine and became Assistant-Adjutant-General for recruiting. During the war Mr. Gayer-Anderson was present at the attack on the Canal and served at Suvla and Anzac, being subsequently attached to the Arab Bureau and acting as Political Officer on the Red Sea littoral. During the 1919 troubles he served as Chief Political Officer for Upper Egypt and carried out the investigation in the Deyrout train murders. In 1920 he retired from the Army to take up the post of Senior Inspector to the Ministry of the Interior, from which he has now been transferred to the Oriental Secretaryship. Mr. Gayer-Anderson received the Sudan medal and the Mejidia for his services with the Tagoy Punitive Expedition in 1910 and he held the third class of the Order of the Nile, as well as the Nahda of the Hejaz.

PALESTINE.

Jerusalem, June 11.

Opponents of the Mandate.

As illustrating the working of the minds of certain Palestinian Arabs at the present moment, the following extracts from their Press are instructive:

Es-Sabah (organ of the Palestinian Arab Delegation) on May 19, commenting on the last session of the League of Nations at Geneva, writes in a leading article: "The telegrams do not, of course, mention the reason which urged England to hasten the confirmation of the Mandate, but we think that it was the outbreak of the re-

bellion in Syria, and fear lest this spirit of revolt should spread to Palestine also. England wished the League of Nations to ratify the Mandate immediately, believing that this would assure us that there was no longer any possibility of emending the terms of the Mandate. There is no doubt that this is what England believes, owing to the slight faith it has in our national spirit. Hence it adopts such tactics."

The writer then goes on to discuss the French activities in Syria, and urges the formation of a Pan-Arab Congress, representative of Mesopotamia, North and South Syria ("South Syria" being the Arab Nationalists' name for Palestine), the Hejaz and the Yemen, to be held in an Arab City free from foreign interference. Jedda is suggested as the place. The Congress should occupy itself with military, political and economic questions, and raise revenue from all the Arab States. "This act would form the first tangible step towards an Arab Empire, and would count as the first shrewd blow from our side against those invading Powers which strive to apportion out and break up our territory—far more powerful than all the blows which our protests have hitherto given them. If such a Congress be formed, there will no longer be any reason to attach importance to anything which the invaders of our countries may resolve."

About the same date another Jerusalem paper, *Bet el-Makdes*, ascribes the attempted hastening through of the ratification to Lord Balfour's alarm at the success of the Arab Delegation in London "which had succeeded in proving to the British public the general harm that would result from the carrying out of the cursed promise in Palestine; and because he was afraid lest his Declaration should come to nothing" if the Delegation remained in England and persisted in its efforts. "This old man," the article continues, "did not go to Geneva of his own will or at the request of his Government: it was Weizmann and his colleagues in London who urged him to this. The Zionists imagine that the confirmation of the Balfour Declaration by the League of Nations will compel our Delegation to return and that its return will kill the patriotic spirit, and that the Arabs will come to an agreement with the Zionists, and that the Zionist flag will wave over Palestine upon its Churches and Mosques, and that the dream of Herzl will become solid fact. But they are mistaken. If they gave the matter a little more thought they would understand that, should the Delegation return—which God forbid!—unsuccessful, there would take place here a terrible catastrophe and a great calamity. If the present movement be changed for another, and if other leaders take charge of the nation, to-morrow's sun will bring on its wings what we would

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rather not see in this land, renowned for its peace and quietness in the past.

"It is known that our Delegation is at present negotiating with the British Government, and the Government's agreement to send the old man Balfour to Geneva to seek the ratification of the Palestinian Mandate at the self-same moment when it was negotiating with our Delegation, was an act of cunning and deceit unworthy of such a noble race and famous Government as Great Britain.

"We give notice from this stage that if the League of Nations confirms the Mandate, our Delegation has nothing more to do in England, and must pack up its traps and return to us. It will be received by us with honour and gratitude for all that has been done; it will explain to the people what it has accomplished; and then publicly, in the face of the world, it will proclaim its resignation from the duty imposed upon it by the people. Then the Moslem-Christian Associations, clubs and patriotic societies will break up, the leaders resign, and testify to the European world of what has happened in Palestine, while they will refuse to accept any responsibility for events that befall the country from that day onwards. Then let Balfour come, and Weizmann and his fellow Zionists, and let them quieten the people of Palestine and ensure the peace of the country."

There is much of this kind of thing now being published in the local Arab Press. Where feelings are so inflammable we question the wisdom of the Government in passing such things by in silence. Such sentiments can be interpreted as harmless, but the Jews here see in them open threats of violence, threats disregarded and therefore (such is the Jewish mentality) not discounted by the local Government.

The King's Birthday.

The King's Birthday was officially observed in Palestine last Monday, June 5, instead of June 3. It took the form of Military Parades, official services of Thanksgiving, and Receptions by the various District Governors. In Jerusalem the Moslem element, at least the majority of it, refused to take any part. Life is certainly hard even for the most well-meaning and judiciously poised Government in a country like Palestine. June 3, the actual date of the King's birthday, fell this year on the Jewish Sabbath. The Government, in its consideration for orthodox Jewish scruples, which will not permit the practising Jew to use any vehicle for travelling on the Sabbath, thought fit to postpone the official celebrations till the following Monday. Whereupon the Civil Secretary receives letters of thanks from the Grand Rabbis and strong formal protests from the Moslems, who point out that though last year the date fell on a Friday, their holy day, no thought of shifting the observance of the day ever passed through the head of the Government! Thereupon the Moslems press home the charge that the British Administration is entirely under the thumb of the Zionists.

We understand that even the Book of Common Prayer, in view of local susceptibilities, had to be bowdlerised at the official service held at the Cathedral. The form of service used was that of "The King's Accession"; and the Old Testament Lesson there appointed is the first chapter of Joshua. But its Zionist sentiments were found to be so extreme that a few innocuous verses from the Book of Proverbs had to be substituted.

The Point of View !

But for sheer cranky wrongheadedness it would difficult to surpass the following. The Civil Secretary and Acting High Commissioner, Sir Wyndham Deedes, has always shown an interest in the Jerusalem "Young Men's Christian Association," believing it to be a means of affording wider interests to the Jerusalem youth, of whatever community. Recently, with his encouragement a series of lectures on Islam, Judaism and Christianity was given in the Y.M.C.A. premises by well-known representatives of each faith. About the same time a branch of the Y.M.C.A. was opened by Sir Wyndham at Jaffa. Whereupon the best of the Palestinian Arab papers (*Palastin*, Jaffa) solemnly accuses the British Administration in Palestine of a desire to

provoke disunion between the Moslems and the Christians: "On the one hand," the paper says, "the Government endeavours to found branches of the Association for Christian young men, and on the other hand, it gives permits to establish branches of the National Moslem Association. Furthermore, by lectures on the three religions, it has opened the doors of religious quarrels."

YUGOSLAVIA.

Belgrade, June 13.

The Royal Wedding.

The Royal Wedding is now over. For over a week all activities were concentrated on this great event. The festivities began on Monday, June 5, with the arrival of the Duke of York and the Spanish Infante. The reception given to the first royal visitors, but especially to the Duke of York, was a warm, full-hearted, Slav-like welcome! Long before the arrival of the Royal Train the streets were overcrowded with people, who had come from all parts of the country to see the wedding of their King. For the train carrying the Duke of York, accompanied only by Colonel Waterhouse, the King, Princes Arsene and Paul, and Princess Helena were already at the station awaiting. After the inspection of the Guard of Honour, the cortège drove off to the Palace, the King and the Duke of York being in the first motor-car. Full honours were paid by the troops, which had lined the streets from the station to the Palace. The Duke of York wore the uniform of a Naval Commander, and his happy boyish face incited the crowds to cheer themselves hoarse.

The next day the Royal bride arrived with her Father and Mother. The Roumanian Royal Family came up the Danube in their yacht 'Stephan cel Mare.' The escort was provided by the Yugoslav Danube Flotilla as well as by British, French, Italian, and Roumanian monitors and destroyers. The British monitor 'Glowworm' arrived first and in time to fire a 21 guns salute to the Royalties arriving. All along the Danube squadrons of aeroplanes and hydroplanes flew over the vessels, dropping flowers on the Royal Yacht. On the landing stage, the King, the Duke of York, the Infante Alphonse, Princes Arsene and Paul, Princesses Beatrice, Helena and Cira, greeted the Bride and her Family with a very warm welcome. Bread and salt were offered by the Mayor of Belgrade.

The small place reserved by the Committee of Festivities was wholly occupied by high officials, both civil and military. Gold braid and glittering decorations, reflecting a strong June sunlight, gave a picture of old pre-war days, for this was really the first time that the Master of Ceremonies had prescribed full dress.

On Thursday morning salvoes of 101 guns and the ringing of bells announced the wedding-day. All through the night the streets were full of people, and at five o'clock in the morning not a single place was available in the streets through which the cortège had to pass. Belgrade is over-populated as it is, but with 78,000 visitors one could hardly breathe—yet everybody felt happy and cheerful. At ten o'clock the heralds greeted the King going to the Old Palace to take his Bride. A long stream of the National Cavalry, headed by the Royal Standard Bearer, moved off towards the Cathedral. They were all dressed in the picturesque costumes of their respective provinces. The Standard Bearer, a young stalwart Montenegrin, looked particularly smart in his scarlet gold-embroidered tunic, with gold and jewel-mounted old pistols and *yatagan* in his belt. Bosnian riders reflected the glory and richness of the XVI. Century. The Croats, with their black dress and feathered tam-a-shanter, left nothing to be desired either in their dress or mounts. The Serbs were last to come, with no gold or silver, but simple woollen jackets and tight fitting trousers, of the same pattern as they had in 1914 on the battle-fields. Their fine horses, with the riders sitting upright as though nailed to the saddles, made a modest yet inspiring spectacle.

Gala carriages followed, carrying the King and Queen of Roumania, the Duke of York and Prince Arsene, and other Royalties. In the State coach, beautifully decorated with white roses, the smiling Princess Mary drove with her father, the King of Roumania. The cheering reached its climax as they passed by. At the Cathedral door the King and Princess Mary kissed the Holy Bible and an Ikon, and were led to the Altar by the Archbishops and the Patriarch Dimitri, who performed the Wedding Ceremony. The Register was then signed by the King and Queen, the King and Queen of Roumania, and the Duke of York and Prince Arsene as chief witnesses.

In the afternoon there were a brilliant military review and football matches. The Queen's Cup remained in Belgrade and the King's Gold Cup went to Bucharest. The same evening the happy couple left for Bled in Slovenia, where they are spending their honey-moon.

Now, after eighteen years, Belgrade Court has a Queen, and the domestic happiness of King Alexander will be a guarantee for the welfare and prosperity of the nation.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, June 10.

Little Entente Conference at Belgrade.

The Roumanian Ministry for Foreign Affairs has sent the local Press the following *communiqué* in connection with the Little Entente parleys at Belgrade: "On the occasion of the royal wedding at Belgrade the representatives of the three Little Entente States, MM. Benes, Bratianu, Duca, Pashitch, and Ninchitch, took this opportunity to exchange views on the various international questions affecting their countries, and it was once more ascertained that their views were in complete accord. After having examined their combined activity at Genoa, which has given favourable results, they then discussed and decided on the attitude to be adopted by them at the Hague Conference. Judging from the importance and usefulness of these conferences between the authorized representatives of the three States, it has further been decided to continue these meetings at stated intervals. In order that the Little Entente may be able to maintain at The Hague the same solidarity as was the case at Genoa, the Polish Government will also be informed of the decisions taken and at the same time invited to approve them." The decisions in question have not yet been made public, but there are grounds for believing that the Little Entente will support at The Hague France's point of view, namely, that only the experts should work at this conference and limit their discussions to a fixed programme, without touching existing international treaties and conventions.

The Roumanian Government have appointed MM C. Diamandi and O. Chiriacescu as their delegates for the Hague Conference. Both these delegates were also members of the Roumanian delegation at Genoa.

Roumania's Foreign Policy.

The Press Department of the Foreign Office in one of its recent bulletins has communicated the following statement on Roumania's general foreign policy:—"The idea which underlies Roumania's foreign policy is Peace. Roumania is pursuing such a policy in agreement with her allies and in close cooperation with the countries of this part of Europe, with whom she has ties of common interests. With regard to Hungary, Roumania is desirous, on the basis of existing treaties, to develop the most cordial relations with the Hungarian State. She considers that political interests permit and even demand the most friendly relations between the two neighbouring countries. As to Russia, it is unnecessary to contradict Roumania's aggressive intentions against the Soviets, for the slightest acquaintance with the interests of the Roumanian people would suffice to understand that the mere thought of attacking Russia would be an act of folly on the part of the Roumanians. To reiterate, Roumania's sole desire is to live in peace with all her neighbours as well as with all other countries, in order to be able to devote her entire

efforts to the task of internal consolidation. The present Government's point of view with regard to the minorities has been clearly expounded on several occasions, namely, to adopt a most liberal policy towards them by respecting all nationalities and creeds. In exchange, the minorities are expected to comport themselves as loyal citizens of Greater Roumania. On this understanding, the minorities can rest assured of the Government's entire solicitude. Preceding Governments, in the face of agitations committed against the safety of the State, had to have recourse to energetic measures. To-day, however, a better spirit seems to prevail among some of the minorities, so that the present Government sees no reason why it should not, in turn, adopt towards them a liberal and beneficent attitude."

The Amnesty Decree.

The political amnesty accorded by the King on the occasion of his daughter's wedding, embraces the following offences:—

(1) (a) Provocation of or participation in strikes for cases punishable by law. (b) Clandestine and public propaganda against social and political order. (c) Spying during peace time. (d) Special offences committed by the personnel, while on duty, of militarized institutions. (e) Infringements of military orders and those committed by Roumanian subjects in violation of the regulations governing the crossing of frontiers. (f) Mutiny. (g) Electoral and press offences.

(2) The following offences are not pardoned by the present amnesty: (a) High treason, save those mentioned above. (b) The offences under No. 1 (a), (b), and (c) committed by the military. (c) Outrages or provocation to outrages.

As a result of the above amnesty, 200 of the accused involved in the present Communists' trial have been set free. There are now about 48 of them still to be tried, chiefly for perpetrating as well as aiding and abetting criminal outrages.

The Royal Wedding.

The bride, accompanied by the entire Roumanian Royal family, left Bucharest for Belgrade on Sunday amid the farewell cheers of the people, who thronged the beflagged and decorated streets leading from the Royal Palace to the station. Princess Marie was visibly touched by the spontaneous cheers of the people, and when the royal train started to move out of Bucharest station, she was so full of emotion in leaving her native town that her eyes filled with tears. The wedding day was celebrated here by divine services in all the churches. There is no doubt that, apart from the happy union between the two royal families, this wedding has great political importance, not only for Serbia and Roumania, but for the whole of Europe, for the personal relation-

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ships between the ruling sovereigns of Roumania, Yugoslavia and Greece are bound to have a great influence on maintaining peace in this part of the Continent.

The King and Queen, the Crown Prince and Crown Princess, Prince Nicholas and Princess Ileana returned to Bucharest from Belgrade to-day. The return journey was made on board the royal yacht 'Stefan-*cel-Mare*' all along the Danube as far as Giurgiu.

General News.

The King has bestowed on M. I. C. Bratianu, the Prime Minister, the Grand Collar of the Order of King Carol, in recognition of services rendered at the Genoa Conference.

Owing to the present governmental crisis in Poland, Marshal Pilsudski has postponed his visit to Bucharest.

On H.M. King George's birthday, Sir Herbert Dering, British Minister at Bucharest, and Lady Dering entertained the British Colony to a garden party at the British Legation.

M. Dului Zamfirescu, President of the Chamber under the former Government, while visiting the monastery "Agapia" in Moldavia, died suddenly, having inadvertently consumed poisonous mushrooms. The deceased was, besides a well-known politician, a member of the Roumanian Academy, an appreciated literary man and lately Roumania's representative on the European Danube Commission.

Capture of a Bolshevik Aeroplane.

It is reported from Bessarabia that a Bolshevik aeroplane while flying over the locality of Tighina was forced to land, owing to engine trouble. On the approach of the authorities the airmen attempted to set fire to the machine, but failed. On searching the aeroplane the authorities found a large number of revolutionary pamphlets printed in the Roumanian language. The airmen who are now under arrest, admitted that they had orders to spread these pamphlets all over Bessarabia.

Japanese Delegation in Bucharest.

A Japanese delegation, headed by M. Nobutaro Kawashima, Secretary and Councillor of the Japanese Foreign Office, arrived a few days ago in Bucharest. Its object is to study Roumania's economic conditions and especially the present import and export régime, in view of developing trade between Japan and Roumania. Before leaving this country, the delegation will visit the important industrial centres and especially the oil-fields.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, June 12.

Frontier Incidents.

After a commendably long silence, Bulgaria's neighbours have once more begun a newspaper campaign against them. The Serbians accuse Bulgaria of aiding and abetting the bands of *Komitajis* that are harassing the south-east of Serbia. These *Komitajis* are composed almost entirely of Macedonians and their practice is to rob, ravage, and occasionally kill. That they exist is not denied, but that the Government countenance their existence, is very emphatically denied. Macedonians are wild people, and years ago when Bulgaria had the right to an armed force, it was with difficulty that she suppressed these brigand bands.

To-day Bulgaria is not in a position to keep order either internally or along her frontiers. Her armed forces do not exceed 10,000, and this small body of men does not possess either the prestige or the discipline of former Bulgarian Armies.

The Government has repeatedly pointed out that if the Allies refuse to allow Bulgaria a proper sized defensive force, the responsibility for the maintenance of law and order is beyond their means. The Allies reply that Bulgaria must recruit a voluntary army. The Allies' representatives at Sofia know that this is impossible, but they have not been able to convince their chiefs at London, Paris and Rome. One day the situation will become such that the Allies will be forced to adopt one of the following alternatives:—

Either to leave Bulgaria to herself and be prepared to tolerate a lawless spot in south-eastern Europe.

Or themselves to provide Bulgaria with adequate means of protection. (A very unlikely contingency.)

Or lastly, to revise the military clauses of the Treaty of Neuilly.

The Serbs, the Roumanians, and the Greeks must know that Bulgaria is an easy prey, even although she has succeeded in concealing a few thousand rifles, and even some millions of rounds of ammunition. They cannot have such a poor opinion of their own fighting powers as to imagine that Bulgaria really constitutes a serious danger for any one of them, let alone the three together. This point being admitted, the question presents itself why Bulgaria is not allowed to maintain a defensive force. A good deal is said about any concession to Bulgaria being pounced upon as a precedent by Germany. Have no concessions been made to Germany, not to mention Turkey and the other ex-enemy Powers? Concessions have been made, but as Bulgaria is not allied with any great European Power it is easy for the Big and the Little Entente to inflict on her any measures that they like.

The Government and the Commission.

At the end of last week the Government addressed a Note to the Inter-Allied Commission concerning the payment of reparations. The Note was long and consisted of a recapitulation of the arguments for non-payment of reparations. It also protested against the Convention proposed by the Commission.

The latter have requested the Government to give a definite reply regarding the Convention by July 20, and it is expected that the matter will shortly come before the Sobranye. It will be remembered that two months ago the Inter-Allied Commission drew up a Convention of which the principal points were control of the Customs and the Pernik coal-mine. No one knows what the Government's real intentions are concerning the acceptance of the Convention, but it is thought that a policy of procrastination and delay will be of little use this time. They will have to accept or refuse the Convention, although it is just possible that the Commission may make some concessions regarding the actual money payments during 1922 and 1923. Ten million gold francs during 1922 and thirty million during 1923 are the sums fixed to be paid, but in view of the actual financial situation, a postponement of all money payments is possible.

The Sobranye.

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of last week were spent by the Sobranye in discussing the question of Wrangel's Army. The Communists attacked the Government for having allowed the Army to enter Bulgaria, the Bourgeois for having intrigues with the Army, and the Army itself for having existed! M. Daskaloff replied for the Government and his speech made a good impression. He said that Wrangel's Army was allowed to enter Bulgaria on the understanding that they were refugees and possessed no military status. M. Daskaloff read out the Ministerial Decree dealing with the entry of Wrangelists, and said that the Government had been forced to take measures against certain Wrangelist officers because the authorities were convinced that a plot had been formulated, having as its object the overthrow of the present Government.

The Communists seemed fairly satisfied with M. Daskaloff's explanation, but not so the Bourgeois. The latter argued that the Government had allowed Wrangel's Army to retain certain arms, and that now the Government were going back on their agreement. The debate became very heated and as usual a great deal of party feeling was shown. In any case it is now apparent that the Wrangelists who are still in Bulgaria are refugees and have no rights beyond those of refugees.

New Mayor of Sofia.

The election of M. Dignikoff, an ex-café waiter, as mayor of Sofia, has after all not taken place. M. Kroum Popoff, a former Government official, has been appointed and entered on his duties last week.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

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

CROSS AND CRESCENT.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—In the June number of the *Contemporary Review* Mr. Harold Spender contributes an article "The Sacrifice of Greece," which is such an *ex-parte* statement on behalf of the Greeks that it calls for a reply notwithstanding that the writer fully realises the magnitude of the task he is undertaking in accepting combat with an opponent of such literary skill as this eminent publicist. It will simplify the issue if Mr. Harold Spender's arguments are discussed in turn as set forth in his article.

In the first place we are told that the Turks have "a finer sense of the insecurity of human affairs" and "a larger experience of the caprice of European statesmen" than the Germans; consequently, whereas the Treaty of Versailles was ratified, the terms of the peace dictated by the Powers at Sèvres were allowed to lie on the table whilst the Turks "proceeded to pull all the strings of European finance which connect Constantinople with Rome, Paris and London." But what a travesty such a description is of the actual facts, seeing that the Porte accepted the conditions which the Treaty of Sèvres imposed, and it was only the Nationalists led by Kemal Pasha who, bruised and bleeding as they were, determined to fight on to the bitter end rather than accept such humiliating terms. Can anything be less magnanimous than Mr. Harold Spender's refusal to give the Turks any credit for their patriotism and his insinuation that Kemal Pasha's action was the result of intrigue on the part of European financiers? Had such patriotism been displayed by a Christian nation, it would have been acclaimed by all, not excluding the enemy, but when the Turks fight with their backs to the wall we are told that "not in vain has Mammon used religion for its own purposes." Such a lack of generosity makes one despair of the eternal quarrel betwixt the Cross and the Crescent ever being allowed to die out; there is always a Crusader ready to stir up the embers! Mr. Harold Spender then reminds us of the "splendid work" accomplished by the Greeks during the final phase of the war and asks why this has been entirely forgotten since M. Venizelos' dismissal from office. But may we not also recall the Greek Treaty with Serbia after the Balkan War? What about the forts that were surrendered and Divisions of the Greek Army interned without firing a shot? Is there no truth in the statement, made by the Bulgarian Staff, of the arrangement concluded for the desertion of several more divisions on the Salonika front (see a correspondent in *The Times* of December 1, 1920)? M. Venizelos must certainly be credited with all earnest endeavours to further the cause of the Allies. But it takes more than one swallow to make a summer, and how many Greeks were there holding with M. Venizelos and how many sitting on the fence only hesitating to throw in their lot with the Germans from fear of our Fleet?

Moreover, was M. Venizelos actuated entirely by his love of the Allies or was it that he was far-sighted enough to recognise that the victory of the Allies meant an extended Grecian Empire? As regards the mandate in Asia Minor was he not also shrewd enough to see that, if he could once get a footing there as a mandatory of the Powers, there was no saying where the Greek boundaries would eventually reach, seeing, as he thought, a prostrate Turkey at his feet? The fact that England was a Mohammedan Power did not trouble him. If the British statesmen failed to realise that thus supporting the Greeks at the expense of the Turks meant trouble in India, why should he enlighten them?

There is nothing to be said against M. Venizelos' action; as a Greek patriot he only did his duty, but do not let us have it paraded as pure philanthropy on his part. Neither let there be any doubt as to the cause of the failure of the Sèvres Treaty, which was brought about by the universal brotherhood of Islam and not by the power of Mammon, as Mr. Harold Spender would have us believe. How little Mammon has had to do with the matter can be gathered from the inspired cables which appear in the Press. If the Nationalist Turks had the power of the purse behind them, would they be such hopeless propagandists compared with the Greeks and Armenians?

Mr. Harold Spender waxes wroth over the blood which has been shed in vain, if the Greeks are not allowed to remain in Smyrna and its hinterland; but he is silent about the Moslem blood of our Indian contingents which contributed so largely to our success both in Palestine and Asia Minor, neither does he mention the assurances which were made by Mr. Lloyd George to these same Moslems.

When the Greeks were making up their minds as to whether it was to their advantage to throw in their lot with Germany or the Allies, what would have happened had the Moslems in our Indian contingents responded to the Jihad preached by the Sultan? Moreover, it should be noted that these Moslems, unlike the Greeks, had no incentive to remain true to their salt; there was no prospect of an enlarged Mohammedan Empire by their doing so. On the contrary all the assurance they got was that the Turks would not be deprived of their homelands. If we fail to keep our pledge, we may possibly find in Mr. Harold Spender's words that "we may arouse in great helpless populations a hatred that may not remain without fruit in years to come." It may even be added "if not in the immediate future."

Mr. Harold Spender may be forgiven his rash polemics, even though he tells us that it was "only the loan of a Greek division which saved our troops in Constantinople and on the Asiatic shore from annihilation at the hands of the Angora Turks." But with Lord Curzon the case is different, and it seems incredible, at all events to the writer, how so able a man with the knowledge of the subject he has had every opportunity of acquiring should have so misjudged the Turkish question as to have got us into this *impasse*. But, like the late Lord Bryce and other statesmen whose training should have made them hold broader views, many appear to regard the Turks as assassins and murderers without any redeeming qualities. They entirely ignore the cause of these massacres and the fact that for the past half century the so-called Christian minorities have been vying with each other to make any sort of government by the Porte impossible. Further that the Christian Powers have in turn been aiding and abetting these rebellious subjects of the Turkish Empire. What does M. Chedo Miyatovitch, a former Serbian Minister, testify on this subject:—"Political interests make us (the Balkan nations) paint the Turks as cruel Asiatic tyrants incapable of European civilization. An impartial history will prove that the Turks are rather European than Asiatics and that they are not cruel tyrants, but a nation loving justice and fairness and possessing qualities and virtues which deserve to be acknowledged and respected" (*Asiatic Quarterly* of October, 1913). Mind you, this too, from a diplomat who, if anything, should be prejudiced against the Turks.

In 1878 Lord Salisbury gauged the situation correctly when in a despatch to the British Ambassador suggesting the occupation of Cyprus he stated that "emissaries of intrigue will in due time be followed by invading armies," and that it was in the interests of our Indian Empire "to stop this encroachment by force of arms if necessary." But alas, when the master mind of Disraeli ceased to control our policy the Russians were allowed free scope and the Christian minorities worked out their schemes "according to plan." The Porte in despair and more from ignorance than malice resorted to extreme

measures to keep its unruly subjects in order with the consequences we all know.

Few now stop to inquire why, if the Turks were such inhuman monsters, Greeks and Armenians should have elected to live cheek by jowl with them all these generations. What is more, they would do so again in the future freed from the interference of the neighbouring Christian States. The Greek and Armenian traders are as essential to the welfare of the Turkish peasant as the peasants are to the Christians who have made their home in Asia Minor. And if by some miracle or other means these so-called Christians could be regrouped and entirely separated from the Turks, in a very short time Greek traders and artisans would be found establishing themselves once more in the Moslem centres. But to return to Mr. Harold Spender's article and his contention that if the Greeks are not permitted to remain in Smyrna and its hinterland, France has no right to occupy Tunis or Morocco—and should we add England to her overseas possessions!

But does Mr. Harold Spender really argue that because some two years ago when Europe and Asia were both in a state of flux the Greeks had colonies in Asia Minor (the "cradle of the Christian religion" adds this Crusader!) this gives them prior claims over the Turks? If so why draw the line at Asia Minor? Surely the Ptolemy period in Egypt gives them still stronger claims to that country, to say nothing of the conquests of Alexander the Great in Persia and India? If indeed we are to go back to that period for our title-deeds, there would be many claimants for what is now known as the British Isles!

In this connexion it may not be without interest to quote Gibbon: writing of the Crusades and the Emperor Alexius he states that Alexius got himself thoroughly disliked by the Western Powers because "whilst the Crusaders with blind valour advanced into the midland countries of Asia the crafty Greeks improved the favourable occasion . . . to seize Smyrna and enemy islands! Altogether Alexius created a precedent for M. Venizelos to follow in 1920. Thus for the second time in history we find the Greeks, in the words of Gibbon, "playing the part of the jackal who is said to devour the leavings of the lion."

Again, although Mr. Harold Spender finds the Treaty of Sèvres "amazingly just and moderate" Mr. Aubrey Herbert in a recent letter to *The Times* considers that "the first and chief sufferers from the Treaty of Sèvres were the Christian minorities, and it is our continued and solitary support of the Treaty that is the main source of danger to our Allies King Hussein and King Faisal." Whom are we to believe?

In the same letter Mr. Aubrey Herbert further states that two courses are open to us: "We must either achieve these ends *vi et armis* or negotiate the safety of the minorities." Surely there can be no question which is the saner method?

Finally Mr. Harold Spender urges us to remember that it was the Powers who sent the Greeks to Asia Minor, and argues that the position is so complicated by our having done so that we must either support the Greeks or call in the assistance of the League of Nations to administer the country now in Greek occupation. This is the situation foreseen by M. Venizelos when he pressed the services of the Greek army on the Allies: but our Cabinet must certainly be bankrupt of all statesmanship, if it allows itself to be a second time manoeuvred into so false a position. Once more quoting Mr. Harold Spender, we should have proved ourselves "too weak and feeble to carry out the finest tradition of our race."

I am, etc.,

C. E. C.

June 11, 1922.

It is stated from Madras that the Government of India scientific mission to observe the solar eclipse will, owing to the inability of the Ceylon Government to give facilities to the party to stay at the Maldiv Islands, require to go to the west coast of Australia, although the former is a better site for the purpose.

STORM WAVES IN THE MOHAMMEDAN WORLD.

Under the above title an address was given by Sir Valentine Chirol to a large audience of the Central Asian Society at the Royal United Service Institution, Whitehall, on Thursday, June 15. The Right Hon. Lord Carnock, P.C., G.C.B., was in the chair.

Sir Valentine Chirol said that he proposed to give a brief survey of the history of the relations between East and West, with special reference to the part which Turkey has played in the Islamic world and the influence which the possession of India has exerted upon British policy towards Turkey. He characterized Mr. Rudyard Kipling's saying that "East is East and West is West; and never the twain shall meet" as a somewhat narrow generalization which has certainly ceased to be true, and over the long range of history has never been fundamentally true. Our Western civilization as far back as we can trace its origins was hammered out from its very inception in constant contact, often in violent conflict, with the East, *i.e.*, with so much of the Eastern world as the Western world then knew. West and East exchanged not only heavy blows but vital ideas. In peace and in war they acted and re-acted upon each other socially and politically, morally and materially, and if one takes a broad survey of the results, we must admit that on the whole the honours were fairly well divided. The Roman Empire, even more than the Greek colonies of Asia Minor, projected Western influence into the East, but from the East it received Christianity which, though often obscured and perverted to unworthy uses, henceforth provided the ethical basis of Western civilization. The sixth century, however, introduced an entirely new factor into the relations between East and West with the first emergence from the deserts of Arabia of the one great religion of the world which armed itself from its birth with a sword. During the four or five centuries when a new Saracenic civilization under the Khalifs of Damascus and Baghdad, of Cairo and Cordova, shed such imperishable lustre on Islamic history, Turkey was yet unborn. The Ottoman Empire only came into being in the thirteenth century with a new race of Eastern conquerors who picked up the Koran on their way from their heathen homelands in Central Asia. With the growth of Turkish power the leadership of Islam passed from a Semitic race intellectually highly gifted and with an innate capacity for progress, to a Turanian race, virile indeed but dull-witted, narrow and rigid, to whom the Mohammedan creed appealed mainly as an instrument of domination based upon the sword. It was with the coming of the Ottoman Empire, built up on the ruins of earlier Mohammedan States in Asia no less than on those of Christian States in Europe, that the relations between the West and the East assumed a character of irreconcilable antagonism.

Nothing that the Turks ever did in the heyday of their power, Sir Valentine Chirol continued, was to have such momentous consequences for our own race as their conquest of Egypt. For their possession of Egypt and their piratical sea-power all through the Mediterranean closed the last avenue through which Europe had kept up, mainly from Genoa and Venice, a precarious but lucrative trade with the mysterious countries of the distant Orient. The sea-faring nations of Western Europe were driven to seek a way round over the hitherto untravelled ocean. The opening of new routes to India and the Far East not merely out-flanked the Turkish obstruction to intercourse with the East, but it brought the West for the first time into contact with another East, alien indeed also, but entirely different from the East which Greeks and Romans had known or which had confronted Europe in the dark ages when Islam had first opened out of Arabia. In India the West found itself in presence of a Hindu civilization more ancient and far more rigid than its own. The Moghul Empire still held the greater part of India under Mohammedan domination, but it differed in many respects from the type of Mohammedan domination which Europe had come to associate with Ottoman rule. Just when Queen Elizabeth was granting to her London "Merchant-Venturers" the charter out of which the East India Company grew up, the latest Mohammedan dynasty to set up its domination on the ruins of its many predecessors was represented by a ruler of real constructive genius such as the Turks never produced, the Emperor Akbar. When the Hindus raised the standard of revolt against the decaying Moghul Empire the East India Company at home set its face sternly against any sort of interference in Indian quarrels. It was not until India became one of the chief theatres of conflict between Great Britain and France that the British people as well as the Company awoke to the fact that Great Britain would have to take up the inheritance of the moribund Moghul Empire or see it pass into the possession of her great European rival. Whilst British rule was moulding India into a new shape, Great Britain lost her dominant position in America, and the axis of her foreign policy was shifted from West to East. The safety of India became a constant preoccupation of British statesmanship.

In the meantime Turkey had undergone a complete change in the general scheme of international values. It was no longer her strength but her weakness that threatened to disturb the balance of European power. The decline of the Ottoman Empire had been as rapid as its rise. British statesmanship, whose liberal traditions inclined to favour the movement towards autonomy of Turkey's subject races, was held in restraint by the growing dread of Russia. Successive British Governments hesitated between two policies—either to wash their hands of Turkey and come to a definite understanding with Russia, or to protect Turkey from dismemberment as a bulwark against Russian aggression. We drifted into the Crimean war, and after San Stefano, intervened once more, saving Turkey at the imminent risk of another war with Russia.

India and Turkey.

During all those first three quarters of the nineteenth century, when Great Britain had almost continuously befriended Turkey and twice at great cost to herself saved her, what, asked Sir Valentine Chirol, had been the attitude of the Mohammedans of India? One of them, Jaffur Shereef, who wrote in 1832 his well-known work *Kanoon-i-Islam*, makes no single reference to the Turks or to the Khalifates of Constantinople. It was not until 1878, when we were again on the brink of war with Russia in support of the Ottoman Empire, that Turkey was brought within the immediate range of Indian experience. In that year Lord Beaconsfield despatched an Indian force for the first time into European waters in anticipation of an Anglo-Russian conflict. That spectacular demonstration was perhaps primarily meant to magnify the position of India in the Empire, but it was also meant to magnify Turkey in the eyes of India, and to arouse Indian Mohammedans in particular to a sense of brotherhood with the Mohammedan people in whose defence England was prepared to go to war for the second time with Russia. The Indian troops did not fight Russia, but were recalled from Malta to take part in the war with Afghanistan. Long before it was over the pendulum of British policy swung violently with the downfall of Lord Beaconsfield's Administration in 1880 and Mr. Gladstone's return to power. The Disraelian policy as well as Disraeli was dead when Lord Salisbury succeeded Gladstone in 1885 and frankly admitted that in backing Turkey we had backed the wrong horse.

Sir Valentine Chirol then dealt with the Sultan Abdul Hamid II, and traced the steps taken by him to make the Khalifate, previously little more than an empty title, a living reality, until the high-water mark of Hamidian Pan-Islamism was reached with the Emperor William's public recognition of it in 1898 at Damascus, with the reference to the two hundred million Mohammedans who revered the Sultan as their sacred Khalif. It was just then that the influence of Pan-Islamism made itself felt for the first time on our Indian hinterland. The victories of the Turkish armies over the Greeks had reverberated along the whispering galleries of the East to the greater glory of the Ottoman Sultan and Khalif, and the Sultan's name came to be invoked in the Friday service in an increasing number of Upper India mosques. But although Indian Mohammedans began to take a pride in Abdul Hamid as a great potentate in the Mohammedan world, their loyalty to the British *raj* remained unmoved. Even at the time of Lord Morley's Indian reforms in 1909 the All-India Moslem League, founded as a counterblast to the Indian National Congress, pleaded hard and not unsuccessfully for special safeguards for the Mohammedan community against Hindu supremacy in the enlarged Councils as the well-earned reward of its unwavering loyalty to the *raj*. After tracing the gradual change in the attitude of Indian Mohammedans under the leadership of the Ah brothers, Sir Valentine Chirol continued:—

The Indian Mohammedans go further in their demands for the restoration of the Sultan's authority in the former Arab provinces of the Ottoman Empire than the Kemalists at Angora. The latter base their resistance mainly on nationalist grounds, and Pan-Islamism is merely a second string to their bow. The Turkish Nationalists welcome, of course, the support of their Mohammedan co-religionists wherever it is forthcoming. But even when they themselves revert, as the rulers of Constantinople reverted during the war on a grand scale, to the Hamidian policy of massacre in order to exterminate Christian minorities, they are careful to explain that these have got to be eliminated not on religious grounds but because their existence threatens the safety of the ruling Turkish race.

Can the alliance between Turkish Nationalism and the Indian Mohammedans who have sought to identify the cause of Islam with it endure? The Khalifate movement is no doubt largely controlled by the same revolutionary and destructive forces which the extremist wing of Indian Nationalism represents amongst the Hindus. But for the bulk of Indian Mohammedans, conservative and law-abiding, who have been carried away by it, it doubtless stands for a great religious cause. It may be regarded as a form of religious revivalism. It may also be inspired, as some Hindus are beginning to realise, by a distant hope of restoring Mohammedan domination some day in India when it shall have joined hands across Asia with a Pan-Turanian Turkey. But it lacks the essential characteristics of a nationalist movement. It does not derive in any way from the sense of common nationhood which the nationalists in Egypt or in Arabia claim to have imbibed from the West, and which is already beginning to stir more faintly the Arabs of Tunis and Algeria and Morocco. Wherever the people are Mohammedans, religious antagonism stimulates their impatience of alien political domination, but the one peculiar link that seems to connect Turkish Nationalism with Indian Mohammedanism, besides the temporary conjunction of a spirit of revolt against the British *raj* amongst Indian Mohammedan extremists and Kemalist bitterness against England as the only one of the Allies who cannot apparently be bought off with economic concessions, is a certain affinity of temperament due to the common Central Asian origin of the ruling race in Turkey and of the conquerors who brought Islam into India.

No one has, I think, made of them a more careful and exhaustive study than that which a distinguished American writer, Mr. Lothrop Stoddard, has recently published under the title of "The New World of Islam." The conclusion at which he arrives is that, take them all in all, these movements are destined to regenerate Islam and to endow it with a vitality with which the West will have very seriously to reckon when it once more puts forth its united strength as a "new world of Islam." With all

due deference to so competent an authority I venture to think that neither history nor the conflicting character of many of these movements supports such a conclusion. I do not underrate the potency of the underlying sense of religious brotherhood amongst Mohammedans of different races and sects and schools of thought, nor the old militant spirit seldom more than dormant beneath a surface of passive fatalism. But the brotherhood of Islam has never been translated into united action since the followers of the Prophet founded kingdoms and empires altogether transcending the modest limits of the primitive tribal state from which they emerged. Even when Islam still bore the impress of its Arab origin, successive Khalifates rose and fell in strife and confusion. The Ottoman Empire was largely built up on their ruins and surcharged Islam with the Central Asian stamp under which we have chiefly known it for the last six or seven hundred years. The outward observances of Islam have never affected the difference between the Semitic mind with its rich intellectual endowment and its potential capacity for progress, so brilliantly illustrated during the great period of Saracenic civilisation, and the Turanian or Turkish mind with its stolid obduracy to all the cultural influences which make up a vital civilisation and its inveterate tendency to relapse into Central Asian savagery.

One cannot view without some apprehension the muster of retrograde forces under cover of Turkish Nationalism at Angora and of the Khalifate movement in India, but it is essential to discriminate between them and the more progressive force which over a much wider area, extending from Northern Africa to the Asiatic shores of the Pacific, are working, one must hope, towards a synthesis which would bring East and West together in the interests of racial and religious peace despite the profound differences that still divide them.

MUSICAL NOTES.

GRAMAPHONE RECORDS

We turn now to the vocal records in the June issue of "His Master's Voice Company," and find these redeemed from mediocrity by a magnificent Chaliapine reproduction. The Russian bass is heard in "Still is the Forest," one of Moussorgsky's "Songs and Dances of Death." In the whole literature of music I know of no song intenser than this; it is unequalled in the directness and force of its expression. All the strength of Russia, both superficial and latent, is in this song, and to say that it is worthily sung is to give the highest praise possible to Chaliapine. This is a magnificent reproduction, conveying unerringly the spacious, limitless richness of the voice and the cold, mysterious reserve of power in both song and singer.

I do not understand why Chaliapine's voice should "reproduce" more naturally than Caruso's, but the fact remains that it does, and it is further proved in the tenor's singing of Cottrau's "L'Addio a Napoli." Nothing can gainsay the extravagant splendour of Caruso's moulding of phrase, or the superb and sheer wealth of his voice, but this is an imperfect reproduction, giving the impression of forced and consequently unpleasant tone.

In consideration of the recent revival in London of Planquette's "Les cloches de Corneville," the record made by Renato Zanelli of "Dans mes Voyages" is interesting. This baritone is a real singer, with a fine *timbre*, but an undue strictness of *tempo* makes his rendering a little monotonous. The simplest things commonly need the greatest subtlety in performance, and it is just those touches of variety that this record seems mostly to lack.

From two "Samson and Delilah" songs—"Fair Spring," and "O Love, from thy Power,"—Edna Thornton has made a record that I do not like in the least, but I am not so foolish as here to begin preaching to those who believe in their Saint-Saens. I will only say that it seems to me that Madame Thornton is attempting with exaggerated passion to be squeezing an empty sponge.

There is excellent vocal technique in the duet (as sung by the soprano, Lucrezia Bori, and the baritone, Giuseppe de Luca)—"Vado, corro," from Donizetti's "Don Pasquale." It is sung with fine spirit and finish, and the artistry of the baritone is consistently masterly, though the intonation of the soprano is not absolutely impeccable.

ANDANTE.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

YUGOSLAV STORIES.

"JUGO-SLAV STORIES." Edited with an Introduction by Pavle Popovic. The Interpreters Series. (New York: Duffield & Co.)

This excellent series of translations of the lesser-known literatures of Europe, of which the Czechoslovak and Modern Greek tales have already appeared, is now enriched by an anthology of Yugoslav stories, selected and edited by Professor Pavle Popovitch, the erudite professor of Yugoslav literature in the University of Belgrade.

While the remarkable Serbian folk-tales have attracted considerable attention in Western Europe, the prose literature of the Yugoslavs has been almost totally neglected, and, so far as we can trace, this is the first attempt to introduce this interesting field to Western readers.

Professor Popovitch's selection includes two tales by Lazarevitch, who is always regarded as the best of Serbia's prose writers, two by Veselinovitch, who follows him closely, with undoubted talent, but less skill, and five other tales each by a different author, including Zmaj-Yovan Yovanovitch, which is an interesting instance of a good poet failing to attain his usual high standard when venturing upon prose. We bow to the authority of Professor Popovitch, but yet feel some doubts as to the wisdom of the selection. In the first place, of the tales by Lazarevitch, "By the Well," in spite of its beauty, was hardly suitable for export, for it seems strange reading to English readers, who will have difficulty in following the psychology. "The People will gild it all" is a finer work, and its appeal is universal, for it deals with the tragedy of the war-broken cripple, and "The Village Priest," which though as intensely local as "By the Well," is a charming picture of village life and a sincere but ignorant priest of the old school.

Of the tales by Veselinovitch, "The Kum's Curse" is certainly powerful, giving a striking picture of the violent mentality of the Shumadian Serbs and an almost painfully realistic account of the flogging of white-haired Uncle Srechko. The other tale by the same author, "Eternity," is interesting, as being the Yugoslav version of Rip van Winkle, but the structure is spoilt by the introduction of a motiveless, unexplained and unnecessary murder. "Povareta," by Matavulj, is a charming story of the life of the seafaring population of the numberless isles of the Dalmatian littoral, while in the tale of the old Turk "Hodja Saleek" we find a welcome humorous relief after the gloom of all the other stories, and in Glisitch's well-known "The First Furrow" we get a glimpse of the struggles of the thousands of widows in war-racked Serbia, though the author died six years before that fatal day in 1914.

The book is marred by numerous misprints, pardonable in the Serbian words, such as *Ladruga* for *Zadruga*, *Labach* for *Shabats*, and one or two others. The translations, by various anonymous workers, are on the whole good and faithful, but the somewhat staccato style of Lazarevitch in particular reads disjointedly and abruptly to English ears. "Povareta" and "Hodja Saleek" run more smoothly, and here, the translators have more successfully avoided the Italian's reproach, *traduttore—traditore*.

On page 33, the nickname of the villain Pero is given as Zelenbach: it would have been more effective to have translated this, and called him "the Green Lizard," which Serbs believe to be a most venomous animal. On page 22, it is startling to read of *groschen* as a Serbian coin, which is suggestive of some unknown German influence. The word is of course the common "*grosh*," the Serb variant of the Turkish *guruh*, a piastre, which would have been a better translation. On p. 128, "minx" would have been better than "coquette" for peasants do not use foreign words as a rule. It is such points as these that make a translation smell of the dictionary rather than of life among the natives themselves.

It is interesting to note that all the tales, carefully selected by the editor, are by Dinaric Serbs, and, of these, except the two interesting Dalmatian stories, and one from Herzegovina, are from Serbia itself. It is a pity that there is nothing from the ever-growing literature of Croatia. Djalski's delightful account of the life of the old landed gentry of Zagorje has not been included in the series.

All who are not afraid of a rather heavy dose of local colour should make a point of reading these tales. It is to be hoped that they will stimulate curiosity and interest in the new field, where there is some good, and much extremely interesting, work to repay study.

SENTIMENTALITY AND SUCCESS.

"THE ENCHANTED CANYON." By Honore Willsie. (London: Thornton Butterworth. 7s. 6d. net.)

At the beginning of this book, Enoch Huntingdon is a boy of fourteen, in a New York slum, "heading," as the publisher's note puts it "straight towards crime and prison." A great deal is made of his callousness, hardness of heart, and lack of response to kindness and to appeals to his better feelings, all of which are due to his surroundings and upbringing. But in a very short time after his rescue by the philanthropic Mr. Seaton, his "blue eyes were as eager and as wistful as a little child's," and "he turned with a smile that was as ingenuous as it was wistful," not, we rather resentfully feel, because a trip down the "enchanted" canyon has really had such an extraordinarily speedy beneficial effect, but because Mrs. Willsie feels that the moment has arrived for some rather more sweetly flavoured sentiment. It is therefore not very easy to be convinced by "Nucky" Huntingdon of Minetta Lane and his conversion. At the end of the book he is Secretary of the Interior, bearing a great political burden and having long confidential talks with the President. We are not sure whether this is more convincing than the beginning, but it is certainly remarkably dull. Luckily, however, in the middle of the book Enoch escapes from his various perplexities into the desert and presently—when he has fallen in with two men who are prospecting for gold, a party who are exploring under orders from the Geological Survey, his own negro servant (comic element), the heroine, who is taking photographs of Indians, and her Indian nurse—Mrs. Willsie lets herself go and they all seem to race along through deserts and down canyons in adventure after adventure. These chapters are full of movement and most stimulating. If the rest is rather stereotyped and lifeless, it has at least a plot which always catches man's fancy from the time of the first fairy tale reading, the story of the Poor Boy who was born to become King. If Enoch does not exactly become King he seems very nearly to become President, also his moral difficulties are solved when he discovers that his parentage is other and better than he supposed. There is a pleasing touch of the fairy tale situation too about the way in which as Secretary of the Interior he is able to reward Milton, who has known him in the desert only as "Mr. Just Smith." Finally he scores off the wicked newspaper proprietor and all his other enemies in the most satisfyingly complete manner.

With such a popular theme, such a popular author and the really jolly chapters in the wilds, "The Enchanted Canyon" is sure to be read and enjoyed by a great many people.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Getting the World to Work." By Sir Charles W. Macara, Bt. (Manchester: Messrs. Sherratt & Hughes. 5s. net.)

"Angora et la France: une réponse à M. Franklin-Bouillon." Par E. Nicol. (Paris: Société Générale d'imprimerie et d'édition. 2 francs.)

"The Second Year of the League: A Study of the Second Assembly of the League of Nations." By Harold W. V. Temperley. (London: Hutchinson & Co. 6s. net.)

"Under Ten Viceroy: Reminiscences of a Gurkha." By Major-General Nigel Woodyatt, C.B. (London: Herbert Jenkins, Ltd.)

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.**To-day.**

June 22 (New Style).

June 9 (Old Style).

Shawal 26, 1340 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.

Sivan 26, 5682 of the Jewish Calendar.

The Shah of Persia has left Versailles for Switzerland.

Prince George of Greece has arrived in Paris from Athens.

Mr. Schuller tot Peursum has been appointed Dutch Minister at Belgrade.

The Hon. Mrs. Patrick Macnaghten has returned to 71, Knightsbridge, from India.

Mr. C. T. Allen, C.I.E., has arrived in London from India, travelling by the P. and O. 'China.'

Gholam Ghows Khan has arrived in London from Berlin to act as Secretary at the Afghan Legation.

Mr. Ronald Firbank has returned to London from Florence and for a few weeks will be at 49a Pall Mall.

Mr. A. R. Banarji has been appointed Dewan (Chief Minister) of Mysore in succession to Sir M. Kantaraj Urs, the Maharajah's uncle.

Colonel D. Kalafatovitch, Military Attaché to the Legation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes in Paris, arrived in London last week.

M. Mastus Ilitch, formerly Secretary to the Legation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, has been appointed Chargé d'Affaires in Albania.

The Earl of Ronaldshay has accepted the offer of the freedom of Richmond, Yorkshire, which will be conferred on him when he returns home from India.

Sir Malcolm McIlwraith, K.C.M.G., K.C., and Sir George R. Lowndes, K.C.S.I., K.C., have been elected Benchers of the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn.

The Minister of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, with M. S. Yovanovitch, Secretary of the Legation, has left for The Hague to act as principal Serbian delegate.

M. Dimitri Stancioff, Bulgarian Minister in London, who also represents his Government in Holland, has left for The Hague in connection with the present Conference.

The engagement is announced between Rear-Admiral Raymond Nugent, C.M.G., and Violent Graham, widow A. J. Carew, Indian Police, and daughter of T. F. Leadbitter, of Warden, Northumberland.

The King has given Mr. John Archibald Scott authority to wear the insignia of the Third Class of the Order of the Nile, conferred on him by the King of Egypt in recognition of valuable services.

Lord Allenby moved from Cairo to Alexandria on June 16, for the summer. The Court of King Fuad and

the seat of the Egyptian Government is being transferred there this week.

An exhibition and sale began yesterday and is being continued until July 5 of peasant wares from Czecho-Slovakia, at 92, Victoria Street, S.W.1. Czecho-Slovak and other sketches by Miss Mary Swanzy will be shown.

The annual dinner of the Gurkha Brigade was held at the Grand Hotel last week. Field-Marshal Sir A. A. Barrett, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., K.C.V.O., was in the chair, and seventy officers of the Brigade attended.

Princess Andrew of Greece has arrived at Spencer House, St. James's, accompanied by her daughters Princess Marguerite, Princess Theodora, Princess Cécile and Princess Sophie, and her son, Prince Philip of Greece.

On his way through Liubliana on June 10, H.R.H. the Duke of York received a small deputation, consisting of Dr. G. Gregorin, Dr. Skaberné, M. B. Bogdanovitch, and Miss F. Copeland, of the Yugoslav Society for the Study of English.

King Alexander of Yugoslavia, on his wedding-day, announced in a letter to the Premier his resolve to give a million dinars at once and three hundred thousand dinars annually towards the creation of boarding-schools in his kingdom.

The engagement is announced between Captain H. H. Berridge, R.A.S.C., elder son of Mr. H. Berridge, C.I.E., O.B.E., and Mrs. Berridge, Aden, and Betty, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Rogers, 24, Charleville Road, Kensington.

The engagement is announced of Mr. Vincent Hart, Public Works Department, Madras, younger son of John S. Hart and the late Mrs. Hart, of Westmere, Western Road, Cork, and Mary Evelyne, daughter of Thomas Sheedy and Mrs. Sheedy, of Fairview, Cork.

A marriage has been arranged between William Lindsay Murphy, Ceylon Civil Service, son of the late Canon R. W. Murphy, and Mrs. Murphy, 42, Eaton Square, Dublin, and Betty Mary, daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel T. Ormsby, D.S.O., and Mrs. Ormsby, of Darroch, Luss, N.B.

The marriage arranged between Hester, youngest daughter of the late Sir Trevor Chichele-Plowden, K.C.S.I., and the Hon. Lady Chichele-Plowden, and Kenneth Gordon, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Poland, of Downlands, Bramshott, Hants, will take place in London in September.

The engagement is announced of Edgar Ernest Spencer, of Colombo, late Major, Machine Gun Corps, second surviving son of Charles W. Spencer and Mrs. Spencer, of Woolwich, and Dorothy Mabel, youngest daughter of the Rev. Hubert and Mrs. Griffith, of Glasbury-on-Wye, Radnorshire.

The engagement is announced of the Hon. Ewen Edward Samuel Montagu, second son of Lord and Lady Swaythling, of Townhill Park, Southampton, and of 28 Kensington Court, W., and of Iris Rachel, younger daughter of Mr. Solomon J. Solomon, P.R.B.A., R.A., and Mrs. Solomon, of 18, Hyde Park Gate, S.W.

Under the auspices of the Persia Society, Mr. Victor Mallet was to have delivered a lecture yesterday (June 21) on "Isfahan and Shah Abbas" at the Geological Society's Lecture Room, Burlington House. He was prevented, however, from being present, and in his absence Sir Thomas Arnold, C.I.E. read a paper on Persian Painting.

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A marriage has been arranged, and will take place shortly, between Captain J. R. Ray Brown, 13-16 Cavalry, I.A., only son of the late Mr. W. Ray Brown and Mrs. Ray Brown, of Lansdown, Bath, and Margaret, third daughter of Major T. C. Toler, of Saltersford Hall, Cheshire, and niece of Mr. R. A. Fox, Yate, Gloucestershire.

At the Church of St. Martha, on the Surrey Downs, above Albury, Lieutenant-Colonel Barnard Cecil Freyburg, V.C., C.M.G., D.S.O., was married by special licence on June 14 to the Hon. Mrs. Francis McLaren. The manner in which Colonel Freyburg won his D.S.O. at Gallipoli while in command of the Hood Battalion is now famous.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place between Captain L. M. Kerr, M.C., West Yorkshire Regiment, son of the late Colonel J. M. Kerr, and Ellen Beatrice ("Bice"), widow of Captain G. W. Hopton, of Homend, near Ledbury, and elder daughter of Sir Charles Oakeley, Bt., and Lady Oakeley, Frittenden House, Frittenden, Kent.

APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS.

Major C. J. Galpin, D.S.O., B.A. Oxon (son of Canon F. W. Galpin, rector of Faulkbourne), who has held office in the Air Ministry, has been appointed Financial Adviser to the General Officer Commanding in Palestine, and will take up his residence at Lydda, near Jerusalem, during the coming month.

BIRDS IN BAGHDAD.

By E. S. STEVENS.

"The voice of the turtle is heard in the land."

In spring the hoarse cooing of the doves and pigeons is heard in every garden and from every mosque courtyard. The children, droning the Koran in the first spring warmth while their schoolmaster nods, watch the pigeons outside bowing and cooing in the bright sunshine, or clustering for shelter on the shady side of the great blue dome of the mosque. They know that the pigeon is making his prostration towards Mecca and uttering the holy name; for the pigeon is a hajji, like the stork, "Hajji Lak-lak," who returns year after year to his nest on rooftop or turret. As for the doves, who make vehement protest to each other all through the spring, any Baghdad child will tell you that he is saying—

Rough translation:—

<i>Cucu ukhti!</i>	Coo-Coo, Sister.
<i>Wein ukhti?</i>	Where is my sister?
<i>Bil Hillah!</i>	In Hillah.
<i>Wesh takil?</i>	And what does she eat there?
<i>Barjilla.</i>	Beans, my brother.
<i>Wesh tisharab?</i>	And what does she drink there?
<i>Moy Allah.</i>	Allah's waters.
<i>Wein tenam?</i>	And where does she sleep?
<i>Bab Allah.</i>	At the gate of Allah.

The wild pigeons, who love to nestle on the domes and minarets of the mosques, are called *taier etwarni* and there is a pretty legend about them. When Hussein was killed at Kerbella, the pigeons in pity flew down to mourn. Their feet were imbrued in his blood, and ever since then, their feet are blood-red and featherless. It is they who have aided the decay of the oldest minaret in Baghdad in the Souk el Gazl. Tradition says that the Khalif Mutassem, who built the mosque of which the minaret is the only remaining part, was at his devotions one day when he noticed his attendants chasing away a poor dervish, who had come to say his prayers. He ordered his servants to desist, scolded them for over-zeal, and presented the humble holy man with a purse of money. The beggar gave the Khalif a cageful of pet pigeons, his only possession, in gratitude. The Khalif released them, and they flew off to take possession of the minaret, where they and their descendants have lodged ever since.

In the old days, before the coming of the telegraph,

carrier pigeons were employed to announce the setting out of caravans from Baghdad to their destination, or from Damascus to Baghdad.

The Iraqis are very fond of the *bul-bul*, and in coffee-house and mosque the *bul-bul* sits in his wicker cage, piping out his few melodious notes, liquid and clear. They like to give him a little wine, or a few pomegranate seeds, as he sings more garrulously when he is intoxicated. They interpret his song as a perpetual begging of roses:

Shedda warid

Abu el warid.

"A bunch of roses,

Father of Roses (rose-seller)"

is his plea reiterated incessantly. He is a quarrelsome fellow, the *bul-bul*, with his grey body and black-cap, and the sparrows have great respect for him.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 1922.

THE STATUS OF THE SUDAN.

If ever the adage that a stitch in time saves nine is true, it is applicable with special force in all dealings with the East or with natives, and we would appeal most earnestly to the British Government to lose no time in settling once and for all the status of the Sudan. In Western countries protracted negotiations on any given subject are understood; the time that can be devoted to a single question is limited in view of the host of other things that demand the attention of a Cabinet or the responsible authorities. It is otherwise in the East; the point at issue is all-absorbing; for the moment nothing else matters. This is the position to-day in the Sudan with regard to its future status, while in Egypt the question is in the forefront of the controversy raging round the terms of the treaty to be made with Great Britain. We can only take the native mind as we find it. There may be ample justification according to British ideas, and judged by all the canons of international practice, for the course of action pursued at this juncture by the British Government; but if it is misunderstood by the Sudanese and trouble ensues, as it has in Egypt and Iraq, Great Britain will cut a sorry figure in her own eyes as well as in those of the world at large. As a preliminary to the consideration of the Sudan question, it is necessary that we should disabuse our minds of the idea that the Sudanese are an inarticulate handful of unsophisticated natives, on whose part any attempt to express or even to hold an opinion may be treated with derision. This complacent view of the stay-at-home is out of date. The inhabitants of the Sudan may still be in a primitive state; but the War has familiarised them with most of the shibboleths of the modern State system, and they are as resolved to hold on to them as are Albanians, Egyptians or the Arabs of Iraq. Moreover on several occasions since the Sudan Delegation came to England in 1919 the British Government has asked the Sudan, or permitted it to say, what kind of Government it desired. On this point it has invariably been quite clear in its own mind and emphatic in all its declarations. It has asked for the elimination of the Egyptian element in the Sudan Administration. When, therefore, after three years the Sudanese see that nothing has been done to remove Egyptian officials, that the latter instead of disappearing, are openly or covertly preaching the disappearance of the British, and that Great Britain not only tolerates the most exaggerated claims on the part of Egypt, but also seems to shirk discussion by making the Sudan a reserved subject, is it to be wondered at that their confidence in Great Britain is being shaken? All the time they are being subjected to various kinds of political, social and religious pressure, where they are not actually the victims of intrigue and intimidation. Such a state of affairs must before long demoralize the best and the most loyal of native peoples; and it is for the sake of avoiding trouble in yet another country for which Great Britain is responsible that we would urge the British Government to terminate without further delay the present uncertainty regarding the status of the Sudan.

There can be no illusions as to the difficulties in the way of immediate action. In the first place, there is

the Egyptian complication. Any seemingly high-handed policy in regard to the Sudan, it may be feared, will jeopardise the prospect of an amicable arrangement with Egypt; it may wreck the treaty altogether, or it may render the position of Sarwat Pasha, the present Prime Minister, impossible and so postpone indefinitely the Egyptian settlement. Further negotiations with Egypt over the Sudan, it may be thought, must prove a delicate matter in view of the Anglo-Egyptian Convention of 1899, and of the fact that the country has been supported financially in the past by Egypt. All these points will have to be settled sooner or later, and there is a strong argument for prompt measures, when it can be shown that delay may add to existing complications with Egypt a Sudan that has become a prey to unrest. It is true that the Agreement of 1899 established an Anglo-Egyptian condominium over the Sudan. In the words of Lord Cromer, who was responsible for its terms, the Sudan was to be governed by a partnership of two, but "England was the predominant member." To understand the Convention we have to put ourselves back into the days when it was drafted. Egypt was still under the suzerainty of Turkey, and the Sudan was nominally an annexe of Egypt. But its reconquest by Great Britain with Egyptian help introduced an entirely new factor into the situation, and the British Government determined that an end must be put to any possible fiction of Turkish suzerainty over the Sudan. It simplified matters to have Egypt associated with Great Britain in the new order; but there was no ambiguity as to where actual control would be vested. The Preamble to the Convention stated that "it is desired to give effect to the claims which have accrued to Her Britannic Majesty's Government by right of conquest to share in the present settlement and future working and development of the said system of administration and legislation." According to Article 2 the British and Egyptian flags were to fly together; but by Article 10 it was the previous consent of the British Government alone that was required before consuls, vice-consuls or consular agents could be accredited in respect of, or be allowed to reside in, the Sudan. When circumstances arise which put an end to the condominium, it would be strange indeed if the territory in question reverted to the country which had had the smaller share in its development, particularly when the people concerned have shown unmistakably their determination not to submit to Egyptian jurisdiction. It is true that Egypt has made herself financially responsible for the development of the Sudan; but there is some force in the contention that the payments may be regarded as premiums paid on a policy of insurance of which Egypt had already received the full benefit.

In January, 1899, Great Britain was anxious to disarm criticism on the part of the European Powers. The nominal association of Egypt in the future status of the Sudan helped to accomplish this; but in the opinion of Lord Cromer it was the firm attitude adopted by Great Britain and her clear intention to carry out her programme regardless of what others might say that won general acceptance for her policy in regard to the Sudan. There can be no doubt that in the same way to-day a firm attitude will overcome all difficulties. The main facts of the case are not in dispute. Egypt claims the Sudan; but the Sudanese will have none of her jurisdiction, and any attempt to enforce it on Egypt's part would plunge the country again into the state from which it was rescued in 1898. On the other hand the interests of Egypt in regard to the Nile water have to be safeguarded. So long as the Sudan question remains unsettled, the Egyptians will feel obliged to put forward exaggerated claims. The position of any Ministry will be compromised only if it abandons those claims after negotiation; if it is confronted with Great Britain's decision as an accomplished fact, attention in Egypt will soon be distracted from the Sudan to more pressing affairs at home. An immediate settlement, therefore, will be of genuine assistance to the Moderates of Egypt, among whom the present Ministry must be reckoned; it

will be of lasting benefit to the Sudan, and it will save Great Britain embarrassment and expense. The present status of the Sudan, in Lord Cromer's words, was "the child of opportunism"; and he added: "should it eventually die and make place for some more robust, because more real, political creation, its authors need not bewail its fate." The condominium was never real, because the government of the country by inspiration and in practice was British solely. It must remain so, until it becomes Sudani.

CROSS CURRENTS IN MESOPOTAMIA. Arab, Kurd and Englishman.

BY THE REV. W. A. WIGRAM, D.D.

(Concluded.)

IV.

In the Kurd we have a problem that, for the time being is a simpler one, though in a few years it may well be that the question of the future relations of the kingdom of Iraq to those of Kurdish districts that must go with it, will become a difficult one. Life in the Middle East would be far simpler, if only incompatible types would sort themselves, automatically, into separable areas. However, if the problem is bad in Iraq, at least it is worse in Anatolia!

The Kurd is a hillman, and will not go far from the hills into which, in summer, it is his way to take up his sheep—and sometimes those of his neighbours: he is still semi-nomadic, sometimes wholly so. He will not go under the Arab, on any terms. It was proposed, not so long ago, to send an Arab governor to a certain Kurdish township, not very far from Mosul. "He will not be here long, Sahib," said the local notables to their English shepherd. "Why not?" asked the 'Adviser' concerned. "Because we shall kill him," said the Kurds with a charming simplicity, and went on to explain how much they liked their English controller! The little incident gave the whole situation *in pello*. Given "advisers" of the right type—and Allah has decreed that these shall be plentiful in England—men who can wander with them, eat and shoot with them, chaff with them in their own tongue, and given also a policy that will leave the hillmen alone, barring open disorder and rank oppression, then the power that those advisers can wield will be enormous, and Kurdistan will—as actually happened—sit quiet and pay its dues when all Iraq is in revolt. Genuine liking, as always, grows up between "adviser" and tribesmen in such a case, liking that is sometimes pushed almost to taking up their quarrels!

"If you cannot find out who lifted the cattle of my good friend Abd-el-Selim," wrote one Adviser once to his neighbour, "I shall just let him raid your villages." "Very sorry for your friend's cows," came the answer, "but if he comes raiding my peaceful villages, it will be my painful duty to shoot him." There is a salt of danger in the life of the "Adviser," and it is a rough one, spent mostly on horseback, wandering among those whom he controls. He is dealing with a rough type, whether it be Christian or Moslem, and a bullet from an ambush is always possible, not so much from desire to assassinate him, as from desire to get some third party into trouble!

There are difficulties and problems of course, partly those due to the passing of a feudal society, now gradually dying from natural causes. As one chief put it, "If those of the rank of Beg are not to be allowed to call on villagers for forced labour and *corvée*, how are they to live? You would not have them work." To

answer, with Talleyrand, "where is the necessity for their living?" does not meet the difficulty. Even a trusted local official may look back longingly on joyful old days, and when halting on a journey with the "Hakim" to get some breakfast, may remark reminiscently, "It was just here that we plundered the caravan of Yezidis, and I captured their leader with my own hands." Administrative problems have their humorous side. Where else could you find a local official making up a deficit in the revenue (he being a pious Moslem) by fining everybody who would not say his prayers? It is true there is British precedent, if of doubtful origin.

"Old Daddy long-legs, wouldn't say his prayers, Take him by the left leg and throw him down-stairs."

We fear that the local lack of a stair-case prevents strict application of the precedent, but there are plenty of precipices!

Troubles of internal origin are not the only plague of Kurdistan. Turkish intrigues and attempts to stir up a chronic rebellion, that will justify Turkish claims at the coming peace conference, are also to be feared. There is, of course, no reason to complain of this; the Turk, whether at Angora or at Constantinople, has not made peace with us, and therefore is still at war. Why should he not "annoy the enemy"? It is true that four years ago, at the time of the Armistice, he was willing and anxious to accept any terms that we cared to lay down, with thanks to Allah that they were not more severe. Our European statesmen, however, in their wisdom elected to waste time till the Turk had recovered from the shock, as an empire of primitive organization can do, wherefore we see what we do see now.

In Kurdistan, however, there is little love for the Turk as such, and none for the Ottoman official. Nor are those in the tribal stage of life articulate enough as yet to demand a "national government." They really cannot be said to want anything positive, except to be left alone, each petty *agha* governing his own tribe, and if that is allowed them, would probably acquiesce in the right of the Government to put a stop to open raiding. Turkish intriguers go up and down the land, even Turkish filibusters—the term is not quite a just one, when a state of war exists—make themselves a nuisance now and then. Still, this seed falls on no very receptive soil. At least one prominent chief, who once came near to being hanged by the British for his misdeeds, but was ultimately confirmed in his office, is now so reconciled to British control that he sent down his taxes for the year wrapped up in the formal invitation to attend an "anti-British congress" at Jezireh, that had been sent him by the "Committee of Union and Progress."

Another, when asked by a British officer whether the intrigues he knew were in progress were dangerous, replied with a parable that at least is worth quoting, and that one hopes answers to the facts: "Trouble not at that, Sahib. Behold, the intrigues of the Turks with us Kurds, they are like unto the love affairs of mules. Some noise and excitement, but no result."

Broadly then, there seems to be no reason why Mesopotamia should not go well, if all are content that it should go slow. Attempts have been made, with the very best intentions, to hurl Iraq from the days of Harun-er-Rashid to the twentieth century in a matter of two years or so. Whether the feudalism plus Islam of Arabia is capable of adopting (or would be benefited by adopting) a democracy which is distinctly on its trial in the West, is perhaps not quite certain. At least changes that took ten centuries in the West, had better not be forced on in one generation, even by the Arab.



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Egyptian Press Views.

The Sudan.

The future of the Sudan still occupies the foremost place in the Arabic Press. The *Ahram*, e.g., in a long article by a well-known lawyer, contends that Egypt and the whole of the Nile Sudan regions have always been practically one country. Egypt, the writer says, conquered the Sudan when temporarily disunited, at great cost under Mohammed Ali and Ismail. In 1885, under British pressure, Egypt evacuated part of it, but only, it was understood, temporarily. Sherif Pasha, then Prime Minister, resigned because he would not recognise the evacuation. In 1894 Riaz Pasha in a communication to Sir Evelyn Baring, said that no one could think of the two countries as separate, and the Khedive's Government protested against any aggression in the Sudan. A Blue Book of October, 1898, shows that Boutros Pasha Ghali, in a letter to Lord Salisbury, stated that the Egyptian Government was compelled to evacuate a part of the Sudan, but that it still insisted on recovery of what was an essential part of Egypt. European Powers recognised the sovereign rights of Egypt, and the Anglo-Italian treaty of 1891 shows this. In 1894 Lord Salisbury stated to the French Ambassador that the whole Nile Valley belonged to Egypt. Lord Rosebery at Epsom in 1898 said, "we are working to give back to Egypt what is considered by all European Powers a part of that country." In *The Times* of November 15, 1897, was published part of a treaty with Italy which provided that the part occupied by Italy would be held only temporarily until the Egyptian Government was in a position to take it back. England helped Egypt to recover the Sudan provinces, but in the name of Egypt and as her ally. Instructions given to Lord Kitchener directed that Egyptian control was to be established. He protested against planting the French flag at Fashoda, informing the French officer that he was hoisting the Egyptian flag on what was the territory of the Khedive, as requested. (Lord Cromer's report, 1898.) The numbers of troops employed in the Sudan were 25,000 Egyptians and only 8,000 British. The latter force never exceeded 2,000. The cost of the expedition was two-and-a-half million, of which two-thirds was paid by Egypt. The one-third paid by England was paid not because Egypt refused to pay, but because the Egyptian Debt Commissioners objected to the payment by Egypt of more than two-thirds. Since the province was retaken the total cost of work carried out in the Sudan (including administration, irrigation work, dams, etc.) was five-and-a-half millions, which was paid by Egypt. Since the reconquest of the Sudan the cost of the army of occupation has amounted to thirteen millions. This was borne by the Egyptian Government. Ten thousand Egyptian troops have maintained order and security. Britain has kept only 1,000, at a cost of two millions. All these facts show conclusively that the Sudan is a part of Egypt. Agreements made in 1899 do not affect the question of sovereignty; they only indicate that Britain would control the Sudan, not as a sovereign power, but in an administrative capacity only. The flying of the British flag with that of Egypt was intended to lessen European complications, arising out of the Capitulations, and to help Egypt over her difficulties. England professed not to supersede, but to share Egyptian responsibilities. The writer states that he proposes to offer suggestions for an agreement which would provide for a new mode of cooperation now needed; but these have not yet appeared.

Ahmed Zekki Pasha, who is Secretary of the "Eastern Union," claims that the sources of the Nile were discovered by Arabs (Egyptians). He is about to publish the translation of a book written by Fadbullah el-Amâry (1236 A.D.) in which the author gives a description of the Great Lakes, "the discovery of which has been claimed by British explorers."

All these views of the Sudan question are, of course, widely read.

Kopts and Moslems.

Another topic which arouses considerable interest, and regarding which many letters are being addressed to the Press, relates to a proposal by one Tewfik Dos, a lawyer and member of the Commission, that minorities should be represented in the new Parliament. This refers to the Koptic minority in the Egyptian nation. The proposal is opposed by Abdel-el-Hamid Bey Bédawi, who is Secretary to the Council of Ministers and was a member of the Adly delegation. It is also opposed by the Kopts themselves. They held a large meeting, at which many Zaghloulists, both Moslem and Kopt, were present, and it was decided to oppose the proposal. The Kopts, it should be said, have been all along very favourable to Zaghloul, who always had Kopts with him at meetings, and appears in many photographs attended by members of that community. It is contended by the Nationalists that the Egyptian people are one, and should not be regarded as divided into a majority and a minority, or according to religious differences. Members of the new Parliament should be elected from the nation as one. If there were a recognised minority, i.e., a Koptic, it would only give an opportunity for British interference in matters that might affect or be held to prejudice the Koptic section. It is a strange fact that the Kopts have been holding meetings in Moslem mosques, and Kopts have even preached, or given addresses, in the Azhar, while Moslems have held some in Koptic churches.

[This recalls what happened in Constantinople after the revolution of 1908, when Moslems embraced and kissed Armenians in the streets, and when brotherhood and everlasting unity, irrespective of race and creed were proclaimed. History thus seems in a way to repeat itself at Cairo; but it is to be hoped there will be no resemblance in the sequel.]

General Notes.

A prize was recently offered for the best book in Arabic on Egypt under Ismail Pasha. Out of twelve competitors the Egyptian Academy have awarded the prize to Elias el-Eyoubi. King Fuad has given £100 to the prize winner for the carrying out of a translation of the essay into French. It will be published by the Academy.

Sir William Willcocks, who is at present at Helouan, and whose activity is as great as ever, is engaged amongst other calls on his time in translating into spoken Arabic parts of the Bible. Great interest is taken in the work, and the translation, which will appear side by side with the English version will, it is already clear, be welcomed in wide circles.

BRITISH JEWS AND PALESTINE.

At a meeting of the Joint Foreign Committee of the Jewish Board of Deputies and the Anglo-Jewish Association held in London last week, the following resolution was unanimously adopted on the motion of Mr. O. E. d'Avigdor Goldsmid, President of the Anglo-Jewish Association, seconded by Sir Stuart M. Samuel, President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews:—That the Joint Foreign Committee of the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the Anglo-Jewish Association respectfully urges his Majesty's Government to use their best endeavours to secure the approval of the Mandate for Palestine at the ensuing meeting of the Council of the League of Nations, and also appeals to the Council to ratify the Mandate to Great Britain without further delay.

It was announced last week in the Maltese Legislative Assembly that the Imperial Government had approved a scheme for raising a local force, consisting of a cadre, which could be expanded into a battalion on mobilization.

Mr. Henry Casolani, superintendent of Maltese Emigration, left London last week for Malta.

The Governor of Bengal has appointed a Retrenchment Committee with Sir Asutosh Mookerjee as president and with two British and two Indian members, for the purpose of effecting a reduction in expenditure in local government.

A strike has broken out among Indian seamen at Calcutta as the result of certain men refusing to sign on again until increased wages had been granted. The number of strikers is estimated at ten thousand. All shipping in Calcutta is affected.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

In consequence of inquiries, the Editor thinks it advisable to state that the quotation from any article does not necessarily imply that the views expressed are shared by "The Near East." On the contrary, an attempt is made to include as far as is possible in the available space all sides of the various questions discussed.

The Policy and Prospects of Bulgaria.

The *Contemporary Review* for May contains an article by Lady Grogan on "Bulgaria and the Treaty of Neuilly." After sketching events in Bulgaria from the outbreak of the European War to the advent in August, 1919, of M. Stamboliisky, the writer outlines the actual and potential state of the country thus :—

As a natural consequence of his desire for peace, Stamboliiski has ruled Macedonia out of his programme and, for the first time since Bulgaria became a State, Macedonia plays no part in the policy of the country. It has been hard for the Macedonian community in Bulgaria to acquiesce in this abandonment of what has seemed the most sacred duty of all Bulgars, and harder still for the Bulgars of Macedonia itself, who, in spite of the desperate struggles of many generations, now see their schools and churches closed, while the use of their own tongue is forbidden to them. The murder of M. Dimitrov, whose duty it was as War Minister to take active measures against the formation of bands, has been attributed to a group of more desperate Macedonians, but the recognised Macedonian organisations in Bulgaria now confine themselves to relief work among the refugees and to efforts at Geneva with reference to the rights of minorities. For the moment, it may well be that, as regards Macedonia, the Gambetta policy *n'en parler jamais, y penser toujours* is the wisest for Bulgaria.

If the main objects of the Peace Treaties were, in the first place, to render it impossible for the late enemy countries to make war again and, secondly, to make them pay, as far as possible, for the war losses, then the first of these objects has, in the case of Bulgaria, been completely attained, but if she is to pay her reparation obligations in full, she must of necessity be granted some delay and something must be done to increase her revenues. The best way to ensure such an increase is, according to Bulgarian economists, to give her free access to the Ægean, that is to say, by the fulfilment of the promise made in the Treaty itself. A further relief to the situation would be the early recall of the various Allied Commissions, or at all events a great reduction of their personnel. These Commissions constitute a heavy financial burden on an almost ruined country, and the presence of many foreigners, who seem to have little to do and a great deal of money to spend, who occupy the best houses and command the use of a host of motor cars, is calculated to embitter the population. In Bulgaria the standard of life has always been of the simplest ; in Sofia before the war there were scarcely half a dozen Bulgarian families which could be said to entertain at all ; at present the professional classes, army officers, ex-Cabinet Ministers, and yet more, pensioners and dependents of former officials are

many of them in absolute want. The fact that a typist in the Allied Commission receives the equivalent of two and a half times the salary of a Cabinet Minister speaks for itself. The history of these Commissions in Central Europe, if ever it comes to be written without reserve, will hardly form one of the proudest chapters in the chronicles of the Allies.

The redistribution of territory provided for by the Treaties, which, though it also served punitive ends, brought independence or racial re-union to many nationalities in Europe, deprived over a million Bulgars in Thrace and Macedonia of all hopes of such independence or re-union. These peasants had no part in causing the war and punishment has fallen heavily on them. It is not easy to see how their lot can be improved, unless the League of Nations is able to provide permanent Inspectors of Minorities, or Special Commissioners—on the lines now proposed by the Entente Foreign Ministers—who must be supported by the entire authority of the League.

As regards home politics, Stamboliiski has, as far as possible, broken with the old *régime*. If he had his way, probably nearly all former Ministers would be in prison at this moment, and even such moderate fortunes as are found in Bulgaria would be confiscated for the good of the State. But though the Agrarians have tried to make a clean break with the past, they have preserved the dynasty. King Boris' position is not an easy one : his father is held up to execration almost daily in the Press and in the public utterances of his Ministers, but the people dissociate him from all connection with the past. He was born among them and has been brought up among them, he belongs to their faith and speaks their language as his own, and the simplicity of his life and his devotion to the service of his people have gained their respect and warm affection.

Some of the legislation planned or adopted by the Agrarians is interesting, if experimental in character : e.g., the measures providing for ten days' compulsory service (road-making, bridge building, planting of trees, etc.) annually for the State from all persons of the community ; expropriation of Crown and Church lands and properties of over 300 *decares* for the benefit of landless men ; and exclusion of professors and lawyers from the Sobranje. The Agrarians, though they may not all be saints or sages, do at all events represent the people, inasmuch as they are of them, as the rulers of the country have never been before, and it is their real desire to re-establish the credit and prosperity of the country. Such a time is still far distant : there are heavy reparations to be paid, costly foreign commissions to maintain, evil traditions in public life to be abandoned, the good opinion and confidence of Europe to be regained before Bulgaria can take the place among small nations for which the intelligence, courage and industry of her people qualify her. In spite of all her difficulties there has been no disorder, no sort of Bolshevism in Bulgaria, the peasant loves his land and the prospect of peace far too well to risk adventures of the kind, and to him work is the breath of life. In books of Balkan travel, there is hardly a mention of the Bulgars after the Turkish conquest until late in last century. The uncouth figures, clad in sheepskins, which

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plodded behind ploughs roughly fashioned from limbs of trees, or beside ox wagons of primeval form, seemed to the traveller, as they moved painfully across the Balkan plains, to be as much a part of the landscape as the rocks and trees; but if the western traveller spoke at all of this dumb peasantry, it was to comment on their persistent, continuous, undaunted toil. The hope for Bulgaria lies in the strong character and unremitting toil of her peasants.

Armenia.

Writing in the *Daily Telegraph* of May 27, Mr. W. E. D. Allen discusses the fate of Armenia and problem of its settlement. He shows the present Turkish attitude towards Armenia:—

The Kemalists now maintain that the Armenian question has been definitely settled by this Treaty of Kars, and refuse to consider any of the clauses of the Treaty of Sèvres which provide for the establishment of an independent Armenia out of the Eastern Provinces of Turkey. On the other hand, the Allies are pledged by the Treaty to Armenian independence. Further, the most elementary considerations of justice and humanity require that at least some autonomous homeland should be provided for the Armenians. By the arbitration of President Wilson the larger part of the four eastern provinces of Turkey—Trebizond, Erzeroum, Van and Bitlis—were to be included in Armenia. Of these provinces, the first was inhabited by a majority of Pontine Greeks, but it was considered necessary to the economic life of Armenia, since it comprised all the Black Sea coast. The other three provinces were inhabited by Mussulmans (Turks and Kurds) and Armenians, in varying proportions. In fact, had the Wilson decision been carried out, at least 40 per cent. of the population of Armenia would have been Mussulmans.

After estimating the present Armenian population in Asia Minor at 180,000, he states that their repatriation would be not only just and humane but also useful in reviving the local industries of Eastern Turkey, and concludes:—

The attitude of the Kemalists is that with the conclusion of a general peace they are willing to concede the same rights to the Armenians as those allowed to minorities in Roumania and Czechoslovakia under the Treaty of Trianon. But it is not to be expected that such a concession, with the historic examples of previous ineffectiveness in various parts of Turkey, will inspire the Armenians with sufficient confidence to induce them to return in any considerable numbers. At least the establishment is necessary of some autonomous area, protected by international guarantee from Turkish military interference. The concession to the Armenians of the whole of the territories mentioned under the Wilson decision is both impracticable and undesirable. At the present time the political aspect of the Armenian question has ceased to exist. The Armenians have been so decimated that they are not now a danger to the Turks. But while their existence as a minority in many provinces in Turkey might be a constant source of friction, and might prejudice the relations of Turkey with foreign Powers, their concentration in a small autonomous area would impose only a slight territorial loss on the Ottoman State, and would at the same time tend to localise them. There is no doubt that the bulk of the Armenian peasantry, who have always been a real military danger on Turkey's eastern frontier, would settle in the autonomous area, while the few thousands of traders who might remain in towns in Turkey would have no political significance. On bases, therefore, of both geography and ethnology, it would be well to allot to an autonomous Armenia the Sanjak of Alashgird, in the vilayet of Erzeroum, and the whole of the vilayet of Van. At the same time the Turks might receive a decree of local compensation by the confirmation by the Powers of their possession of Kars and Ardaghan,

ceded to them by the Treaty of Kars. These two districts are inhabited by a majority of Mussulmans.

International assistance in the reconstruction of the autonomous Armenian area would be essential. Such assistance need not, however, involve any great expenditure. It would be necessary to maintain a small force of international gendarmerie, which might be gradually replaced by a native militia. At the same time a small loan would be required to facilitate the purchase of agricultural materials and the reconstruction of villages. In all this work the wide organisation of the Near East Relief would be invaluable. Indeed, that very efficient body might be entrusted to a large degree with the administration of the reconstruction. Such a scheme would be fundamentally humanitarian. But it would only be the satisfaction of the requirements of ordinary justice, and at the same time it would be a practical contribution to the economic revival of the Middle East.

TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

The subjoined headings are those given in the official report.

Greece and Turkey.—Poland and Roumania (Troops, Eastern Frontiers).—Egypt.—Iraq.—Government of India Act, 1919 (Draft Rules).—(Monday, 12th June.)

Brigand Attacks, Chanak (British Casualties).—Europe and Asia (Oil Concessions).—(Tuesday, 13th June.)

Samsun (Bombardment).—Sudan (Status).—Near East (Alleged Massacres).—(Wednesday, 14th June.)

Palestine: Imports and Exports.—Mandate and Contracts.—Railways.—Near East (Massacres). Ceylon (Constitution). Anatolian Situation. India: Babu Tarapada Mukerji.—Insulators (Tenders.)

A Constantinople message says that the Genoa Oriental Congress between Eastern Governments has been postponed at the express wish of M. Tchitcherin.

The Government of India have decided not to include "advisers" with the delegation to the International Labour Conference at Geneva in October.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

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Ottoman Bank Dividend.

The interesting announcement of the resumption of dividends by the Imperial Ottoman Bank was made last week. The war, of course, put an end to dividends, the last distribution being in 1913. A dividend of 5 per cent. is now proposed, which compares with 7 per cent. for 1912 and 1913, 9 per cent. for the six years to 1911, and 8 per cent. for 1905. We shall not be wrong, I think, in taking this welcome development as an indication of a definite improvement in the outlook in the Near East generally.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.

A very encouraging report is forthcoming from the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields for 1921. There was a steady development in the output during the period, the yield being 181,200 tons net as against 155,700 tons gross for 1920. The net profit of £374,837 shows a marked expansion on the previous total of £212,097, and the comparison is even more striking if account be taken of the special exploration reserve account of £100,000 which has been created. The balance of £146,002 was brought forward, making the disposable total £520,839 as compared with £332,058. Of this total it is proposed that £280,444 should be applied to the payment of dividends, leaving £239,894 to be carried forward. The distribution on the B shares will this year be 15 per cent., in addition to the fixed dividend, as compared with 10 per cent for 1920.

Exploration Work.

A less favourable account is given with regard to the exploration work. It will be recalled that reference was made in the previous report to three exploratory wells on the outlying parts of the company's original territories. Only one of them, it is stated, has met with success, and one of the licences held under the agreement of 1913 has, in consequence, been surrendered to the Government. During the year an agreement was concluded with the Egyptian Government clearly defining the period of the company's rights over the unproved parts of their territory at Gensah. A new geological survey of this area has been undertaken by the company, the results of which will be awaited with a considerable degree of interest.

The Indian Trade Commissionership.

The news that Mr. D. T. Chadwick will shortly be vacating the Indian Trade Commissionership on his promotion as Secretary to the Department of Commerce of the Government of India will occasion widespread regret in business circles here concerned in the Indian trade. It was in 1917 that Mr. Chadwick was appointed to organize an office in London with a view to the development of India's trade, and there is no question at all as to the success of his endeavours. During a very difficult period he has done much to help commerce by information, and his office in Old Broad Street is now the first resort of City men with inquiries on Indian questions. Mr. Chadwick's successor will be Mr. H. A. F. Lindsay, C.B.E., now acting Secretary to the Depart-

ment of Commerce, who has been for several years Director of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta. He will not arrive until February, and the position will be temporarily filled until then by Mr. F. Noyce, C.B.E., of the Indian Civil Service.

The New Indian Loan.

Last week saw the issue of the expected Indian Loan the size of which occasioned some surprise as the markets generally of late have been anything but buoyant, and it scarcely looked a propitious moment for the floating of a large loan. The amount was £12,500,000 in 5½ per cent. stock, the issue price being 96 per cent., this giving a yield of £5 14s. 5d., and the loan is to be devoted to railway purposes. It may be pointed out in this connection that an expenditure is provided for on the railways of £100,000 spread over five years. The first effect of the issue of the loan was to depress markets, but the position was relieved considerably by the reduction of the Bank Rate which, of course, gave an increased attraction to the loan. Despite that factor it was generally expected that a large proportion would be left with the underwriters, but the amount that has not been taken up—63 per cent.—is considerably less than anticipated.

Turkish Unified Arrears.

The recent announcement of the Council of Administration of the Ottoman Debt has doubtless come as a very pleasant and unexpected surprise to the Turkish Unified bondholders. A payment was made on account of each coupon from March, 1915, to March, 1920, of 1s. 3d., leaving 6s. 9d. due. Now a further 9d. is to be paid on each coupon. In addition an instalment of 6s. is to be paid on subsequent coupons up to March, 1922, and there is good reason for anticipating that henceforward payments will be continued with a greater degree of regularity, though in the most favourable circumstances it may be some time before the earlier coupons are met in full. The bonds, it may be pointed out, are quoted at a price which would give a most inviting yield when matters are again on a normal basis, and there are far worse securities for those who hope for capital appreciation combined with a substantial rate of interest.

Commentator.

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REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, June 12.

The Currency Question.

A definite agreement has now been arrived at between the Government and the Inter-Allied Commission regarding the question of the currency. A Bill is being drafted, and will shortly be brought before the Sobranje. The first article lays down that the issue of banknotes is not to exceed the sum of 5,400,000,000 levas. The second article provides for the establishment of control by the Inter-Allied Commission over the Bulgarian National Bank. This control will be exercised by an Allied Commissioner whose duties will be to see that the fixed issue is not surpassed, to control the debts of the Treasury towards the National Bank, to keep a general eye on the activity of the Bank, and to see that from the 4 per cent., paid by the Treasury to the Bank for the amortisation of the floating debts, 2 per cent should be returned. At present the paper currency in circulation amounts to 3,700,000,000 levas.

Civil Aviation.

The Air Department of the Post Office has called for tenders from 30 European aeroplane factories for the purchase of aeroplanes. 5,000,000 levas has been allowed in this year's budget for the purchase of these aeroplanes. The scheme is to create an aero-post between Sofia and Varna and Sofia and Bourgas. It is hoped that a start will be made this autumn and it is calculated that Varna to Sofia will take three hours allowing for ten minute stops at Plevna, Gorna-Rakovitsa, and Shoumen.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, June 10.

The goods traffic between Roumania and Yugoslavia, interrupted since 1916, will shortly be resumed. Yugoslavia was the only friendly country with which Roumania had not yet resumed a regular goods traffic by rail covered by an economic convention.

In view of Austria's serious food problem, the Roumanian Government has decided to allow consignments of cattle destined for export to Austria to be free from the home quota. Furthermore, this export will be carried on between the two Governments, in order that this concession—actuated by humanitarian considerations—may not give rise to speculation.

Sowings and Crop Outlook.

According to the last reports received by the Ministry of Agriculture, the condition of sowings is considered very good throughout the country, with the exception of certain small regions where the low temperature and too much rain have been responsible for some damage. We learn from the official statistics that up to the 15th of May the spring sowings covered the following areas (the figures representing hectares): Spring wheat: Old Kingdom 52,884, Bessarabia 235,892, Bukovina 2,236, and Transylvania 48,150; spring rye: Old Kingdom 7,047, Bessarabia 6,884, Bukovina 1,442, and Transylvania 1,866; spring barley: Old Kingdom 600,879,

Bessarabia 521,641, Bukovina 20,506, and Transylvania 67,145; oats: Old Kingdom 509,209, Bessarabia 166,211, Bukovina 22,562, and Transylvania 151,945; maize: Old Kingdom 994,089, Bessarabia 516,857, Bukovina 46,043, and Transylvania 491,406.

The above figures show that spring wheat was sown in Bessarabia on a much larger scale than in any of the other provinces. The reduced wheat cultivation, as compared to previous years, is chiefly due to the export restrictions. On the other hand, the sowings of maize, barley and oats show a considerable increase compensating for the wheat deficit.

ALBANIA.

Tirana, June 5.

Utilisation of Forests.

M. Novak is to prepare a mineralogical and geological survey of the country, assisted by two other geologists. Asbestos beds have been discovered at Voskopoli, near Kortcha, rich veins of anthracite in the neighbourhood of Tépéléna, and iron between Tépéléna and Himara.

The Albanian Government have given a concession to an Albanian company for the utilisation of forests between St. Juan de Medua and Durazzo for the cutting of sleepers for the railway. Another company has made a similar request, but it has not yet been approved.

NEW CZECHOSLOVAK IRON COMBINE.

The Czechoslovak Iron Combine held its first meeting on May 23 at Prague. It comprises nearly all the important Czechoslovak Iron Works and its object is to centralise the production of iron and iron goods as well as the sale of goods produced by its members. To this end a Central Bureau will be established to apportion home and especially foreign orders among the associated works, according to a special rate corresponding to the pre-war proportion in the output of the individual firms. The following firms are members of the combine: Prague Iron Company, Mining and Iron Company, Vitkovice Iron Works, Bohumin Cable and Wire Works, Hernad Valley Iron Works, Rotava-Nydek Iron Works, Hradek Iron Works, Rokycany Iron Works, Zbiröv Iron Works, Max Hopfengartner, Schwarz & Bock, Libsice Iron Works, Philip Coburg Iron Works, Trnava, A. Hahn, Bolumin and Frystat Iron Works.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended June 3 amounted to £5,953.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal from May 27 to June 2 amounted to 2,780,000 francs, against 2,420,000 francs.

The Imperial Bank of India has reduced its minimum rate of discount from 6 to 5 per cent.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the week ended May 20 amounted to £E.6,578; total for the year £E.39,311. For the corresponding period of last year receipts amounted to £E.7,802; total for year £E.47,514.

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British Consular Reports.

V. BULGARIA

The following extracts are taken from the report of Mr. Francis J. R. Rodd, late Secretary-in-charge, Commercial Affairs, H.M. Legation, Sofia, on the commercial and financial situation in Bulgaria :—

It is hardly possible within a short compass to give an accurate exposition of commercial and financial conditions in Bulgaria, unfortunately situated as these may be. Detail on such specific subjects as internal trade and the industrial situation is omitted to give place to such observations as may interest British traders with Bulgaria, or which bear on the general economic situation of the country. It has only been found possible to provide customs statistics for the first six months of 1921, which have, however, been added to those of the last six months of 1920 to give returns for a period of 12 months; this period, however, does not coincide either with the Bulgarian financial year, or with a year ending on the 9th August, when the tariff provisions of the Treaty of Neuilly came to an end. Financial statistics are also incomplete for the same reason.

It is clear that when the statistics for the whole of 1921 are available they will show an adverse trade balance, as has been the case ever since 1908 with the exception of the abnormal years 1915, 1916 and 1917, when imports were reduced to a minimum owing to war, while the success of the German policy in draining the country of all raw materials, especially cereals, was manifest. Before the war this adverse trade balance was due to a considerable degree to the importation of war material; it was compensated by the negotiation of foreign loans, the service on which however to-day represents a large sum of "invisible" imports not shown in the official returns but tending to aggravate the situation. As it has been impossible since the Armistice for the Bulgarian Government to negotiate a foreign or even an internal loan, this adverse balance has had serious effects on the financial position of the country. The depreciation of the leva, which is mainly due to this cause, has not even had the effect of reducing the indebtedness, as in the case of Germany, owing to the small proportions of the internal as compared with the external debt of Bulgaria. The depreciation of Bulgarian currency on all Western European markets has been constant throughout the year, with the exception of an occasional and temporary fluctuation.

It is therefore clear that the conditions have not been advantageous to the importer of foreign goods, especially from those countries having, like Great Britain, an appreciated currency. A decline in imports from Great Britain which was already manifest during the first half of the year became more serious during the autumn. British houses have experienced the greatest difficulty in securing payment where credit terms were offered besides proving unable to accept further orders which passed to Central European manufacturers.

Imports and Exports.

With the increasingly difficult exchange situation imports have declined, in spite of the apparently large leva values shown on the returns. The volume of Italian business is noteworthy. A case in point was the tender for copper sulphate for the Agricultural Bank, which, in past years, had always been awarded to a British firm, but which, in December was allocated to an Italian house. Czech enterprise has been remarkable. The import of large quantities of cheap Czech and German agricultural machinery took place. A Czech sample train visited Sofia and the principal Bulgarian towns in November with a selection of goods calculated to interest the peasants. Negotiations were in progress between the Czech and Bulgarian Governments to conclude a commercial treaty, but the delay in compiling and passing a new set of customs schedules prevented any definite stage being reached. There is an all too prevalent tendency to await an improvement in the leva, which has not so far materialised. There does not, therefore, appear very much possibility of improving the Bulgarian market for British goods at present, though a certain inevitable volume of trade, especially from Government contracts, will continue.

The exports have been fairly satisfactory, and would have been more so had the restrictions on timber and grain been removed. The Inter-Allied Commission in July insisted on the abolition of the State grain exporting monopoly vested in the Consortium, but only after it was too late to export the 1921 harvest profitably, owing to the fall of wheat prices. A form of Government control was thought to be necessary, and was maintained with the concurrence of the Inter-Allied Commission. In consequence, the

grain exports for 1921 will not reach a figure sufficient to redress the trade balance, more especially as the maize harvest was poor, owing to the lack of rain in the summer, though the earlier wheat and barley crops were fully up to average. A system of grain elevators throughout the country is necessary before the cereal assets of Bulgaria can prove their full value. An offer to construct a complete system has been made by an Anglo-American concern, but the Government has called for tenders for the construction of a main elevator and silo at Varna, with subsidiary provincial installations. The rival schemes are still under consideration. The rose oil crop was good, but that of tobacco 40 per cent. below the 1920 harvest, in spite of which export has been very satisfactory owing to the relatively small crops in Greece and Asia Minor. The principal purchasers of this year's crop of tobacco have been Central European houses. Statistics of the tobacco export during the year are not yet available.

(To be concluded)

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated June 12 :—

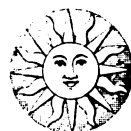
Season.—June 3—Monsoon active on Burma coast, north-east India and southern half of west coast. June 6—Strengthened in south of Peninsula and weakened in north-east India. June 7—Weakened generally. June 8—Strengthened east of Bay and rainfall increased in Burma. June 9—Increase of rainfall in Malabar and north-west India. June 10 and 11—Strengthened on west coast of Peninsula. Monsoon Forecast for 1922.—Monsoon may be delayed but total rainfall in north-west India not likely to differ far from normal in Peninsula, excluding Mysore and south and central Madras. Useful forecast not possible for Upper Burma, north-east India, Mysore and Malabar owing to conflicting indications. Condition of Crops.—June 9—Bengal—Good rain. Prospects improving. Bombay—sowings of Kharfi crops (*i.e.*, crops sown just before or during the south-west monsoon) commenced, but immediate outlook not very promising. In north-east of United Provinces rainfall on June 4 and 5 has profited sugarcane crops. June 12—Assam—Prospects of tea fair and jute and autumn rice poor.

Markets.—June 8—Bombay cotton market strong. Fine M.G. Oomras, Rs. 446 8 July, Rs. 467 September. Bombay cotton arrivals from September 1, 1921, to June 2, 1922, were 2,977,000 bales as compared with 2,234,000 bales during the same period of last year. Piece-goods.—June 8—Bombay imported piece-goods market quiet. Position regarding old stocks improving slightly. Local firms good. June 10—Calcutta jute market firm. Firsts Rs. 84. Lightnings Rs. 75. Hessians, after heavy fall early in week, firmed up later. Quotation on June 10 for 11 porters was Rs. 29. 14. Heavies steady. B. Twills quoted at Rs. 48. Shellac.—June 9—Calcutta—T.N. Rs. 196. June 10—Rangoon rice market steady. Special Straits Quality rice Rs. 512. 8 ready, three months Rs. 515. Little business done.

No change in bank rate.

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Oil Notes & News.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.

A Satisfactory Year.

The report of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields for the year 1921 states that the total estimated net production of crude oil for the year amounted to 181,231 tons as compared with a gross production of 155,719 tons in 1920. The net profit for the year, after making the usual provision for depreciation on the property of the company, as well as a special provision for exploration expenses, amounts to £374,836 11s. 6d., which, with the balance of £146,002 16s. 2d. brought forward from last year, makes a credit to the profit and loss account of £520,839 7s. 8d.

The directors recommend that the sum of £280,944 8s. 11d. be applied to the payment of dividends on the respective classes of shares as specified in the appropriation account submitted herewith, leaving the sum of £239,894 18s. 9d. to be carried forward to next year, subject to taxation. The proportion of the profits allotted, in accordance with the articles of association, to the "B" shares, allows for the payment of a dividend equal to 15 per cent. upon the "B" share capital, less tax. The dividends will be payable on June 29, and warrants will be posted on June 28.

Work on Fields.

Every effort continues to be made to prove new territory. Exploratory drilling is proceeding on various new licenses acquired under the standard regulations. Of the three exploratory wells on the outlying parts of the company's original territories mentioned in last year's report, only one has met with success, and, in consequence, one of the licenses held under the agreement of 1913 has been surrendered to the Government. The indications afforded by the successful well are being followed up by new drilling tests. An agreement was concluded with the Egyptian Government during the year by which the period of the company's rights over the as yet unproved parts of their territory at Gensah has been clearly defined in a satisfactory manner. In accordance with this agreement the company has undertaken a new detailed geological survey of this region, and this is making good progress. The company's geologists continued their search for new territories, but so far no definite results have been obtained.

Meeting, Winchester House, E.C., June 28, noon.

PREMIER OIL.

Acquisition of Burma Interests.

The Secretary of the Premier Oil Company, Ltd., states in a circular:—

In pursuance of the policy outlined at the annual meeting in December last the company has secured an extensive interest in Burma. An agreement has been entered into with the Indo-Burma Oilfields 1920 whereby that company, subject to the approval of the Government of Burma, grants to this company the right to drill on any of its oil lands in Burma. The salient points of the agreement between the two companies are as follows:—

The Premier Company's geologist has the right to select well sites not being nearer than 300 feet from any existing well drilled or in process of being drilled by the Indo-Burma Company. The Premier Company can elect either to drill for its own account or alternatively can call upon the Indo-Burma Company to do so at a fixed price. All capital sums spent by the Premier Company upon drillings which have been approved by the Indo-Burma Company are to be repaid from the first net proceeds of oil, after which a proportion ranging from one-third to one-half goes to the Premier Company and the remainder to the Indo-Burma Company. The Premier Company's geologist has, after examination recommended the sinking of two wells on the Padaukpin area, from which he states a probable yield of 50 barrels per well per day may be expected.

This company has also purchased, subject to the approval of the Government of Burma, oil rights over selected areas, aggregating upwards of 100 square miles. These areas, upon which numerous oil seepages occur, are believed to be of great

promise. The vendor's rights have been acquired at the approximate cost, plus a moderate royalty on oil actually won.

The board considers that the principle which has been followed in the lengthy negotiations that have preceded the above arrangement—namely, that of securing rights which are capable of enormous ultimate extension and development while at the same time minimising its initial risk—is a sound one. The expenditure to which this company is definitely pledged, including purchase price and all obligatory drilling upon both the Indo-Burma and purchased areas, is under £70,000. Given the results hoped for, the minimum will no doubt be exceeded to an extent that will be governed by results and by the advice of this company's technical advisers, but it was deemed necessary at this stage to limit the company's obligations.

It has been rendered possible by the fact that under the above arrangements this company will enjoy the full advantage of existing organisations; there will be no heavy outlay for equipment, while overhead charges will be reduced to a minimum.

From the published results obtained by the Indo-Burma, it seems reasonable to hope that the Premier should obtain a satisfactory production at an early date.

Since the above circular was in type a cablegram has been received from the company's geologist in Burma, reading as follows: "Padaukpin oil area very good. Drilling area at least one mile long, half broad. Starting No. 8 well 17 in."

PHOENIX OIL AND TRANSPORT.

The progress report of the Phoenix Oil and Transport Co. Ltd., and allied companies for May states that the month's total crude oil production was 3,216 tons. The throughput of the refinery for the month was 2,702 tons, the decrease being due to temporary delay on the part of the pipeline companies in pumping oil to the refinery. No. 5 Well in the Moreni Stavropoleos district, which made several strong flows during the month, will be reopened as soon as the new fountain shields have been erected. At Well No. 1 the extraction of the 6 in. casing was being continued. Well No. 1, Runcu: Arrangements being made to replace the damaged casing before reopening the well.

OIL OUTPUTS.

The output of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields for the week ended June 9 amounted to—Gensah, 487 tons (previous week 19 tons). Hurghada, 4,747 tons, against 4,229 tons.

The Algerian Oilfields announce that advice has been received from the Société Algérienne des Pétroles de Thiouanet (in which the Algerian Oilfields is largely interested) that the output for the first week in June was 33,000 kilos (33 tons). It is also reported that well No. 23 (Medjillah) has now reached a depth of 88 metres and well No. 25 (M'silah) 270 metres.

ENQUIRY BUREAU.

Merchants, etc., may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau," "The Near East," 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2." It must be understood that "The Near East" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.

122. Merchant in Galatz, Roumania, wishes to enter into business relations with British firms willing to ship goods on consignment terms. Guarantees by Leading Banks given. Full details on application. Correspondence in French.

123. Import and Export Merchant in Beyrout (Syria) invites correspondence with British firms. General Merchandise. Will act as agent, commission basis, or own account.

124. Solicitor in Zagreb, Croatia, open to act for British firms requiring legal assistance in Yugoslavia. Correspondence conducted in French, German, Italian and Croatian.

125. A firm of British Merchants and Commission Agents in Liverpool desire to extend their connections in the Near East for General Merchandise.

126. Confectionery. British firm of manufacturers extending their export trade in best quality confectionery suitable for sub-tropical climates will supply details to enquiries from overseas buyers.

127. A firm exporting all kinds of Metals and other merchandise to Egypt and India would like to get in touch with Importers in the Near East of similar goods.

128. General Commission Agent and Merchant in Cairo, Egypt, open to represent British manufacturers and merchants on commission. Can also export all kinds of Egyptian products.

20. Principal of old established textile manufacturing and Import Firm in Aleppo (Syria) now in Switzerland, wishes to get in touch with cotton and woollen yarn manufacturers or exporters in Lancashire and Yorkshire.

Engineering Topics.

By Our Engineering Representative.

"Posterlite" Fittings.

A particularly interesting introduction has just been made by the British Thomson-Houston Co., in the shape of a fitting for illuminating posters, facias, and painted signs. It consists of a sheet copper trough with silvered glass reflectors bent to correctly designed contour to give a concentrated flat beam of light in any required downwards and inwards direction. So far there is little novelty about this, but the striking feature, and one which adds considerably to its utility and effect, is that the mouth of the trough has, across its length, louvres of glass of a diffusing character, interspaced with metal. The effect of this is that the light thrown is properly diffused, and whilst the major portion is thrown on the centre and bottom of the poster a sufficient quantity is thrown upwards so as to illuminate effectively the upper portion. In this way an even lighting effect is obtained over the entire vertical surface. The lateral distribution of the light is sufficiently wide for all practical purposes, and on a large hoarding or other surface the fittings can be spaced as far as ten feet apart. Each fitting takes two lamps of the 250 watt size, and these can be connected either in parallel or series to suit the voltage of the supply service. Posterlite fittings can be used on all hoardings at a height of from 10 to 20 feet, or, should there be any surfaces adjacent which are lighted from any other source, they can be used with full effect at heights of from 20 to 25 feet. In the most favourable conditions the spacing of the fittings can be extended to 15 feet apart. The backplate is so designed that it can be attached either to the front or the back of the hoarding or fixed in the ordinary way to any other surface. The tube which carries the lantern is secured in position by two taper pins passing through the boss in the backplate; an insulating connector is provided at the head of the bracket and altogether the fitting is designed on sound engineering lines, and should give complete satisfaction wherever it is used.

A New Stereo Press.

One of the most notable of recent introductions in connection with British specialist engineering is the "Photo-tone" stereo press for the purpose of producing a stereo flong by which it will be possible to reproduce the finest screen half-tone and three and four-colour blocks in printing work. The matrix can be produced in a few minutes, and from this as many casts as required can be made. A complete plant has been devised, and the following brief description of how the work is carried out is of great interest. After moistening, the flong is placed on the form, then covered with felt, and a suitable number of sheets of moulding paper are placed in the press. The head of the press is lowered in a horizontal position, and as soon as the desired amount of

pressure is reached it is automatically put out of gear so that matrix and type remain in merely moderate pressure.

Both the upper and lower press plates, either together or separately, can be heated by steam or electrically, and a patented suction system is also provided in order to assist this drying process as much as possible. Together with the press a vacuum pump driven by a small motor is put into operation, and all moisture is extracted and removed by means of a number of hollow suction plugs. When the finished matrix is removed from the form it is ready for immediate use, and does not even have to be chalked. The matrix has the property of retaining its original size even after a large number of casts have been made from it, and consequently one of the chief objections to stereo work for three-colour reproduction is removed.

A Useful Belt.

Details are to hand of a new articulated belt for car fan and dynamo drives which is being placed on the market by a London firm of engineers. It is made in sizes from nine-sixteenths of an inch up to 1.1-8 inch section and a feature is the use of hard fibre links with leather laminations. The fibre takes up the entire strain, and eliminates stretch, and the leather forms the frictional contact with the sides of the pulleys, or in other words the leather grips the pulleys firmly and the fibre takes the pull. This is a rather interesting method of belt construction, and although I have seen and had experience with a very useful and reliable belt in which use was made of raw hide for taking the strain with leather blocks to take the grip I am assured that the new belt has several novel features. The makers claim that it should get the motorist over most, if not all, of his troubles due to belts wearing, stretching, and breaking. The only comment I have to make is that as I understand the prices they are rather on the high side, but probably the makers will be able to reduce these as production increases.

CZECHO-SLOVAK BANKING AMALGAMATION.

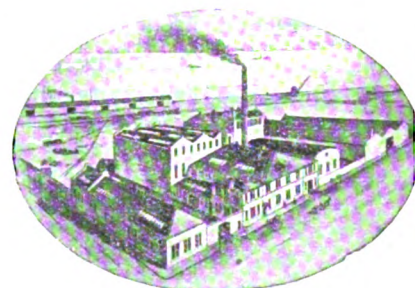
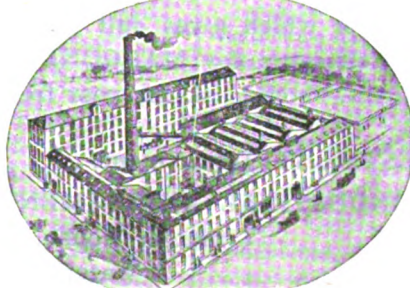
An agreement has been reached between the directors of the Bohemian Industrial Bank, the Agricultural Credit Bank of Bohemia, Prague, and the Commercial and Industrial Bank Moravska Ostrava. The three banks have merged and the new bank has absorbed all branches of the Allgemeine Verkehrsbank of Vienna, which were located in Czecho-Slovakia. As a consequence of this amalgamation the Bohemian Industrial Bank will change its name to the Industrial and Agricultural Bank of Bohemia. The capital of the new bank will be Kc.210,000,000, and deposits Kc.2,000,000,000. It will possess fifty-seven offices in Czecho-Slovakia and four foreign offices.

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Stock and Share Markets.

THE INDIAN LOAN.

Effect of Bank Rate Reduction.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Tuesday morning.

The markets opened in anything but a cheerful mood last week, and the appearance of a large Indian loan had the effect, naturally, of heightening the depression. Tuesday saw a veritable slump in Gilt-edged, and with the investment stocks touching lower levels all round, in particular the Indian securities, it became almost a certainty that, failing a radical change in the conditions, the closing of the lists would reveal that the new loan had met with a very indifferent reception. Then came a further change in the Bank rate, and that put an entirely different complexion on affairs. The reduction had been anticipated for some time, but it was not thought that it would be made just yet. It happened just in time to help the loan, which with 63 per cent left with the underwriters must be accounted a moderate success. On Gilt-edged stocks generally the $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. rate had a tonic effect, while with one or two exceptions, which nothing could affect at the present time, the other markets were favourably influenced.

It is possible to write with a good deal more confidence of the outlook than was the case a week ago for the adverse influences that were then so greatly in evidence are now much modified, if indeed they cannot be entirely discounted. The Irish position has improved, and the indications are that at long last we are in sight of more settled conditions in the "distressful island." The engineers' trouble has been settled, so that for the moment there is no cloud on the labour horizon to hamper the trade revival.

Gilt-edged Firm.

As I have indicated it has been a week of vicissitudes in Gilt-edged. Yesterday stocks closed on a firmer note. Consols at 56 $\frac{3}{4}$ are $2\frac{1}{4}$ up, the Conversion Loan at 75 shows a gain of $\frac{1}{4}$, while War Loan Fives are 99.7-8, a rise of 13-16. Indian stocks have firmed up somewhat. The Seven per cent. loan is $\frac{1}{2}$ down at 112 $\frac{1}{2}$, the $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. loan is $\frac{1}{4}$ lower at 66, while the 3 per cent. loan at 56 is also $\frac{1}{4}$ lower.

A rather variable tendency has prevailed in the foreign market. French loans have been firmer with War Loan Fives a point up at 42, while the 4 per cents. are a similar amount up at 33 $\frac{1}{2}$. German 3 per cents. have recovered 1-8 at 2.7-16. Italian Rentes have been weak, and close 2 down at 21. With a few exceptions South American bonds have been steady. Chinese issues have tended to firm up, while Japanese stocks have been fairly strong.

Industrials Quiet.

A quiet but firm tone prevailed in the Industrial group yesterday, but so far there have been no signs of any broadening of business.

Textiles have been steady, with Courtaulds a strong feature at 508. 9d., a rise of 28. 3d., while Coats are 1-32 lower at 3.3-32.

Tobaccos have been firm, Bats being 76s. 9d. xd., while Imperial Tobaccos are 66s. 9d. Dunlops are steadier, and close 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. up at 98. Iron and Steel shares have been firm. Vickers are 6d. up at 128. 3d., Armstrongs are 1s. 3d. up at 18s., while Guest Keens are 3d. lower at 34s. 6d. Indian railways have continued to present a strong front. Bengal and North Western are 4 up at 129, Bengal Nagpur are 97, while Bengal Nagpur 4 per cent. Debs are 71 $\frac{1}{4}$. Madras and Southern Mahrattas are 103 $\frac{1}{4}$.

Shipping securities have been inclined to dullness. P. and O. Deferred are 10 down at 320, Cunards are 3d. lower at 208. 3d., but Furness Withys are 1s. 6d. up at 318. 6d.

Oils Dull.

The Oil market shewed a rather variable tendency yesterday. This is the period at which the prospect of the maintenance of dividends comes in for attention, and adverse rumours, which in the view of those best qualified to know have no foundation, have been responsible for a number of declines in prices.

Anglo-Persian Ord are 4.29-32, a rise of 7-16, while Burmahs are 5.7-32, a decline of 7-16. Mexican Eagles at 3.5-16 are $\frac{1}{2}$ down Trinidad issues have been weak. Centrals are 2.5-16, at which they are 1-32 lower, Apex are 2.1-8, 1-32 down, while Leaseholds at 1.3-16 are also a similar amount lower.

Among Egyptians Anglo-Egyptians B are 1.13-16, a rise of 1-16, while Oilfields of Egypt are 5s. 6d., a gain of 6d. In the Roumanian group Roumanian Consolidated are 16s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., a drop of 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., Dacia Romanos are 1.1-16, Steaua Romanas are 11s. 6d., a decline of 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., while Phoenix are unchanged at 27s. 3d.

Banks Firm.

Banking descriptions have been firmer. Chartered of India at 17.15-16 are unchanged, National of India are 45 $\frac{1}{2}$, a rise of $\frac{1}{4}$, P. and O. Bank are 14, a decline of 1-8, while Bank of British West Africas are unchanged at 5.1-8.

Egyptian securities have been hard. Aboukirs are 1s. up at 218. 6d., Béhéras are $\frac{1}{2}$ up at 8 $\frac{1}{4}$, Egyptian Markets are 218. 3d., a gain of 9d., while Gharbieh Lands are unchanged at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting	Parity of Exchange	Latest. Quotations.
Alexandria ..	Piastres to £....	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	97.7-16
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22 $\frac{1}{2}$	115-116 $\frac{1}{2}$
Belgrade ..	Dinars to £....	25.22 $\frac{1}{2}$	320-350
Berlin	Marks to £....	20.43	1.403 1.408
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3.19-32-1.3.21-32
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3.19-32-1.3.21-32
Brussels.....	Francs to £....	25.22 $\frac{1}{2}$	54.20-54.50
Bucharest ..	Lei to £....	25.22 $\frac{1}{2}$	660-680
Constantinople.	Piastres to £....	110	690-710
New York.....	Dollars to £....	4.86 2-3	4.38 $\frac{1}{2}$ 4.43
Paris	Francs to £....	25.22 $\frac{1}{2}$	51.00-51.45
Prague	Kronen to £....	24.02	230 $\frac{1}{2}$ 231
Rome	Lire to £....	25.22 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$ -91 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sofia	Leva to £....	25.22 $\frac{1}{2}$	650-680
Teheran	Krans to £....	50	51 $\frac{1}{2}$
Vienna	Kronen to £....	24.02	62.000-64.000
Warsaw	Marks to £....	20.43	19.000-19.500

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Cotton & Cotton Goods.

MANCHESTER MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, June 16.

The general conditions prevailing throughout the market during the past week have continued unaltered. The tone has ruled firm, and with the rise in raw cotton values spinners and manufacturers have put up their prices. Great difficulty, however, has been experienced in obtaining full rates, but the prospects of the market at the moment are rather bright, and there is every reason to believe that a better business will be done in the near future. In the cloth section a good undercurrent of inquiry has been dealt with for the outlets generally, but actual transactions have been rather scattered. Some fair lines in bleaching descriptions have been sold for Egypt. Staple makes, however, have been practically neglected. Miscellaneous sales have been recorded for the Levant and Constantinople. In the yarn section prices for Bolton spinnings have ruled dearer, but the offtake for home use has not been of large extent. Quite a fair business has been done in extra hard American counts for certain outlets of the Near East. There has been plenty of cloth inquiry about for India, and transactions have been recorded in light cloths and shirtings for Madras and Calcutta. Many of the offers, however, have proved entirely impracticable. A fair amount of activity has been displayed by shippers to China, and fancies have been in special request. Some steady buying has been recorded for the Continent, and minor transactions have been mentioned for South America. Home trade buying has been on a fairly large scale. American yarn prices on the week are dearer and have been well held, but only a restricted demand has been met with.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended June 14 :—

Trading in this department has not been very lively during the past week, which has consisted of four business days only. The enquiry has been of a patchy description, as is generally the case during a holiday period, and this is likely to continue for some time yet. "Good" cottons are still out of favour, and the demand has run almost entirely on raw material at 17d. to 18d. per lb., except in the case of Sudan and Tokar cottons. With regard to these last, the trade is buying in two distinct lines. One consists of the exceptionally fine staple cotton, which is rather a feature of the Sudan crop this year. This cotton, which is competing with the ordinary Sakellaridis, is fetching good prices (20½d. was paid in one instance to-day). The other line consists of old crop Tokar cotton, some of which has been carried in stock here for two or even three seasons, but which is now finding many friends owing to its comparative cheapness as compared with other growths of similar staple. Prices for this style of cotton range from about 13½d. to 15½d. per lb. Inferior and re-cleaned cottons were pressed for sale, but met with scant response. Manchester reports speak of firm markets, but trading has fallen off and is somewhat irregular. The war of prices between spinners and manufacturers on the one hand, and the foreign buyers on the other, is being waged more bitterly than ever, and the present period is largely one of readjustment all round. Sellers are determined to reap more benefit from the recent advance, and buyers are resisting with all their strength. With regard to the future, our course of events would seem to depend more and more on the progress (or lack of progress) of the American crop. Stocks of Egyptian cotton, both here and in Alexandria, are more than sufficient to meet requirements at the present rate of consumption. It is realised that a large proportion of these stocks is represented by "good" and "fine" cotton, and the margin between these and the lower qualities is rapidly narrowing. Some cheap bargains ought to be available in the near future for those who decide to take a view rather than to buy on the hand to mouth principle only. Sales 1,600 bales (including 370 Sudan). Quotations are raised 75 points, with the exception of fine Sakel, which is 50 points up, and extra fine Sakellaridis, which is unchanged on the week. Fully Good Fair Sakellaridis to-day 19.75d.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Commercial Co. of Egypt in their report for the week ended June 9 state :—

Futures.—During the past week the market has been subjected to erratic fluctuations which, although not very severe, show how narrow the market is and how easily it can be influenced. The market remained about unchanged on Saturday after the publication of the Bureau report on the American crop, but opened weak on Tuesday, closing the session with a decline of over a dollar for Sakellaridis and just under a dollar for uppers. Yesterday saw an advance of about a dollar, ostensibly as a result of the advance in American, and the improvement has been maintained to-day. Speculation is small and what there is can be easily stampeded by the professional element of the market. Commercial houses are not using the futures market to any great extent, preferring to cover sales with actual cotton, as with desirable cotton so scarce futures do not constitute a hedge against old crop sales. We do not yet hear much of sales made for new crop shipment. The Government have not effected any purchases for some weeks and apparently maintain their decision to appear only to prevent a break. Arrivals continue on a fair scale and many of the ginning factories in the Interior are still working; the total arrivals to date since September 1 last are about 5,000,000 kantars. Exports for the same period total about 4,000,000 kantars.

Crop.—Reports received from the Interior indicate satisfactory progress; the plants have a healthy appearance and have probably recovered part of the initial delay. Damage by disease and pests is small.

MANCHESTER COTTON REVIEW.

The cotton trade review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended June 17 states :—

General.—As usual this market was somewhat slow in settling down to business after the Whitsuntide Holiday. Enquiry from abroad has been on a large scale but buyers there are not yet convinced that the rise in values will endure and are reluctant to pay the higher prices now ruling. The consequence is that most offers are still coming through on the basis of the values of two or three weeks ago and the majority have to be declined. The actual business placed on the books therefore is not at all proportionate to the labour involved in dealing with the enquiries, but the tone of the market remains very steady with the general feeling much better than earlier in the year.

Yarn.—Spinners have raised their prices in accordance with the rise in the raw material during Whitsunweek, when they were closed; actual business, consequently, has only been moderate, buyers not yet being reconciled to the advance. Rather more has been done for the Near East but the principal demand is still on Continental and Indian account. According to the Board of Trade returns shipments last month were 20,767,000 lbs. against 21,327,000 lbs. in April and 8,554,000 lbs. in May last year. These figures demonstrate the very considerable improvement in the export yarn trade as compared with a year ago. If the Home trade were on the same scale spinners would be in a very happy position.

Cloth.—This market appears to have been rather more active than that for yarn, although the remarks with regard to the detrimental effect of the higher prices upon actual business apply here also. Enquiry has been widespread and the business transacted has been in numerous small lots rather than in individual large lines. India remains the principal support with China doing little, but demand has been better for the Near Eastern and South American markets. It is a good sign that stock lots are now changing hands more easily and at much better prices. Shipments last month were 341,424,000 square yards against 302,598,000 square yards in April and 145,603,000 square yards in May last year.

Raw Cotton.—The strength of this market has been well maintained, Liverpool on Monday (after its holiday at the end of last week) following the rise which had taken place in the mean time in New York. Since then the market has been very steady. The weather reports from the United States are very conflicting.

Closing prices are as follows :—American Fully Middling 12.935 last week 12.45; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 19.75, last week 19.2,

Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Quieter Demand for Fruit.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Monday Evening.

Sugar.—Home refined has been in steady request at unchanged prices. Tate's cubes and mineral water sugar are unaltered at 56s. and 50s. 3d. respectively. London granulated is steady at 49s. 9d. while Lyle's granulated is firm at 49s. 9d. Export descriptions have been steady. West Indian crystallized has remained the same at 43s. 6d., while white Mauritius has come to business at 46s. 3d. White Java at 20s. 1½d. has shed 1½d. Cane sugar quotations are:—June, 15s. 9d.; July 15s. 9d.; August, 16s.; and September, 16s. White sugar quotations are:—June, 21s. 6d.; July, 21s. 6d.; August, 21s. 9d.; September, 21s. 7½d.; and October-December, 21s. 1½d.

Coffee.—Prices are unsteady. East Indian shows no change at 118s. Costa Rica has shed 6d. at 115s. 6d., while Nairobi is 6d. down at 102s. The futures market has been barely steady. Quotations are:—July, 63s.; September, 61s. 3d.; December, 60s. 9d., and March, 59s. 6d.

Dessicated Coconut.—A small business took place during the week. Some Colombo mills are expected to close down shortly owing to the high cost of manufacture.

Rice.—The market has been inactive, although prices are keeping a firm level. It is expected that within a few weeks, prices of Japan and American Java rices will advance.

Green Fruit.—The sudden cessation of the heat wave this week has affected the market for oranges. The demand has been particularly weak and prices have declined. A similar experience has been felt in the lemon market, merchants having large quantities on their hands owing to the falling off in the demand. Strawberries are taking the place of apples, resulting in a poor request for the latter. Egyptian onions have improved slightly, although quotations are still low.

Oilseeds.—A slight increase in prices has taken place. Indian linseed has remained steady at 20s. 6d., while La Plata has gained 1½d. at 18s. 4½d. Rapeseed has risen, with Toria 1½d. up at 18s. 4½d. Cottonseed has been steady with the exception of Egyptian black which is 1½d. higher at 11s. 10½d. Sakellaridis and Indian are firm at 11s. 3d. and 9s. 3d. respectively.

Oils.—Unsteadiness prevails. Linseed oil has shed 1s. at 42s. 6d. Rape oil is unchanged with crude at 45s. and refined at 48s. Cotton oil is lower in all cases. Egyptian crude has shed 6d. at 42s., while technical is 1s. lower at 41s. 6d. Refined at 48s. and deodorized at 53s. have both shed 1s.

Oilcakes.—After a lengthy period of a steady decline in prices, an advance has taken place in all cases, especially coconut cake which has made an exceptional rise of 80s. at 220s. ton. Linseed cake has gained 10s. at 280s. ton; and cottonmeal cake at 270s. ton has risen 20s. Cottonseed cake at 180s. ton is 30s. up.

In the House of Lords on June 14 the Sudan Loan (Amendment) Bill, which does not propose to raise any new money, was read a second time.

ROUMANIAN HARVEST OUTLOOK.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, May 24.

Thanks to the exceptionally favourable weather, the maize plant has developed so rapidly that in the southern part of the country the first hoeing is already in progress. All the other spring sowings, such as oats, barley, beetroot, etc., show likewise a promising appearance. As to wheat, although the sown area is smaller than that of former years, the crop outlook is very good and a yield of 25 hectolitres per hectare is anticipated.

On the other hand, fruit trees have suffered both by cold weather at the beginning of the spring and by the damage done by caterpillars, which are this year exceptionally numerous. The fruit crop is therefore not expected to be an abundant one.

EGYPTIAN CROPS.

The following particulars of the crop conditions in Egypt are given in the Bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture for the month of May:—

Cotton.—The weather, though changeable, was on the whole favourable in Middle and Upper Egypt. In Lower Egypt cold spells intervened and towards the end of the month rain fell in some of the northern districts. Hailstorms were reported from a few places, causing damage in small cotton areas. Water supply was scarce in Lower Egypt, especially at the tails of canals, barely sufficient in Middle Egypt and fair in Upper Egypt. Late sowing was completed in Gharbiya, Beheira and Minufiya. A certain amount of resowing took place during the month under review. Flowering started in certain districts and the general state of the crop is satisfactory.

Local attacks of cut-worm were reported from Lower Egypt and slight attacks of aphids, soreskin and the occurrence of a few cases of cut-worm egg-masses were also reported from Lower and Middle Egypt.

Wheat.—Harvesting was in full swing during May and thrashing and winnowing were progressing. Slight attacks of rust and smut were reported from nearly all the provinces. The bacterial disease *Pseudomonas tritici* was reported from Minufiya, Beni Suef and Daqahliya in small areas. The yield is expected to be slightly below the average.

Barley.—Harvesting was completed. The yield is expected to be slightly above average.

Beans.—Harvesting was completed during May and thrashing and winnowing were in progress. The yield is estimated to be slightly below the average.

Bersim.—The water supply in some provinces was rather difficult. The making of "dries" continued throughout the month. Slight attacks of dodder were reported from some provinces.

Sugar-Cane.—The weather, though changeable, was on the whole favourable, but the water supply was generally hardly sufficient. Sowing was completed and fassing, manuring and watering were in progress. Slight attacks of mealy-bug and stalk-borer were reported from Minya and Girga provinces. The general condition of the crop is satisfactory.

Millet (Sefi).—Sowing was nearly completed during the month under review and hoeing, thinning and watering were being carried out. The weather was on the whole favourable and water supply sufficient.

Onions.—Harvesting is completed in Upper Egypt and is progressing in Middle and Lower Egypt except in places where the crop is late. The yield is expected to be below the average.

Helba.—Harvesting is general in Lower Egypt and is over in Middle and Upper Egypt. The yield is expected to be a normal one.

ASIA MINOR FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud & Co., Smyrna, report as follows for the week ending June 3:—

The total estimated arrivals to date amount to 174,000 bags. The total estimated sales are 172,200 bags while the estimated stock unsold amounts to 1,800 bags.

Markets.—Sultanas—Prices unchanged. Market is considerably stronger, judged by the value in local currency. On the

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other hand, improved exchanges offset any advance in foreign equivalents. Total remaining stocks are estimated at about 500 tons of which probably not more than half is fruit equal to our types 13 to 16. New crop is developing under favourable conditions. Prospects at present point to a yield of 35-40,000 tons. The fig trees are less favourably reported on. The crop is likely to be smaller than last year's.

BULGARIA'S ATTAR OF ROSES INDUSTRY.

The attar of roses industry appears to be on the down grade since the war, says the *Echo de Bulgarie*. The following table is given showing the position since 1913 :-

Year.	Hectares.	Output. (Kg.)	Export. (Kg.)
1913	7,905	3,109	2,948
1914	8,100	3,201	3,257
1915	8,755	3,370	5,422
1916	8,549	2,971	2,954
1917	7,434	2,354	2,929
1918	6,404	1,305	—
1919	6,322	1,128	1,608
1920	5,132	900	3,518

The decline since Bulgaria entered the war is due, it is stated, partly to neglect of the rose gardens as a result of mobilisation, and partly to the decreased demand for the product in consequence of European conditions, but more particularly to profiteering by the middleman, who not only disposes of the essence at exorbitant prices, but also in an adulterated condition, thus affecting its reputation.

CURRENT PRICES.

General Produce.—Bacon: (Continental) 142s. cwt.; (Canadian), 135s. cwt.; (American), 100s. cwt.; butter (Danish), 187s. cwt.; (Australian), 168s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 178s. cwt.; cheese (Canadian) 80s. 6d. cwt.; (New Zealand), 83s. cwt.; lard 68s. cwt.; eggs (Danish), 14s. 6d. per 120; (Styrian), 11s. 3d. per 120; chillies, 162s. 6d. cwt.; cloves (Zanzibar) 1s. 2½ lb.; cocoa (Ceylon good to fine), 87s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 125s. cwt.; (East Indian), 125s. cwt.; (Central American), 104s. cwt.; (Jamaica), 69s. 9d. cwt.; (Mocha Longberry), 105s. cwt.; (Santos superior), 69s. 6d. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochin), 52s. 6d. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 90's), 11½ lb.; pepper (Singapore black), 4½ lb.; (Muntok white), 7½ lb.; piment, 2 1-8d. lb.; raisins (Valencias), 55s. cwt.; sultanas (Smyrna) 119s. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 71s. 6d. cwt.; (Anchias), 59s. cwt.; sugar (Tate's cubes), 55s. 6d. cwt.; (Lyle's granulated), 49s. 10½ d. cwt.; (Mauritius crystals), 46s. 6d. cwt.; (West Indian crystallised), 43s. 9d. cwt.; (centrifugal), 15s. 4½ d. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 2d. lb.; rice (Rangoon No. 2), 14s. 7½ d. cwt.; (Bian Rangoon), 16 8s. 9d. ton; cinnamon (firsts), 11½ lb.; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 6½ d. lb.; tea (Indian, common to good common), 1s. 1d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 6½ d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 7½ d. lb.; Ceylon (common to good common), 1s. 2d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 6d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 7½ d. lb.; Java (common to good common), 10½ d. lb.; wheat (English white), 53s. 6d. qr.; wheat (Australian), 57s. 3d. qr.; oats (English), 38s. qr.; oats (La Plata, ex-ship), 26s. 3d. qr.; maize (La Plata), 37s. 9d. qr.; flour 43s. 9d. sack.

Chemicals.—Acids: Boric 61s. cwt.; oxalic, 8½ d. lb.; citric, 2s. 5½ d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 5½ d. lb.; ammonia (sulphate) 16 11s. 6d. ton; arsenic, (white powdered), 140 ton; benzole (standard), 2s. 5½ d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), 12 10s. ton; borax crystals, 29s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 115s. 6d. cwt.; Potassium: Bichromate, 6½ d. lb.; chlorate, 4½ d. lb.; caustic, 133 10s. ton; nitrate, 137 10s. ton; permanganate, 9½ d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 3½ d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), 15 5s. ton; Sodium: Crystals, 120s. ton; bi-carbonate, 11 5s. ton; bi-chromate, 3d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), 19 1s. 3d. ton; chlorate, 3½ d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), 23 ton; hyposulphite, 16 ton; prussiate, 9½ d. lb.; nitrate, 15 3s. 3d. ton; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), 160 ton; glycerine (industrial 100 per cent.), 187 10s. ton; lemon oil, 3s. 4½ d. lb.; quinine, 2s. 4½ d. oz.; red lead, 136 ton; white lead, 139 10s. ton; white ground lead, 149 15s. ton; sulphate of copper, 126 17s. 6d. ton; sulphate of iron, 60s. ton.

Metals.—Aluminium, 1102 10s. ton; antimony (English Regulis), 128 ton; bismuth, 9s. lb.; copper (standard) 162 1s. 3d. ton; copper (electro), 169 15s. ton; gold bars, 91s. 9d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 90s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 90s. ton; galvanized sheets (25 G), 16 ton; lead (soft foreign), 124 7s. 6d. ton; manganese Poti, 1½ d. unit; molybdenite, 30s. unit; nickel, 1162 10s. ton; platinum 360s. oz.; plumbago, 16 ton; quicksilver, 12 bottle; spelter (G.O.B.), 127 18s. 9d. ton; tin (standard), 153 2s. 6d. ton; wolfram, 11s. 6d. unit; zinc sheets, 135 10s. ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 19s. 4½ d. box; silver bars, 30½ d. oz.

Hides and Skins.—Ox and Heifer (first), 90 lbs. and up, 9d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 9d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 8½ d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 8½ d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 6½ d. lb.; (second) 90 lbs. and up, 7 5-8d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 7 1-8d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 7½ d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 6½ d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 5½ d. lb.; Cows (first) 60 lbs. and up, 7d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 6 5-8d. lb.; (second) 60 lbs. and up, 5d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 5d. lb.; Bulls (first), 4½ d. lb.; (second), 3d. lb.; Kips (first), 5½ d. lb.; (second), 4½ d. lb.; (third), 3d. lb. Calcutta Market. Prices in rupees per 20 lbs.:—Arsenic hides (cows): Agras, 8 to 13.8 (7 to 12.8); Durbhagas, 6 to 7.8 (6 to 7.8); Patnas, 5 to 6.8 (5 to 6.8). Salted cows: 4.8 to 6.8 (4.8 to 7). Arsenic hides (buffalo): 3 to 8 (3 to 7.8). Skins: Calf, 8 to 10 (8 to 10) per 20 lb.; goat, 180 to 220 (110 to 220) per 100 pieces.

Miscellaneous.—Cotton (American), 12.40 l. lb.; Egyptian (Sakel), 18 10d. lb.; jute (first grade c.i.f.), 136 ton; jute (lightnings), 132 10s. ton; Oilseeds: Linseed (La Plata), 119 3s. 9d. ton; palm kernels, 117 13s. 9d. ton; castor seed (Bombay), 118 2s. 6d. ton; sesame seed (China), 126 15s. ton; soya beans 112 11s. 3d. ton; Oils: Linseed 143 15s. ton; olive (Spanish) 177 ton; palm, 132 17s. 6d. ton; rape (crude), 143 5s. ton; soya 139 17s. 6d. ton; petroleum, 1s. 4½ d. gallon; petrol, 2s. 1d. gallon; fuel oil (ex-tank), 7 1s. 3d. ton; coconut (Ceylon), 138 10s. ton; cotton (crude), 142 5s. ton; ground nut 145 15s. ton; Rubber: Plantation (No. 1 Crepe), 7½ d. lb.; smoked sheet, 7½ d. lb.; fine hard Para, 10½ d. lb.

TENDERS INVITED.

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

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

Egypt.

Cement.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo Station, invites tenders for the supply of 800 metric tons cement. Copy of the conditions (price 200 millèmes) may be obtained at the Office of the Administration's Inspecting Engineer in London. July 25.

Beech.—The Inspector-General, Prisons Department, No. 43, Sharia El Bostan, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 375 pieces beech (European) 12 inches by 4 inches by 4 inches. July 1.

Paving Stones.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lighthouses Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of metals required for the second half of financial year 1922-1923. Offers will remain valid for fifteen days, and delivery effected within two months from date of order. Conditions of tender and specifications are obtainable from the Stores Department, Arsenal. July 6.

Metals.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lighthouses Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of metals required for the second half of financial year 1922-1923. Offers will remain valid for fifteen days, and delivery effected within two months from date of order. Conditions of tender and specifications are obtainable from the Stores Department, Arsenal. July 6.

Bulgaria.

Creosote and chloride of zinc.—The Directorate of Railways and Ports invites tenders for the supply of 500 tons of creosote and 50 tons of chloride of zinc. The estimated price of this contract is 4,100,000 levas. A deposit of 1 per cent. of the estimated price must be made by the tenderer, which is to be increased to 5 per cent. when the contract is placed. Terms of payment: one half against shipping documents, the contractor undertaking to give a bank guarantee against this sum, which will be freed on arrival of the material in Bulgaria—remainder after arrival and acceptance of material in Bulgaria. Delivery time: four months for the first half of the creosote and the whole of the chloride of zinc, and six months for the second half of the creosote. Delivery c.i.f. Black Sea or Danube port. Import duty to be paid by the Directorate. Local representation is essential. June 26. (D.O.T.)

India.

Steel felt, bicycles, tapes, sodium, nitrate, cable, etc.—The High Commissioner for India invites tenders for the supply of:—1. 514 tons steel, mild, round, various sizes; 2. 1,722 yards felt, brown, for panels, 60 ins. wide; 3. 200 bicycles, similar to G.P.O. pattern, without tyres; 4. measuring tapes, steel and linen, in leather cases, refills for ditto, and rules, boxwood; 5. 100 tons sodium nitrate, commercial; 4,000 yards cable, switchboard, lead sheathed; 34,000 yards cable for wiring buildings; 7. 67,500 yards cable, dry core, lead sheathed, steel tape armoured; 1,750 lead sleeves; 9,800 yards cable, under-water, unarmoured, lead sheathed. June 23.

Steel, etc.—The Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Company invite tenders for the supply of spring and ferrule steel; wrought-iron or steel piping; and ferro-manganese and ferro-silicon. July 5.

Flat-footed rails.—The Bengal Nagpur Railway Company invites tenders for the supply of 8,480 tons of steel flat-footed rails and 365½ tons of steel fishplates. June 28.

THE CONSTANTINOPLE MARKET.

Business very Restricted.

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

Constantinople, June 10.

All hope of an approaching recovery of business is abandoned for the present. Merchants are reducing their orders abroad, and the business transacted is limited to commodities of the first necessity, such as flour, sugar, oil, and coal. Trade in manufactures has come to a complete standstill, and sales are insignificant.

Produce.

Sugar.—The unfavourable news regarding the forthcoming Cuban crop has caused prices to rise on all the chief markets. Here the effect has been insignificant and we continue to quote below prices in the countries of origin. Quotations :—American £21½-22 per ton, Dutch £23½-24 per ton; in Customs £T.27½ per 100 kilos for American and £T.28-29 for Dutch.

Coffee.—A quiet tone has prevailed in the European markets. Prices are maintained at Rio. Here business is poor, and the prices quoted are below those of the producing markets.

Rice.—There has been a marked fall in prices. Quotations :—Saigon 75-78 francs ; in Customs Ps. 16-17: per oke.

June 12.

Flour.—Owing to small arrivals of good quality flour prices of the best kinds are maintained. On the other hand second quality are lower as the result of important arrivals. The arrivals consist of 200,000 sacks of American and 2,000 sacks of Bulgarian. Quotations per sack of 63½ kilos :—Mostico £T.9, Nelson £T.9½, Durun £T.7; native flour is £T.9 per sack of 72 kilos.

Wheat.—420 tons have arrived from Bulgaria, and have been disposed of at Ps. 13½ per oke.

Maize.—The quotation for maize in transit is 8 piastres per oke.

Reuter's Algiers correspondent in a message dated June 17 states that as the result of very unfavourable reports concerning the cereal crop in Algeria, the Director of Agriculture ordered a careful inquiry to be made. The information gathered shows that the situation is not as grave as was at first thought. It is stated that the harvest has been good in the Department of Oran, fair in the Department of Algiers, and fairly good in the Department of Constantine. In any case, there is no prospect of famine among the natives, as was feared a few weeks ago.

The gross receipts of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company for the year ended March 31, 1922, totalled Rs. 3,73,01, 001, a decrease of Rs. 9,42,902. The net revenue was Rs. 16,90,807, a decrease of Rs. 2,01,80,514. From funds in reserve the directors have decided to pay a dividend of 10s. per cent. in addition to £1 10s. per cent. for the half-year guaranteed by the Secretary for State for India. The capital expenditure during the year amounted to Rs. 2,16,50,242.

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Reserve - £1,250,000

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The Bank has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of Credit granted.

Exchange and Merchandise operations effected.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

TRADE IN THE BLACK SEA.

Shipping activities have greatly revived in the Black Sea, according to the Constantinople correspondent of *Svensk Export*, especially at Odessa, Sevastopol and Novorossisk. Sugar, coffee, manufactured goods, luxury articles, shoe leather, drugs, etc., are the principal imports, while wool, hides, livestock, tobacco, etc., are the chief exports. To trade in these harbours precise information concerning the quality, quantity and price of the goods in question must be given to the Soviet representative at Constantinople. When the bill of lading has been endorsed by him the goods may be taken to the harbour in question, and must there be sold to the Foreign Trade Commissary who will assign to the seller a profit of from 10 to 30 per cent. payable in foreign or Russian currency. At Sevastopol alone is trade with private individuals recognised, this port lying in the jurisdiction of the Orim Government.

CONDITIONS AT NOVOROSSISK.

A report received by the *Bulletin* of the Federation of British Industries from a correspondent at Novorossisk shows that trade at that port is very much restricted, largely owing to the action of the Soviet Government. No cargo can be landed or loaded without the permission of the "Vneshtorg." Although thus holding the monopoly, the "Vneshtorg" sometimes grant a permit to traders to sell in the open market. Since January a number of large steamers have discharged cargoes at Novorossisk, thus testing the post-war capacity of the port. Five or six brought consignments—amounting in all to about 500—of cistern wagons for oil carrying on the railways, and 500 more wagons are shortly expected from England. American and Norwegian steamers have discharged cargoes of grain for the famine areas. All these vessels have had a comparatively good and quick despatch, but this was undoubtedly due largely to the fact that for the majority bank guarantees had been deposited abroad to cover demurrage and extra expenses involved.

In spite of the depressing nature of the conditions prevailing—which are none the less stated to be a great improvement on the situation six months ago—Novorossisk with its unique position as an ice-free outlet for the whole of the northern Caucasus and the south-west of Russia, must assuredly become one of the most important ports in the Black Sea. Great things, both economic and political, depend (in the opinion of the correspondent) upon the autumn crops. The seed wheat brought from America and Australia has been hurried inland for the spring sowing, and a good harvest will be a material aid to improved conditions generally.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

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

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Malancha for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 1); s.s. Malakuta for Port Said, Colombo, Madras

and Calcutta (London, July 4); s.s. Mahronda for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 15); s.s. Mahratta for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, July 18).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Herefordshire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, July 5); s.s. Gloucestershire for Rangoon (Middlesbrough) July 8.

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Mackinnon for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, June 26); s.s. Clan Kenneth for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (Birkenhead, June 29).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Pavia for Gibraltar, Ceuta, Melilla, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Odessa, etc. (Glasgow, July 13).

Ellerman's "City" Line.—S.s. City of Norwich for Bombay and Karachi (Birkenhead, June 7); s.s. City of Baroda for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 1); s.s. City of Exeter for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 17).

Ellermans' Westcott and Laurance Line.—Steamers sail fortnightly for Malta, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz and Braila.

Glen Line.—S.s. Glenade for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, June 29); s.s. Glenaiffe for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, July 8).

Harrison Line.—S.s. Collegian for Calcutta (Liverpool, July 3) s.s. Electrician for Port Said, Port Sudan, Aden, Mombassa, etc. (Birkenhead, July 13).

Henderson Line.—S.s. Sittang for Port Said and Rangoon; (Birkenhead, June 28); s.s. Chindwin for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, July 12).

Holt Line.—S.s. Troilus for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, June 29); s.s. Hector for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, June 29); s.s. Titan for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, June 29); s.s. Teiresias for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Swansea, July 6).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Incemore for Piraeus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, July 5); s.s. Peruviana for Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Sulina, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, July 22).

Moss Line.—S.s. Karnak for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Piraeus, Syra, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza and Sulina (Liverpool, June 26); s.s. Sitra for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, July 1).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. Andalusian for Algiers, Malta, Syra, Smyrna and Constantinople (Liverpool, July 5); s.s. Trentino for Melilla, Malta, and Alexandria (Liverpool, July 12).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. China for Bombay (London, July 14); s.s. Nellore for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, July 14); s.s. Nankin for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, July 28); s.s. Plassy for Bombay (London, July 28).

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. Morvada for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, June 23); s.s. Mantola for Bombay and Karachi (London, June 30); s.s. Hatipara for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, July 9); s.s. Mulbera for Bombay and Karachi (London, July 14); s.s. Australia for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, July 29).

Prince Line.—S.s. Tudor Prince for Malta and Alexandria (London, June 28).

According to statistics of the Persian import and export trade by countries, published in the report by H.M. Commercial Secretary at Teheran, it appears that if Persia's trade with Egypt and Mesopotamia is added to its trade with the British Empire, the total amounts to 709,000,000 krans out of an aggregate foreign trade of 853,000,000 krans, or more than 80 per cent. of the whole.

An agreement has been signed between the Italian Government and the Eastern Telegraph Company for the re-opening of the telegraphic cable between Trieste and Corfu, says *The Times*. The new arrangements include a clause by which the Company consents to give special facilities for the transmission between Italy and Egypt of State and Press telegrams, as well as between Italy and Eritrea, Abyssinia and Italian Somaliland.

ANCHOR LINE

First-Class Passengers only.

LIVERPOOL TO BOMBAY.

KARACHI via Bombay calling at Gibraltar & Egypt.

LARGE STEAMSHIPS. UPPER DECK CABINS.

FITTED WITH ELECTRIC FANS.

RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

PASSENGER SAILING DATES—

CIRCISSIA, JUNE 28.

OLYMPIA, JULY 18.

CASTALLA, AUG. 9.

SCINDIA, AUG. 22.

MASSALIA, SEPT. 8.

ELYSIA, SEPT. 20.

CIRCISSIA, OCT. 20.

OLYMPIA, NOV. 7.

Anchor Line (Henderson Brothers), Ltd
16, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.3.

COMPANY MEETING.

Adriatic Bank.

The general meeting of the Adriatic Bank was held on May 27 in the rooms of the Adriatic Bank, Ltd., in Ljubljana. From the detailed report of the delegated member of the board of directors, the general manager M. Ciro Kamenarovic, it appears that the net profit of this bank for the year 1921 amounted to 4,522,986.14 dinars, of which sum 500,000 dinars was allotted to the reserve fund. The general meeting then decided to pay to shareholders a 5 per cent. dividend totalling 1,500,000 dinars and a 7 per cent. super dividend totalling 2,100,000 dinars, 12 per cent. dividend in all, so that as from June 10 coupon No. 16 of the Adriatic Bank shares will be paid with 12 dinars per share.

Furthermore the meeting decided to increase the share capital now 30,000,000 dinars, to 100,000,000 dinars, and the board of directors was authorised to arrange for this increase by degrees at opportune times.

The balance sheet shows deposits 450,079,591,930.79 dinars, including cash turnover of 3,439,555,073.94 dinars; cash and bills at short notice on December 31, 1921, amounted to 252,882,373.44 dinars.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Malta and Mediterranean Gas.

The report for the year to March 31 last shows after appropriating £5,889 to reserve, £1,000 for corporation tax, and £1,000 for deferred repairs, credit balance of £11,453. The directors propose a dividend of 6 per cent., free of tax, on ordinary shares, carrying forward £3,498. No money has yet been received from the Italian Government on account of the claim made against them for losses sustained during the war.

East Indian Railway.

The directors of the East Indian Railway Company recommend a dividend of 10s. per cent. on Deferred Annuity capital and Deferred Annuity capital class "D," in addition to the guaranteed interest of £2 per cent. for the half-year ending July 31, and 5s. per cent. compensation paid by the Secretary of State for India on account of the income tax as per clause 4 of the contract with him of December 17, 1919, giving a total return for the year of £5 15s. per cent.

Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

The directors of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company have declared an interim dividend of 15s. per cent. and bonus of 10s. per cent. on capital (Ordinary) stock, payable July 1, which together with guaranteed interest of £1 15s. per cent. then due will make a total distribution of 3 per cent. for the half-year.

Egyptian and Foreign Trust.

For 1921 the year's working resulted in a net loss of £60,527, of which £57,406 arose from realised losses on sales of securities. This has been carried to the debit of profit and loss, which now shows a debit balance (after making sundry adjustments) of £26,092 14s. 11d., which is carried forward. Investments have been taken in at cost. A valuation at current market prices at December 31, 1921, shows a shortage of £112,892 on cost price.

COMPANY NOTICES.

The Alexandria Water Company, Limited.

PAYMENT OF DIVIDEND.

Notice is hereby given that a DIVIDEND of Eight Shillings per £5 Share on Coupon No. 67 of shares numbered 1 to 120,000, and five shillings and three pence per £5 share on the special interest Coupon of the 20,000 shares of the 1921 Issue numbered 120,001 to 140,000 are PAYABLE on and after 15th June, 1922, at Barclays Bank, Limited, 1, Pall Mall East, London, S.W.1., and 54, Lombard Street, London, E.C.4., or at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, Alexandria, Egypt, upon the making of a declaration as to ownership in the form required by the above banks, forms of which will be supplied upon application.

By Order of the Board,

K. B. WOODD SMITH, Manager.

2nd June, 1922.

The Mortgage Company of Egypt, Limited.

Notice is hereby given that WARRANTS in PAYMENT of the Dividend on the 5 per CENT. CUMULATIVE PREFERRED SHARES for the Half-Year ending the 30th June, 1922, will be POSTED on that date.

The Books will be Closed from the 17th instant to the 30th instant inclusive.

By Order of the Board,
S. R. DUNCAN, Secretary.

57½, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.2.
14th June, 1922.

SALE OF LAND IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The attention of the High Commissioner for the Union of South Africa has been drawn to the wording of certain advertisements issued by companies relating to the sale of land in South Africa. The High Commissioner is informed that it has been assumed that these advertisements are issued with the sanction and approval of the Government of the Union. Sir Edgar Walton announces that such advertisements are entirely unauthorised so far as his Government is concerned. Intending settlers are again advised to apply to the High Commissioner's Office, Trafalgar Square London, for general advice, before actually purchasing land. In no case, however, will any particular land or company be recommended. Official advice is limited to such essential points as areas suitable for particular crops; approximate costs of working; health and social conditions.

The register of holders of the East Indian Railway Company's Deferred Annuity and the register of holders of Annuity Class "D" will be closed from Saturday, July 1, to Monday, July 31, both days inclusive, for the purpose of making up the account of guaranteed interest to July 31.

In view of the financial position in Bengal, the Governor in Council has appointed a Retrenchment Committee with Sir Asutosh Mookerjee as President and with two British and two Indian members for the purpose of effecting a reduction in expenditure in local government, says Reuter. The Committee will meet in Calcutta in July and it is expected that it will issue its report at the end of the year.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at the 30th April, 1922, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes.

Banking Department.

	L.E.
Share Capital	2,925.00
(300,000 fully paid Shares of £10 each).	
Reserve Fund:	
Statutory Reserve	1,462.500
Special Reserve	682.500
Current, Deposit and other Accounts	11,026.117
Mixed Tribunals	1,573.075
Egyptian Government	2,095.385
Sudan Government	28.501
Bankers Accounts	705.038
Cheques and Bills payable	257.042
Sundry other Accounts	509.847
	21,265.205

Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government	10,090.080
Sundry Securities	252.317
Advances on Merchandise	1,439.001
Advances on Securities	2,234.755
Advances otherwise Secured	332.083
Sundry other Advances	500.930
Bills of Exchange	1,803.954
Local Bills Discounted	225.208
Buildings and Furniture	277.441
Money at call and at short notice	1,447.875
Bankers Accounts	853.742
Sundry other Accounts	102.100
Cash:	L.E.
Notes	1,292.811
Gold	18.809
Silver, Nickel, etc.	243.973
	1,555.593
	L.E. 21,265.205

Issue Department.

Notes Issued	32,400.000
Gold	3,339.573
* British Treasury Bills	12,860.427
	16,200.000
Securities:	
Egyptian Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government	420.007
British Treasury Bills and National War Bonds	15,773.393
	16,200.000
	L.E. 32,400.000

* By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold. (See "Journal Officiel" of 30th October, 1919.)

BALKAN NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

FOUNDED 1895

Capital paid up	5,000,000
Total reserves as per December 31st, 1920	53,200,000
Premium Income during 1920	28,300,000
Amounts insured of Life branch exceed	150,000,000
Branches maintained: Fire, Life, Marine, Casualty and Re-insurance of all branches.	
HEAD OFFICE: SOFIA, BULGARIA,	

THE NEAR EAST.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 1922.

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At the time of going to press letters due from Roumania, Bulgaria, Greece, & Yugoslavia have not been received.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Palestine and Parliament.

The tragic death by assassination of Field Marshal Sir Henry Wilson caused the debate that was to have taken place in the House of Commons last week on the Rutenberg concession to be postponed; but while our last issue was going to press there was a striking incident in the House of Lords. On the motion of Lord Islington the Upper House agreed by sixty votes to twenty-nine that "the mandate for Palestine in its present form is unacceptable to this House, because it directly violates the pledges made by His Majesty's Government to the people of Palestine in the declaration of October, 1915, and again in the declaration of November, 1918, and is, as at present framed, opposed to the sentiments and wishes of the great majority of the people of Palestine; that, therefore, its acceptance by the Council of the League of Nations should be postponed until such modifications have therein been effected as will comply with the pledges given by His Majesty's Government." The Earl of Balfour very fittingly was the Minister who replied on behalf of the Government; but his spirited defence failed to convince his audience.

The Point at Issue.

The lesson from the House of Lords' debate would seem to be that the Government, if it wishes to save the Mandate, must adopt a different line of argument with regard to Palestine. No amount of juggling with words can remove the inherent contradiction between what the British declarations of 1915 and 1918 meant to the Arabs, and what the Balfour Declaration has been interpreted to mean by the Zionists to whom it was actually addressed. Lord Balfour, it was noticeable, avoided the question of conflicting pledges, with which the resolution was solely concerned, and addressed himself to points in Lord Islington's speech. Some of his arguments rested on very thin ice, as for instance when he twitted the House for waiting until 1922 to attack a policy enunciated in 1917. The obvious retort, of course, was that the full drift of the 1917 policy had not revealed itself until recently. Again it was wide of the mark to insist that the American Senate and a variety of other authorities had decided that the policy of a Jewish home is for the benefit of the world, or that Great Britain and modern civilization are under a great debt to Jewry. The question at issue is whether Great Britain intends, and, if she does, whether she has the right, to hand over

Arab Palestine to the Jews to be made, in the words of the Zionist Organization, "as Jewish as England is English." The injustice done to the Palestinians does not lie in the acts of the British Administration in Palestine, but in the fact that those words have been spoken and written.

The Only Way Out.

The British Government, we fear, is only riding for a fall in regard to Palestine, if it tries to carry on its back not only its own utterances, but also those of its Zionist prompters. The one sound argument to the point that Lord Balfour, in our opinion, used in his speech was when he asked how "the existing population of Palestine is going to be affected unless and until you get capitalists to invest their money in developing the resources of the country"; and he added: "It can only get a bigger population, if you can draw on the enthusiasm of the Jewish communities throughout the world." This is undoubtedly the British Government's strong point; but it must realize to-day that the Zionist Organization and Jewry are not synonymous terms. The former has spent a lot of money on Palestine; but, unless we are mistaken, the streams of Jewish generosity in the future will tend to pass the Organization by, and will be directed to Jewish non-political associations, which are now becoming actively interested in the exploitation of Palestine, and will develop the country without the help of the Zionist Organisation, if need be. If this should be the case, it would be a mistake—many people considered it a mistake when the Mandate was published—to give in the Mandate a special status to any one Jewish body. The position is undoubtedly involved, but the tangle can be straightened out by straightforward dealing. We do not share the Arabs' fears, but we cannot be surprised at their entertaining those fears. We have no doubt that Great Britain under the Mandate will honourably fulfil the spirit of the Balfour Declaration; but we hold that it would be entirely justified in reconsidering its present relations with the Zionist Organization. As for the Rutenberg concession, it would seem to be sound enough in principle, provided that concessions have not been withheld from other applicants on the ground that they could not be granted until peace with Turkey had been ratified; but we do not understand why a member of the Government who has been "behind" M. Rutenberg all the time has not come out into the open to relieve the concession of the stigma attaching to an alien engineer of M. Rutenberg's sensational past.

Political Strife at Belgrade.

During the royal wedding festivities at Belgrade, party politics receded into the background, and for the time members of the Government and members of the Opposition remembered only that they were loyal subjects of King Alexander. Now, however, the truce is at an end, and the fight has been renewed with extreme bitterness. The Coalition Government is believed to realise that it certainly cannot hope to accomplish more than the passing of the Electoral Law and the Budget, and perhaps the making of arrangements for a loan. That done, it will resign. But at the moment it looks almost as if even this limited programme may prove too ambitious to be carried out. Last week, after a stormy debate on the Electoral Law, practically the whole Opposition left the House, the voting being 159 to 5. That may be a victory for the Government; but a few more victories of the kind would be fatal. M. Marinkovitch, Minister of the Interior, is reported to have resigned; and M. Nintchitch, Minister of Foreign Affairs, seems likely to share the fate of Dr. Trumbitch in incurring his countrymen's hostility when he deserves their gratitude.

Trouble in S. Kurdistan.

It was officially announced last week that two British officers—Captain Makant, M.C., Iraq Levies, and Captain Bond, M.C., Assistant Political Officer, Chemchemal, were murdered in Kurdistan on June 18. The statement issued by the Colonial Office even gave the name of the murderer—Kerim Fattah Beg, of the Hamawand Kurds. The latter are a powerful and troublesome tribe, with a marked disposition to act "agin the Government." They gave the Turks, both Young and Old, a great deal of trouble; and in the rising of 1919 they were extremely active against us. But they have not hitherto been regarded as particularly treacherous, and Kerim Fattah Beg has been well spoken of by several Englishmen who have had dealings with him; although he has always been regarded as something of a firebrand. Both the murdered officers had much experience of the Kurds, and both were well liked by them; and it is difficult at present to account for the outrage. All that is known at the time of writing is that Kerim Fattah Beg had been making trouble for some time; that he sent word to Captain Bond that he was ready to make his submission; that the two officers rode out to meet him, accompanied by two native orderlies; and that after the meeting as they were riding in apparent friendship with the Beg, they were suddenly and treacherously shot down.

Turkish Influence ?

In the course of a very interesting article, in the *Morning Post*, on the subject of these Kurdistan murders, Major E. B. Soane, whose knowledge of the Kurds is wide and well matured (if we may use the expression), suggests that the mischief may be due to the Turks. The Southern Kurds, he says, despise and detest the Arab, whom they have now "learned to regard as the darling of the British in Mesopotamia," and they would prefer the rule of the Turk to that of King Faisal. In view of recent developments, it would not be at all astonishing to learn that the Turks had actually succeeded in stirring the Hamawand up to mischief. At the same time we must remember that—as Major Soane himself acknowledges in his "To Mesopotamia and Kurdistan in Disguise"—the Hamawand, like some other Kurds, actually claim Arab descent for their

leaders. Another point on which Major Soane is not altogether reassuring is the Kurds' manner of dodging aerial attacks. He holds that the only way to run these people to earth is to pursue their fighting gangs with small bodies of horse, and to employ against them their own guerilla tactics. It is to be hoped that events will shew him to have taken in this respect an unnecessarily gloomy view. Otherwise it will look as if we have expected too much of the Air Force.

A New Persian Cabinet.

Persia has another new Cabinet, headed by the Kawam es-Sultaneh, but the Sardar Sipah still remains Minister for War, and the new Premier has already announced that the new Cabinet will continue the policy of its two predecessors. So far nothing has occurred to incline the world to doubt that the statement is one of pure fact; and that being so, it looks as if there is nothing to be done by those nations which lie outside the rule of the Shah-in-Shah save to hope that his new Ministers will serve him and his country well. While the Persians remain so strongly suspicious of all foreign advice, it is obviously not for foreigners to tender advice. But we observe with some satisfaction that the Kawam es-Sultaneh has informed the Mejliss that the new Government will proceed with the appointment of foreign advisers as quickly as possible. It is also intended to press forward in the matter of granting a northern oil concession, which is expected to result in a considerable alleviation of present unemployment. Whether it will prove perfectly easy to solve this question during the lifetime of the present Cabinet—as Cabinets in Teheran live these days—may be doubted by some people. But it is unquestionably gratifying to be told that the new Government intends to take steps to improve economic conditions, where, it must be admitted, there is room for improvement.

A Royal Viceroy ?

It was perhaps inevitable that the return of the Prince of Wales from his Imperial tour should be made the occasion for bringing forward once again the idea that a Royal Viceroy should reside permanently in India, leaving the conduct of the administration to a Governor-General, but representing the Throne as no appointed Viceroy can do. In previous discussions of this topic it has usually been understood that the practical difficulties were regarded officially as insuperable, but the attractions are undoubtedly great, and even a Prince might regard India as a desirable place of residence, if he were provided with a suitable estate, or, as Indians would say, *jageer*, including for instance the Kumaun division, and some of the best sporting country further South. We do not know whether the idea is likely to receive serious consideration at present, but we venture to suggest to any Indians who may desire to press it, that their first business must be to prove that a recurrence of last winter's lapses of manners has been rendered definitely impossible; when they have established that position, they will perhaps be able to talk over the matter with Lord Inchcape.

The Story of Oudh.

It is a long time since we have read a more enlightening official document than Colonel Faunthorpe's report on the agrarian unrest in Oudh. The story is lengthy, but, its essence can be told in a few words. Up to 1856 Oudh was under Indian rule, and the peasants were *taillables et corvéables à merci* in the strictest sense of the classical phrase, liable to be taxed and impressed at the

caprice of the king or his unruly barons. Sixty years of British rule made little difference in practice: laws designed to protect the peasants could not be, or at least, were not enforced; the caprice of the landholder was still the law of his tenants; and though some English officials called for action, no prominent Indian raised his voice in their support. In the last few years the position has changed rapidly. The tenant, we are now told, wants to know where he stands; he has realised the value of combined action; his general intelligence has improved, and he is thinking about votes; in a word he has begun to wake up. Agitators were quick to perceive that in Oudh they had a deep and serious sense of grievance to work upon: hence the riots of last year, and the alarm which recurred a few months ago. The agitators have been dealt with, but, despite recent legislation, substantial grievances remain.

And Its Future.

As to the future, Colonel Faunthorpe at least has no doubts. The tenants have moved with the times, but the landholders have not. "They can have the choice between putting things straight now, or running the risk of incurring grave trouble later on." All the tenants really care for is that they should be "left in peace in the occupation of their holdings, and not ejected, rack-rented, or worried" by the landholder or anyone else; it is not a very revolutionary programme, and it is most unfortunate that, as the cable has recently told us, the landholders are even now inclined to stand stubbornly still. In the past, all suggestions of agrarian reform were put aside on the ground that the support of the great landholders was a political asset, which no Administration could afford to risk; in the changed conditions, it looks as if they will have to appear on the liabilities side of the balance-sheet, for the new self-consciousness of the tenants has come to stay, and it is likely to express itself very definitely at the next elections.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

Monday Evening.

Sir Henry Wilson.

The murder of Sir Henry Wilson at his house in London immediately after he had unveiled a War Memorial at Liverpool Street Station was one of those abominable crimes which pervert the normal course of history, and of which Irish history in particular is too full.

Sir Henry Wilson was an Ulsterman with the feelings of an Ulsterman, and when he resigned as Chief of the Imperial General Staff after the War, he disagreed emphatically with the Government's Irish policy, and entered the House of Commons unopposed as an Ulster member. Apparently he was credited by the Irish Republicans with stiffening the resistance of Ulster, and with advising the disposition of the Imperial troops at the recent Pettigo conflict; and the Republicans, who have long since adopted the old Fenian tactics of murder and arson in their own country, decided to take another leaf out of the Fenian book, and to inaugurate outrage and terror in England. It is known that for some time past Lord Carson's life has been threatened, and he has been specially protected by police; the same precaution seems not to have been taken in the case of Sir Henry Wilson. Perhaps he thought it superfluous.

The Prospects of Irish Peace.

The crime will have a sinister effect on the prospects of Irish peace. It was always said by the old Nationalist school that all Ireland's troubles were due to British tyranny, and that once Home Rule was given, prosperity would return. It was in this hopeful spirit that the pact was made last December. But since then the

condition of Ireland has gone from bad to worse, and with the withdrawal of British troops from the south, something not far short of anarchy has broken loose. The event shows that this vendetta is now carried into England, and that it does not spare the most distinguished citizens.

It must be admitted that all sympathy with the cause of Irish freedom, which has been so cruelly prostituted by her own sons, is now vanishing. Mr. Asquith, a Home Ruler all his life, was openly in tears in the House of Commons when the news of Sir Henry Wilson's assassination by two Sinn Feiners was received; and this catastrophe may mark the end of Liberal policy for the present. The immediate penalty of murder is paid by the murderers, but the graver and more lasting penalties of political murder are paid by the country which produces the assassins.

The Irish elections, which have taken place during the past few days, have been almost forgotten during the outcry over this abominable deed. They have produced a considerable majority in favour of the Treaty, but there is said to be trouble impending over the adoption of the Constitution recently agreed to between the Free State representatives and Mr. Churchill.

The Return of the Prince.

The Prince of Wales returned from his tour in India and Japan last Wednesday, and was given an astonishing reception by London. Absence in this case has made the heart grow fonder. Cockneys—who think the Royal Family their own particular possession—have followed his doings abroad with affectionate interest and every young woman in an omnibus has views as to his future bride. But the Prince has well earned a short holiday before he sets about marrying, and nobody will begrudge him a rest from public functions.

His arrival would have given a fillip to the most brilliant London season for years, but on the following day the murder of Sir Henry Wilson gave the social world a shock from which it will not quickly recover. Social entertainments and parties were put off at once; and although a certain number of functions will take place, the life has gone out of things for the present.

Our Aerial Position.

There has been a great deal of discussion lately as to our position in the air. We started the late war, as is well known, rather behind France and Germany, but we soon caught up and passed them both. Since then, largely owing to motives of economy, the Air Force has been cut down, and civilian flying has languished. One or two aircraft manufacturing concerns have gone out of business, and others, such as the Rolls-Royce, may have to shut down if more orders are not forthcoming.

We do not want to think of the next war, for we are in a very peaceful mood, but the rest of the world is not quite so peacefully inclined. Any future war will be fought largely in the air, and the public is not likely to remain entirely satisfied with our present position. At the same time, the facts alleged by the various schools of opinion are so contradictory that it appears to me peculiarly difficult for the ordinary man to come to an instructed opinion.

Dyes and Sugar.

The two war industries which the Government was instrumental in setting up—the manufacture of dye-stuffs and sugar-beet—have been coming in for a good deal of criticism lately, particularly from the extreme Free Trade school. The industries themselves have been passing through the same difficult time as all other trades, but much of the criticism has been by no means fair.

Home-grown sugar, which was floated two years ago by private capital and a Government grant, has made a heavy loss on its first two years. The sugar refiners, who have always been opposed to the industry, are now suggesting that the prospects of success are hopeless, and that it should be shut down. To this the answer is made that many enterprises which are eventually successful often make an initial loss, and that to shut down now would be the height of folly. A large amount of sugar-beet has been grown, and farmers are beginning

to understand the advantages of this additional crop in their rotation ; it has increased employment in the country during the winter, at the very time when employment is required ; and it has put sugar of high quality on the market. All that remains is for the industry to make a profit, which could not be reasonably be expected in any event in the first two years, especially when these happened to synchronise with a heavy fall in the price of sugar. I think Home-Grown Sugar has made out its case.

The position of British Dyes, a larger corporation, is more complex. The company was hampered at the start by a political chairman. During the war and for some time afterwards the demand for munitions and dyes was so great that it specialised on quantity at the expense of quality ; but the fine chemical trade ultimately depends on quality. Three years ago the company was reconstructed and over-capitalised ; there followed the fall of prices, large stores had to be written down heavily, and the last two dividends have been passed.

These troubles can be overcome. The fine chemical trade is essential to manufacturers in peace, as the North of England has determined never again to be dependent on Germany for dyes ; and it is essential to the Government in war now that war has become so largely a chemical conflict. In these circumstances the only thing to be done is to reconstruct the company on sound commercial lines and try again. At the annual meeting at Manchester last week it was decided to do this.

Church-going and Cricket.

Dean Inge, the *enfant terrible* of St. Paul's, has been speaking his mind again. He says that the decline of church-going is not necessarily a sign of national degeneration ; he thinks it a good thing to go to church on Sunday, but he admits that sermons are dull and that cricket and golf are very interesting ; and he says straight out that those who work hard all the week have earned the right to fresh air and exercise on the one day of the week in which they can get it.

It seems *à propos* to add that the Church Militant was very much in evidence last week, for twenty-two parsons from two dioceses fought each other, not in convocation or a Chapter House, but at Lords. I am told that the cricket, unlike the sermons, was exciting, and the whole game was first-class ; the victory was only gained by one run. The form was so good that really we ought to introduce a new form of test match, and when the Australians have hopelessly beaten England on the next tour, perhaps the Church of England may save the national reputation. In the event of victory the captain of the team should certainly be made a bishop.

Three Books on Philosophy.

It is quite clear that serious reading is on the increase, for no fewer than three books on philosophy have been published in a week. Of these "The Philosophy of Humanism" (Murray) by Lord Haldane, will hardly repeat the success of its predecessor "The Reign of Relativity." It is interesting, but rather hasty ; and in places it is superficial. "The New Idealism" (Macmillan) by May Sinclair, better known as a novelist,

resolves itself into a criticism of the work of Professors Alexander, Whitehead, and the new realists, who have knocked a good many holes in the mantle of the old idealism.

The third book, "A Theory of Monads," (Macmillan) by Professor Weldon Carr, is a far more noteworthy work, and deserves prolonged study as well as the ordinary skimming which is more than enough for most metaphysical writers. It would be absurd to attempt to review a book of this quality in a few lines ; suffice it to say that Professor Carr combines Bergson and Einstein. He postulates that "Monadism means that reality is activity and not a stuff of which activity may be an attribute, quality, or endowment." Another and more difficult point he makes is this : "We may seem to be obeying an instinct of our nature when we put our trust in God. But the God in whom we trust is an idol of our imagination. We construct it and then lean on it for support. But even could we endow it with real existence or discern in it independent activity, it would be as far away as ever from the satisfaction which philosophy needs."

The Week's Books.

"The Pomp of Power" (Hutchinson) is another anonymous book of personalia of the popular type. The following characterisation of Lord Balfour shows its quality : "I have heard him at a critical period of the war, and while he was Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, discuss after dinner the prospects, the chances of our ultimately winning, with the interest of a person observing a great phenomenon which in no way affected him personally : the interest one might have expected to be displayed by a week-end visitor from Mars."

Of Krassin, whom the author calls "a man of affairs rather than a dreamer or fanatic," it is said "he did not hide from me that the result of England and France both absolutely refusing to have any dealings with Russia would mean a war with Poland. He admitted that such a war would be lengthy, and said that Russia was making preparations accordingly."

"Between Two Continents" (Eveleigh Nash) by Prince William of Sweden, is a lively and informative account of travels in Yucatan, Guatemala, and San Salvador. It contains an interesting description of the splendid ruins of Tuloom, and wonderful chapter about a revolution in Guatemala, during which a Jew rushed into the Prince's hotel with the following invitation : "I haf eleven fine new corpses in my house. Come and see, come and see ! I charge you nothing at all, not one little commision, for eleven fine new corpses !"

"Harmonism and Conscious Evolution" (Murray) by Sir Charles Walston, is a study in aesthetics. The author's theory is that "aesthetic perceptions, emotions and principles are so primary and so elemental in the evolution and activity of the human mind that ultimately truth, utility, and goodness must be referred back to them." The author produces a great deal of evidence in support of his proposition, but it is a large assumption that he requires us to make, and I am afraid he leaves me unconvinced.

WAR CASUALTIES IN THE EAST.

In the House of Commons, on June 19, Sir L. Worthington-Evans, replying to a question, stated that the approximate total number of officers and men employed in Egypt and Palestine during the War was 1,192,511 ; the number employed in Mesopotamia was approximately 889,702. The numbers killed, including died of wounds or disease, were 16,366 in Egypt and Palestine, and 31,758 in Mesopotamia. The numbers of wounded were 38,090 and 51,156 respectively.

The Palestine Government has again made arrangements with the Egyptian Government whereby a limited number of pilgrims from Palestine can accompany the Egyptian Pilgrims to Mecca, via Suez and Jeddah. The Emir el Haj had been approached in order that the well-being and comfort of the Pilgrims from Palestine should be ensured. The cost for the double journey to third-class passengers would be about £E.20, and first-class £E.36.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

From Our Own Correspondents.

EGYPT.

Cairo, June 16.

The Prince of Wales' Visit.

The Prince of Wales has come and gone. Brief though his visit was, he managed to set his personal mark on Egypt. His Royal Highness arrived on the afternoon of the 9th at Suez, where he was greeted by Said Pasha Zulfikar on behalf of King Fuad, and by Captain Hindley and Mr. Vereker on behalf of the High Commissioner. Already on landing he had evidence of the foreign communities' pleasurable expectation in the warm welcome which was extended to him by a group of English and French residents on the quay. At Cairo, also, where he was met by the High Commissioner, a crowd of British, who had established themselves within the station in spite of regulations, cheered him most warmly as he passed on the platform, and the cheering was taken up by the European crowd outside the station.

The Prince of Wales had a busy but to all accounts most enjoyable two days in Cairo, and the British community had every opportunity of seeing him. On the morning after his arrival he drove to Abdin Palace to call on the King, and was received with cheers by the British residents who had congregated along the route. Later King Fuad returned the visit at the Residency, where the Prince stayed as the guest of the High Commissioner and Lady Allenby; and in the afternoon His Royal Highness played polo at Gezira.

Were this the winter season, I should have characterised the polo match as the "clou" of the season. As it is, however, this is very much the hot portion of the year, a fact which made the scene at Gezira all the more remarkable. It is, indeed, no exaggeration to say that it is a very long time, dating back possibly before the War, since such a representative social gathering of cosmopolitan Cairo has assembled here, and it is certainly many years since we have witnessed such fast play as was exhibited in the match in which the Prince took part.

The two sides were pretty evenly matched. The Prince's team consisted of Seifullah Yusri Pasha and Captain Pigot Moodie and Captain Scot Robson of the Scots Greys; and their opponents were Lieut.-Col. Cavendish, the Hon. D. Erskine, Mr. Harris and Major Reynolds representing the 9th Lancers. The match ended in a victory for the former by six goals to two, of which the Prince, whose play according to experts was quite first-class, shot two. The cup which was offered by King Fuad was presented to the Prince by Prince Djemil Tussoun, and His Royal Highness received a most extraordinary ovation as he drove off the ground.

The same evening he attended a boxing competition organized at Kasr El Nil Barracks in his honour, and at the conclusion he distributed the prizes, making a happily-phrased little speech, which was received with enthusiasm by the troops. Next day he was the guest of honour at a luncheon party offered by King Fuad in Abdin Palace, at which the other guests included the High Commissioner and Lady Allenby and the Ministers. After the luncheon King Fuad invested the Prince with the Collar of the Order of Mohamed Aly, the highest distinction in the gift of the Throne, and hitherto reserved to members of the reigning house. The same evening the Prince of Wales left for Port Said, where he went on board the 'Renown.'

So much has appeared about the charming personality of our future King that I feel that nothing I write could add to the picture of the wonderful impression he has made on all who have come into contact with him. Nevertheless, there is one feature to which I feel I ought to draw attention, and that is the extraordinary magnetic influence he exercises over all who see him, let alone those who actually come near to, or converse with, him. One of the most amazing features of his

visit has indeed been the almost rapturous terms with which people of all nationalities who have merely seen him at a distance refer to him, and there is no doubt that as in other parts of the East his visit has been fraught with far-reaching beneficial results.

The Foreign Officials Question.

The latest topic is the question of compensation to dismissed or retiring British officials which, owing to the curious, though in the circumstances not altogether unexpected, action of the Cabinet, may create a serious situation. I will endeavour briefly to recapitulate the facts.

In the Milner proposals, one of the important points put forward was that any change in the political status of Egypt, connoting as it would the substitution of Egyptian for British control, must be accompanied by a scheme of compensation to be paid to officials who might be dismissed by the Egyptian Government, or who felt compelled to retire in consequence of the changed conditions.

It may here be convenient to explain that members of the Egyptian Civil Service have a very special position as compared with the various Civil Services in the Empire, in that they cannot be retired until the age of sixty except for ill-health, misconduct or in certain special circumstances which do not cover the change now introduced, and that in consequence of this special position it was recognised that they must receive a special form of compensation.

The British officials put forward in due course a scheme which met with the approval of their foreign colleagues and was approved of by the High Commissioner and the Foreign Office. This scheme was handed last summer to the Official Delegation, who put in counter-proposals; and the two schemes were submitted to the Government Actuary, who reported that that of the Delegation was inequitable and made certain technical criticisms of the British Officials' tables. The officials duly amended their tables in the light of those criticisms, and after Egypt had been given her independence and Egyptians began to displace Englishmen in the higher posts they put forward their proposals to the High Commissioner.

Lord Allenby went thoroughly into the question and decided that the time had come to take up the matter with the Egyptian Government. He, however, decided that there should be no bargaining; and in order to avoid this he made certain amendments in the tables, which produced a reduction of over 20 per cent. in the amounts that might be payable to retiring or dismissed officials as compared with what would have been payable under the officials' own scheme. In addition since the Egyptians seemed to fear that there might be a general exodus, a provision was inserted whereunder, while the Egyptian Government acquired an unrestricted right to dismiss, the High Commissioner would exercise a veto over retirements, although in principle the reciprocal right of the officials to retire was to be recognised.

These amended proposals were in due course handed to the Cabinet, which after considerable discussion replied that it could not entertain them, as this was a matter which concerned Parliament and it had no power to enter into any agreement binding several budgets. At the same time the Cabinet offered to treat generously any cases which in the meantime might come up for consideration, and declared that it had no intention of dismissing any European officials.

The views held by the foreign officials appear to be the following. They say that while the question of dismissal is important, what exercises them in an equally important degree is their present and future position. This has been radically affected by the removal of British control and the adoption of the policy of appointing Egyptians to high posts hitherto held by Englishmen; and they are unanimous in the view that only a general

scheme laying down the terms applicable to everyone will safeguard the interests of both those who wish to go and those who are retained.

Indeed, they object very strongly to the undignified position of having to bargain with the Government in which the absence of any definite scheme places those officials who as a direct result of the changed conditions may find it difficult to continue in the service.

Port Said, June 17.

The chief event of the last few days has been the passage of the 'Renown' with the Prince of Wales, returning from his tour in the East. The Prince left the ship at Suez, and paid a state visit to Cairo, returning to Port Said by special train in the early hours of Monday morning. H.M.S. 'Renown' came through the Canal in twelve hours and thirty-five minutes' actual steaming time, which is considerably less than the average time of transit. In view of her immense size (she is roughly one hundred feet longer than anything that has been through before) this passage reflects the greatest credit on the pilots, Captain Pertwee and Lieut.-Commander Lyddon, as well as on the general arrangements made by the officials of the Canal Company. The 'Renown' left on Monday morning escorted by the Cruiser 'Comus' and, in the harbour limits, by the Canal Company's tugs. Overhead there were several aeroplanes, hovering and performing evolutions.

IRAQ (Mesopotamia).

Baghdad, June 9.

Extremist Indiscretion.

The political situation continues to improve, thanks largely to the efforts of the extremists, the excess of whose energies in opposition to the Mandate is beginning to react against them. On the first day of the Ramadan Id the extremists attempted to organize a big meeting in the Haidarkhanah mosque to protest against the Mandate and to demand complete independence. Government got wind of the intention, and, fearing that disturbances might ensue, issued instructions that the

meeting was not to be held. Frustrated in this way, a small number proceeded to the King's Palace and made some show of a demonstration, but it was noticeable that they received very little support from the Baghdadis as a whole; and their efforts on that day may be regarded as showing what little support the extremists have even in the capital. There are doubtless a number of persons opposed to the Mandate who deem it inadvisable to appear on such occasions, but it was shown that the number of people who are prepared to come out into the open and definitely side against the Mandate is comparatively insignificant.

Clerical Interference.

The sequel to the attempts made on the Id came a day or two ago, when an announcement appeared in all the local vernacular papers signed by Sh. Mehdi al Khalisi, S. Muhammad as Sadr, Sh. Ahmad Daoud, Sh. Mehdi al Buseir and Hamdi Beg Pachachi, declaring that they had been commissioned by the people of Iraq to make known to all and sundry the determination of the Iraqis to accept no Mandate and to stand out for complete independence, and that a telegram in that strain had been sent by them to the League of Nations, the parliaments of Great Britain, America, France and Italy, President Harding and the principal newspapers of America and Europe. This action of the five 'commissioners' has given the extremist cause a greater setback than anything else could have done. It has become increasingly noticeable to what extent the politicians of this country in particular and the people in general resent the interference of the religious leaders in politics, and this instance has proved to be no exception. It will be noted that three of the 'commissioners' are Shiah *ulama*, one Sheikh Ahmad Daoud, a Sunni *alim* and only one, Hamdi Bey Pachachi, a layman. Their action has served only to infuriate those whom they had regarded as their supporters, and has driven many of the more luke-warm extremists into the moderates' camp. Thus the excess of zeal of the extremists is proving their undoing, and is strengthening the hands of the more orderly elements. Meanwhile all sorts of rumours are being circulated as to what is going to happen if the Mandate is refused. The rumour which gains most credence is that the British will evacuate the country, and leave the Arabs to carry on as best they can. Such an action would, they realize, lead to awful anarchy and complete disorder. Other rumours are that in the event of the rejection of the Mandate the country will be made a British colony or will be given back to the Turks. The story that the country is to go back to the Turks is making people seriously consider the Mandate question, as, though the Turks are not without supporters in Iraq, most people would infinitely prefer British rule to Turkish.

The Draft Treaty.

The Council of Ministers is understood to have finished the discussion of the draft treaty and to have sent to the Home Government some suggestions regarding modifications to certain clauses, and the Home Government's reply is being awaited before any further discussions are held here.

The Iraq railways in their attempt to pay their way this year have produced a new tariff, which came into operation on June 1. In it an attempt has been made to compete with the rivers by reducing rates on the Basrah-Baghdad section to approximately the level of the existing river freight charges, while the rates have in general been increased on the other sections where there is no river competition. Opinion here is very sceptical regarding the possibility of making the railways pay their way this year even with the new tariff. A revival of trade might help them to do so, but there seems little likelihood of their doing so while the present trade depression lasts.

General News.

Nuri Pasha Said has relinquished his post as Director General of Police and has reverted to his previous appointment of Chief of the General Staff of the Iraq Army. He is succeeded as head of the police by Ismail Beg as Saffar.

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Mr. H. A. Smallwood, C.M.G., late Financial Secretary to the Palestine Government, has arrived in Baghdad and taken over the duties of Financial Adviser to the High Commissioner.

The weather at the beginning of June has been abnormally hot, and the *shimal* (north wind), which should have set in by now, has not yet arrived.

PALESTINE.

Jerusalem, June 18.

The Arabs and the Mandate.

A tone of tearful despair is prevailing in Arab circles at the near approach of July 15, and at their helplessness in face of the probable ratification of the Mandate on that date. The *Miraat esh-Shark*, after warning the Arabs no longer to put their trust in the few English lords and the outcries of a few odd English papers, advises its readers to face the fact that "the great majority of members of both Houses of Parliament are against us and not for us, that the Ministry of Lloyd George still stands fast, that the Entente States together with America and the Vatican have consented to the English Mandate—not to mention the world-wide political influence of the Jews." In face of this solid phalanx of opposition all that the *Miraat esh-Shark* can suggest is that "the various Arab associations and the Executive Council of the Palestinian-Arab Delegation should immediately summon a congress in Jerusalem to deal with the matter and decide on some plan of campaign before it is too late." Something, the paper urges, must be done lest "it be written down in history that the Palestinian nation slept away its last moments, committing its affairs to blind chance."

The *Lisan el-Arab* in a leader entitled "Betwixt Hope and Despair" is slightly more hopeful. Arising out of the disputes over the Holy Places it ventures a hope that salvation may yet spring up for the Arabs. And it also expresses the opinion that, after all, the Arabs place too much importance on the decision of the League of Nations and too little on their own actions in this emergency. It is distinctly refreshing to see the Arab cross-questioning himself: "What have we ever done so far to put our own house in order? Has a voice yet been heard among us urging the reform of our schools and the developing of them to the requisite standard? Have any of our men of wealth moved a finger towards founding institutions of economic or material value, the lack of which is daily felt so sorely? Where are the agricultural banks? Where are the societies for the fostering of commerce? Where are there useful associations of any kind whatsoever?..... Let the more noisy spirits hold their peace and turn their attention to something useful; and then are we sure that our freedom will be secured!"

Propaganda in Mecca.

The executive of the Arab Delegation has decided to send a special delegation to Mecca during the coming weeks to seize the opportunity of the Hajj. It is to be composed of three men who shall conduct propaganda and raise funds for the Arab Nationalist movement in Palestine. The Jaffa Arab paper *Falastin* urges that some of the delegation should know English in order to get into touch with pilgrims from India. The same paper also proposes that the day of the delegation's departure for the Hejaz should be officially proclaimed as a general day of prayer in all the towns of Palestine, and instructs the Executive Council to draw up the form of prayer.

This week the same paper, while animadverting on the parlous state to which the Zionist policy of the British Administration has reduced the country, reverts to its favourite topic that under the pretence of administrative economy "any District Governor or any official or anybody else who attempts to combat the Zionist disease and preserve the fair fame of the British Mandate or refuses to work in accordance with the spirit of those Jewish refugees who are crushing out the Arabs—is forthwith dismissed from his post." The paper then goes on to dilate on the material damage accruing to the

country, and the ill-return which the Jews have made to Great Britain in exchange for Great Britain's kindness to them: how they have destroyed her commerce and her good name, how they have withstood the spread of the English language for the sake of their own affairs and the spread of their two languages, Hebrew and Yiddish; and it winds up with an appeal to figures, as proving the financially ruinous results of the present policy. After laying down the premiss that conditions now show scarcely any improvement on conditions during the Turkish régime, it contrasts the British annual Palestinian budget of two and a half millions with the £325,000 which was all that it rose to in the days of the Turk. The *Falastin* then gives the following interesting details of the two Administrations:—

	British	Turkish
Treasury	32,000	7,500
Controller of Stores	10,000	nil.
Industry and Commerce	5,000	nil.
Ports and Lights	11,000	1,300
Public Health	43,000	5,000
Public Security	216,000	30,000
Education	91,000	nil.
Posts and Telegraphs	119,000	22,000
Railways	754,000	42,000

But from these figures most people would draw somewhat different conclusions from those of the *Falastin*.

Changes in the Administration.

The resignation of Sir William Deedes from the post of Civil Secretary is being gradually accepted as an inevitable but none the less lamentable fact. A rumour as to his resignation became current early in the year, but everybody hoped that it had no real foundation. Jewish, Arab and English circles are unanimous—an almost unheard-of state of things in Palestine—in their genuine regret at the impending loss to the Administration. Sir Wyndham, during his two years' work, has built for himself an unchallenged reputation for single-minded straightforwardness: no one has been heard to hint at any bias in him towards either Arab or Jewish faction. When the Civil Administration began in 1920 there was scarcely an official without his popular label—pro-this or pro-that. The Governor of Jerusalem preserved his reputation for versatility by winning the distinction of being pro-both. But in spite of the bitter complaints of certain Arab circles—as exemplified in the above extract from the Arab press—to the contrary, the tendency to affix pro- or anti- labels to the various officials becomes less and less, and we find ourselves ever more and more, with each new appointment, in the hands of men who are pure and simple "administrators" with a single eye to their work and no excessive interest in the ramifications of local politics. This is as it should be; and there can be no question that it is the character of the Civil Secretary and the nicely poised diplomacy of the High Commissioner which have brought about this marked modification in the personnel of the Administration.

There are still a few hopes expressed that Sir Wyndham will be persuaded to remain. Should the Mandate be ratified in its present shape at the next session of the League of Nations, it is even more important in the interests of the Arabs' peace of mind that there should be in a responsible position such an administrator as Sir Wyndham—one who can apply the terms of the Mandate in such a way as to avoid suspicion of neglecting in the slightest degree the legitimate interests of Arab Palestinians.

The Death of Dr. Nies.

Archaeology in Jerusalem and the cause of Assyriology have just suffered a heavy loss in the death of the American Assyriologist, Dr. James B. Nies, which happened suddenly in Jerusalem to-day. Dr. Nies was the very unusual combination of scholar, man of wealth and patron of learning. He came out to Jerusalem some weeks ago to supervise the building of the new premises of the American School of Archaeological research, for which he had himself provided generous endowment. He then proposed to go on to Baghdad,

and there, in conjunction with Professor Clay, to found an American Institute of Assyriology. Dr. Nies's collection of cuneiform tablets is scarcely less important than that of Pierpoint Morgan.

ALBANIA.

Tirana, June 5.

The Internal Situation.

The present state of the country gives grounds for optimism, for the power of the Government is becoming more and more established; disarmament continues, and every undertaking has been crowned with success. At the moment of writing forces of Albanian gendarmerie are operating to the extreme east of Scutari, towards Hassi; Bairam Tsurri and his companions have fled, for on May 16 these rebels came into contact with the Albanian gendarmerie and were routed, one man being killed. It is hoped that shortly the whole of the "mountaineer" party of the eastern region will be weeded out, and that no source of anxiety will thereafter remain.

The League of Nations.

Lord Balfour, the delegate of Great Britain, spoke sympathetically of Albanian affairs at the Council of the League of Nations on May 12 and 13 last. The League decided to send once more M. Sederholm (the delegate of Finland) to supervise the evacuation by Greece of the southern zone, thus to avoid difficulties and friction between the two countries.

Another Commission will likewise be sent by the League to study the economic and financial situation of Albania and to advise means of helping the country in its development.

Relations with Neighbours.

Since May 20 the telegraph wires of Albania have been linked up with the Serbian wires, and messages leave and arrive in Albania by this route. It should be remembered that hitherto the same route had been used for the telegraph as for the Italian cable Otranto-Valona—which placed Albania in a condition of dependence, messages very often being refused or intercepted by the Italian post-offices. It is hoped soon to arrange a postal service also over the Serbian route. It only remains for Greece to conclude a postal and telegraphic agreement with Albania in order that the country may enjoy complete liberty in its communications abroad. The Tirana Government is endeavouring to secure the closing of the Italian post-offices which still exist at Valona, Durazzo and Scutari, and also the two small radio stations at Durazzo and Scutari.

The Marriage of King Alexander.

The arrival at Tirana of the Yugoslav Chargé d'Affaires M. Ilitch, has given the Albanian Government the opportunity of delegating General Ali Riza Kologna and Captain Selaheddin Bloshmi, to represent Albania at Belgrade at the wedding of King Alexander.

A Reform.

Those who have visited the East know the uncere- monious attitude of the living towards the dead, who are buried almost anywhere, so that little cemeteries are scattered about in all quarters, often occupying the best places in the town. A sad, though picturesque spectacle! Since the events of March an order has been issued to all the municipalities to transform the little cemeteries of the towns into small squares or building grounds, and the latter will be sold to the benefit of the municipality. Thus, the tombs which could be seen round the mosques

of Tirana have made way for modest gardens, and for new *boulevards*, while buyers and builders are awaited.

TURKEY.

Constantinople, June 11.

The Bombardment of Samsoun.

According to all accounts, the bombardment of Samsoun by Greek warships, on June 7, involved little loss of life, although the Sublime Porte's official protest speaks of "numerous" lives being lost and "considerable damage." The most important damage appears to have been the destruction of the oil depots. According to a trustworthy Turkish account, twenty Moslem and fifteen Christian houses were destroyed, whilst only four persons were killed and three wounded. A Turkish paper, the *Yeni Shark*, published on the 10th inst., a report of the Commander of the American destroyer which was on the spot; and according to this report, the guns of the Greek ships failed to reach the munitions depots outside the town. It seems quite clear, therefore, that the Greeks were quite justified in their action, if any additional evidence were required. As a matter of fact, it is common knowledge that Samsoun, like Ineboli and Trebizond, is a port which has been regularly utilised for the discharge of war materials from Russia and elsewhere for the last eighteen months at least.

The official protest of the Kemalists and the comments of the Kemalist press are worthy of note in certain respects. In Yusuf Kemal's protest it is suggested that the Greek Government's motive was to "provoke a rebellion of native Greeks against the Turkish State," and to create effervescence amongst the Moslems of Anatolia. These statements would be laughable, were it not for the sinister hints of what lies behind them afforded by the leading articles of the Kemalist press. For instance the *Tevhid Efkiar* published on June 10 a leading article in which the following remarks appeared.

"A repetition of such attacks would only cause the Turks to despair of the triumph of right and justice. (*Sic.*) We see quite clearly that the enemy means to resort to all kinds of atrocities against us, and this conviction is likely to force us to excesses. We shall have to resort to extreme measures to meet the criminal actions of the enemy."

The italics are the writer's.

A strange argument surely! The bombardment of the Greek island of Syra during the Balkan War by the Turkish warship Hamidié was an act of heroism, but if the Greeks bombard Turkish ports with depots of war material, where war supplies are discharged, the circumstance may justify "extreme measures" involving "excesses."

Angora and Dr. Nihad Rechad Bey.

Those who read Dr. Nihad Rechad Bey's statements concerning Turkish claims will be interested to hear that the Angora Government has openly repudiated its late Paris representative. On June 8, Yusuf Kemal Bey, in reply to a question by Faik Bey, Deputy for Adrianople (!), stated that Dr. Nihad Rechad Bey had been given no authority, nor was he a representative or envoy of the Angora Government.

An Outbreak of Rabies.

A certain amount of alarm has been caused by an outbreak of rabies amongst the dogs of Constantinople, which have not yet been completely exterminated. The outbreak began in the Anatolian suburbs of Kadiköy

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and the neighbourhood. Several people were bitten, including an unfortunate Turkish policeman, who was not treated in time and died in the horrible manner which is inevitable in such circumstances. The authorities promptly intensified the measures for the destruction of stray dogs, but although some 1,700 have been destroyed, it is estimated that at least 3,000 remain. The "pi-dog" is sometimes regarded with sentimental affection by people who seem to see romance in anything unusual, but close acquaintance with the Turkish "pi-dog" is a sure cure for such ideas. Not only are they a fruitful source of disease and danger, but their sustained barking at night is often maddening for those who sleep lightly and with open windows. The animals seem to possess a subtle sense of danger, however, for it is reported that numbers have left the city since the measures for their extermination have been commenced, and roam the country in small packs.

The Visit of Claude Farrère.

M. Claude Farrère, the author of "*L'Homme Qui assassina*," arrived in Constantinople on June 5, and was given an extraordinary reception by a large Turkish crowd which assembled to support the officials who had been sent to welcome the Turkophil novelist. An official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was appointed as major domo, and a handsome apartment in Stamboul was placed at the disposal of the illustrious guest, who was loudly cheered as his motor car bore him to his residence. The enthusiasm appears to have awakened a sympathetic echo in the breast of the romanticist, for at one point along the road he shouted at the top of his voice, "Long live my Padishah." At least, that is what the Turkish phrase he cried signifies—"Padishahim chok yasha." M. Farrère was to have paid a visit to Angora, but he has unfortunately been recalled to Paris on urgent business. It would have been interesting to learn what effect his cry of "Long live my Padishah!" would have had in Angora, where Mustapha Kemal and his friends are doing their best to undermine the dynasty. On June 11, however, M. Farrère will pay a visit to the Dardanelles and inspect the graves of the "Turkish and French" soldiers who fell in the course of the war. It is just possible that he may see other graves as well, but the sight might arouse uncomfortable thoughts, and he will, therefore, concentrate his attention upon those of his Turkish friends.

ASIA MINOR.

Smyrna, June 9.

Three Greek soldiers, by insisting on obtaining refreshments, created a disturbance at the Aidin factory belonging to the McAndrews & Forbes Co., liquorice merchants. The manager of the factory was compelled to draw his revolver, whereupon two of the soldiers fired off their rifles without effect, and were then hurried away by their companion. Tried by court-martial, the two soldiers who fired were sentenced to eight years' imprisonment.

SYRIA.

Beyrout, June 7.

A Contradiction.

In the Notes of the Week of your issue of May 11, it is stated that "at a dinner given at the French High Commission in Constantinople in honour of General Gouraud the latter, in an after-dinner speech, said that the Turks would do well to reject the recent proposals of the Allies, as they would secure much better terms by holding out." After making inquiries in the proper quarter, I am in a position to affirm that General Gouraud did not make a speech at a dinner or banquet in Constantinople, and that if he had done so, and had had occasion to refer to the Turks, he would have told them that it is in their highest interest not to reject the proposals made to them by the Allies. Indeed, General Gouraud, I am informed by the same authority, has always advocated close Franco-British co-operation as

the only sound policy for the successful handling of Middle Eastern problems. In an interview accorded to your correspondent in November last at Paris, he laid special stress on this fact, and very recently, in the course of a conversation with the Beyrout Correspondent of *The Times*, it was stated with equal emphasis that, as the recent demonstrations in Syria bore a curious resemblance to those of Egypt and pointed to a common source of trouble, Franco-British co-operation was an imperious necessity to grapple with a common danger.

First Parliament of the Lebanon.

At the opening of the first session of the Council of Representatives on May 25, an important speech was delivered by General Gouraud. The *Arrêté* defining the powers of this Council was promulgated in March, and its wording had given rise to some misapprehensions on the part of the public. General Gouraud's address was intended to allay anxiety on the subject. In the course of his speech he said:—

"In your prerogatives in financial as well as in legislative matters you have extensive rights, and, as some errors of misinterpretation have arisen on this point, I wish to seize this opportunity to dispel them. The matter can be put in a nutshell. No question interesting the State is to be solved without your having been called upon to discuss it. No legislative measure is to come into force in the Grand Liban before it has been submitted to the examination of its elected Council. No fiscal charges can be created or increased without a favourable vote of this Council. Every budget of the Grand Liban is to be discussed by you in all its parts."

After referring to the question of loans required by the State, in regard to which the intervention of the Haut Commissariat becomes necessary, only after the Council has failed in its efforts to deal with the matter, he said: "You are going to hold in your hands the whole development of the country."

General Gouraud pointed out that the Council would have the right of discussing the choice of delegates of the Lebanese Government to confer with delegates of the neighbouring States on matters of common interest, such as customs, posts, and telegraphs. He added: "I believe that the measures taken to ensure the future relations between the Grand Lebanon and the Syrian States entirely respect its independence. I wish here to be categorical. The independence proclaimed on September 1, 1920, before all the world and in the name of France, shall be fully maintained. It answers both the wish of the people and the will of France. Not only shall I not allow any open attempt against it, but shall in no way encourage any legislative measure calculated to undermine it or surreptitiously lead to its diminution."

The concluding part of the address defined the meaning of the Mandate: "The Mandatory Power adheres strictly to the role of a guide, which is the very essence of the mandatory régime. What is a guide? It is an experienced man to whom the traveller entrusts himself along a new road. So long as the road is straight, and not beset with difficulties, the guide has nothing to say and yet his presence is useful by the confidence he inspires. This first legislature is of capital importance. It may decide, for ever, perhaps, the direction wherein the future of your country lies. I trust that your counsels will always be so justified that they cannot but be followed, and that they cannot but compel acceptance by their intrinsic value. I further trust that your initiative will not have to be superseded by that of your Governor."

The composition of the Council is less unsatisfactory than had been expected, in view of the fact that the electoral campaign was not free from pressure and interference, as may happen in countries much more advanced constitutionally.

If you find this week's issue of THE NEAR EAST of interest, please help to make the Paper still more widely known by securing subscribers among your friends.

OBITUARY.

M. TAKE JONESCU.

News of the death of M. Take Jonescu in Rome was received with sincere regret in many quarters in Great Britain, where he had made and kept a wide circle of friends. M. Take Jonescu had been taken ill a few weeks previously in Naples, and was removed to Rome, where he died of angina pectoris on June 21 in a nursing home.

M. Take Jonescu was born at Ploeshti, Roumania, on October 25, 1858. The generosity of a wealthy Frenchman, who was interested in his family, enabled young Jonescu at the age of seventeen, after graduating at Bucharest, to proceed to France, where he studied law. He returned to Roumania in May, 1881, and became a member of the Bar. The same year saw him in London, where his marriage with Miss Bessie Richards took place in November. The tragic circumstances of her death in May, 1918, as a result of a fall from her horse in Hyde Park, are still fresh in the memory. As a lawyer M. Take Jonescu, who was a man of brilliant parts, of wide learning and a telling speaker, achieved great eminence in Roumania, and his name is associated with many of the famous cases of his time; but it was in the political world that he sought to realize his ambitions. From the earliest days his speciality was foreign affairs, and the reputation that he gained for himself in Europe went far to compensate him for a certain lack of appreciation among his own fellow-countrymen. M. Clémenceau gave him the name of "a great European," and M. Take Jonescu deserved it. His standing in Roumania brought him in touch with the political leaders of Europe, and his charm of manner and good comradeship made him an excellent ambassador for his country. Perhaps his most notable achievement in international affairs was his successful role as mediator between Turkey and Greece in 1913. When the great test came in 1914, Take Jonescu played his part unflinchingly. He rallied the opposition to King Carol's policy of committing Roumania to the side of the Central Powers on the strength of the King's military treaty with them, with the result that Roumania remained at the first neutral. Her subsequent history is common knowledge; but to the credit of Take Jonescu, who was a personal sufferer from the war, and of the vast bulk of his fellow-countrymen, it must be said that the wisdom of the decision to throw in Roumania's lot with the Allies was never challenged, not even in the darkest days.

At the Paris Conference Take Jonescu was an unofficial observer, but when in June, 1920, he became Roumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs, he based his policy on "the Treaties, the whole Treaties, and nothing but the Treaties." With this end in view he cordially supported the Little Entente, the scheme of Dr. Benes, Foreign Minister and afterwards Prime Minister of Czecho-Slovakia, and was anxious to see it extended to an understanding embracing Poland and Greece.

Towards the close of 1921 his association with M. Averescu, as the strong man of the latter's Cabinet, came to an end, and Take Jonescu, for the first time in his career, was called upon to form a Ministry. It proved, however, short-lived, as it was unable to survive its first meeting with Parliament. At no time had he a numerous following in the country; and his opponents took care that he should never be allowed to forget the measure of the personal hostility against him. But Take Jonescu was a keen fighter, and few worsted him

in debate. Britons will recall him as a real friend of their country and a profound admirer of their institutions.

SIR ALEXANDER McROBERT.

An Appreciation.

We regret to announce the death of Sir Alexander McRobert, who died suddenly on June 22. The following appreciation is from the pen of an old friend:—

Sir Alexander McRobert's death has removed from India a very remarkable man. Widely known as an energetic, eminently successful man of business, he was at heart a student to whom the acquisition of knowledge was an abiding passion.

The son of an Aberdeenshire farmer, he received the sound education Aberdeen gives to her sons, and at an early age began to earn his living in the office of an Aberdeen manufacturer. To McRobert, however, the end of his schooldays was the beginning of real study, and for years he devoted his nights to evening classes and his holidays to passing examinations at South Kensington and elsewhere. Botany, History, Chemistry, Zoology, the Theory of Music, were all one to this prodigious worker. Once, so he told me, he had seventeen subjects in hand at one time, and passed in them all. Thoughts of matrimony made him seek to increase his income, and as the successful candidate in reply to an advertisement he went to India about the year 1884, as the general manager of the Cawnpore Woollen Mills. Hardly had he settled to his work when the Pendjeh incident raised the fear of imminent war with Russia, and the Indian Government, short of supplies, turned to the Woollen Mills, as they did again in 1914. The Company rose to the occasion. The Mills worked night and day. McRobert put in about eighteen hours' work out of the twenty-four. In the midst of the struggle the foreman dyer struck for more money, but to his astonishment was promptly fired out of the place. McRobert was a sound chemist and the few months in the mill had shown him all he required to know on the practical side. From that period the Woollen Mills have never looked back, and under McRobert's wise and far-seeing management are to-day one of the largest concerns of their kind in the world.

Authorities outside the commercial world came to appreciate McRobert's wide range of knowledge and great ability. He was of the governing bodies of Allahabad University and the Roorkee College; Aberdeen University honoured him; Lieutenant-Governors and even Viceroy were glad to take counsel with him. The late Ameer of Afghanistan was not satisfied until McRobert, whom he had met in India, became his honoured guest at Kabul.

It is, however, to "old Mac" that the thoughts of his friends are turning to-day. The irascible old despot who blew a man skyhigh if a bit of wool was out of place and then tortured himself with the thought he might have been unjust; the stern disciplinarian demanding a high standard of efficiency which he did not spare himself and others to attain—but, oh! so thoughtful of women and children and the sick; the pioneer in India of model dwellings; the cunning deviser of provident and other funds and schemes designed to make his men save and better their condition. No man worth his salt was ever the worse for service under McRobert. Faults were corrected, his weaknesses purged, the best in him encouraged. His men might at times swear at him among themselves, but outsiders had scant sympathy if they ventured to condemn the one and only "boss."

It is literally true to say that his word was better than his bond. Shylock and he had I am afraid something in common as regards legal instruments, but his word was a sacred thing, full measure and running over. He could make plans years ahead and keep a secret against any man, but the petty deceptions by which weaker men sometimes achieve their ends he did not understand. "You call it diplomacy. I call it deception," was a characteristic comment upon the innocent

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recital of a friend who by a slight economy of the truth and rearrangement of his facts had settled a matter to his liking.

The work of his bearer was almost a sinecure, his personal expenditure trifling, but his private charities and little acts of kindly help were innumerable; and the Kalimpong Homes, the Cawnpore Hospital, and his native city can testify to his public benefactions.

To his friends he was the most generous and thoughtful of men, but he hated waste in any shape or form, whether of brain or body or pocket, and practised what he held to be right without regard to what the world might think.

He was a "bonny fighter," and did not suffer fools gladly. People handled roughly might misjudge him, but those privileged to understand the true McRobert, the old friends to whom he was so true and loyal, knew that underlying that strong character and powerful intellect there was a modest loving, reverent spirit. He loved the ancient Faith, and I call to mind to-day how the last time I saw him a chance question in conversation as to where to find the "Sermon on the Mount" brought from him without a moment's hesitation the Gospel and the number of the chapter.

D.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

In consequence of inquiries, the Editor thinks it advisable to state that the quotation from any article does not necessarily imply that the views expressed are shared by "The Near East." On the contrary, an attempt is made to include as far as is possible in the available space all sides of the various questions discussed.

Palestine.

A propos of the condemnation in the House of Lords last week of the Government's policy in Palestine, *The Times* of June 23 has an article upon "The Palestine Mandate" in which it reasserts its sympathy with idealist Zionism and its objection to political Zionism. It proceeds to state how, in its opinion, the British public, "upon whom the responsibility for the mandate rests," has been deceived in this matter:—

The British people believed that they were asked to foster a movement based on religious and race traditions. The experience of the last three years has shown that British generosity has provided an opportunity for a mainly political movement, largely of an alien character, to intrude itself, and to impose itself, upon the administration of our trust in Palestine. British arms conquered the country, a British Administration has been set up at the taxpayers' expense. At the same time a Zionist organization has been allowed to acquire extraordinary powers and to influence in innumerable ways the direction of British policy. Palestine is not an empty land. It has a large Arab-speaking population which the very terms of the Balfour pledge oblige the British Administration fully to protect. It may be admitted that in some respects British rule has improved the lot of the Arabs. It has failed, however, fundamentally. It has failed to inspire confidence, and, on the contrary, has aroused suspicion and unrest. The reason for this, our present deplorable position, in a key-country in the heart of awakening Islam and on the strategic highway to the East, is that British policy in Palestine has been dangerously and incalculably influenced by political Zionism. This movement is aggressive and intolerant. It takes little account of the desires and tradition of the indigenous population. It regards Palestine as a country to be exploited mainly in the interests of Jewish immigrants and the British administration as a body whose chief function should be to make Palestine once again a Jewish country. The question that has now to be faced is whether the attribution of

the mandate to Great Britain means that this country, at great cost to itself, is to undertake to make a Jewish minority dominant in Palestine. Is this country to be called upon to defend the Jews against the growing discontent of the great Arab majority, while by a variety of political and economic methods the Zionists consolidate a political supremacy? Is this the issue involved in the pledge to give a national home to the Jews? If so, is it to be understood that the British promise is to be kept in defiance of broad British interests in the Near East and of British good faith in other directions? What of our impartiality? Is it possible to speak of the impartiality of the British administration in Palestine now in face of the economic monopoly accorded to Zionists in the Rutenberg concessions? How can the Government explain the assertion that, whereas applications for similar concessions were refused to British and Arab promoters, on the ground that the mandate had not yet been confirmed, a monopoly for the exploitation of the water-power of the Jordan was granted to a Jew? Why is it, again we ask, that spiritual Zionism has so soon been degraded by allowing itself to become the instrument of materialist aims and of a sordid type of international finance? Why, above all, should the British Government imperil its reputation for impartiality in the East, why should it plunge the British people into the risk and expense of unending conflict for the sake of an international movement which has declared its intention to use this country merely as an instrument for its own obscure purposes?

60th LONDON DIVISION.

Mr. Edward Fraser, author of "The Soldiers Whom Wellington Led," "The War Drama of the Eagles" and other works, has consented to write a history of the 60th (London) Division. He will be assisted by Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. Temperley, who was G.S.O. 1 of the Division. The history will be published at £1 1s., and particulars can be obtained from Captain G. Cooper Willis, 38, Draycott Place, S.W. The work of the 60th (London) Division was a striking feature of Viscount Allenby's campaign in Palestine. They took part in the capture of Beersheba, and came into prominence when their dashing frontal attack contributed to the fall of Jerusalem. Two Sergeants of the 19th London Regiment of this Division met the Mayor of Jerusalem, and were invited by him to accept the keys of the Holy City. After this the 60th took part in all the fighting in Palestine up to the end of the campaign.

General Hajianestis, the recently-appointed Greek Commander in Chief in Anatolia, left Smyrna for Athens on June 25.

The Indian High Courts Bill, which makes further provision in respect of the qualifications of Judges at the High Courts in British India, was passed by a Standing Committee of the House of Commons last week.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE ARABS OF THE SUDAN.

"A HISTORY OF THE ARABS IN THE SUDAN." By H. A. MacMichael. (Cambridge University Press: 2 Vols. [4 10s.]

This book carries on a very honourable tradition in the public service. In many, perhaps in most, parts of India and Africa the foundations of Western historical knowledge have been laid by Government officials, both in French dependencies and in our own. The scientific mission is no doubt better qualified to pursue researches into the remote past or collect material which is only significant when it can be compared with material collected from other parts of the globe, but there is one field in which the Government servant starts with special advantages, the period which is covered by the written or oral traditions of the present inhabitants. The intimate and manifold relations which subsist between a political officer and the prominent natives in his district give the former unrivalled opportunities of gleaning stories and traditions and family documents, which throw light upon the history of the period just preceding the introduction of Western control. This period is usually, it must be admitted, an age of relative decadence, but our knowledge of human history is so fragmentary that we can ill afford to lose anything that can still be retrieved. It is fortunate, therefore, that in Mr. MacMichael the Sudan Government possesses a political officer with the enthusiasm and the power to make full use of his opportunities. He is already well known as the author of two books on Kordofan and various scientific papers, but the work under review is much wider in scope and contains the harvest of many years.

The geographical area concerned stretches from the southern frontier of Egypt to the 12th parallel of latitude, where the negro belt begins, and from Darfur in the west to the non-Arabic speaking tribes on the East. The people under discussion include practically all who speak Arabic in this area, though, as the author freely admits, many of these have little or no Arab blood. Now the writing of a history of these people in this area is a matter of peculiar difficulty, because it never formed a united whole in the Arab period, until it was conquered a hundred years ago by Mohammed Ali. From time to time the black Sultans of Sennar may have established a loose kind of suzerainty over a great part of the country, but they never succeeded in fusing it into a single unit, and it was normally divided between a number of petty kings upon the river and nomad sheikhs of tribes in the interior; the history of the Arabs in this area would be the history of a number of little states, whose frontiers were continually changing and the bulk of whose population was hardly Arab. This fact has determined the arrangement of these volumes. They are divided into four parts: the first two parts are concerned respectively, the first, with the earlier racial history of the Sudan, the second, with the progress through Egypt in the Middle Ages of the Arab tribes now represented in the Sudan and their invasions of Dongola. The arrangement in these parts is chronological and brings the history of the country down to about 1500 A.D., but from this point onwards Mr. MacMichael abandons the chronological method and devotes the third and largest part of the first volume to disentangling the complicated ramifications of the present-day Arab tribes. The ultimate

authorities for this section are to be found in some thirty native manuscripts which, as Part 4, are printed in translation with critical notes and introductions in the second volume. The notes and introductions to these documents and the general discussion in the first volume could have been written only by one who has had the author's wide experience of the tribes in question: they are models of what such things should be. Regarded as a whole, the work is somewhat wanting in unity, but the author was concerned less with the production of a finished historical essay than with the salvage of a mass of historical material that was otherwise likely to perish. We have no question that he was right in the choice which he made.

Mr. MacMichael suggests that his haul of documents might have been larger, if so many had not been destroyed by the order of the Mahdi and the Khalifa. There is no doubt that in their time numbers of old manuscripts were burnt or thrown into the river, and an old sheikh once told the reviewer that he had rescued certain papers only by assuring the Khalifa that, as the name of God occurred on every page, the river would certainly throw up the writings again and fire would not consume them! In addition to wilful destruction, accidental village fires and the ravages of white ants are responsible for the disappearance of old papers, and we cannot be too grateful to Mr. MacMichael for having permanently rescued so many survivors. We can hardly hope that there is much still to come and, though additions *may* be made in the future, it is probable that these volumes contain most of the information we are likely to recover concerning the Sudan during the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries.

The great majority of these manuscripts are mere pedigrees, but there are a few scraps of historical interest embedded in the genealogies, and there are one or two texts which are not genealogical at all, the most important of these being a history of the Fung kingdom and the Turkish period down to 1871 A.D. and a series of biographies of holy men known as the *Tabakat wad Dayfulla*. The latter work was written about the year 1805 A.D., and contains short lives of over 250 Mohammedan saints and learned men who flourished in the three preceding centuries. The author is scrupulous to mention the teacher and in most cases also the mother of his subject, but apart from the fact that they all 'lit the fire' of learning and assembled students round them, they differed as much in type as learned men elsewhere. Some few despised the world, dressed in rags and refused riches; others wore the finest raiment, moved in court circles or even treated kings with contempt. Some judged the folk more or less righteously, others led busy secular lives, trading or developing their land; a few wrote learned works; far more proved their sanctity by prophesying and working wonders, raising the dead, slaying their enemies by miraculous means, removing sandbanks in the river, turning water into butter, and so forth. According to the author of this book it was not until the middle of the 16th century that orthodox Islam was taught in the Sudan; the multiplication of religious teachers after this date is very remarkable, and it was undoubtedly to the efforts of these holy men that the sedentary people on the river owed their knowledge of the faith. Mr. MacMichael has only printed extracts from this work, and it throws so many sidelights upon native society that it is to be hoped that he or someone else will publish a complete edition with more notes upon the places, customs and manners mentioned.

After the native texts and the discussion of tribal pedigrees based upon them, the most original part of the work is a long chapter on the non-Arab races of Darfur, which is rather awkwardly sandwiched into Part 1. Mr. MacMichael was attached as political officer to the Darfur Expedition in 1916, and remained there for some time after its successful completion, to assist in the establishment of a regular administration. He had, therefore, exceptional opportunities in a region of ex-

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ceptional interest. Darfur had been for many years previously closed to Europeans; few had been there in earlier days, and the Egyptian and Dervish rules had destroyed much less of the native African framework of society. Here as elsewhere Mr. MacMichael's approach is from the ethnic side, but he has more proportionately to say about the culture of the score of non-Arab elements which he distinguishes, and the pages devoted to such folk as the Midobis, the Tungur, the Birked, and the Fur are, perhaps the most interesting in the whole work. We read of serpent spirits who haunt sacred trees and stones, and still receive worship and sacrifice from the Muslims round about, and of little house-elves who will curdle your milk and break your pots if you do not conciliate them. At Jebel Midob there is a festival before the harvest at which the young men cut their long locks: Mr. MacMichael compares it to our May-day feasts, but it is also a rite of adolescence. Very primitive in character was the organisation of the Kingdom of Darfur; the chief dignitaries of state being named after parts of the Sultan's body, the neck for example, the loins, the trunk, and the stomach whose duty it was to collect the corn taxes: the Sultan himself, like various rulers on the Nile and elsewhere, had to sow with his own hand ceremonially at the beginning of the rainy season. Mr. MacMichael argues convincingly on other grounds for the Nubian origin of several of the Darfur tribes, and there is no doubt that the culture described still underlies the more Arabicised culture of other Sudan provinces.

In connection with the Darfur survivals, there is a non-committal note on the different views expressed by Sir Harry Johnston and Professor Seligman respectively as to whether this culture should be called Egyptian or Hamitic: the archaeological evidence accumulated by Dr. Reisner's researches appears to prove decisively that the material culture of this area came directly from Egypt, and it was through, or from, Egypt that, in turn, Islam and Christianity and the worship of Ammon came to the Sudan. Whatever may have been the case farther west, the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan has naturally enough counted in history only when Egypt and the Mediterranean world have been flourishing: when Egypt and the Mediterranean States have been sunk in stagnation, the Sudan has been withdrawn from the main currents of civilisation, impoverished and chaotic. This was the condition of affairs in the Arab period. Mr. MacMichael's book is an outcome of what we hope will be the final ending of this isolation, and he is warmly to be congratulated on the completion of a work which throws light on the old pre-Arab culture of the Sudan as well as on the Arab tribes which, like the Turks in Asia Minor, have tolerantly preserved beneath a light veneer of Mohammedanism so much of the earlier civilization.

J. W. C.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"India in the Balance: British Rule and the Caliphate." By Khwaja Kamal-ud-Din, B.A., U.B., Imam of the Mosque, Woking. (Woking: The Islamic Press.)

"The Message of Buddhism." By Subhadra Bhikku. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner & Co. 2s. 6d. net.)

MUSICAL NOTES.

GRAMAPHONE RECORDS

There remain unmentioned from the June issue of "His Master's Voice" records some of the more "popular" records, to judge upon which I constantly plead my incompetence, but for which there is, I understand, an equally constant demand in certain regions of the East.

To my mind the most enjoyable of these records under remark are the duets made by that extraordinarily clever young pair of music-hall artists, Norah Blaney and Gwen Farrar. They both have excellent diction, the first requisite in the kind of stuff they perform, they are both extremely versatile, and here Miss Blaney shows that she can play the pianoforte as well as you may like. They have an apparently inexhaustible fund

of "stunts" in their ragging of "ragtime," but their burlesque is never so exaggerated as to be ludicrous. High spirits and a sort of creative imitation mark especially "If you're going back to Dixie," and "Weep no more."

The dances in this issue are perhaps not quite so intriguing as usual, but quite good fun is provided by Paul Whiteman and his orchestra in "They call it dancing," in "Marie," and in "On the 'Gin 'Gin 'Ginny Shore." This conductor contrives in some way to invest the cheapest commonplaces with a certain individuality, and though his dances vary very much in quality, he is never dull—a reproach that must often be made upon jazz bands. Possibly the most agreeable of the foxtrots is the Club Royal Orchestra in "Wimmin," in which is introduced with great effect a song called "Glow little lantern of love."

Of "The Lady of the Rose" waltz I do not think very highly, even as played by De Groot and the Piccadilly Orchestra; but "Ah! Kusoon" is a much better thing, and it is done with very artful reticence by De Groot.

For the sake of those who never miss a *revue* in London (and there are hundreds of such people) it should be mentioned that a fairly representative selection has been made by Philip Braham and the Mayfair Orchestra of "A to Z."

There is one record, on which Ernest Butcher sings two songs—"Old Uncle Ben" and "Grinder John," which is a model of clarity. These two songs are little more than ballads, for Mr. Butcher does not commonly attempt art-songs, but it is a pleasure to hear words so clearly pronounced, and one could wish that such care were expended by vocalists of more renown and greater ambition. Very similar praise may be given to Walter Glynne, whose diction, in a poor setting of Poe's "Annabelle Lee" by Henry Leslie, is not perfect, but whose pronunciation is at least perfectly clear. It is in the matter of enunciation indeed, more than in any other sphere, that singers can still give points to artists.

One may add a brief, pathetic note on one or two typically English productions. First is Miss Rosina Buckman in C. A. Lidgely's "Roundelay," and Ivor Novello's "Fairy Laughter." Lidgely I always think quite the most innocuous of the ballad-mongers; one can call his stuff "pretty" with no reproach implied. But I. Novello (and Miss Buckman for singing him) one cannot acquit so easily. Such records as this do no good to anyone, least of all to the "artist" making them. Then there is the jolly Peter Dawson in Sanderson's "Harlequin" and in Phillip's "Cherrily, yeo ho." The first is as teeming with *clichés* as is "Fairy Laughter"; it shouts for categorization within the stuff that is daily turned out in yards by Messrs. Chappell, Boosey, and so on. But the second, though just as true to type, is not so bad a lilt for land-lubbers. It suggests that the singer is simply dying to spend his days on the ocean, a mode of living which inevitably includes the careless breaking of female hearts and a moralising sunset to his days. In short, those who like this sort of thing will love it.

ANDANTE.

TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

The subject headings are those given in the Official Report.

Egypt (Zaghoul Pasha).—Greece and Turkey.—India: Surplus Army Officers (Gratuity); Railway Material (Continental Contracts); Insulators (Tenders); Army Officers (Marriage Allowance).—War Casualties, Palestine and Mesopotamia.—(Monday, 19th June.)

India: Imprisoned Agitators (Burma); Administration (Cost); Civil Service (Pensions); Army Pay and Pensions.—Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Payment of Calls) Bill.—Egypt.—(Tuesday, 20th June.)

Sudan.—Near East: Bosphorus; Samsun (Bombardment); Settlement Proposals.—Palestine (Concessions).—Egypt.—(Wednesday, 21st June.)

Egypt: Martial Law; Deportees.—Near East.—India: Army Officers (Retirement Gratuity).—(Thursday, 22nd June.)

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.**To-day.**

June 29 (New Style).

June 16 (Old Style).

Julkada 4, 1340 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.

Tamuz 3, 5682 of the Jewish Calendar.

The Aga Khan left London on Friday for Switzerland.

Sir Reginald Wingate celebrated his sixty-first birthday on Sunday.

Sir Alexander and Lady Roger have returned to London from Constantinople.

Victor Harari Pasha, C.B.E., and Mrs. Harari arrived in London last week, and are staying at Claridges Hotel.

Vossough-ed-Dowleh, formerly Premier of Persia, has concluded his stay here, and has gone to France.

M. Jan Masaryk, Counsellor at the Czecho-Slovak Legation, has returned from Prague.

The Maharaja of Kapurthala left London last Friday for France.

Lady Inchcape is suffering from a nervous breakdown and has gone to Glenapp for a few weeks' rest.

The Earl of Cork, who arrived in Khartoum recently from the South, left for Cairo on June 6.

M. Venizelos, who last week received the freedom of the cities of Edinburgh and Glasgow, has left for Paris.

Lady Macready has returned from Egypt, and will reside at 6, Charles Street, Knightsbridge, until the end of August.

Mr. C. A. Willis, Director of Intelligence, Sudan, left Khartoum on June 8 on leave, and is expected in London this week.

Colonel D. Kalafatovitch, Military Attaché at the Yugoslav Legation, Paris, has concluded his stay here and has returned to his duties.

The Yugoslav Legation states that the rumours in regard to the illness of Prince George of Serbia are without any foundation.

Colonel de l'Etat-Major Georges Ostoitch, Military Attaché at the Yugoslav Legation, has concluded his visit to Belgrade, and is back in London.

The engagement is announced of Major L. D. Powell, I.A., attached R.E., elder son of Mr. and Mrs. Powell, of Smethwick, Staffs, to Muriel, elder daughter of Mr. J. W. W. Hopkins, M.P., and Mrs. Hopkins, L.C.C., 80, Regent's Park Road, N.W.1, and New Place, Lingfield.

The engagement is announced of John Dupré Denning, of the Imperial Bank of India, Calcutta, youngest son of Mr. A. D. Denning and Mrs. Denning, of Stafford, and Olive, younger daughter of Sir Evan Jones, Bt., M.P., of Pentower, Fishguard, Pembrokeshire.

Mr. Ronald Storrs, C.M.G., Governor of Jerusalem, is opening to-day (June 29), at twelve noon, an exhibition of pictures of Jerusalem by Major Benton Fletcher, at the Duke of Somerset's residence, 35, Grosvenor Square. It is in aid of the Ophthalmic Hospital at Jerusalem, maintained by the Order of St. John.

Under the auspices of the Anglo-Palestinian Club, Mr. Leonard J. Stein, Political Secretary of the Zionist Organization, delivered a lecture on "The Administra-

tion of Palestine: its Work and Character," at Jews' College, Guildford Street, W.C.1., on June 25, with Mr. Leon Simon in the chair.

The engagement is announced between Kenneth H. Ledward, F.R.G.S., Reserve of Officers, R.G.A., of the Public Record Office, younger son of Mr. Edward K. Ledward and Mrs. Ledward; and Dorothy Mary, only daughter of Mr. William Page, F.S.A., and Mrs. Page, of Froggnal Cottage, Hampstead.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place on July 5, between Joan, eldest daughter of Captain Berkeley Holme-Sumner, C.B.E., R.N., and Mrs. Berkeley Holme-Sumner, of 11, Ladbroke Square, W.11, and Mr. J. W. Gray, Royal Air Force, late the Gloucestershire Regiment, only son of Major Gray, Indian Army.

The engagement is announced of Captain M. P. O'Leary, M.C., 122nd Rajputana Infantry, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. C. O'Leary, late Indian State Railways, with Olive Mary, eldest daughter of B. B. Osmaston, C.I.E., Chief Conservator of Forests, Central Provinces, India, and granddaughter of the late General C. H. Hutchinson, R.A.

A Constantinople correspondent of the *Morning Post* states that the most brilliant event of the summer season there was the marriage on June 24 of Miss Beatrice Johnson of New York, to Captain Russell Brazier, of London. The wedding took place in the British Embassy Chapel, and was followed by a reception at the American Embassy, at which the guests included practically all the Allied Diplomatic Representatives and the Naval and Military and business colonies.

APPOINTMENTS.

President Harding has nominated Mr. J. Morton Howell as the first United States Minister to Egypt.

Dr. Georgiadis has been appointed the Egyptian Institute representative, at the International Congress of Chemistry and Industry, to be held in July in Lyons and Marseilles.

The Secretary of State for India has appointed Sir Edward Albert Gait, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., late I.C.S., to be a member of the Council of India in the place vacated by Sir C. Arnold White, whose tenure of office has expired.

OBITUARY.

The death has occurred of Admiral Sir Lewis Anthony Beaumont. He first became prominent in the National Arctic Expedition of 1875-6. When Lord Northbrook went to Egypt in 1884 he accompanied him, and later filled many important posts.

We have received from correspondent the following personal details concerning Captain S. S. Bond, M.C., who was murdered on June 18 by Kurdish tribesmen while on service as Assistant Political Officer in the Mesul district, South Kurdistan. Captain Bond, who was at his death 27 years of age, was before the war with the Standard Oil Company at Constantinople. In October 1914, he joined the Army, and was wounded at Loos in the following year. In February, 1916, he proceeded to Salonika, and was subsequently attached to various units in Macedonia. Thence he went, in 1918, to Mesopotamia, where he joined the Dunster Force. He took part in the expedition that was sent to release the Armenians from Baku, his particular section being detailed to Lake Urmia, from the neighbourhood of which 80,000 Armenians were assembled and marched to Baghdad. On his return to Baghdad he went to the

Mosul district as Assistant Political Officer. He was taken prisoner at Suliemanieh in May 1919, but was released the following June; and it was at this time that he won his Military Cross. Afterwards he went on to Chemchemal as Political Officer of the district, and it was in this capacity that he was treacherously killed. Captain Bond, who knew French, German, Greek and Turkish, had learned to converse with the Kurdish tribes in their own language, and was extremely popular with the friendly Kurds. He was due back in England in September to be married.

INDIAN HONOURS.

The following honours, conferred on the occasion of the visit of the Prince of Wales to India, were announced last week:—

STAR OF INDIA.

G.S.I.

Sir Godfrey John Vignoles Thomas, Bt., C.V.O.
Captain Dudley Burton Napier North, C.M.G., C.V.O., R.N.
Colonel Rivers Burney Worgan, C.V.O., D.S.O., Indian Army.

ORDER OF THE INDIAN EMPIRE.

C.G.I.E.

The Earl of Cromer, K.C.I.E., C.V.O.

K.C.I.E.

Vice-Admiral Sir Lionel Halsey, G.C.V.O., K.C.M.G., C.B.

C.I.E.

Captain the Hon. Piers Walter Legh, M.V.O., O.B.E., Grenadier Guards.

ROYAL VICTORIAN ORDER.

M.V.O. (Fourth Class).

Major Reginald Lindsay Benson, D.S.O., M.C., Military Secretary to the Governor of Bombay.
Major Henry George Vaux, C.I.E., Military Secretary to the Governor of Bombay.
Commander Charles Ross Campbell, D.S.O., commanding R.I.M.S. Dufferin.
Major Kenneth Oswald Goldie, C.I.E., O.B.E., Military Secretary to the Governor of Madras.
Major Wingate Wemyss Muir, O.B.E., Comptroller, Viceregal Household.
Major William Holcroft Blood, D.A.Q.M.G., Royal Visit Section, Army Headquarters.
Major George Cumine Strahan Black, O.B.E., Private Secretary to the Governor of the Punjab.
Mr. Herbert Aubrey Francis Metcalfe, Indian Civil Service (Political Department).
Major Jack Rose Compton Gannon, Assistant Military Secretary to the Commander-in-Chief, India.
Lieutenant Archibald Douglas George Staunton Batty, A.D.C. to the Governor of the United Provinces.

K.C.V.O.

Vice-Admiral Sir Hugh Henry Darby Tothill, K.C.M.G., C.B., Commander-in-Chief, East Indies Station.
Sir John Barry Wood, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Political Secretary Government of India.
Lieutenant his Highness the Nawab of Bulhawalpur.
Captain his Highness the Maharaja of Jodhpur.
Lieutenant-Colonel his Highness the Maharaj Rana of Dholpur, K.C.S.I.

His Highness the Maharaja of Dhar, K.C.S.I., K.B.E.
Colonel his Highness the Maharaja of Ratlam, K.C.S.I.
Captain his Highness the Nawab of Palanpur, K.C.I.E.
Mr. Geoffrey Fitzhervey de Montmorency, C.I.E., C.B.E., Chief Secretary to Punjab Government.

C.V.O.

Mr. Claud Alexander Barron, C.S.I., C.I.E., Chief Commissioner, Delhi.
Lieut.-Colonel Charles Kennedy-Craufurd-Stuart, C.B.E., D.S.O., Military Secretary to the Viceroy of India.
Major Cecil Hamilton Gabriel, Deputy Secretary, Foreign and Political Department, India.
Captain the Maharaja Kumar of Bikaner.
Nawabzada Haji Muhammad Hamidullah Khan of Bhopal, C.I.E., Minister in charge of Finance and Department of Law and Justice, Bhopal.
Rear-Admiral Henry Lancelot Mawbey, C.B., Director, Royal Indian Marine.
Mr. David Petrie, C.I.E., C.B.E., M.V.O., Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Intelligence Department, Government of India.
Lieut.-Colonel Frederick O'Kinealy, C.I.E., I.M.S., Chief Medical Officer to the Prince of Wales during his Royal Highness's Indian tour.
Mr. Frederick Austin Hadow, Agent of the North-Western Railway, India.
Rear-Admiral Lewis Clinton-Baker, C.B., C.B.E., Commander-in-Chief, East Indies Station.
Mr. Robert Erskine Holland, C.S.I., C.I.E., Agent to the Governor General in Rajputana.
Lieut.-Colonel William Frederick Travers O'Connor, C.I.E., British Envoy to the Court of Nepal.
Colonel Thomas George Peacocke, C.I.E., Director-General of Remounts Department in India.

G.C.V.O.

Major-General his Highness the Maharaja of Patiala, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., G.B.E.

M.V.O. (Fifth Class).

Rai Sahib Bahgwan Das, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Intelligence Department, Simla.

BRITISH EMPIRE ORDER.

C.B.E. (Civil Division).

Mr. Charles Stead, O.B.E., M.V.O.

O.B.E. (Civil Division).

Captain Frederick Sinclair Poynder, M.V.O., M.C., 9th Gurkha Rifles.

Mr. Hector Ratanji Kothavala, M.V.O., M.B.E.

M.B.E. (Civil Division).

Mt. John William Bertrand Gardiner.

Mr. Vas Dev.

Subadar Hira Singh, Rai Bahadur Ind. Med. Department.
Khan Bahadur Syed Asthar Abbas.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 1922.

SECRETARIAT OR FOREIGN OFFICE?

Before the War Great Britain was able to pride herself that a change of government did not entail any change in her foreign policy, which by tacit agreement between the two chief parties had been lifted out of the sphere of purely party politics and was guided solely by a consideration of British Imperial interests, not by the pursuit of electoral advantages at home. To-day it would be a matter for congratulation if British foreign policy could claim such a sheet anchor as the stereotyped lines of party politics, instead of being subordinated, as it actually is, to the kaleidoscopic vagaries of international politics as interpreted, seemingly, by someone who has made no real study of foreign affairs. It would be interesting to have it authoritatively demonstrated in what way a single decision taken since the Armistice in regard to the Near East—a subject second in importance only to the German problem—has furthered the interests of the British Empire. With the loss of her dominant position in America in the eighteenth century, as we have recently been reminded, the axis of Great Britain's foreign policy was shifted from West to East, and has had to remain in the East. But when the British Government decided that the potential support of half-a-dozen Greek warships of minor tonnage was to be valued more highly than the goodwill of the Mohammedan world, the attempt was made to shift that axis back, if not all the way to the American hemisphere, at least as far as Western Europe, and that without the least thought given to the inevitable trend of the new orientation. The experiment, which has cost this country millions of pounds and a heavy expenditure of life, was merely an episode in the policy of living from hand to mouth that has been the order of the day in regard to foreign affairs. Great Britain at the instance of her Prime Minister has given pledges to the Arabs and promises in contradiction of them to the Zionists; she nailed publicly to the mast certain principles as her war aims and subsequent peace policy, and deliberately did violence to them as soon as the War was over. A definite undertaking was given by the Prime Minister to the Turks while they were fighting, in order to encourage them to make peace, and it was ignored as soon as the time came for fixing the terms of the peace settlement. Great Britain signified her agreement to a most barefaced partition of Albania, and only backed out of it when the United States publicly denounced the criminal violation of War-time pledges.

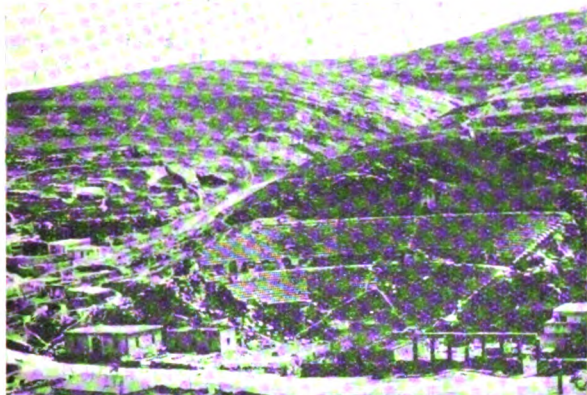
The list is capable of almost indefinite extension, but neither the recital nor the perusal of it can give pleasure to any patriotic citizen of the British Empire. Those who have been most conscious of the harm done to the British name have kept silent hitherto from a desire to say nothing that, by calling attention to the weakness and vacillation of our foreign policy, might have the effect of lowering still further British prestige abroad. But that prestige is already nearing the zero point, and only a radical change in methods of government at home can rehabilitate Great Britain in the eyes of those who have been accustomed to look up to her as a model in the past. The visit of the Italian Foreign Minister serves to remind the country how far it is still from the necessary change of method. Three years ago the fatal step of sending the Greek army to Smyrna was inspired by the British Government for the sole purpose of putting a spoke in Italy's wheel, at a time when that Government lacked the strength of mind to stand up

to Italian claims and actions in Asia Minor. To-day the same Government presents the appearance of being more or less in Italy's pocket, in order to have a make-weight against France on the Supreme Council. It is difficult to explain in any other way the sequence of incidents, small enough, perhaps, in themselves, but symptomatic in their cumulative effect, that is being reported from Albania, the Dodekanese and elsewhere. We yield to none in our desire to see the Entente between Great Britain, France and Italy a permanent force in world politics; but it can become this only on the two-fold basis of a complete understanding between the three Governments in regard to essentials and of mutual sympathy between the three peoples. Now no nation is going to follow its Government in any subtle balancing of *quid pro quo's* for some unrevealed object. When, therefore, the British public sees unfair discrimination being made against British interests in Near Eastern territories in which Italy enjoys special privileges, it will feel convinced that this is the work not of a true ally, but of a covert enemy. The fact that the British Government may have acquiesced in this unfair discrimination for reasons of its own, which will not stand publication, will not alter the case. A wedge will have been driven into the Entente that may prove its undoing when its solidarity is being put to the test. So too, with France. The sound instinct that lies behind the co-operation of the two countries may well rise superior to a conflict of views between the two Governments of the day over an ephemeral question, but it might be seriously undermined, as far as Great Britain is concerned, if it were discovered that the unfriendly acts of individual French officials abroad were part of France's policy or in any way endorsed by her Government.

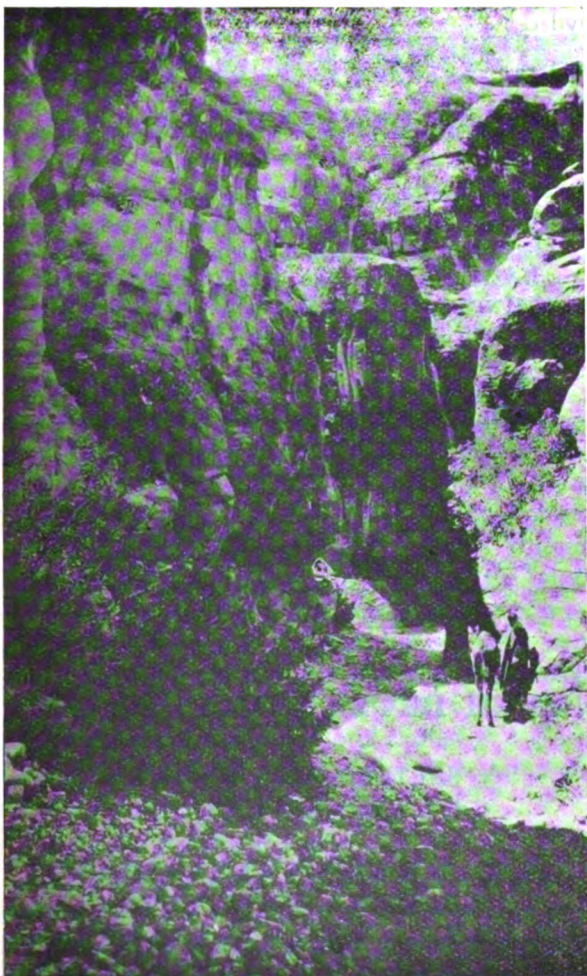
The remedy for a thoroughly unsatisfactory state of affairs would seem to lie in the restoration to the British Foreign Office of its legitimate control of foreign affairs and in restricting the activities of the Supreme Council. In all that concerns the Near East the Supreme Council of the Allies for the three or four post-Armistice years will have made itself a by-word in history. If responsibility for the disastrous fiasco attaches to Mr. Lloyd George, who is the only Prime Minister who has been a member throughout this period, then the sooner the settlement of the Near East is confided to other hands on behalf of Great Britain the better. His failure in regard to the Near Eastern question does not detract from the merit of his achievements in other directions, but on this one point, unless a complete change of method is introduced, Great Britain is clearly heading for disaster, in which other nations will be involved. The British public may not have more knowledge of the subject than the Prime Minister, but it wants to get back to principles. It does not see why Greece should have been made to her own undoing the catspaw of the Allies' intrigues against one another, or why the Mohammedan world should have been set by the ears to the grave embarrassment of the British Empire; it believes that in politics, as in business, honesty is the best policy, whereas the few glimpses it has been able to obtain into the tangled skein of British foreign policy during the last few years reveal mainly dishonesty and intrigue. For all that the public knows the Foreign Office may have endorsed everything that has been done over its head by the Prime Minister; but there is a shrewd idea that if the Foreign Office had remained master in its own house, the more violent fluctuations of foreign policy would have been avoided. The sense of continuity and consistency is more strongly developed in a State Department than in a single individual who is distracted by a multiplicity of preoccupations. To the onlooker the handling in recent years of the Near Eastern problem presents the appearance of an uncongenial matter taken up grudgingly and fitfully, and laid aside at the first possible excuse. In the hands of the Foreign Office the problem might have fared better; it could certainly not have fared worse. It is high time that its vital consequences to the British Empire were appreciated, and that it received the attention that its importance merits.

TRANSJORDANIA.**Lord Milner's Visit to Petra.**

On the occasion of their stay this spring in Palestine, Lord and Lady Milner availed themselves of an invitation from the Emir Abdullah of Transjordan to visit the famous rock-hewn city of Petra. The great gorge in which the temples and other buildings are situated lies fifty-eight miles north-north-east of Akaba and some twenty-five miles from Ma'an, the southernmost station on the Hejaz Railway to which trains are at present

**AMMAN : The Theatre.**

running. The line was badly damaged during the War ; station buildings—nearly all substantial stone erections—and water tanks were blown up, and bridges destroyed. Since the Armistice it has not been possible to open the railway to traffic farther south than Ma'an, with a weekly train in each direction ; but it is hoped that within two years the whole line as far as Medina will once more be in working order, with sufficient rolling-stock available for a more frequent service.

**PETRA : The Approach by the Sik (Wadi Musa).**

The Emir's party entrained at Amman, the Rabbah or Rabbath-Ammon of the Old Testament (where Og, King of Bashan, had his capital and his "bedstead") and a Roman garrison town. Amman was restored during the reign of Ptolemy Philadelphus (B.C. 285-247) and renamed Philadelphia. Most of the ruins in and about the town, including a theatre, which must have been capable of seating 3,000 spectators, date from this period, an exception being the fine building on the uppermost terrace of the citadel, which is a well-preserved specimen of early Arab architecture. From Ma'an the journey to Petra was accomplished by caravan, for which a goodly number of horses, mules and donkeys, as well as a motor car, had been pressed into service.

Petra lies in a valley, some three-quarters of a mile long, north to south, which is enclosed on every side by perpendicular rocks of considerable height. The rocks are made up of a variety of different coloured strata of sandstone, containing much saltpetre, and the whole

**PETRA : The Temple of Isis.**

has a most beautiful effect. Petra was the Selah of the Old Testament, captured by King Amaziah. This name lasted down to Arab times, but was applied to the fortress only. Originally an Edomite town, Petra passed into the hands of the Nabataeans, an Arabian tribe, towards 300 B.C. In 310 B.C. it was attacked by the Greeks under Athenaeus, one of Antigonos's generals. At the end of the second century B.C. the district had become part of a Roman province under Trajan. The inhabitants became early converts to Christianity, and bishops of Petra are mentioned as attending the councils of the Church. By the fourth century A.D., however, its commercial importance had passed ; a century or so later the whole region was conquered by the Arabs, and Petra disappeared from history.

The approach from the east is by a narrow chasm flanked by rocks ranging from 80 to 200 feet high. In the ravine grow oleanders ; wild figs and tamarisks cling to the clefts of the rock. At the end of the

narrowing gully the visitor suddenly finds himself confronted with the Temple of Isis or Treasury of Pharaoh, the facade of which is some 85 feet in height, admirably sculptured and in a good state of preservation. Its beauty is enhanced by the rich red colour of the stone. The second story rests upon columns, but has broken pediments. Between these is a round tower ending in



PETRA : One of the Rock-Hewn Buildings.

a dome, the whole surmounted by a huge stone urn, which was supposed by the Bedouin to contain the treasure of Pharaoh. A few hundred yards farther along the Wadi Musa (tradition places here the scene of Moses striking the rock, Petra) is a magnificent amphitheatre entirely hewn in the rock, with thirty-three tiers of seats rising one above another. Facing it is a group of rock tombs, and as the Wadi, after bearing north, turns



COLONEL F. G. PEAKE, Inspector General of the Transjordanian Gendarmerie, and some Arab Sheikhs.

again westward, the traveller reaches the central portion of Petra, with ruins of temples and tombs on either hand. Many of the tombs, of which the entrances are visible high above the ground, are now inaccessible. The

picture as a whole is one of grandeur and desolation which loses nothing from its impressive setting in the midst of the desert.

We are indebted to Lord Milner for the photographs reproduced on this and the preceding page, and regret that considerations of space prevent the reproduction of a larger number in this issue.

THE I.C.S. EXAMINATION IN INDIA.

The results of the first examination ever held in India for the Indian Civil Service have, says *The Times*, been announced. Until after the war the only authorised personation was that held in London at the end of each July and open to all subjects of the Crown, irrespective of race or creed. The holding of competitive examinations in India is designed to promote the "Indianization" of the Service, which is ultimately to reach 48 per cent. of its membership. The examination was held at Allahabad last March. There was eligible a prescribed quota of candidates from the various provinces up to an aggregate of two hundred, but the number actually sitting for the examination was much smaller, as there were few vacancies in the service. The lists show that there were nine successful candidates, of whom three came from Madras and two from Bengal, while the United Provinces, the Central provinces, Bihar and Orissa, and Bombay each provided one.

A REMARKABLE PROPHECY.

Apropos of the Genoa Conference, a German writer, speaking of Giuseppe Mazzini, one of Genoa's most worthy sons, calls attention to a remarkable prophecy of his, which seems to have been generally overlooked. As long ago as 1836, Mazzini wrote as follows :—"The Austrian and Turkish empires will fall to pieces. The fatal blow will be struck by the Slavs. The Slavonic population of Bohemia is a very great danger for Austria in the event of war. The Czechs will combine with the Slavs of Moravia and probably with the Slovaks of Hungary. The development of these things may be postponed, but cannot longer be prevented. I believe that the conflict which will hasten a final decision will arise out of the Serbian question." Notable foresight, especially as in those days, the principality of Serbia was a baby in Europe, and was not to extend even as far as Nish till more than a generation later.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square.
E.C. 2.

Sir Alexander McRobert.

The sudden death of Sir Alexander McRobert leaves a gap not easily to be filled in the industrial community of northern India. Sir Alexander stood for the combination of scientific knowledge with practical business ability. He was a lecturer in chemistry in this country before he went to Cawnpore; there his first work was to place the woollen industry on a firm and remunerative basis, while more recently he was actively associated with the formation of the British India Corporation, a combination of textile, leather, and engineering factories, which probably marks a new epoch in the industrial history of the country. But he was much more than a successful manufacturer. His handling of the housing question in overcrowded Cawnpore, together with his munificent gifts to the community, marked him out as an enlightened and far-seeing social benefactor; his wide experience and practical sagacity made him a counsellor of the utmost value, both to the Government and to everyone concerned in the economic development of the country; while the memory of his friendship will always remain to those who mourn his loss.

Egyptian Hotels.

In view of the conditions that have been prevailing in Egypt the report of the Egyptian Hotels for the year ended April last cannot be considered as other than very satisfactory. The earnings have been well maintained, the gross profits being £52,900 as compared with £56,700. The net profits offer a rather less favourable comparison with those of the previous year owing to the increased incidence of taxation, and the available total is £52,000 as against £61,000. It is proposed to maintain the dividend at the rate of 25 per cent., to place £5,000 to the special reserve as compared with £15,000, and to carry forward £10,000 as against £9,000. It remains to add that the balance sheet shows the company to be in a remarkably strong position.

Sudan Plantations.

The interim dividend declared by the Sudan Plantations Syndicate points very plainly to the favourable progress of the company's operations in the Sudan. The dividend is 15 per cent., while for the whole of last year the dividend was 15 per cent. Naturally the commencement of interim dividends has resulted in a sharp rise in the company's shares in anticipation that the return this year will be appreciably larger than before. The success of this company is the more welcome since it will help to convince the British investor of the great potentialities of a country to which he has hitherto paid very little attention—probably because he has heard so little of it.

Openings in Persia.

It is frequently the complaint of the British manufacturer that there are no adequate openings for machinery in the Near East. The fact is that little or no trouble has been taken to find them. There are plenty throughout the region in question; though in

some cases, as illustrated in the article on Persia in "Engineering Topics" this week, adverse conditions render the market inaccessible at the moment. Persia, it is pointed out, is in need of all kinds of machinery, "but poverty and political instability" make it impossible to obtain it. Ultimately the country will unquestionably provide a great market for machinery, and in my opinion it would well repay our traders to follow the advice given in the article in question, and to take steps now to cover the field. If they need an incentive it may be supplied by the list of the machinery required which shows the extremely wide range of Persia's needs.

The G.I.P.

The results obtained by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway during the past year make a poor showing compared with those of the previous period as a result of the great increase in expenditure that had to be borne. The gross receipts amounted to Rs. 13,73,61,991 while the expenditure totalled Rs. 12,56,71,184, the net revenue being Rs. 1,16,90,807 as compared with Rs. 3,18,80,321. Sir Charles Armstrong, at the general meeting of the company, said that the result of the year's working had been a disappointment, and added that the company had been "overburdened with expenses, a high level of salaries, a greatly increased cost of coal, heavy charges for maintenance of permanent ways, bridges, etc., and for the repair of wagons."

Outlook for the Company.

Since April 1 the company has been charging high rates and fares, but Sir Charles stated that this would not be sufficient, so far as could be seen, to produce a favourable balance, and economies under all heads were therefore necessary. The capital expenditure of the line, as in the case of all Indian railways, has been above the average, and it was pointed out that there are still many capital works in progress for which further expenditure is required, while additional rolling stock will have to be provided to deal with increased traffic. Sir Charles referred to the question of electrification, and expressed the hope that something would be decided shortly, pointing out that the electrification of the company's suburban system was an absolute necessity if the development scheme of the Bombay Government was to be a success.

Commentator.

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COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

Reports from our own Correspondents.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, undated.

Unsatisfactory Trade Position.

During the quarter ended March 31 last inland imports amounted in value to £371,882, as against £345,003 for the same quarter in 1921. Exports were valued at £194,161 as against £160,296. The balance still represents an unsatisfactory state of trade conditions, which is deplored in press comments.

Progress at Limassol.

Limassol continues to take the lead in town improvements, and municipal work in general. A large hotel and restaurant have been opened by M. G. Ioannides in a central spot on the sea front. This by far the most enterprising venture of its kind in Cyprus. The hotel is well furnished throughout. Amongst other attractions there is an organ worked by electricity. At an opening ceremony and entertainment given by the proprietor, there was a large attendance of guests, and numerous congratulatory telegrams were received. Limassol justly prides itself on the cleanness of its streets and surroundings, and travellers landing at the port are surprised by the contrast which the town offers to most others in the Levant. The large new market, due to the energy of the ex-Mayor, M. S. Araouso, is a great success. The present Mayor is placing an inscription over the main entrance recording the good work of M. Aranso. A large book-shop has been opened, and is the only one in Cyprus.

ALBANIA.

Tirana, June 19.

The Economic Crisis.

Albania is seriously affected by the economic crisis. There are enormous stocks of skins, wool, olive oil, wheat, and maize, which fail to find purchasers. The horses of Muzéké, which form an important article of export, are subject to a tax of 200 francs on their entry into Italy, which renders their sale almost impossible across the Adriatic.

The economic crisis is intensified by the fact that for the moment the trade of the country is restricted to relations with Italy and Greece, for it is only the vessels of these two countries that serve the Albanian ports. It is obvious that trade would be greatly developed in the ships of other countries would begin to call at the ports.

TOBACCO *versus* COTTON.

Egyptian Press Views.

(From a Correspondent.)

A proposal that tobacco should be grown in Egypt is being much discussed in the native press, *e.g.*, in the *Mokattam*, the *Akhbar* and the *Ahram*. A number of correspondents suggest that it would be more profitable to cultivate tobacco than cotton, the market for which is in an unsatisfactory condition, and calls loudly for the attention which the new "Cotton Association" is giving to it. Cotton, they say, is grown for the benefit of England. British manufacturers deal with it, and the manufactured articles are then sold in Egypt at high prices. Some advocate the establishment of factories in Egypt. Egyptians are quite capable of learning how to manufacture cotton goods which would soon render the country independent of European fabrics. Indeed factories should not be confined to the cotton industry. Carpet making and various other branches should be encouraged and established in the Delta. "We have,"

they say, "won our political independence; and it is now up to us to acquire our economic independence." As regards tobacco, little seems to be said on the essential question as to whether the climate and soil are suited to its cultivation. It will astonish old Anglo-Egyptians to read what is being said, as hitherto it has been generally understood that conditions were unfavourable for it both in the Delta and Upper Egypt; and that "Egyptian" cigarettes, which have obtained such a reputation, must always depend on the imported leaf. Should experience show that tobacco can be successfully grown, the important act of curing would have to be learnt and introduced. It will be interesting to see what comes of the proposal.

A good deal is being also said regarding the sugar factories, which are mostly under French companies. Complaints are being made that the *fellahin* are being unfairly exploited. Lands under sugar cultivation are worked under agreements with the factory owners, and the conditions laid down are said in many cases to press unfairly on the cultivators. There is a lack of any Government control, and the *fellahin* are calling upon the Government for some system of protection of their interests.

The interest taken in Egypt's mineral resources since Ismail Pasha Sidky lectured before the Geographical Society in Cairo, after his tour of inspection, has been increasing. The Government is being sharply criticised for allowing concessions and monopolies to be acquired by Europeans without sufficient regard to Egypt's interests. Henceforth the Government should see to it that the country has its fair share in all undertakings in which for the present foreign skill is required.

In every direction the Press is reflecting a strong desire that the country should shake itself free of all European control, and "live its own life" without any alien influence whatsoever. Needless to say, the papers are far from representing the feelings of the more thoughtful and far-seeing Egyptians.

COMMERCIAL BREVITIES.

A Bill is to be introduced for the creation of a rose oil monopoly in Bulgaria.

Official statistics show that the cement industry is one of the best developed industries in Yugoslavia, says the *Sudshawischen Lloyd*.

Sir Malcolm Hogg is to join the board of the London County Westminster and Parr's Bank.

A marked improvement is reported in the cable service between the United States and Constantinople during the last few months.

The American Film Co., Ltd., Prague, has declared a dividend of 10 per cent. for the past year. The net profits amounted to 1,363,500 crowns.

The chief of the Mines Department of the United States has arrived in Prague, in order to study the mineral situation in Czecho-Slovakia.

It is announced that the Roumanian Council of Ministers has decided to authorize the free export of all cereals except wheat and rye and their by-products.

The Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company has declared a dividend for the three months ended March 31, 1922, of 5s. per share, payable, free of tax, July 15.

The Sudan Plantations Syndicate announce an interim dividend of 15 per cent. on account of the year to June 30, payable July 13, to holders registered June 30. Transfer books will be closed from July 1 to 7 inclusive.

Holders in the United Kingdom of the Greek Government 4 per Cent. Railway Loan of 1902 are advised that they may lodge at Hambros Bank, Ltd., 45, Bishopsgate, the talons from such bonds, in order to obtain new coupon sheets as soon as same are received from the Greek Government.

Coupon No. 40 of the Egyptian Salt and Soda Co. Five per Cent. first mortgage debenture, due June 30, will be paid on and after that date by the National Bank of Egypt, 6 and 7, King William Street, E.C. Talons attached to the above bonds will be exchanged for a further issue of coupons, numbered 41 to 60 inclusive, on presentation to the bank on and after June 30.

British Consular Reports.

V. BULGARIA.

(Concluded).

Industrial Development.

No important industrial developments have taken place; the mineral resources of the country remain entirely undeveloped as before the war, the only mineral production of any magnitude being from the State coal mines. The production for the first six months of 1921 shows a marked improvement on the previous year, while the total for twelve months will probably be the largest yet achieved.

In 1920 Bulgaria exported 37,977 tons of coal, which included 4,022 tons provided for the use of the French Military Authorities, and 29,920 tons delivered to the Serbian Government under the Peace Treaty: in the first five months of 1921 28,547 tons were exported, including 26,277 tons delivered to Serbia under the Peace Treaty. During these two periods only 807 tons and 154 tons respectively were imported into Bulgaria.

The industry which is most susceptible of immediate development at the present time is flour milling and to a lesser extent timber dressing. An extensive market could be found for Bulgarian flour in South Russia and Georgia, where the surviving mills are powerless to cope with local demands. Constantinople used also to be supplied by this country, but this trade was lost for the time being owing principally to the Consortium grain monopoly. A large flour mill at Bourgas has recently been completed by a Bulgarian on behalf of French interests and transferred to a Franco-Bulgarian company. This mill, which is about to start working, will have an output of 220 tons of flour per day. The timber trade is suffering owing to the timber export prohibition which is still in force. For the present timber dressing is confined to supplying local needs.

Railways.

Communications may briefly be summed up by stating that the Bulgarian railways have improved during the past year, both in regard to services and punctuality of running. Improvements would continue more rapidly if the finances of the Government permitted the purchase of much material which is required for replacement. In addition to certain developments in construction, which are also planned, the repair of locomotives and rolling stock is urgently needed. It is, however, doubtful whether much can be done, in spite of the large credits allocated, unless a loan from abroad is forthcoming. The Railway Department is probably the best administration in Bulgaria, but considerable improvement in the matter of contracts and adjudications is still necessary. It must always be remembered that the Bulgarian State Railways did not suffer as the Serbian system suffered during the war, and are better run than any other in the Balkans.

Shipping.

Danube navigation is only reviving very slowly. Bulgaria requires more shipping and better ports on the river before river navigation can become a valuable transport asset. The ports of Varna and Bourgas have, for their size, been quite active.

A word of warning to British shipping interests is necessary. The volume of trade to and from Bulgaria carried in British and Italian bottoms respectively shows a marked increase in the latter, at the expense of the former. Italian steamship companies, including the Lloyd-Triestino, by patient work and some loss in the past, during the post-armistice period, have secured the bulk of the Mediterranean-Black Sea and much of the North Europe-Black Sea trade. Italian ships have established regular sailings and cheaper freights, and have not hesitated to call for export cargoes from Bulgaria, even when little was forthcoming.

VI. ROUMANIA.

The following extracts are taken from the report of Mr. Alexander Adams, Commercial Secretary, H.B.M. Legation, Bucharest, on economic conditions in Roumania in 1921:—

As stated in last year's report the division of rural lands into small holdings will in the future form cause for less attention being devoted to the growing of wheat. On the technical side wheat growing is more difficult than maize. The ploughing depth for wheat sowing is greater than for maize, and the peasant will not

have the advantage for many years to come of being able to cultivate his small holding by means of steam ploughs and tractors. Ploughing for wheat done with animals means coupling more oxen to the ploughs than the peasant possesses. One, or at the most two, yoke of oxen comprise the stock of the peasant, and farmers state that it is not possible to plough efficiently for wheat sowing with this number. The wheat lands are usually heavy and need six or eight oxen to pull the plough where mechanical methods are not used. Before the war over 330 steam ploughs of one make alone were operated by the owners of large estates in this country. Most of these ploughs have fallen into disuse in consequence of the difficulty and cost of obtaining necessary spare parts. It has been stated also that wheat flourishes best when sown over a large area of land, and not only is the peasant's holding small but it is difficult to persuade him to grow wheat instead of his usual crops, principally maize. Wheat is not a crop which in case of need he could feed to his cattle, and the intellectual status of the peasant at the present time is such that he will probably continue to grow grain for his own use and that of his cattle, disposing of any surplus. Amongst the more enlightened it is possible that some part of this surplus may be provided for directly by sowing wheat on a certain portion of the holding, but this is a development which can only be made general by educational measures undertaken by the Administration.

The hopes entertained at the beginning of 1921 that grain exports would more than double those of the preceding year have not been fulfilled. The reasons why exports did not reach the figures expected are many. They include the drought under which Roumania lay during the summer of 1921. Thus harvest expectations were by no means fulfilled. Another cause which limited exports lies in the varying Government measures taken throughout the year, under which certain grains were first immobilised in the hands of the producers, then set free for internal trade, and again later in the year declared immobilised once more.

The Petroleum Industry.

The following short table gives the production of crude petroleum in Roumania each year since 1913:—

	Tons.
1913	1,885,225
1914	1,783,947
1915	1,673,145
1916	1,244,093
1917	517,491
1918	1,214,219
1919	920,437
1920	1,034,048
1921	1,163,780

The year 1913 was the high point of production in this country. The decrease since then is the measure of the destruction and disorganisation wrought by the war.

The petroleum industry has not only had to make good war damage but also to do its best against the economic handicap of a depreciating rate of exchange since the Armistice. The physical conditions of working might be overcome, as they were before the war but it would need an extraordinarily prosperous state of affairs and very high prices abroad to enable the industry to cope with the demands for internal consumption. At the present moment practically 70 per cent. of the total production of crude oil is necessary to fulfil the quota demanded for internal consumption, and it must be remembered that this quota is paid for in Roumania at very low prices. This great handicap in the future development of the petroleum industry has not yet been adequately considered. The ability to attract foreign capital depends largely upon the policy of the Roumanian Government, and failing continual capital alimentation from abroad the Roumanian petroleum industry cannot prosper and progress as it should.

In existing circumstances, it is not possible to expect energetic and sustained effort on the part of the oil companies to increase their production. The remaining 30 per cent. of production which is theoretically available for export encounters great difficulties before reaching any port of shipment. If it is to be sold overseas it must travel either by the single pipe-line now existing which, varying as it does in size along its Baicoi-Constantza stretch, and subjected as it has been in the past to

frequent interruptions at Cernavoda, is hardly an ideal method of transport, whilst a much greater percentage of loss has to be borne by petroleum using the pipe-line than was the case before the war.

After having reached the port of shipment the 30 per cent. of production is subjected to heavy export taxes before being loaded on board steamer. The export taxes are based upon a general theory that the amount payable should be in the region of 20 per cent. of the value of the product shipped. In addition a commission tax of 10 per cent. of the export tax itself is imposed.

As there is only one pipe-line, shipments of benzine must be made by tank car. The lack of transport need not again be mentioned here. The principal shipping port for petroleum products is Constantza, and only recently, in November last, was the rebuilding of the Borcea-Cernavoda bridge over the Danube sufficiently completed to allow of trains running over it. From the month of August, when exports of grain lessened and the need for railway transport for grain therefore diminished, exports of petroleum increased in October to nearly double those of any preceding month save March. In November and December even higher export was attained. This change for the better in the petroleum situation is accounted for by the change for the worse in the grain shipments and illustrates the inadequacy of railway transport to deal with those exports which are at present available.

The pipe-line to Giurgiu, from which petroleum is loaded into tank barges for distribution up the Danube, has worked as well as could be expected, but it is not able to afford any great amelioration of the situation.

The production for 1921 is slightly in excess of that for 1920, and this seems to show that relatively steady progress is being made, but it must be remembered that a good deal of the 1921 production was due to flowing wells and not to any large increase in the number of wells. The preponderance in production of the three largest companies, the Steaua-Romana, the Astra-Romana and the Romano-Americana, is still sustained.

Amongst other causes which hindered production, was the failure of the Society "Electrica" of Campina to provide electric current sufficient to enable the working of the wells, as well as boring operations, to be continued without interruption. Some of the oil companies have installed gas and steam engines for these operations and are thus independent of the electric supply. Another cause militating against development in the industry is the delay on the part of the railroad administration in paying for the petroleum products supplied to it. This was mentioned in the last report on Roumania, and is still in existence.

The total exports of petroleum products during the year amounted to 362,000 tons as against 246,000 tons in 1920.

The above résumé shows briefly the reasons why the exports of petroleum must not be expected to attain pre-war figures for many years to come.

Coal Production.

During the year under review the production of coal has not been very great in consequence of discontent with existing conditions on the part of the workers and employers. Shortage of railroad transport has led to congestion at the loading platforms, whilst coal prices have not permitted employers to pay what the men considered an adequate wage. The price of coal for use on the State railways is fixed by the Government and up to the present about 80 per cent. of the production has been handed over for this and other Government purposes. Delays in payment occur as in the case of petroleum.

Before the war about 350,000 tons of coal and foundry coke, including gas coal, were imported from abroad, principally from the United Kingdom, and during the past year one or two cargoes of coal have found their way to Roumania, but difficulties have been experienced in disposing of the coal at the prices in lei necessarily demanded. One of the consequences of this practical cessation of the import of coal and coke for industrial purposes has been an extension in the demand for petroleum fuel, and the Government in its fixing of the prices of petroleum for internal consumption now finds itself supported by all those industrialists who, during the stress of the last few years, have adopted petroleum fuel for their factories. So long as the prices fixed for petroleum products in Roumania remain on anything like their present low levels no factory owner will turn to imported coal or coke as a substitute.

As regards shipments of gas coal to Roumania the companies which supplied gas to the town populations have not been able to secure such an increase in their tariffs as would enable them to import gas coal freely from abroad. At one time in Bucharest

the gas was made from petroleum and produced noise rather than light. As conditions gradually improve and currency inflation ceases the general level of prices in Roumania will acquire a certain stability and it may be expected that coal imports will be resumed.

(To be continued.)

RUPEE INDUSTRIAL SHARES.

Quotation on London Exchange.

It will be good news to those interested in rupee shares that arrangements are now being made with a view to their being quoted on the London Stock Exchange. One can only wonder why this very obvious step should not have been undertaken long ago, for the existing system places holders of shares at a very serious disadvantage in regard to dealings, while very naturally imposing a severe restriction on the market shares for the British public as a whole knows nothing of rupee shares, and would certainly not be interested in a market transactions in which have to be carried out in India.

For members of the Indian official and business community the change will be very important. Few of them pass their careers in India without becoming interested to a greater or lesser degree in the many opportunities that the country offers for sound investment. They may desire to retain their holdings on leaving the country for good, or the markets may be unfavourable for realisation, or, and this is by no means an improbable contingency, they may postpone the transaction until it is too late to complete it on the other side of the Black Water. And so it has to be done here, away from facilities for following the course of the markets. The case of the man who wishes to invest on this side is equally difficult. By the time the buying order has reached India there may have been a very vital change in the quotation, and what might have been a profitable transaction may be converted into the opposite.

Quotations on the London Exchange will remove these difficulties, and will in addition have the effect of broadening the field of investors interested in Indian shares. That is, of course, if the British public is induced to enter the market, and that can only be done by proper attention to publicity by the companies concerned. It is a habit with many companies to spend the minimum possible on advertising their meetings from the grossly erroneous view that money spent in this direction is thrown away. Of course it is nothing of the kind, but on the other hand most necessary expenditure in the interests of the shareholders, who in the absence of it would soon notice the effect on the quotations of the shares.

How soon the change will take place is uncertain; but it is not likely to be long delayed. The one point remaining to be settled is the rate of rupee exchange at which values will be converted into sterling. This is not likely to be difficult to arrange, and it will probably be found that 1s. 4d. will be the rate adopted. The quotation of rupee shares here, it may be pointed out, will involve the opening of transfer registers in London, and this, it is understood, the principal companies have expressed readiness to do.

The United States Mail Steamship Co., New York, who had applied for and obtained permission from the Ministry of the Interior to establish offices in Czecho-Slovakia, have withdrawn their application.

On the initiative of the Italian Commercial Museum lately established at Belgrade, a series of lectures will be given in Italy in order to illustrate the possibilities of trade between the two countries.

At a conference of the Palestine Development Council held here yesterday, says Reuter's New York correspondent in a message dated June 22, it was decided to raise 1,500,000 dollars towards the Rutenberg Jordan River scheme. A sum of 321,000 dollars was subscribed at the meeting, and promises for an additional 480,000 dollars were received from the representatives of various cities.

Engineering Topics.

PERSIAN MARKET FOR ENGINEERING PRODUCTS.

The Commercial Secretary to H.M. Legation at Teheran gives the following interesting particulars regarding the market for engineering products in Persia :—

No civilised country in the world is more devoid of machinery and more pressing in need of it than Persia ; yet no country in the world has so little present hope of procuring it. The very backwardness and poverty and political instability which require for their amelioration an active policy of industrialism based upon an extensive use of modern machinery, are the factors which impede industrialism and preclude machinery. Thus the backwardness is such that agriculture works with implements of the Biblical age and is too depressed and uninstructed to demand better. (There are, however, some exceptions.) Similarly the arts and crafts are carried on with mediæval tools by manual powers and processes, and these also are too hide-bound by hereditary self-complacencies to seek betterment. (There are, however, again some exceptions.) The poverty is such that all agricultural and industrial activities subsist from hand to mouth : mostly borrowing the seeds or the raw materials with which to make each new start, and repaying the loan from harvested crops or from manufactured goods. The political instability is such that the central Government cannot effectively control the outlying provinces, nor assure security to trade routes, nor attempt to repress the rising tide of anti-foreign unreason.

But something like this has always been the vicious circle of economic unprogressiveness in Persia, and in spite of it foreign commercial enterprise has made headway. It will still be so. The thing is not to be over-discouraged by difficulties nor over-elated by illusory prospects. The economic potentialities of Persia are such that some day when the awakening is more general this country will surely become a hungry market for machinery, and those foreign manufacturers who have quietly studied the ground and prepared their plans and pressed their opportunities in the difficult times will have the best chance.

Applying the foregoing general observations to the particular purposes of the British engineering manufacturer, the following further facts are to be noted :—Of engineering products the most obviously and urgently necessary are : agricultural machinery and implements ; boot-making machinery ; electrical plant, machinery and accessories ; grain-milling machinery, hardware and metal smallware ; internal combustion engines ; iron and steel works, plant and equipment ; mining, quarrying and metallurgical plant and machinery ; motor vehicles and road transport ; oil well plant and machinery ; paper making plant and machinery ; pumps ; railway and tramway plant and material ; refrigerating and ice making machinery and plant ; small arms and ammunition ; textile machinery ; hand tools ; wood working machinery ; wire. But the first and greatest of these needs, and indeed a pre-requisite to them all, is railway and tramway plant. This spacious country, as big as France and Germany combined, is landlocked by its own unrailed distances and cannot move in any progressive direction until it be given the means of mobility.

It will be understood that the introduction of engineering products in an ancient country which has only a dim and distant knowledge of the marvels of modern mechanics must be cautious at first, and deal gently with the ignorance and feebleness of the people. Machinery must be on the smallest scale, on the simplest plan, and of the cheapest standard ; so that by modest and immediately successful beginnings the idea may become implanted in the Persian mind that a machine

is not a consumer of money but a producer of money.

My Persian mercantile friends impress upon me the following details :—What would sell soonest would be small power-generating machines (to do the work of men who turn handles all day) ; small printing-presses (flat, not rotary) ; small illuminating plant ; cigarette-making machines (I am told that more than three million cigarettes are smoked in Persia daily) ; small cotton-spinning and wool-spinning machines ; small cotton-weaving and wool-weaving machines ; and small pumps for irrigation.

Power-generating machines must be portable and capable of developing from 1 to 4 h.p. on kerosene oil ; construction must be simple and the parts must be strong and durable. Small electric plants for generating current for lighting purposes, charging accumulators should be capable of being run on kerosene oil, and of maintaining from 50 to 250 lamps of 20 watts. The adjustment of the power to the load should be automatic. Printing presses may be actuated by hand, foot or motor, and should be able to take any size of paper from visiting card to foolscap size. Cigarette making machines must cut the roll of paper, cut the tobacco, roll the cigarette and fasten it. Thread-making or spinning machines must be hand or foot driven for the family factory as well as motor driven for the public factory. Weaving machines are in great demand, especially for cloths 36 to 42 inches wide. These also should preferably be hand or foot driven at first. Power-drive will come later. Agricultural machinery should be suitable for animal draught. Other immediate requirements are : circular saws, lathes (hand driven), emery grinders, hand drills.

The Commercial Secretary adds that he will be particularly glad to supplement the above details in any desired direction on receipt of an enquiry from any British engineering firm that may be interested in the Persian market.

Marine Diesels.

A good deal has been said in these columns from time to time regarding Diesel Engines, and THE NEAR EAST has advocated from the first their use for marine purposes. A few days ago a paper was read on the subject and in referring to the main points of difference in the design of marine Diesels as compared with the land type, the speaker pointed out that as the hull of the vessel was subject to more or less violent movement it did not form anything like as good a foundation as is provided for engines in factories and workshops.

This fact has long been known to engineers, and at one time it was feared that it would prove a very serious difficulty. We did what we could in the early days by means of bracing to obtain the required rigidity, but it was found necessary to provide for this in the engine frame or in the seating in order to avert troubles due to the main bearings getting out of alignment.

The speaker pointed out that crankshafts considerably stronger than those used in land practice must also be provided. To render it possible to start the engine from any position of the crank it is also necessary to use engines having a certain minimum of cylinders, that minimum being six for engines of the four stroke, and four for engines of the two-stroke type.

There is one point in connection with Diesel design which is that with the marine type unlimited cooling water is available. As the temperature can thus be kept within reasonable limits without trouble, there is practically no carbon deposit, a feature which is a great advantage in reducing the risk of seized engines, cracked cylinders covers and cracked pistons. All marine Diesels are now fitted with crossheads and guides, a departure from an earlier practice which has also reduced greatly the risk of piston seizure.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

RAILWAYS AND SHIPPING AT GALATZ IN 1921.

Mr. C. S. Clifton, H.M. Vice-Consul at Galatz, in his report on the commercial conditions at the Port of Galatz for the year 1921, states:—

721 vessels of all nationalities entered this port during the year under review. The figure for the preceding year was 448, and the tonnage for the two years was 973,240 tons and 527,140 tons respectively. The number of vessels cleared during 1921 and 1920 was 698 for the former and 443 for the latter, and the tonnage 938,002 tons and 517,984 tons respectively. These figures speak for themselves as showing the great increase in shipping activity during 1921 as compared with the previous year. The unusual sight of a large number of merchant vessels ice-bound has been the result of the sudden hard frost during December, when the river Danube became closed to navigation practically within 36 hours.

The congested state of the dock here, which was so noticeable during 1919 and 1920, had practically been remedied by the end of 1921. There is still a decided shortage of covered storage capacity, and although it was not found to be possible to carry out the scheme of extension which was projected for 1921, it is stated that building operations will start early in April of 1922, and should the programme be strictly adhered to the end of the year in question should see very considerable and necessary additions to the covered storage capacity fully carried out.

There was undoubted improvement in railway conditions during 1921 both in passenger and goods traffic. The former gives promise of shortly attaining the normal, and perhaps it may be said that too much preference is given to that service to the detriment of the latter. That a very appreciable amelioration is apparent in the goods traffic is quite certain, and such has had the effect of practically reducing the hastily organised road motor transport services to non-paying concerns. Many such undertakings are now seeking to dispose of their rolling stock at exceedingly low prices, and are still unable to find buyers. It has been the experience of motor-lorry owners that only the absolute non-existence of railway facilities, such as that which prevailed during 1919 and 1920, warrants the use of motor transport over roads in such bad condition which link up the various centres of trade in this country, not to speak of the difficulty of obtaining reliable and capable drivers for the vehicles in question.

So far as the activities of the railway repair shops at Galatz are concerned, it is stated on good authority that the output of work has increased 70 per cent. since the inception of the new rates of remuneration to the technical staffs, which are now based upon results. A shortage of the necessary materials, principally brass and copper, is still keenly felt.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

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

Anchor Line.—S.s. Olympia for Bombay (Liverpool, July 15).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Malancha for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 1); s.s. Malakuta for Port Said, Colombo, Madras

and Calcutta (London, July 4); s.s. Mahronda for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 15); s.s. Mahratta for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, July 18); s.s. Matheran for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 29); s.s. Anchoria for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, August 1); s.s. Mahanada for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, August 15).

Byron Steamship Line.—A steamer will leave Liverpool about June 30 for Patras, Piraeus, Constantinople, Constantza, Sulina Galatz, Braila, Volo, Salonika Smyrna, Bourgas and Varna.

Bibby Line.—S.s. Herefordshire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, July 5); s.s. Gloucestershire for Rangoon (Middlesbrough, July 8).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Mackinnon for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, June 30).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Pavia for Gibraltar, Ceuta, Melilla, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Odessa, etc. (Glasgow, July 10, and Swansea, July 14); s.s. Malia for Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, etc. (Swansea, July 11).

Ellerman Line.—S.s. Fabian for Gibraltar, Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, July 20); s.s. Cressado for Gibraltar, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas and Varna (Liverpool, July 29).

Ellerman's "City" Line.—S.s. City of Baroda for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 3); s.s. City of Durban for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 17); a steamer will sail from Birkenhead on July 31 for Calcutta.

Ellerman's "Hall" Line.—S.s. Borderer for Bombay, Karachi and the Punjab (Liverpool, July 11).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—Steamers sail fortnightly for Malta, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz and Braila.

Glen Line.—S.s. Glenade for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, June 29); s.s. Glenamoy for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, July 13); s.s. Glenariffe for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, July 8).

Harrison Line.—S.s. Inventor for Calcutta (Liverpool, July 8); s.s. Electrician for Port Said, Port Sudan, Aden, Mombassa, etc. (Birkenhead, July 13).

Henderson Line.—S.s. Chindwin for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, July 12).

Holt Line.—S.s. Troilus for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, June 29); s.s. Hector for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, June 29); s.s. Titan for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, June 29); s.s. Teiresias for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Swansea, July 6); s.s. Laomedon for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, July 13).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Incemore for Piraeus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, July 5); s.s. Peruviana for Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Sulina, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, July 22).

Moss Line.—S.s. Sitra for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, July 1);

Papayanni Line.—S.s. Gulf of Suez for Algiers, Malta, Syra, Smyrna and Constantinople (Liverpool, July 5); s.s. Trentino for Melilla, Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, July 12).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. China for Bombay (London, July 14); s.s. Nellore for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, July 14); s.s. Nankin for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, July 28); s.s. Plassy for Bombay (London, July 28); s.s. Malwa for Bombay (London, August 11).

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. Mantola for Bombay and Karachi (London, June 30); s.s. Hatipara for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, July 9); s.s. Mulbera for Bombay and Karachi (London, July 14); s.s. Merkara for Bombay and Karachi (London, July 28); s.s. Ethiopia for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, July 29).

More activity is reported to have taken place in the mohair market of Constantinople during the last few months.

Notwithstanding the long period of dry weather, the Czechoslovak fruit crop is expected to be good, while the apple crop is anticipated to be about 30 per cent. better than last year's.

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OLYMPIA, JULY 18.

CASTALIA, AUG. 9.

SCINDIA, AUG. 22

MASSALIA, SEPT. 8.

ELYSIA, SEPT. 20.

CIRCASSIA, OCT. 20.

OLYMPIA, NOV. 7.

Anchor Line (Henderson Brothers), Ltd
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Cotton & Cotton Goods.

MANCHESTER MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Saturday.

We have experienced a strong market during the past week, and the general tone has been healthy. Actual business, however, has been very irregular. It has been extremely difficult for producers to get buyers up in price, and most of the contracts arranged have been at figures a little below top rates. No particular change can be recorded in the outlook for the Egyptian cotton crop. Prices keep very firm, the tendency of values being against buyers. Egyptian yarns have hardened in quotation, and the turnover has shown some improvement. There has not been any general activity in piece goods in Egypt. Some difficulties appear to be experienced in financing trade in most of the Near Eastern outlets. Bids in shirtings in India have been too low and not much has been done, but some fairly substantial contracts have been put through in dhooties for Calcutta. Rather increased activity has been mentioned for China in standard makes and fancies. Steady buying has occurred for the Continent. American yarns have been dearer to buy, and the turnover has been of fair extent. There has not been much activity in export numbers for the Near East.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds & Gibson report as follows for the week ended June 21 :—

A good business has taken place in this department. The enquiry has been of a more general character than has lately been the case, practically all Egyptian cottons being asked for on one day or another. The tendency is still to buy below Fully Good Fair rather than above it, but it has been quite refreshing to find some enquiries (which resulted in business) for "Good Sakellaridis," once again. There has been a slight recrudescence in the enquiry for Sparto, and very low cottons, but so far not much actual business has taken place. We understand that America has been purchasing this cotton fairly steadily in Alexandria, and that supplies there are not what they were. There is a possibility, therefore, that Liverpool may come in for a share of this buying, if it continues. Sudan and Tokar have sold very well indeed. Some good lines of Tokar Sakellaridis have been put through, and the lower cottons from last year's crop have also received attention again.

The fillip which trade has received this week has been caused by the spectacular rise in American Futures, due to adverse crop reports. Spot prices have ruled very steady with a hardening tendency, and it is remarkable that with our future market rising all week (and as we write, registering an advance of over $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb.), our official spot values here have only been raised $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb., and that to-day. This steadiness in quoted values has no doubt induced many spinners to buy, and it is our opinion that to-day's official quotations more nearly represent actual business than has been the case for some little time past. Extra Fine Sakellaridis (?) has been left alone, but even at to-day's quotation of 29.50d. it is still a "fancy price."

C.i.f. business, which last week showed rather more activity, has quietened down again.

Manchester reports speak of a firm and healthy tone, but business is still somewhat restricted, owing to the unwillingness of oversea purchasers to advance their bids in conformity with the rise here. Of the two, spinners appear to have met with more success than the manufacturer in obtaining better prices. During the last day or two, however, a more encouraging turnover in all quarters has taken place, and it is hoped that the anticipated result of a favourable monsoon in India will supply the necessary stimulus in that country. As we pointed out last week, the course of events at the present time is being governed almost entirely by the American crop reports, and while frequent reactions are almost a certainty, it looks as if current prices would not only be held, but would even be advanced above those ruling to-day. Total sales 5,500 bales (includes 2,200 bales Sudan). Quotations, with the exception of Extra Fine Sakellaridis, are advanced 25 points.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Commercial Co. of Egypt in their report for the week ended June 16 state :—

The market during the past week has been good and fluctuations have been within narrow limits. The market has been governed mainly by the fluctuations of American cotton although there has been a firm undertone due to a somewhat better trade enquiry for the local product. We cannot say that the demand on the spot either here or in Liverpool has reflected the improved enquiry but this is probably due to the desired grades of cotton not being in good supply. The June contract of Ashmouni has been in request as a result of a local short interest; we do not think that this short interest is of any importance and is probably now reduced to very small proportions.

Spot.—Total sales this week amount to about 7,700 bales of which we estimate 6,000 bales Sakellaridis, 1,500 bales uppers, 150 bales brown and 50 bales white.

Sakellaridis.—There continues to be a fairly good demand for Fully Good Fair and below; staple cotton in these grades, however, is now extremely difficult to find. The basis for Fully Fair to Good Fair has considerably stiffened as this cotton is becoming scarce. The Good qualities are more or less neglected. A small business has been done during the week in Extra at high prices.

Uppers.—Business has been done in all grades at about the same prices as last week. There is a somewhat improved demand for the better qualities, which can still be procured on a fairly cheap basis.

Brown and White.—A small business has been done with no change in the basis.

Crop.—There is nothing of importance to remark on the growing crop: the plant is looking well.

MANCHESTER COTTON REVIEW.

The cotton trade review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended June 24 states :—

General.—There is not much change to report from the conditions ruling last week. On balance the price of the raw material is again substantially higher, although there have been more fluctuations than recently. Spinners and manufacturers have, of course, adjusted their own quotations accordingly, but for the present, merchants here and buyers abroad do not seem disposed to accept the view that the higher values will be permanent, and they are apparently inclined to go slowly for the time being, and await developments. Enquiry is still on a very healthy basis, so far as quantity is concerned, but the prices offered are too much below present quotations for the majority of the business to be definitely arranged.

Yarn.—This section has had a fairly quiet week, the upward movement has been too rapid to be accepted immediately by consumers, and a short period of quiescence appears probable during which it is to be hoped the prices will stabilise. Demand has been principally on Continental account. Spinners prices are raised from $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to 1d. per pound over those ruling last week.

Cloth.—The considerations mentioned above with regard to yarn apply equally to the cloth market. Actual business has probably been less than in recent weeks, though enquiry has been large and plenty of business is available at the prices ruling only a short time ago. Unfortunately, of course, it is impracticable for manufacturers to accept those prices now. Demand for China has improved whilst trade with the Continent has been good. The Near East continues very quiet.

Raw Cotton.—As stated above prices are considerably higher on balance. Early in the week the tone was very strong, but reports regarding the new American crop have been more favourable towards the close and there was a slight reaction. There has been a considerable amount of buying on behalf of the trade.

Closing prices are as follows :—American Fulling Middling 13.74, last week 12.93; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 20.00, last week 19.75.

BRITISH COTTON GROWING ASSOCIATION.

The report of the British Cotton Growing Association for the year ended December 31 states that the shipping facilities for cotton during the year have been very satisfactory, and the cotton is now coming forward from the various Colonies with less delays than for some years past. As a result of representations which were made to the steamship companies further very substantial reductions have been made in freight charges. It is satisfactory to report that African cotton is now in better favour with Lancashire spinners, and now that the different qualities have become more widely known there is a greater demand for the cotton. From February to August, 1921, values of cotton ruled very low, and although the number of bales marketed by the Association during the year easily constitutes a record, the value of the cotton is slightly lower than in 1920, when prices were abnormal during the greater part of the year.

The accounts show a surplus for the year's working of £16,702 14s. 6d., which increases the excess of income over expenditure to £26,513 17s. 10d. Full provision has been made for depreciation, also for income tax and in respect of corporation profits tax. This is an extremely satisfactory result, as on July 6, 1920, the Association guaranteed to pay the native cultivator in Nigeria over a period extending to June 30, 1921, a price of 3½d. per lb. of seed cotton for the indigenous variety, and 4½d. per lb. of seed cotton for the exotic variety. This guarantee at one time involved the Association in a total gross loss of over £300,000, and for the greater part of the year there was every reason to believe that this loss would be even more serious, as through the slump in trade there was no demand for this particular class of cotton, and prices of American "futures" were extremely low. Fortunately towards the autumn values of American cotton improved considerably, which also brought about a demand for outside growths. This circumstance, together with careful management of hedges, enabled the Association to offset this loss and show a profit. The council are convinced that their action in giving the guarantee, and maintaining the price in spite of adverse market conditions, at a time when other produce was almost unsaleable, will go a long way towards the development of cotton growing in Nigeria.

There has been a considerable increase during the year in the production of cotton in the various parts of the Empire. The estimated amount of cotton grown in new fields in the British Empire during the last six years is as follows:—(in bales of 400 lbs. each) 1916 78,800, 1917 72,600, 1918 54,900, 1919 79,600, 1920 105,800, 1921 165,100.

Sir Aubrey Brocklebank, who has been appointed a director of the Suez Canal Company in succession to the late Sir Thomas Sutherland, is the third holder of the baronetcy, created in 1885 and succeeded his father eleven years ago. Sir Aubrey, in addition to being a director of the Cunard Company, is the head of Messrs. Thos. & John Brocklebank, Ltd., whose shipping connections with India are well known and whose vessels make much use of the Canal.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Egyptian Hotels.

The report of the Egyptian Hotels for the year ended April 30 states that after charging all expenses in connection with the working of the hotels, the profits of the hotels were £52,852 12s., as compared with £56,675 4s. 4d. for 1921. After providing for the charges payable in London and Cairo, including taxation under the Finance Acts, the accounts show a profit of £46,234 0d. The balance of undivided profit brought forward from last account is £9,081 13s. 8d. From this has to be deducted depreciation of plant, fixtures and fittings at hotels £3,352 3d., leaving an available balance of £51,963 14s. 2d. The directors recommend (1) The payment of a dividend of 5 per cent. per annum on the preference shares for the year to April 30, absorbing £5,750; (2) the payment of a dividend on the ordinary shares of 25 per cent. for the year, which will absorb £31,250; (3) to place to special reserve £5,000; £42,000; leaving a balance to be carried forward of £9,963 14s. 2d.

Meeting offices of the company 11, Ironmonger Lane, June 30, 11.30 a.m.

Bombay Baroda and Central India Railway.

The gross earnings of the Bombay Baroda and Central India Railway Company for the year ended March 31, totalled Rs. 10,32,38,837, being an increase of Rs. 35,11,274; the net earnings were Rs. 2,37,71,790, a decrease of Rs. 80,48,571. The figures for the current year will, it is expected, show a considerable improvement owing to the introduction of revised rates and fares and the fall in prices of material. Out of Rs. 3,17,325 due to the company in respect of 1921-22, Rs. 1,70,061 was remitted to England in December last, producing £11,116, and the balance is in course of remittance. An interim dividend of 1½ per cent. was paid in January last in addition to a guaranteed interest of 1½ per cent. then due, and the directors recommend a final dividend of 1½ per cent., making a total payment in July of 3 per cent. and a return for the year of 6 per cent. The payment of 6 per cent. for the year involves taking about £30,000 from the profits held in reserve in stockholders' revenue account, established for the purpose of equalising dividends.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations
Alexandria ..	Piastres to £....	97½	97,15-32
Athens	Drachmae to £....	25.22½	138-142
*Belgrade ...	Dinars to £	25.22½	335
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	1510-1540
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3.21-32-1.3.23-32
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3.21-32-1.3.23-32
Brussels.....	Francs to £	25.22½	55.30-55.60
Bucharest ..	Lei to £	25.22½	685-730
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	720-740
New York....	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.40½-4.42½
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	52.45-52.78
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	228 232
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	91½-94½
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	640-680
Teheran	Krans to £	50	51½
Vienna	Kronen to £	24 02	76,000-83,000
Warsaw	Marks to £	20.43	18,500-21,000

*Sellers

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In view of the big MARKET ACTIVITY in "MARCONI ORDINARY" we have published an exhaustive pamphlet which gives full particulars and past history, and discusses the value of Radio Telephony for MARCONI'S. Anyone interested in this Company, especially shareholders, should ask for post free copy of this pamphlet from

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Stock and Share Markets.

BUSINESS RESTRICTED.

Gilt-edged Steady.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Tuesday morning.

A very quiet tone has again prevailed in the markets, and business with the exception of a few sections has been on a most restricted scale. So far there have been no signs at all of the expected activity that led to the alteration to 4 p.m. closing. It will come in due course, but at present conditions inspire hesitancy in the ordinary investor. There is no telling now what will happen in Ireland, and until the course of events there is more certain that island is going to be distinctly a bear point for all markets. Elsewhere too the situation has altered for the worse since last week, and it would seem possible that events in Germany may delay the settling down which is so ardently to be desired in the interests of the world.

Practically the only bright spot during the week has been provided by Gilt-edged which after drooping somewhat have tended to reflect the further reduction in the Bank Rate. The result of the Indian loan was felt in some directions, there being a tendency to realise, while the foreign group was upset by the unfavourable tendencies of the exchanges.

Gilt-edged Firm.

Turning to prices Gilt-edged are generally better on the week. Consols have gained 1-8 at 56.7-8, the Conversion Loan at 75.9-16 shows a rise of 9-16, while War Loan Fives are 99.15-16, a gain of 1-16. Indian stocks have been variable. The Seven per cent. loan is $\frac{1}{2}$ up at 113, the $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. loan is $\frac{1}{4}$ down at 65, while the 3 per cent. loan is unchanged at 56.

The foreign market has generally been dull, as the result of a good deal of Continental selling. French loans are lower, War Loan Fives being $\frac{3}{4}$ down at 41 $\frac{1}{2}$, while the 4 per cents. at 32 $\frac{3}{4}$ have shed a similar amount. German 3 per cents. have dropped $\frac{1}{4}$ to 2.3-16. Italian Rentes are unchanged at 21. Czecho-Slovak 8 per cents. have been a dull spot, closing at 92 $\frac{3}{4}$, while the Greater Prague Loan is $3\frac{1}{2}$ discount. Turkish Unified have been exceptionally active, and are 33 $\frac{1}{4}$. The disturbing influences have not affected the South American group, and stocks generally have been firm. Brazilians have risen in some cases, while Chilean are harder. Chinese issues have been steady.

Industrials Idle.

Extremely quiet conditions have obtained in the Industrial group. There have been some bright spots, but generally price changes are few and far between.

Textiles have been weak. Courtaulds are 49s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., at which they show a decline of 1s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., while Coats at 62s. have shed 1s. 9d. There has not been much doing in Tobaccos. Bats are unchanged at 76s. 9d., while Imperial Tobaccos are 5s. 3d. down at 61s. 6d. Dunlops are a shade lower at 8s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Iron and Steel shares are about the same. Armstrongs are unchanged at 18s., Vickers are 6d. lower at 11s. 9d., while Guest Keens are 6d. up at 35s. Indian railways have been fairly firm. Bengal and North Western are unchanged at 129, Bengal-Nagpur have gained $\frac{1}{4}$ at 97 $\frac{1}{4}$, G.I.P. Guaranteed are 90 $\frac{3}{4}$, while Madras and Southern Mahratta are 102 $\frac{1}{4}$ at which they are a point lower.

Oils Depressed.

The Oil market has continued dull during the week, and yesterday was depressed owing to French selling following the issue of the Shell and Mexican Eagle reports. With a few exceptions shares are lower all along the line.

Anglo-Persian Ord at 4.31-32 are 1-16 up, while Burmahs at 5.5-16 are 3-32 higher. Mexican Eagles are 3.5-8, a gain of 5-16. Trinidad issues are about the

same. Apex are 2.1-16, at which they are 1-16 lower. Centrals at 2.9-32 are 1-32 lower, while Leaseholds are unchanged at 1.3-16.

Among Egyptians, Anglo-Egyptian B are 1-16 down at 1, while Oilfields of Egypt have shed 6d. at 5s. In the Roumanian group Roumanian Consolidated are 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. up at 17s., Dacia Romanos are 1-16 lower at 1, Steaua Romanas are 1s. down at 10s. 6d., while Phoenix are 3d. lower at 27s.

Banks Firm.

Banks have been a firm spot. Chartered of India at 18 $\frac{1}{4}$ are 5-16 up, National of India are 45 $\frac{3}{4}$, a gain of $\frac{1}{4}$, while P. and O. Banks are unchanged at 14.

Egyptian securities have been variable. Aboukirs are 3d. down at 21s. 3d., Beheras are $\frac{1}{4}$ down at 8, Egyptian Markets are 3d. up at 21s. 6d., while Gharbieh Lands at 1.3-16 are 5-16 lower.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated June 19:—

Season.—June 12 and 13—Monsoon strengthened on west coast of Peninsula. June 14 to 16—Strengthened in Peninsula with local extension to central India. June 17—Weakened on west coast of Peninsula, but generally active in Burma, north-east India, central India, west and interior Peninsula. Condition of Crops.—June 16—Bengal—Second sown jute progressing and monsoon conditions established. Bombay—Fair outlook in Bombay, Karnatak, Decan and Konkan, where sowing fairly general. No rain yet in Gujarat or Khandesh. Good outlook in Sind. Markets. Cotton.—June 15—Bombay cotton market steady. Fine M.G. Oomras Rs. 448 July—September. Bombay cotton arrivals from September 1, 1921, to June 10, 1922, were 3,050,000 bales as compared with 2,308,000 bales during the same period of last year. Piece-goods.—June 15—Bombay imported piece-goods market unchanged. Local goods sold well. Jute.—June 17—Calcutta jute and gunny markets quiet, 9 porters Rs. 18 and 11 porters Rs. 27. Tea.—At tea sales on June 13, selections from all districts were small, but good strong enquiries and keen competition for all tea, particularly Assam and Dooars. Market generally half anna dearer, except for medium and lower class Darjeelings, which were weaker. 19 988 packages sold to date at an average price of 11 annas 5 pies per lb. Crop returns to the end of May show an increase of 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ million pounds over last year. Rice.—June 16—Rangoon rice market firm. Special Straits Quality Rice, Rs. 505. Shellac.—June 13—T.N. closing price Rs. 190 sellers. Bank Rate.—Imperial Bank of India rate 5 per cent. from June 15. New Government of India Loans.—Five-year 6 per cent. bonds payable in 1927 and 10-year 6 per cent. bonds payable in 1932 notified. Both free of income tax. Bonds will be issued at par and repayable at par. Subscriptions will be received from July 3 to August 14. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. War Bonds, 1922, will be accepted at par as equal to cash in subscriptions up to September 26. Bonds obtainable in London from Imperial Bank of India.

ENQUIRY BUREAU.

Merchants, etc., may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau," "The Near East," 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2." It must be understood that "The Near East" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.

126. Confectionery. British firm of manufacturers extending their export trade in best quality confectionery suitable for sub-tropical climates will supply details to enquiries from oversea buyers.

127. A Firm exporting all kinds of Metals and other merchandise to Egypt and India would like to get in touch with Importers in the Near East of similar goods.

128. General Commission Agent and Merchant in Cairo, Egypt, open to represent British manufacturers and merchants on commission. Can also export all kinds of Egyptian products.

129. Principal of old established textile manufacturing and Import Firm in Aleppo (Syria) now in Switzerland, wishes to get in touch with cotton and woollen yarn manufacturers or exporters in Lancashire and Yorkshire.

Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Oilcakes Lower.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Monday Evening.

Sugar.—Home refined has been in fair request at official rates. Tate's cubes and mineral water sugar at 56s. 6d. and 50s. 6d. are 6d. and 3d. up respectively. London granulated is 6d. up at 50s. 3d., and Lyle's granulated has gained 9d. at 50s. 6d. Foreign descriptions have been steady. West Indian crystallised has been firm at 43s. 6d., while white Mauritius is 9d. up at 47s. White Java has advanced 9d. at 20s. 10½d. Cane sugar quotations are :—June, 15s. 9d.; July, 15s. 9d.; August, 16s.; and September, 16s. White sugar quotations are :—June, 21s. 6d.; July, 21s. 6d.; August, 21s. 9d.; September, 21s. 7½d.; and October-December, 21s. 1½d.

Coffee.—Unsteadiness prevails. East Indian is unaltered at 118s., while Costa Rica has shed 3s. 6d. at 112s. Nairobi at 104s. is 2s. up. Quotations are :—July, 63s.; September, 61s. 3d.; December, 60s. 9d.; and March, 59s. 6d.

Dessicated Coconut.—Supplies are accumulating rapidly owing to the dull market.

Rice.—Firmness still prevails, but little business has been transacted.

Green Fruit.—A shipment of South African oranges has reached England this week, and the condition of the fruit shows a great improvement on previous arrivals. A small quantity of Spanish oranges are afloat. With their arrival the Spanish season closes. Large quantities of lemons have just arrived, and there are now ample supplies to cope with requirements. Apples are going out of favour owing to the competition of seasonable fruits. The demand for Egyptian onions is still improving, while quotations are still weak.

Oilseeds.—A further increase in prices has taken place. Indian linseed has increased 6d. to 21s., while La Plata is 1s. 4½d. up at 19s. 9d. Rapeseed is higher with Toria 4½d. up at 18s. 9d. No change is to be noticed this week in cottonseed. Egyptian black remains at 11s. 10½d. Sakellaridis is unaltered at 11s. 3d. as also Indian at 9s. 3d.

Oils.—A steady tone has been in evidence. Linseed oil is firm at 43s. 6d. Rape oil is steady. Crude is 45s., and refined has come to business at 48s. Cotton oil is steady all along the line with the exception of deodorized which is 5s. lower at 48s. Egyptian crude is 42s., technical is 41s. 6d., and refined is 48s.

Oilcakes.—The market has reversed again this week with quotations lower in all cases. Cottonseed cake and coconut cake have both shed 10s. at 170s. and 220s. ton respectively. Cottonmeal cake and linseed cake have also shed a like amount at 260s. and 270s. ton respectively.

The Bohemia Bank, which is connected with the New York Bank of Europe and other foreign concerns, has declared a dividend of 6 per cent. for the last year.

ROUMANIAN CROP REPORT.

Bumper Maize Yield Expected.

Messrs. Watson & Youell Shipping Agency, Ltd., of Galatz, report as follows under date June 10 :—

During the week sporadic rains have fallen and the weather is inclined to occasional thunderstorms. Observations during a trip by motor car from Bucharest to Braila confirm previous reports about the area of land under cultivation between these points and the excellent condition of the crops. Maize promises to be a very large crop.

The *Argus* of June 9 and 10 states that the rainfall has been somewhat irregular, a few districts having only had very little, and the early rains in the spring caused some damage to wheat. In general, however, the prospects are very satisfactory and abundant crops are anticipated, although the cultivated area is less than in previous years. According to recent information received at the Ministry of Agriculture, general rains had fallen, and the autumn and spring sowings including maize and beetroot, also orchards, vineyards and market gardens are doing well in the mountainous districts, some of which are reported as excellent, but in a few of those in the Old Kingdom such as Muscel, they are medium. In Maramuresh, Ardeal and Bucovina, oats, forage, maize, potatoes and beetroot are good, as are also vineyards and orchards. In Bessarabia and the Old Kingdom the crops on the plains and rising grounds with few exceptions are likewise good. In general, notwithstanding that the cultivated area is only about equal to that of the year 1921, which represents about 55 per cent. of the cultivated area in 1915-1916, the yield is expected to be very good as regards quality and quantity. Given further rain in June and July the maize crop will be extraordinary.

No official decision has yet been promulgated, but it is evident that the export of wheat, rye and their derivatives, with the exception of Government commitments, will continue to be prohibited, and it is stated that the decree of August 15, 1921, will remain in force, in respect to maize, until the yield has been ascertained. All other grain will be free for export, subject to export duty, which has still to be established and which is expected to be high and levied in gold or in foreign currency of the importing countries. It will probably be based upon the prices of grain in Roumania as compared with the ruling prices on foreign consuming markets and consideration will be given to compensate the Roumanian grower for the difference in price as fixed by the Government for the sale of wheat and rye in comparison with the prices of other grain in order to encourage the cultivation of wheat on as large a scale as possible. This will be in the nature of a bonus or premium to the farmer on wheat production in the country.

Transport.

The Roumanian State Railways possess a sufficiency of locomotives, but the number of trucks in commission is inadequate and they are now considering the means of tightening up their system so as to utilise their rolling stock to best advantage, especially during the rush months of August to the closing of navigation on the Danube in December. There is also a scarcity of grain stores at Braila and Galatz, a good many not having yet been repaired since the dilapidations caused by the war.

The Direction of the State Railways are in touch with grain exporters in order to arrive at the best solution of speeding up the reception of grain from railway trucks, storage and loading on board steamers, and meetings are being held at Braila. It is expected that the port of Braila will be able to handle 800 loaded trucks (10,000 kilograms each) *per diem*. The Dock Administration are also being urged to improve their rate of reception. The Direction has also decided to put in hand, with the least possible delay, improvements at the Galatz Dock Railway Station to enable it to receive 500 loaded trucks *per diem*. The immediate requirements are two lines of sidings of 400 metres each, two lines of sidings at the new basin improvement of the platforms for timber storage and storage at the docks for two months grain arrivals. The approximate cost of the foregoing is estimated at lei 2,500,000.

The paper currency of Egypt has dropped from £E.51,750,000 to £E.30,500,000 during the past two years.

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PERSIAN GUM TRAGACANTH.

H.M. Consul-General at Bushire states that no duty has as yet been charged on the export of gum tragacanth. A tax is made, however, on the cultivation of gum tragacanth of 30 per cent. of its estimated value. This is paid by the cultivator after it is collected and before it is sold. It is, therefore, virtually a tax on the export of the gum.

Proposals have been in the Persian Parliament to impose a Customs duty of 30 per cent. instead of the tax, but so far this has not been sanctioned.

CURRENT PRICES.

General Produce.—Bacon: (Continental), 110s. cwt.; (Canadian), 130s. cwt.; (American), 101s. 6d. cwt.; butter (Danish), 203s. cwt.; (Australian), 190s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 190s. cwt.; cheese (Canadian), 85s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 88s. cwt.; lard 68s. cwt.; eggs (Danish), 14s. 6d. per 120; (Stryian), 9s. 9d. per 120; chillies, 160s. cwt.; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 2½ lb.; cocoa (Ceylon good to fine), 85s. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 125s. cwt.; (East Indian), 125s. cwt.; (Central American), 102s. 6d. cwt.; (Jamaica), 72s. 6d. cwt.; (Mocha Longberry), 105s. cwt.; (Santos superior), 70s. 6d. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochín), 52s. 6d. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 90's), 11½d. lb.; pepper (Singapore black), 4d. lb.; (Muntok white), 7½d. lb.; pimento, 2 1-8d. lb.; raisins (Valencias), 55s. cwt.; sultanas (Smyrna) 119s. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 71s. 6d. cwt.; (Amalias), 59s. cwt.; sugar (Tate's cubes), 55s. 6d. cwt.; (Lyle's granulated), 49s. 10½d. cwt.; (Mauritius crystals), 46s. 6d. cwt.; (West Indian crystallised), 43s. 9d. cwt.; (centrifugal), 15s. 6½d. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 2d. lb.; rice (Rangoon No. 2), 14s. 3d. cwt.; (bran Rangoon), £6 10s. ton; cinnamon (firsts), 11½d. lb.; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 6½d. lb.; tea (Indian, common to good common), 1s. 1d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 4d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 7½d. lb.; Ceylon (common to good common), 1s. 2d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 6d. lb.; (fine to finest) 2s. 7½d. lb.; Java (common to good common), 10½d. lb.; wheat (English white), 53s. 9d. qr.; wheat (Australian), 56s. 3d. qr.; oats (English), 37s. 6d. qr.; oats (La Plata, ex-ship), 25s. 9d. qr.; maize (La Plata), 30s. qr.; flour, 43s. 3d. sack.

Chemicals.—Acids: Boric 61s. cwt.; oxalic, 8½d. lb.; citric, 2s. 7d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 5½d. lb.; ammonia (sulphate) £16 11s. 6d. ton; arsenic, (white powdered), £40 ton; benzole (standard), 2s. 5½d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £12 10s. ton; borax crystals, 29s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 115s. 6d. cwt.; Potassium: Bichromate, 6½d. lb.; chlorate, 4½d. lb.; caustic, £33 10s. ton; nitrate, £37 10s. ton; permanganate, 9½d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 3½d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £15 5s. ton; Sodium: Crystals, 120s. ton; bi-carbonate, £11 5s. ton; bi-chromate, 3d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £9 1s. 3d. ton; chlorate, 3½d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £23 ton; hyposulphite, £16 ton; prussiate, 9½d. lb.; nitrate, £15 3s. 3d. ton; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £60 ton; glycerine (industrial 1260 per cent.), £87 10s. ton; lemon oil, 3s. 4½d. lb.; quinine, 2s. 3½d. oz.; red lead, £37 ton; white lead, £41 ton; white ground lead, £49 15s. ton; sulphate of copper, £26 17s. 6d. ton; sulphate of iron 60s. ton.

Metals.—Aluminium, £102 10s. ton; antimony (English Regulus), £28 ton; bismuth, 9s. lb.; copper (standard) £61 18s. 9d. ton; copper (electro), £69 10s. ton; gold bars, 92s. 3d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 90s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 96s. ton; galvanized sheets (25 G), £16. ton; lead (soft foreign), £24 ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 1½d. unit; molybdenite, 30s. unit; nickel, £162 10s. ton; platinum, 360s. oz.; plumbago, £16 ton; quicksilver, £11 10s. bottle.

DECLARATION OF DIVIDENDS.

COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION OF THE OTTOMAN PUBLIC DEBT.

NOTICE to HOLDERS of the OTTOMAN 4 per CENT. UNIFIED CONVERTED DEBT. COUPONS Nos. 23-33 Inclusive.

The Council of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt inform holders of the Unified Debt that, in accordance with Article No. 1 of the Décret-Annexe and without prejudice to their rights under that article, they have decided to authorize the PAYMENT of a further sum of 9d. on account of each half-yearly coupon of 8s. in respect of overdue coupons due March, 1915, to March, 1920, inclusive.

The provision for the payment of this amount is in the hands of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, London Agency.

Holders are invited to present the receipts which they hold in respect of the first payment on account (i.e., 1s. 3d. per coupon) at the Imperial Ottoman Bank, London, either direct or through the intermediary of any of the under-mentioned Establishments.

Banque Impériale Ottomane	Constantinople.
" de Paris and des Pays-Bas	Paris.
Comptoir National d'Escompte	"
Crédit Lyonnais	"
Société Générale	"
Crédit Industriel and Commercial	"
" Mobilier Français	"

Banca d'Italia	Rome.
" Commerciale Italiano	Milan.
Amsterdamsche Bank	Amsterdam.
Banque de Bruxelles	Brussels.
" de Paris et des Pays-Bas	"
" Centrale Anversoise	Antwerp.

The payment of this amount will be stamped upon the receipts, which will be returned to the holders at the same time as the amount is paid to them, all charges and expenses being borne by the depositors.

Holders who have not received the first payment on account (i.e., 1s. 3d. per coupon in respect of coupons Nos. 23-33 inclusive) can obtain payment at the same time of the two amounts, whether they possess the whole of these coupons or whether they hold only a part. For this purpose they will have to remit their coupons to the Imperial Ottoman Bank, London, direct, or through the intermediary of the establishments above-mentioned. In exchange for their coupons, accompanied by the necessary declaration of nationality, they will receive at the same time as the cash payment receipts representing their rights.

The payment of the amounts above-mentioned will take place from the 17th July, 1922, to the 1st March, 1923.

Constantinople, 24th May, 1922.

COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION OF THE OTTOMAN PUBLIC DEBT.

NOTICE to HOLDERS of the OTTOMAN 4 per CENT. UNIFIED CONVERTED DEBT. COUPONS Nos. 34-37 inclusive.

The Council of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt inform holders of the Unified Debt that in accordance with Article No. 1 of the Décret-Annexe, and without prejudice to their rights under that Article, they have decided to authorize the PAYMENT in London of the sum of 6s. on each half-yearly coupon of 8s. to allied and neutral holders who are in possession of overdue coupons due September, 1920, to March, 1922, inclusive.

Provision for the payment of this amount is in the hands of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, London Agency.

Holders are invited to present the above-mentioned coupons at the Imperial Ottoman Bank, London, either direct or through the intermediary of any of the under-mentioned Establishments.

Banque Impériale, Ottomane	Constantinople.
" " " "	Paris.
Banque de Paris and des Pays-Bas	"
Comptoir National d'Escompte	"
Crédit Lyonnais	"
Société Générale	"
Crédit Industriel and Commercial	"
Crédit Mobilier Français	"
Banca d'Italia	Rome.
Banca Commerciale Italiano	Milan.
Amsterdamsche Bank	Amsterdam.
Banque de Bruxelles	Brussels.
Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas	"
Banque Centrale Anversoise	Antwerp.

In exchange for the coupons accompanied by a declaration of nationality, holders will receive at the same time as the cash payment, receipts representing their rights, all charges and expenses being borne by the depositors.

The payment of this amount will take place from the 17th July, 1922, to the 1st March, 1923.

Constantinople, 24th March, 1922.

With reference to the foregoing Advertisements the Imperial Ottoman Bank give notice that the above-mentioned Coupons and Receipts may be deposited on and after the 17th July next at their Coupon Office, 25, Austin Friars, E.C.2, listed on forms which may be obtained there on and after 5th July.

The cash payments are subject to deduction of Income Tax. The payment in respect of coupons 34-37 is also subject to a deduction of 2d. per receipt for stamp duty. It will be convenient if holders will present coupons through their Bankers.

Imperial Ottoman Bank, 26, Throgmorton Street, E.C.2.
27th June, 1922.

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CONDITIONS IN PERSIA.

Crop Outlook Better.

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

Kermanshah, May 20.

The state of the crops appears to improve. Abundant rains have already reduced the expectations of holders regarding the prices of cereals to the extent of about 15 per cent.

Mosul, May 20.

Business is at a standstill. Exchange is very scarce. A slight improvement in the prices of wool is to be recorded as the result of some consignments despatched to London. The other products of the country remain neglected.

Baghdad, May 27.

The market is very dull.

Baghdad, June 3.

The situation of the market is unchanged.

THE JAFFA MARKET.

The following report has been received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank from Jaffa, covering the month of May :—

Cereals.—The market is relatively quiet and without business, consumption regulating prices. The harvest of wheat and barley has already commenced. The total crop of these products is estimated at from 50 to 60 per cent. of that of the previous year; from that fact it is believed that prices will be higher than those now quoted. In view of this state of things merchants will interest themselves this year in the purchase and storage of cereals for winter, foreseeing an almost certain rise especially if the American and Australian markets for flour show some improvement.

Beans.—The yield of this product is estimated at only a quarter of that of the past year.

Broad Beans.—The crop of broad beans this year is short.

Water Melons.—The yield is expected to be very satisfactory. The first consignments for Constantinople and Syria will take place towards the end of June.

PHOENIX MORENI WELL.

The *Petroleum Times* states that it has received a cable from its Roumanian correspondent stating that the Phoenix Oil Company has now to its credit the largest oil well in the Roumanian fields. This is its No. 5 Moreni-Stavropoleos well. The well gave several hard flows during the last month, but has now settled down to continuous spouting, its daily output being approximately 50 wagons (500 tons). It has been flowing at this rate for several days, and is thus the largest oil fountain in the fields. The local management is enthusiastic of this early success, but anticipate several other good wells, for at least five which are now in drilling are near the oil sands. The company's Runcu No. 1 well, which gave a large production when it was brought in on March 26, has now had its damaged casing replaced, and will be shortly re-opened.

The seamen's strike at Calcutta is ended, and the men have agreed to resume work unconditionally.

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

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

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CYPRUS.
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PERSIA:
Hamadan:
Kermanshah.

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Exchange and Merchandise operations effected.

Company Meetings

MORTGAGE COMPANY OF EGYPT.

Transference of Control to Egypt.

The fourteenth ordinary general meeting of the Mortgage Company of Egypt, Ltd., was held on June 22, at Cannon Street Hotel, E.C.

Sir Henry Babington Smith, G.B.E., K.C.B., C.S.I. (chairman of the London committee) presided.

The Secretary (Mr. S. R. Duncan), having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors, the Chairman moved the adoption of the report, and after referring to the transfer of the control of the company from the United Kingdom to Cairo, and consequent changes in the organization of the company—changes which, he stated, would be in no way injurious to the company and would, in some respects, strengthen the position of the holders of debentures and preference shares—said:—The economic position in Egypt, though in some respects difficult, may be regarded as extremely favourable when it is compared with that of many other countries. The Egyptian currency has been steadily maintained on a parity with sterling and the contraction of the paper currency from the very high level necessitated by war requirements and war prices has been effected without disturbance. I mentioned last year that the note issue of the National Bank of Egypt had fallen from £E.68,200,000 in 1919 to £E.34,500,000 in 1921. At the end of March last it had fallen further to £E.31,112,000. The main reason for this flexibility and steadiness is that the currency was not increased for the purpose of meeting budgetary requirements, but for actual economic needs, and that it was backed by investments in short-dated British securities immediately convertible into cash.

The 1921 Cotton Crop.

The cotton crop of 1921 was a poor one. It is estimated at 3,300,000 kantars, as against more than 6,000,000 kantars in 1920. This was due partly to the restriction of the area to be planted with cotton, and partly to the poor yield. There was a large carry over from 1920, and much cotton was held up in the provinces. The arrivals in Alexandria up to the end of May are close upon 5,000,000 kantars, of which about one-third must have come out of stock in the provinces. The price has kept up fairly well, although, of course, at a much lower level than that reached in 1920. The average price in Egypt has been just under 35 talaris or about double the pre-war price. The Liverpool price has varied between 28½d. and 16d., and it now stands at 19½d. The prospects for the current year are fairly good. The crop will be a small one as the area is still restricted; but although the Nile is a very low one, there will probably be enough water for the amount of cotton grown. Old stocks have been greatly diminished, and as there are some signs of revival in the cotton industries, it seems that Egypt need not fear a heavy fall in price. At the same time, the cost of production has fallen, so that if the present price is maintained, the cultivator's profit will be increased.

You will see in the board's report a table giving the amount invested in First Mortgages at the end of each year since the company's business began. The figure for March 31 of this year was £3,122,024, an increase of £244,000 over the preceding year. It would have been easy to make loans to a much larger amount, but it was thought well to continue the policy of very careful selection and to accept no business that was not of a thoroughly sound character. The amounts granted in each case have been on a conservative basis in relation to the valuation of the properties mortgaged, and the rate of interest has been maintained at a satisfactory level.

Instalments in Arrear.

I called your attention last year to the increase in the instalments in arrear. There has been a further addition to this item during the last twelve months, and it now stands at £352,000 as compared with £240,000 in March, 1921. This increase is the result primarily of the unsatisfactory cotton crop, and of the less favourable results obtained by agriculture generally. An increase in arrears is never a feature in the business that can be regarded with satisfaction. The board believe, however, that, in the great majority of cases, the security is ample, and wherever there is any doubt sufficient provision has been made by the reserves set aside.

The funds required for the increase in loans and outstandings have been provided by further advances from the Agricultural Bank of Egypt, their loan now standing at £708,000 as compared with £474,000.

The Reserves.

Our reserves have been strengthened by the £10,000 added to the general reserve last year. They now stand at over £277,000, to which should be added £24,000, the difference between the cost price and the face value of the Debentures which have been purchased but not cancelled. We also hold in suspense the sum of £80,814 in respect of sales of properties. As I explained last year, this sum is receivable from purchasers in instalments and cannot be definitely treated as profit until it is actually received.

The balance of the profit and loss account amounts to £96,354 as against £80,310 last year. This enables the board to recommend you to maintain the dividend on the Ordinary Shares at the rate of 12 per cent., and to add £15,000 to the special reserve, leaving a balance of £44,603 to be carried forward to the next account.

Brigadier-General the Hon. Everard Baring, C.V.O., C.B.E., seconded the resolution, which was unanimously adopted.

GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

Heavy Expenditure.

The 145th half-yearly general meeting of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company was held on June 23 at the company's offices, 48, Copthall Avenue, London Wall.

Sir Charles H. Armstrong (chairman of the company) presided.

The Secretary (Mr. R. H. Walpole) having read the notice convening the meeting, the chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the result of the year's working had been a disappointment and there was no surplus profit. They had been overburdened with expenses, a high level of salaries, a greatly increased cost of coal, heavy charges for maintenance of permanent way, bridges, etc., and for the repair of wagons, these two latter items being due in some measure to the difficulties and delays caused by the war. The percentage of working expenses for the year to gross receipts was 91.49, a very excessive figure, which must and would be reduced in the current year.

Their gross earnings for the year on the amalgamated system, including State lines, were 13.74 crores, a decrease of 9½ lacs or .08 per cent. on the previous year. Their expenditure was 12.57 crores, against 10.64 crores, an increase of 192½ lacs, or 18.08 per cent. The net earnings on the amalgamated system, excluding State lines, were 101 lacs, or 7.94 per cent. of the gross receipts, but this figure was subject to adjustment for interest and other charges. Interest on debentures etc. and on overdrafts from the Secretary of State now amounted to 141 lacs, and to this must be added their annual contribution under the contract to the Secretary of State of two crores of rupees. When these adjustments had been made, the credit item of 101 lacs was turned into a deficit of 240 lacs, and this was the result of the year's working. The net earning of 101 lacs barely equalled 1½ per cent. on the total capital expenditure of the undertaking, and as a large amount of the capital outlay had been provided by loans from the Secretary of State, on which interest at rates varying from 3½ to 6½ per cent. had to be paid, the percentage return on the expenditure prior to amalgamation was this year a minus quantity.

During the year they had collected over 87 lacs of surtax for Government, and if they could have included this amount in their accounts (for the surtax was nothing more than an increase in the rates for the carriage of goods) the deficiency would have been reduced to 153 lacs, as against the 240 lacs. This surtax had now ceased, and from April 1 they had been charging higher rates and fares, which would improve their position materially but would not be sufficient, so far as he could see at present, to

BALKAN NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

FOUNDED 1895

Capital paid up	5,000,000
Total reserves as per December 31st, 1920	53,200,000
Premium Income during 1920	28,300,000
Amounts insured of Life branch exceed	150,000,000
Branches maintained: Fire, Life, Marine, Casualty and Re-insurance of all branches.	

HEAD OFFICE: SOFIA, BULGARIA,

produce a favourable balance during the current year. Economies under all heads were, therefore, imperatively necessary, and all capital and renewal expenditure which could be avoided must be avoided until equilibrium had been reached. For the last few months they had been investigating their methods of working in India with a view of the strictest economy, and they hoped, as a result of this inquiry, which was still continuing, to reduce their permanent expenses by a considerable sum.

Their capital expenditure the last two years had been heavy and above the average, but this was due in a great measure to difficulties and delays caused by the war. There were still many capital works in progress on which further expenditure was necessary to bring them to completion. Additional engines and rolling-stock had also to be provided to enable them to deal expeditiously with the increased traffic they were being offered in nearly all districts. Unless they were in a position to do this, trade was apt to go elsewhere, and in the interests of the port of

Bombay they were most anxious to avoid a disability of this character.

As regards the current year, traffics so far were disappointing, although gross receipts were showing some increase, but this addition was due, he thought, mainly, if not entirely, to the higher rates and fares they were now charging. The trade position in India was improving, slowly, perhaps, but nevertheless steadily. The balance of trade had shown a tendency lately to swing round in India's favour, and if there was a good monsoon this year there ought to be better trade next season.

The last two years had been a serious blow to Indian trade from which it would take some time to recover. The monsoon on which so much depended had set in quietly, and rather early, and its future might, therefore, be followed with some anxiety, but the forecast for Western India was at any rate favourable. If last season's good monsoon should be repeated the country would be prosperous.

The report and accounts were adopted unanimously.

THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF GREECE, ATHENS.

BALANCE SHEET OF THE SECOND HALF-YEAR 1921.

ASSETS.		LIABILITIES.	
Cash in hand at Banks	Dr. 78,449,404.58	Share Capital authorised	Dr. 25,000,000.—
Discounts	Dr. 8,656,876.35	" " unissued	" 5,000,000.—
Treasury bills Greek	56,080,513.60		Dr. 20,000,000.—
Allied Govern	9,634,377.50	Reserve	1,339,142.45
	74,371,767.45	Special Reserve	10,021,690.—
Participation in Government Loan of			11,360,832.45
Fcs. 40,000,000.—	2,140,000.—	Deposits	193,626,155.24
Advances on Securities	65,412,752.20	Cheques payable	4,643,897.69
Securities & coupons	21,585,844.25	Advances against confirmed credits	2,385,264.71
Sundry accounts	2,422,714.14	Sundry Creditors	28,454,987.44
Bills for collection	5,872,177.83	Collections on third account	23,080,469.06
Provincial Correspondents & Banks For		For possible contingencies account	600,000.—
collection account	19,214,278.27	Dividends Payable	Dr. 2,000,000.—
Provisory account of Branches	15,415,423.84	Less Tax	200,000.—
Freehold Banking Premises*	1,387,748.10		1,800,000.—
Bank Furniture at Head		Profit and Loss, carried forward	425,923.96
Office & Branches &			
Strong Room	Dr. 658,517.73		
Amount written down	547,097.84		
	111,419.89		
	Dr. 286,383,530.55		Dr. 286,383,530.55

* At Athens, Piraeus, Volo, Calamata, Larissa, Triccala, Canea and Moschato.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Interests	Dr. 3,293,776.03	Balance brought forward	Dr. 245,614.84
Management Expenses and Salaries and		Interest	7,298,045.65
Managers' Fees	2,204,295.96	Commissions, Difference on Exchange, Sun-	
Staff Relief and Endowment Fund	220,000.—	dry Profits	3,698,141.32
		Rents	13,652.60
Writing down—			
Sundry accounts	Dr. 487,448.65		
" Bank Furniture	547,097.84		
	1,034,546.49		
Net Profits for distribution	4,076,912.—		
Balance brought forward	425,923.96		
	Dr. 11,255,454.44		Dr. 11,255,454.44

DISTRIBUTION OF NET PROFITS DR. 4,076,912.

Amount retained as Reserve 5 per cent. in accordance with Art. 39 Articles of Association on			
Dr. 4,076,912.—	Dr. 203,845.—		
Interest at 6 per cent. on	Dr. 1,102,230.—	33,067.—	Dr. 236,912.—
Dividend ordinary at dr. 3.— per share	Dr. 600,000.—		
" extraordinary at dr. 7.— per share	1,400,000.—		
	Dr. 2,000,000.—		
Less Tax 10 per cent.	200,000.—		
		1,800,000.—	
Tax on Dividend dr. 2,000,000.— at 10 per cent.		200,000.—	
Directors' Fees on dr. 2,400,000.— at 10 per cent.		240,000.—	
Special Reserve		1,000,000.—	
Reserved for contingencies		600,000.—	
		Dr. 4,076,912.—	

Presiding Chairman of the Board of Directors
M. I. POLITIS.

General Manager
G. EMPEDOCLES.

Chief Accountant
D. J. PSARAFTIS.

THE NEAR EAST.

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